



LIGHTHOUSES HOT CHOCOLATE & YOU JANUARY 14-15, 2012

This year NELL will be traveling north to the coast of New Hampshire to visit the Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse. Located on an active Coast Guard base the lighthouse is the only mainland lighthouse on the New Hampshire coast. The lighthouse is part of the Fort Constitution Historical Park and was also home to Connie Small, who was famous for her book, "The Lighthouse Keepers Wife". This book details Connie's life over 26 years as a lighthouse keeper's wife at numerous lighthouses both on and off shore. Connie was an honorary member of NELL before her passing in 2005 at the young age of 103. At the lighthouse we will enjoy a presentation by Jeremy D'Entremont, author and local historian. There will be a \$5.00 charge for climbing the Portsmouth Lighthouse. Please send it to Kathy with your dues.

From there we will visit the John Paul Jones House, 43 Middle Street, Portsmouth, NH. Although closed for the winter they have graciously offered to open this 3 story historical house to our group to visit. Considered the Father of the American Navy, Jones was famous for the immortal statement "I have not yet begun to fight". He stayed in Portsmouth while various ships he was to command were built during the American Revolution.

Then we will go over the bridge into Maine where we can get an excellent photographic view of Whaleback Light from Fort Foster, Kittery ME. Located offshore the lighthouse is on the Maine side of the river by a good 1500 feet. This lighthouse is also under the auspices of the Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouses, a chapter of the The American Foundation (ALF). Work is being done on this light with the goal of making it accessible to enthusiasts on a limited basis. The Fresnel lenses has been removed and is now located at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, MA. From this vantage point we will also be able to view the Wood Island Lifesaving Station. Walking a distance will be required for the view. The park is closed and the route may not be plowed so boots are recommended.

We will be staying at the Holiday Inn Portsmouth, 300 Woodbury Avenue, Portsmouth, NH. The direct Phone # is 603-431-8000 and mention the Group NELL for the discounted rate of \$69.00 for either a King or Two Doubles. These rate starts on Friday night 1/13/11 and will be available for those wishing to stay the holiday weekend. The cut off is December 16, 2012.

Hot Chocolate, Coffee and Cookies will be available later on Saturday after visiting the various lighthouses. A speaker is planned for the HC session with the front runner being a continuation of the Seguin Is. Lightkeepers Part 2. Get there early for a front row seat.

The following day a member of the Portsmouth Historical Society has offered to take us on a walking tour of downtown Portsmouth. Portsmouth used to be a major ship building port and has a great nautical tradition so there is a well preserved downtown area. Please contact me if you are interested because we will need a decent number of people to participate.

There are other sights to see in the area which will be discussed in the next notice scheduled for mid December.

IMPORTANT: Your dues need to be paid up to participate in this adventure.

ALSO IMPORTANT: THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET OTHER PEOPLE INVOLVED IN NELL. PLEASE INVITE PEOPLE THAT HAVE EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN LIGHTHOUSES, FRIENDS AND RELATIVES.