



# THE POMHAM GLOW

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

## SUMMER WRAP UP

Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse had another busy season. This newsletter includes reports of the activities.

### EXTERIOR PAINTING/FOUNDATION

Andy Leddy (a member of our group) and his Company were contracted to paint the exterior of the lighthouse and address the condition of the foundation.

The total first level of the lighthouse was repainted. A number of areas where some rotting had occurred, mainly in the Northeast corner of the house, were restored.

The foundation was completely pointed to bring it back to its original condition and a fabricated storm door, a style of the 1950's, was installed on the south side of the house.

The second level and the tower were in good condition and did not need repainting at this time.

Thank you, Andy and Company for a job well done.

### WORK PARTIES

Dave Kelleher and Joe Estrella organized a monthly work party at the lighthouse during August, September and October. The fence gate surrounding the solar panels was painted and a new coat of paint was given the areas that needed it. The cellar was cleaned out of its old oil tank, certain pipes from the heating system removed, a plywood platform installed for the new electrical system, and the area cleaned for a space to keep all our yard tools. The grass was cut and trimmed, windows on the second floor had the paint touched up, fire extinguishers were replaced and some framing around the downstairs bathroom installed. Fake coyotes were placed on the lawn to help keep Canada geese off the grounds.

In October, the flag was taken down for the season and the Christmas wreath put up. Thank you to: Eileen Moser, Nate Chace, Andy Valerio, Roy Loiselle, Mike Tripp, Alan, Adam & Alex Dias, Phil Malouin, Dave Kelleher and Joe Estrella.



by  
Joe Estrella, Adam Dias, Alex Dias, Andy Valerio cleaning out the cellar of the Lighthouse.

### RHODE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE PROGRAM



David Kelleher continues to present our program about Rhode Island Lighthouses to a number of school children. This year he went to the three fourth grade classes at Waddington School in Riverside and the four fourth grade classes at the Richmond School in Richmond. He has been going to these two schools for the last four years and has established a good relationship with the staffs in these two buildings.

Dave also presented the lighthouse program to the residents of Evergreen Nursing Home and the history of Pomham Rocks to members of the Masonic Lodge in East Providence.

## LOCAL HISTORIC COMMISSION VISITS LIGHTHOUSE

Members of the Local Historic Commission made a visit to the lighthouse. They were invited by Dave Kelleher who is a member of the commission. The commission is responsible to oversee all the local historic properties in East Providence and to help and make sure that these properties are well taken care of.

The members were very pleased to see the progress that the Friends have done over the last 11 years. Dave gave them a full tour of the grounds and the exterior and interior of the lighthouse and oil house.

The members who attended were: Dean Martineau, chair, Mr. & Mrs. Brian Turgeon, Deb Ormerod, Stephen Greenleaf, and Nancy Moore. Jeanne Boyle, Director of Planning also attended.

## PROVIDENCE RIVER BOAT COMPANY

We began a new relationship with the Providence River Boat Company, a company which has been providing tours around the upper bay and the Providence River, including WaterFire, for years.

Kristen Stone contacted David in the early spring to see if we were interested in arranging some visits to the island this summer. Her plans were to make two trips to the island on three different days. The first trip would be at 9:00 and include a small breakfast; the second trip at 12:00 would include a picnic lunch.

The trips were sold out so quickly that a third trip was added for the next two dates and a fourth date was also added on later in the season.

This is just a beginning of more possible trips to the island next year.



## SAVE THE BAY TOURS

Dave continued to work with Save The Bay Lighthouse Tours. This was the fifth year of our relationship with Save The Bay. The tours were divided into three categories: Northern, the lights in the upper bay, Southern, the lights in the lower bay around Newport and Jamestown and Ultimate includes all the lights in the bay. The northern tours included visiting Pomham Rocks. Stopping at Pomham will make the Northern tours more popular and Save The Bay is greatly interested in increasing these visits next season. These tours have benefitted our restoration efforts by informing hundreds of passengers from around the state and country about Pomham Rocks, and donating close to \$1,000 to us.

