



Tidings

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE BOSTON HARBOR ISLANDS

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W I N T E R 1 9 8 6
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Seafarer's Island Holiday '87

A Friends tradition that will have its 5th anniversary, is the New Year's Day trip to Thompson Island. "A Seafarer's Island Holiday" will take place on Thursday, January 1, 1987.

The afternoon's activities will include island tours, free time, and an indoor slide show about the harbor islands. As in previous years, there will be indoor warm-up space where cocoa, tea, and coffee will be available.

Presently, boats are scheduled to depart from Kelly's Landing in South Boston beginning at 12:00 and returning at 4:00. A detailed flyer will be mailed to Friends in mid-December.

Tickets will be: \$7 for Friends and Senior Citizens; \$8 for Adults; and \$5 for children. Advance reservations are suggested and may be made by sending a check and self-addressed stamped envelope to the Friends office, Attention: Nancy Martin.

A rain date of January 4th (Sunday) has been arranged. Winter on Thompson Island is absolutely beautiful! The meadows, marshes, and forests are a sight that can be enjoyed only a few months of the year.

--Suzanne Gall Marsh



Bylaw Revision



The Bylaws of the FBHI are currently under review and we hope to have a revised set available for your approval by the Annual Meeting on January 25th. We will need the attendance of you, our members, to vote in order for these to pass. You will be able to renew your membership for 1987 at this meeting. Please call the office if you are interested in becoming involved in this process. Most importantly, plan on attending our 1987 Annual Meeting.

Notes From Nancy's Diary

Summer on the Islands was wonderful. We had a total of 85 volunteers throughout the spring, summer, and fall months. On Aug. 17th we had a successful square dance which was arranged by Robert and Wynelle Scenna on Peddocks Island. Later that day many of us were on Georges Island as a huge blanket of fog dropped on the harbor.

About 15 volunteers had a restful weekend on Peddocks with lots of food, talk, walking, and sun. Three faithful volunteers sat with me in the rain at the Charles Street Fair, Bill Connell, Mary Eaton, and Joe Kolb. We handed out lots of brochures and trip flyers.

I missed the bird lecture but hopefully we will present more bird information, especially for volunteers, in the spring. The Music and Dance Cruise was delightful, with the John Stevens Band playing requests. Our Dance Cruise boat was donated to the Friends by Boston Harbor Cruises for this fund raiser.

As your Coordinator of Volunteers and Membership I have been attending management workshops at the Voluntary Action Center here in Boston. The Volunteer Committee will be working with me to implement new procedures and training for the volunteers in 1987. If you are a volunteer and would like to be on the committee please call the Friends office.

The D.E.M. and M.D.C. jointly sponsored a Thank-you cruise for the Volunteers in October. It is nice to cruise around the harbor without a destination occasionally. The Peddocks Island Foliage trip was special. The water and sky were blue, the leaves were orange, green, brown, and shades of red. Many wildflowers were hiding in protected places on the island. Al Schroeder, Margie Coffin (M.D.C. staff), Suzanne Gall Marsh, and I led different tours. We recruited eight new members.

--Nancy Martin

Organizational Structure of the FBHI

The Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands is incorporated as a private, not for profit organization with an annual budget of \$28,000. The Board of Directors is the governing body of the corporation and the directors are elected to two year terms by the general membership at the annual meeting. The next annual meeting will be held on January 25, 1987. The Board of Directors usually meets on the third Tuesday of alternate months and its meetings, beginning at 6:30 PM at the Beacon House, are open to the membership. The next board meeting will be on Dec. 16.

The Board of Directors generally determines the policies of the Friends and approves the budget. The day to day activities are carried out by the program and management committees. The chairs of these committees, along with the officers, comprise the Executive Committee which meets monthly at 6:30 PM. Its meetings are also open and the next is on December 4.

The committees also generally meet monthly and your participation at their meetings and in their activities is welcomed. Please contact the office at 523-8386 for a particular committee's meeting schedule or if you have other questions about the Friends' activities.

In the office, you will likely speak with Nancy Martin, the Friends' part-time staff person. Nancy is the Island Volunteer Program Coordinator, but she also

assists the Membership and Fund Raising committees.

Board of Directors

Eddie Barron	Walter Hope	Tom Narcavage
Kay Beebe	Phil Hyde	Karen O'Donnell
Diane Greaney	Peg Lambert	John Stevens
Donna Harvey	Suzanne Gall Marsh	
Blossom Hoag	George Marsh	Judith Wolfe

Officers

President	George Marsh
Vice-president	Karen O'Donnell
Treasurer	Peg Lambert
Clerk	Judith Wolfe

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is made up of the four officers and the following committee chairs.

Membership	Wynelle Scenna and Donna Harvey
Volunteer Program	Walter Hope
Finance	Carol Reed
Fund Raising	Eddie Barron
Personnel	Suzanne Gall Marsh

Other Groups

The chairs of these groups do not sit on the Executive Committee because they are not standing committees.

