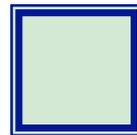


**FRIENDS OF PORTSMOUTH
HARBOR LIGHTHOUSE**

P.O. Box 8232
Portsmouth, NH 03802-8232



NAME
Street Address
City, State 00000

SECOND SEASON FOR TUESDAY NIGHT CRUISES!

Check out our web site
at
[www.portsmouthhar-
borlighthouse.org](http://www.portsmouthharborlighthouse.org)

You can also join us on
Facebook.

A Chapter of the
American Lighthouse
Foundation

[www.lighthousefoun-
dation.org](http://www.lighthousefoun-
dation.org)

Beginning June 1, for the second season in a row, Captain & Patty's Cruises (www.capandpatty.com) is offering a special Tuesday evening cruise from Kittery Point. The 80-minute narrated cruise leaves at 6:30 p.m. from the town dock at Pepperrell Cove in Kittery, behind Frisbee Store and Capt'n Simeon's Galley restaurant on Route 103 (Pepperrell Road).

Join Captain Neil Odams for a historical tour of the Piscataqua River basin, with points of interest on both the Maine and New Hampshire shore including historic forts, the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Whaleback Lighthouse, and Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse. Representatives of Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse will be on board to tell about the organization's preservation efforts. All proceeds from these cruises benefit Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse. There's room for 15 people on each cruise. The cost is \$18 for adults, \$15 for children 12 and under. You can call 603-431-9155 or email info@portsmouthharborlighthouse.org to make a reservation.

MEMBERSHIP IN FRIENDS OF PORTSMOUTH HARBOR LIGHTHOUSE

We'd love to have you as a member. Members receive discounts on FPHL merchandise at events, and receive our newsletter and emails with up-to-the-minute news and announcements. Also, please let us know if you're interested in volunteering at open houses or other events. To join, please fill out the form below and mail with a check or money order (payable to Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse) and mail to Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse, PO Box 8232, Portsmouth, NH 03802-8232.

Annual dues (dues in all categories and other donations are tax-deductible):

Commissioner: \$500 ___ Inspector: \$250 ___ Keeper: \$100 ___ Assistant Keeper: \$50 ___

Family Membership: \$25 ___ Individual Membership: \$15 ___ Child Membership (12 or under): \$5 ___

Name _____

Address _____ City/State: _____

Zip code: _____ Phone: _____ Email address: _____

**2010 Schedule of
Open Houses at
Portsmouth Harbor
Lighthouse**

**Every Sunday, 1:00
p.m. to 5:00 p.m., from
May 30 through
October 11.**

**Watch our website for
special added dates.**

Admission to climb the
lighthouse is \$4 for
adults and \$2 for
children 12 and under.
Children less than 42
inches tall are not
permitted to climb to the
top.

**SUNSET
LIGHTHOUSE
CRUISE**

**Friday, June 18, 2010
7:00 p.m.**

Join us aboard the M/V
Granite State,
departing from Rye
Harbor on Route 1A in
Rye, N.H. The cruise,
celebrating New
Hampshire Lighthouse
Week, will pass close
to Portsmouth Harbor
Lighthouse,
Whaleback
Lighthouse, and White
Island Lighthouse in
the Isles of Shoals.

**Tickets are \$20 each.
The boat will return
to the dock at about
9:00 p.m. Call
Granite State Whale
Watch at 603-964-
5545 for reservations.**



Portsmouth Harbor Beacon

*Newsletter of the Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse
A Chapter of the American Lighthouse Foundation*

WINTER 2010

NOTE TO VOLUNTEERS: BRING YOUR IDEAS TO "LIGHT!"

By Bob Trapani, Jr.

Executive Director, American Lighthouse Foundation

The temperatures outside may be cold, but that shouldn't keep our ideas to enhance the programs and activities associated with Portsmouth Harbor and Whaleback lighthouses from heating up.

This is precisely the time of year to be thinking about how we can blend our new ideas and unique skills with Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse's great accomplishments of the past so that when the lighthouse opens again in 2010, visitors walk away from their experience gleaming about the beacon – and its keepers!

Volunteers sometimes think their ideas do not matter, especially when a program is as successful as Portsmouth Harbor Light, but the truth is just the opposite. Your new ideas could be just the right key to helping others learn more about the project and have fun doing it, not to mention how something new might inspire others to join you as a fellow volunteer.

Tours of the lighthouse certainly won't change – and we don't want them to. What can be enhanced is the experience visitors derive by touring a lighthouse like Portsmouth Harbor because of the ability YOU can bring to the table by adding a new "twist" to otherwise traditional practices at the lighthouse.