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Friends of Pomham Rocks donated a prize to the 2015 Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament. We did it to show our support as members of that organization and to advertise our lighthouse to a different audience as the players in the tournament come from all over southeastern New England. The winner of the trip was Mark Welch. He invited five friends to accompany him on the cruise which took place August 31.

## PROVIDENCE BOAT SHOW

The Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse Board has decided to participate in next year's Providence Boat Show. The show will be held from February 4 to 7, 2016 at the Rhode Island Convention Center, One Sabin Street, Providence, RI.

Tickets for our Spring Raffle will be sold during the show. Tickets are \$10.00 each or 3 for \$25.00. The prizes are listed on the next page. Tickets can be ordered from: FPRL, P.O. Box 15121, Riverside, RI 02915. The drawing will be held on February 7, 2016. Winners will be notified.

Hours of operation will be listed on the FPRL web page and on the FPRL Facebook page.



This is a letter that was received from the winner of the Spring Raffle for the overnight stay at the Borden Flats Lighthouse in Fall River.

Hi,

Due to health reasons we were unable to take advantage of great raffle prize so our son John and his wife, Judy, enjoyed the stay at Borden Flats.

They said it was so cozy and quaint and such fun to spend the night there. Nick (Korstad, the owner) gave them a wonderful history of not only the lighthouse but his personal quest to own a lighthouse.

They said it was spotless and beautifully decorated.

It was quite a thrill for me to win the prize and even though I was unable to use it I was happy that my son and his wife enjoyed it so much.

Thank you, Valerie LaCross



We are looking for volunteers to help in two areas.

1. We need volunteers for each day of the Providence Boat Show. Joe Estrella, Dave Kelleher, Jean Zunda and Mike Tripp will each be responsible for a single day. If you can help, for any amount of time, call Jean at 401-433-2506.

2. We are also looking for someone local to be responsible for Publicity to help get information out to the appropriate news venues. For more on this opportunity, contact Jean at the phone number above or at pomhamrockslighthouse@aol.com.

## SUMMER BARBEQUE

BY MARY CHACE

The sun was bright and hot for our Summer Barbeque held at Madeira on the Waterfront. Members and guest were able to enjoy the festivities in the brightly lit, air-conditioned dining room with its scenic views of the waterfront.

A special attraction this year was a tour of the upper Providence River on the Lady Pomham. Captain Joe Estrella provided interesting historic facts about the waterfront by the Washington Bridge; took us past the home for the tugboats you see escorting large ships into the Port of Providence; and, as a special treat, under the hurricane barrier; a place few in Rhode Island have ever seen. He pointed out the attention you must pay if you plan on going farther up the river due to its normally shallow depth – even kayakers must beware. He was assisted by Alex and Adam Dias, who served as first mates on the outing.

Don and Nancy Doucette were honored at the barbeque for their outstanding work when he was the founding chairman of Pomham Rocks and she was the secretary. Don received a granite plaque with a portrait of the island etched into it while Nancy received a Harbour Lights replica of the lighthouse.



Russell Taub from the Blackstone Tourism Council provided details about a Pomham Rocks membership cruise on the Blackstone River. All members were encouraged to go to Woonsocket for this free event; which was sponsored and paid for by the Council.

In addition, we gained four new members from the Barbeque: Barry & Carole Marshall, Joanne Donahue, and Tim Leddy. We are delighted to welcome you to the Friends.

Member Andy Valerio donated a piece of his artwork to be auctioned off. While the original plan was to have a regular auction it quickly turned into a silent auction when names started appearing on the accompanying description sheet. In all we had ten bids with the winner being Capt Joe Estrella.

There were several raffles offered. And the winners were:

Sunset Cruise to Island – Marilyn Johnson

Ice basket – Tim Leddy

Fire basket – Beth Anterni

Eat at Joe's gift certificate – Louise Paiva

99 Restaurant gift certificate – Laura McNamara

Redlefsen's gift certificate – John Alexyon

Quito's gift certificate – Joanne Donahue

Bertucci's gift certificate– Beth Anterni, who returned it when she won the grand prize

Nancy Doucette

Outback gift certificate – Nancy Doucette

## SUMMER VISITORS TO THE LIGHTHOUSE



## SUMMER BARBEQUE





*Happy Holidays!*

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East Providence, Rhode Island 02915