Advocacy Group	Karen O'Donnell
Bylaw Review Task Force	Judith Wolfe
Nominating Committee	Karen O'Donnell
Planning Group	Diane Greaney
Publications Group	Suzanne Gall Marsh

--Diane Greaney



Boston Harbor Monitoring Program

This program is a committee of the Boston Harbor Alliance which is made up of several groups interested in the Harbor.

This committee has set up teams of people who will be monitoring water quality in Dorchester Bay throughout the winter. Mary Lumsford and Sue Smith, two Harbor Island Volunteers will be assisting on one of these teams. All monitoring volunteers are trained and will be working with a scientist. Next year this project will be expanding to include all of Boston Harbor. If you or a friend would like to help please call the Friends office. This is your chance to make a difference in the quality of the water in Boston Harbor.

Historical Sewing

We invite you to join our sewing group. This is a cooperative venture of the D.E.M., the M.D.C. and the Friends. Our needs are varied, if you can sew a button you're our kind of person. We plan on sewing various costumes from the Civil War era to a present day gull. Do you have skills such as layout and cutting of patterns, actual sewing on machine, hand sewing of finishing touches, lace hooks, eyes, etc.? Why not join us? It's fun and seeing our costumes in action on the islands is very rewarding. We will meet twice a month on Wednesday evenings 6:30 to 8:30, at the Friends office. December 5th is our next meeting.

Any time you can spare is appreciated. For more information call Donna Harvey, 787-4195, or Mary Eaton, 241-7789.



Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, Inc.

P.O. Box 9025
Boston, MA 02114

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Legislative Alert

Friends! The Boston Harbor Islands need your help. Through the years, you've given generously of your time on the islands. Now the islands need your time in a different way: to call, write or visit your state representative in support of S.1836. The capital outlay bill which has passed the Senate provides \$11.5 million for DEM and MDC to begin much needed improvement and repair of the facilities in the Boston Harbor Islands State Park.

The Friends are well aware of the many pressing needs of the islands and can speak as few others can- from direct experience! As members of the volunteer organization on the islands, your support is vital to the passage of this bill. Please call or write today!

(If you're not sure of your representative's name, call the State House at 727-7030.)

"Are You Swimming in a Sewer?"

NOVA, December 2, 8:00 pm, Channel 2

Boston Harbor and other coastal harbors are the subject of this Nova presentation. The show discusses toxic pollution of Boston Harbor and the effectiveness of the current clean-up efforts.

Long Wharf Project: Visitor Services

Public Meeting held by DEM and BRA

December 3, 4:00 pm, Marriott Hotel

This meeting provides a chance for the Friends to comment on and suggest exhibits and interpretive/information programs that will be included in the new Long Wharf Visitors Center. Please attend if possible and bring your ideas for the new gateway to the Boston Harbor Islands.

Boston Light Adventures

Coast Week '86, which actually lasted for a month this year, featured a variety of special events. Among the most memorable activities were day trips on September 20 and October 4 to Boston Light on Little Brewster Island.

These trips were the inspiration of Suzanne Gall Marsh who organized them for Boston Harbor Cruises. The boat company sponsored the trips for Coast Week and members of the Friends served as the hosts. Each trip aboard the MV Abigail Adams had slightly over 100 passengers; a total of 204 people visited these islands.

The visitors were welcomed at Boston Light by Coast Guardsmen Guy Viellette, Officer-in-Charge, and Charlie Ingham, Fireman. These gentlemen were gracious guides on both occasions and must have answered hundreds of questions!

Upon arrival at Boston Light, some of the visitors immediately headed for the picnic tables that are scattered about the neatly cropped grass. Others took turns climbing the circular staircase and ladders to the outside catwalk of the light and further up into the light.

Many of the visitors commented on the appropriateness of the name Little Brewster for the island; the onslaught of storms has taken its toll on the soil and the rocky ledge on which the lighthouse stands.

The boat brought to the lighthouse, along with the visitors, a donation of surplus books from the Winthrop Public Library and 500 brochures about Boston Light that were produced by the Friends.

After several pleasant hours at the light, we left for neighboring Great Brewster Island. The 100 foot drumlin on Great Brewster offers spectacular views of Little Brewster, Calf Island, Green Island, Middle, and Outer Brewsters. On days of exceptional visibility it is possible, with binoculars, to see the Provincetown monument.

On the Oct. 4 trip, Charlie Ingham and Farrah, the Boston Light dog of indeterminate ancestry, joined the passage from the Light to Great Brewster. They debarked and waited for (dead) low tide when they could walk back over the sandbar between Great Brewster and Little Brewster Islands.

A bonus of the Sept. 20 return trip to Boston was seeing the replica of a Norwegian Viking ship off Long Island. This ship was under full sail, bound for New

York and eventual display at Disneyland.