I liken a lighthouse tour to cooking. Often, what makes a great dish is the cook's ability to add just the right spices to liven up the taste buds. The same concept holds true with lighthouses. Volunteers like you are the "spice" that can make all the difference between visitors thinking their tour was just "ok" or a memorable, fun experience.

Remember too, your new ideas don't just help the visitor's experience – they can help your fellow volunteers and YOU have more fun than ever in 2010 as "keepers of the lights."

So start thinking about all things new for Portsmouth Harbor and Whaleback lighthouses in 2010 by moving your great ideas and skills off the back burner and allow them to "heat up" for a successful and exciting new year!

So just how do you bring your new ideas to "light?" Start by contacting FPHL chairman Ross Tracy and FPHL Operations Manager Jeremy D'Entremont. Do it today!

KEEPER PROFILE: HENRY M. CUSKLEY

Henry Matthew Cuskley, who was born in Portland, Maine, on February 23, 1874, began a 26-year stretch as keeper of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse in 1915. His tenure was the third longest in the station's history, after Joshua K. Card (1874-1909) and David Duncan (1793-1820).

Cuskley began his career as a lighthouse keeper in 1897 when he received the appointment as third assistant at Cape Elizabeth Light Station in Maine. The principal keeper was Leander White, a native of New Castle, New Hampshire. Cuskley was married to White's daughter, Mary, and it was White who first interested Cuskley in the Lighthouse Service.

In 1903, Cuskley was appointed principal keeper at Libby Island Light Station in Maine. He and his wife and daughter spent about nine years living on the isolated island, about six miles from Machias. Next stop was Seguin Island, off the mouth of the Kennebec River. In May 1914, Cuskley requested a transfer to a station on the mainland, or at least one that was closer to shore.

Meanwhile, Leander White had returned to his hometown to become keeper of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse in 1909. When White died in July 1915, Cuskley's request was honored when he was named the new keeper at Portsmouth Harbor Light Station.

Cuskley became involved in community affairs during his years in New Castle, serving for a time as the chairman of the local school board. Mary Cuskley was locally famous for her large Sunday dinners and her sumptuous raspberry custard tarts. A neighbor later recalled that Mrs. Cuskley would go into a panic when she got word that the lighthouse inspector was coming. The neighbor said that Mrs. Cuskley "flew around wildly throwing things out the portholes, and I'd run out and catch what I wanted as it flew by. I have a small table today that I caught on the fly."

The Cuskleys witnessed two unusual accidents near the station. On July 5, 1924, the U.S. Navy destroyer *Brooks* was headed to Portsmouth to refuel when it went aground on a ledge about 15 feet from the lighthouse. There were no injuries, but the forward compartment flooded when a hold was punched in the bow. With the help of two tugboats from the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, the *Brooks* was refloated a few hours later. Just a few months later, on February 16, 1925, the submarine U.S.S. *S-48* went aground near the lighthouse. The sub was able to leave under its own power at high tide, after nearly six hours.

The light was converted to electricity during Cuskley's tenure, in 1925. This was a welcome change. With the earlier incandescent oil vapor lamp, Cuskley had to stay by the lamp for a half hour, heating the kerosene until it would vaporize and ignite.

Henry Cuskley retired at the end of 1941 and moved to a home a short distance away on Cranfield Street in New Castle.



HELP US PAINT THE LIGHTHOUSE!

2009 was a great year for us in many ways, but we took in less money than we had anticipated due to bad weather that caused the cancellation of several of our events. We had to delay the painting of the lighthouse, but we plan to get the job done in 2010. At this writing, it looks like the project will happen in May.

Please consider a gift to help us get this important work done.

You can donate on our website, or by sending a check (payable to Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse) to us at P.O. Box 8232, Portsmouth, NH 03802-8232.



FIVE LIGHTHOUSE CRUISE

**Sat. September 25,
2010, 8:30 a.m.-1:00
p.m**

Join us for a scenic lighthouse cruise on Saturday, September 25, leaving from Rye Harbor (on Route 1A) aboard the M/V *Granite State*.

Five lighthouses will be viewed: Portsmouth Harbor, Whaleback, White Island, Boon Island, and the Cape Neddick "Nubble" Light.

There will be raffles on board and narration on the history of the lighthouses.

Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$25 for children under 12.

**For reservations, call
603-964-5545.**

FPHL AND COAST GUARD TEAM UP TO DECORATE PORTSMOUTH HARBOR LIGHTHOUSE

Every Christmas season, Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse is decorated by our volunteers. "Not only are the decorations festive and show our holiday spirit, I think it also shows the community that even during our off season, the lighthouse is still important," said Ross Tracy, FPHL chairman.

