MISSION STATEMENT

To ensure the historic restoration and preservation of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse and to improve public awareness, appreciation and access to Pomham Rocks Lighthouse.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FPRL ANNUAL MEETING
ELECTION OF OFFICERS
Nominations are being accepted for board positions. Contact Don Doucette, if you would like to nominate someone.
GUEST SPEAKER: ROB TRAPANI, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE AMERICAN LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION
Wednesday, November 15, 2006
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Library Meeting Room
Riverside Library
Bullocks Point Avenue
Riverside, RI

PUBLIC PROGRAM
STEAMBOATS ON THE NEW ENGLAND COAST
Including Narragansett Bay
by William Ewen, Jr.,
Monday, November 27, 2006
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Weaver Library
East Providence, RI

THE SANTA'S CRAFT SHOP
Wednesday, December 6, 2006
Time: 5:00 - 8:00 pm
Location: East Providence City Hall
145 Taunton Avenue
East Providence, RI

OLD TIME POMHAM ROCKS CLAMBAKE
Saturday, June 23, 2007
Location: Francis Farm
Rehoboth, MA
Details to be announced
FPRL members and guests

Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse, A Chapter of the American Lighthouse Foundation

Governer Celebrates Historic Relighting of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse

East Providence, RI: Governor Donald Carcieri was joined by 175 people at the official relighting celebration of the Pomham Rocks Lighthouse on Sunday, July 30, 2006 at the Save the Bay campus in Providence. The event was held in conjunction with the Governor’s Bay Day activities.

The 135-year-old lighthouse is located 800 feet off the coast of East Providence.

Dennis Houston, executive vice president of ExxonMobil Refining and Supply Company, congratulated the Friends of Pomham Rocks on their efforts to restoring the lighthouse’s exterior to its original glory of 1871. He then announced that ExxonMobil would be contributing $75,000 to pay off the remaining debt from the $320,000 Phase I project.

The goal of the Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse is to fully restore the Pomham Rocks Lighthouse and the property. It will occasionally be open to the public for tours and educational purposes. There is no easy access to the lighthouse as it sits on a rock, 800 feet off the coast of East Providence. It is visible via the East Bay Bike Path, Sabin Point Park, locations along the waterfront in Providence and Cranston and from boats on the water.
POMHAM ROCKS LIGHTHOUSE ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING AND LIGHTHOUSE DEDICATION

This past year, a beautiful Pomham Rocks Lighthouse table-top model was given to the Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse (FPRL) to use for public display and outreach purposes. Fabricated by Don Perkins and donated by Don and Louise Perkins, the model is one of many models donated to east coast lighthouse preservation groups by the Perkins. The Perkins reside on Cape Cod in the Pocasset section of Bourne, Massachusetts.

During the recent July 30th Pomham Rocks Lighthouse relighting ceremony held at the Save the Bay campus, the lighthouse model was displayed and symbolically lit by Rhode Island Governor Donald Carcieri moments prior to the actual ceremonial relighting of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse.

David Kelleher, an FPRL board member, recently negotiated with Mrs. Socha of the East Providence Library system for permanent public display space for the Pomham Rocks Lighthouse model at the Riverside Library located a short distance from Pomham Rocks. The model may travel at times for rare special occasions.

Since the relighting ceremony, Rob Charbonneau, another member of the FPRL board, facilitated for several months with Bill Lizotte and his employees of the Bill Lizotte Architectural Glass and Aluminum, Inc. of East Providence, Rhode Island, to fabricate and donate a sturdy protective viewing case so the model can withstand the rigors of public display.

Election of the FPRL official board for the coming year will be held. Don and Louise Perkins will also attend and have the honor of unveiling the lighthouse model. Bob Trapani, Jr., Executive Director of the American Lighthouse Foundation, will be our guest speaker and will touch on the importance of grassroots involvement as related to lighthouse preservation.

POMHAM EVENTS COMMITTEE

Planning volunteers needed - Members' Maritime Theme Day Trips, Day and Evening Socials, Community Event Sales, June 2007 Francis Farm Clam Bake (etc).

ADOLPH ARONSON 'S GRAND DAUGHTER VISITS POMHAM

On October 14th, Mary Aronson Lum and her husband Tom made a visit from Maryland to Riverside to meet with Dave Kelleher to bring him various papers and pictures of her grandfather, Adolph H. Aronson, who was a keeper of the Pomham Rocks Lighthouse from 1908 until 1937. After an informative meeting with Mr. & Mrs. Lum, Dave Kelleher brought the couple to Sabin Point where Rob Charbonneau met them and brought them via his boat to view her grandfather's lighthouse.

Needless to say, Mary Lum was pleased to see the lighthouse up close. She was also delighted to talk to Robbie about his stay at the lighthouse as a young boy in the 1970's.

Mary Lum's nephew, Raymond Aronson, a great-grandson of Mr. Aronson, has also contacted us and is now a member of the Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse along with Mary & Tom Lum.

THE NEW 195 BRIDGE AND POMHAM ROCKS

The moving of the new 195 bridge from Quonset Point up Narragansett Bay to Providence was one of the most exciting events of the summer here in Rhode Island. Thanks to Fred Bieberbeck, this event was captured on film and is now included in the lighthouse video. The picture was sent to the American Lighthouse Foundation in Maine for distribution among lighthouse lovers. A similar AP photo also appeared in a Florida newspaper.

THE AMERICAN Lighthouse FOUNDATION FALL EVENT

The popular event was held on Sept 9th and 10th aboard the Vista Jubilee to view 15 lighthouses located in Narragansett Bay. The event also included an evening dinner at White’s of Westport and a breakfast buffet at White’s on Sunday morning.

Many members of the Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse attended. It proved to be a special cruise since for the first time the Vista Jubilee sailed up the Providence River and gave the crowd a spectacular view of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse.

Dave Kelleher and Florence Quigley were in charge of selling our merchandise and sold $360.00 worth to the crowd.

Don Doucette gave the folks a fine narration about the lighthouse as the ship cruised slowly by.

On Sunday, Dave Kelleher gave The Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse annual report to the members of The American Lighthouse Foundation present at the breakfast receiving a warm response when he told them of our successful campaign to pay off our line of credit and the wonderful relighting ceremony that took place in July.

SAVE THE BAY CRUISE

On October 4th, Don Doucette and Dave Kelleher narrated a Save the Bay Sunset Cruise featuring the lighthouses of upper Narragansett Bay. This is the second time that Mr. Russell Hirschler, Education Director of Save The Bay, has asked Don and Dave to help on these cruises.

The Sunset Cruise passed: Warwick Neck Light, Conimicut Point Light, Nawanock Light, Bullet’s Point Light, Sabin Point Light, and Pomham Rocks Light.

Plans through this winter are being considered with Save the Bay for additional lighthouse cruises next summer which may include day-long events. Developing... stay tuned.

FRIENDS OF POMHAM ROCKS LIGHTHOUSE MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE

East Bay Crafters Sale East Providence Senior High School 2000 Pawtucket Avenue East Providence, Rhode Island Saturday, November 4, 2006 9:00 AM-4:00 PM
Santa’s Craft Shop East Providence City Hall 145 Taunton Avenue East Providence, Rhode Island Wednesday, December 6, 2006 5:00-8:00 PM

DO YOU NEED AN UNIQUE GIFT? Here is a great solution: a membership in the Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse! It’s always the right color and always the right fit. Use the membership application on the back of the newsletter or visit our website: www.pomhamrockslighthouse.org