For William Marshall, decorating the lighthouse each season is important. "At first," he said, "it was just a single string of lights around the top rail and a rope light around the door frame. The next year I purchased a long set of LED lights to add a second string at the top, and we also placed lights in the windows of the tower. Last year I added two lighted wreaths for the windows, and this year a large lighted wreath for the door."



*Left, Coast Guard Station Portsmouth Harbor crew members pose with a holiday wreath before hoisting it onto the tower. The crossed anchors represent professional mariners and the wreath was intended to wish them all a safe and happy holiday season.
Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Shawn Morrison.*

This past holiday season, the personnel of Coast Guard Station Portsmouth Harbor added a large wreath on the tower. The wreath endured 45-knot winds and 20-foot seas on its first night on the lighthouse.

LIGHTHOUSE LECTURE AT KITTERY LIONS CLUB ON MARCH 9

On March 9, 2010, at 7:00 p.m., Jeremy D'Entremont, operations manager of Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse, will speak about our local lighthouses at the Kittery Lions Club. The event is sponsored by the Kittery Historical and Naval Society.

The multimedia presentation will focus on the history of five lighthouses: Portsmouth Harbor, Whaleback, White Island, Boon Island, and Cape Neddick (Nubble). Also discussed will be the present-day preservation efforts of the American Lighthouse Foundation and other organizations.

There are plans to form a new chapter of the American Lighthouse Foundation for the preservation of Whaleback Lighthouse. If you have any interest in the preservation of Whaleback and our other local lighthouses, you'll want to attend this presentation.

DESSERTFEST FEATURING GARY SREDZIENSKI

**Saturday April 24, 2010, Kittery Lions Club, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
\$10 adults, \$5 for children 12 and under**

Join us for a fun evening of tasty treats for the stomach and the ears. Enjoy a smorgasbord of delicious cakes, pies, cookies, brownies and other delights from local restaurants and bakeries.

While you're satisfying your sweet tooth, you'll be entertained by the musical stylings of accordionist extraordinaire Gary Sredzienski (right). Gary demonstrates the diversity of the accordion with a wide variety of styles encompassing several continents.



He's been a cultural ambassador for New Hampshire and has performed at venues such as the Smithsonian, Kennedy Center, and the American and National folk festivals.

Also performing at the event will be Seacoast Men of Harmony, a popular barbershop-type chorus based in Dover, NH.

You can buy tickets at www.portsmouthharborlighthouse.org or at the door. The Lions Club is at 17 State Road (Route 1), Kittery, Maine. See you there!

“GHOST HUNT” SEPTEMBER 18, 2010, 8 P.M.-MIDNIGHT

Join Ron Kolek, Maureen Wood, and other members of New England Ghost Project, along with representatives of Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse, for an investigation of one of New England's most haunted lighthouses.

Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse and adjacent Fort Constitution were featured on SciFi's *Ghost Hunters* TV show in late 2008. The lighthouse is on an active Coast Guard station, so access to these structures is normally limited -- don't miss this rare opportunity to explore this site with the New England Ghost Project.

For the novice, you will learn about the inner workings of a ghost hunt and the scientific and spiritual techniques needed to successfully complete one. For the expert, test your skills and compare the evidence you collect with previous evidence collected at the site. Don't miss this rare opportunity.

Sign up now. The cost is \$60 per person. Space is limited! Advance reservations are required. Call 603-431-9155 or email info@portsmouthharborlighthouse.org.

TRAVELS WITH SHARON

By Sharon Mills, secretary of FPHL

In January, my husband Bob and I participated in the annual “Lighthouses, Hot Chocolate & You” event that our sister organization NELL (New England Lighthouse Lovers) offers to its members.

This year, we met in Mystic, Connecticut, and had the rare opportunity to go inside and climb the Morgan Point Lighthouse in Noank, which is privately owned. It’s a beautiful home with shiny polished floors throughout and inviting furnishings. The lantern room of the granite lighthouse, with a cast-iron tower, has been turned into a sitting room with padded seats along the wall and a glass coffee table displaying an old lens pedestal as the center.



Morgan Point Lighthouse. Below, inside the lantern room. Photos by Sharon Mills.



The view is spectacular and includes the North Dumpling Light at a distance. We were also welcomed to the Stonington Harbor Lighthouse and Museum, and visited the Submarine Force Museum where we were able to tour the *Nautilus*.

See www.nell.cc for more information on the New England Lighthouse Lovers.

Check out our website at www.portsmouthharborlighthouse.org

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If you’d like to donate to the restoration of Whaleback Lighthouse, please make your check payable to:

Whaleback Committee of FPHL

Send to:
Friends of
Portsmouth Harbor
Lighthouse, P.O.
Box 8232,
Portsmouth, NH
03802-8232