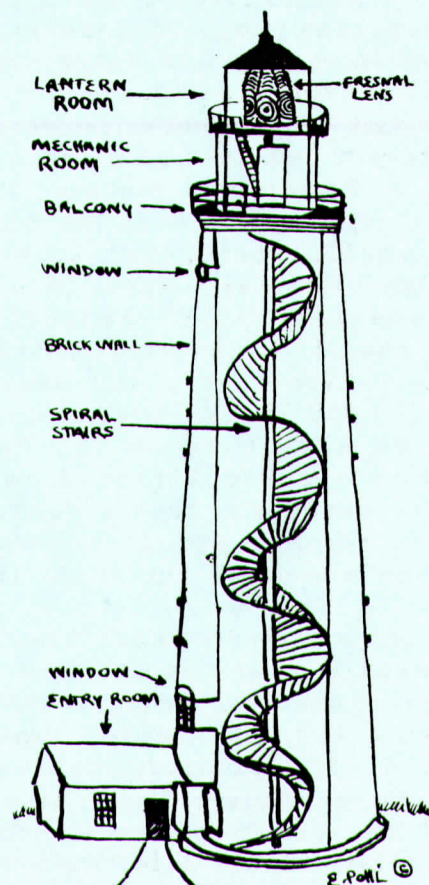
Visitors are welcome at Boston Light whether they be on group trips or individual boats. Just call the Coast Guard at 925-1801 and let them know you're coming. You may correspond with them at: U.S. Coast Guard, Light Station Boston, c/o Point Allerton Station, Hull, MA 02045-1198. Their mail is delivered once a week--on Thursday!

Boston Light is the oldest lighthouse in North America and it's scheduled to become automated in 1989. There are mixed feelings about this situation. On the September 20 trip, staff members of the Lighthouse Preservation Society shared their concerns for Boston Light's future.

If you would like to receive a brochure on the Lighthouse Preservation Society, or the Friends Boston Light brochure, send a self-addressed-stamped envelope to the Friends office, attention "Lighthouses".

Boston Harbor Cruises and the Friends are planning several day trips to Boston Light in 1987!

--John Lockhead



Friends at Deer Island

This fall, the Friends took another unique trip, this time to Deer Island. Actually, this "island" is now a peninsula which is reached from Winthrop by road. In spite of a prison, and a sewage treatment plant, it retains the atmosphere of an island. The land has rolling hills and is surrounded by typical rocky beaches. A strong sense of history also prevails in the Victorian prison, an abandoned Victorian-era sewage treatment plant, old wooden stables, and the WWII bunkers of a "not-so-long-ago" harbor defense system.

On this warm day in September, 24 people arrived at the check-in point along the peninsula's road and proceeded to the Administration Building of the present Deer Island Sewage Treatment Plant. Here we were given tours of the facilities. Later, we would rejoin, to explore the south end of the "island" and visit Fort Dawes. The prison?...We would stay away from it!!

Our guide, Joe, began our tour with a chart of the treatment plant. Comments and controversial questions would accompany each step of the tour. Most issues concerned the operations of the future treatment plant (to be relocated on this peninsula) and the welfare of the harbor's environment. Our tour was at times odorous as we passed pumps, digesters, and open settling tanks. At the end we caught a breath of fresher air (at the island's far end) and had lunch while.

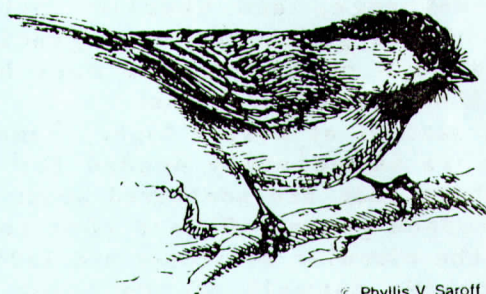
Al Schroeder led most of us on a tour of Fort Dawes. We explored Battery 105, an in-ground bunker, complete with the remains of powder, shell, radio, and strategic plotting rooms. There also was a placement site (gun gone) of a 16" cannon! Al informed us that it could eject a one ton shell north to Gloucester and south to Plymouth, with 835 lbs. of powder to fire it off!!! He also told us the Navy's Inshore-Underwater Demolition Team was later located here, and that an antisubmarine net stretched across the sound. Here, they could control the ships in the harbor.

Today, the remains of Fort Dawes are overgrown with bushes, trees, and tall grasses. Deteriorating roads with holes, ditches with cat-o-nine-tails, ragweed, golden fields of goldenrod, patches of clover and Queen Anne's Lace have ALL naturalized this historic site. Still, evidence of radar units, radio antennas and

look-out towers remind you of this island's past military presence.

We explored one of these lookout towers, from which powerful search lights could light up the sound at night between Deer Island and Long Island Head. We discovered a radar plotting board, binocular mounts and range numbers for various harbor markings. Most of all, from this lookout tower, we discovered the best views of the "island". Many photographs were taken!

--Elizabeth Pohl



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BOAT TRIPS '86

Introducing people to the wonders of the harbor islands-- that's what the Friends sponsored boat trips are all about. This year over 1,200 people participated in nine boat trips. The majority of people on these trips were new visitors to the islands.

The boat trips serve several purposes: public education, community outreach, fund raising, membership and volunteer recruitment. They were held in winter, early spring, late fall, and Monday evenings throughout the summer.

Friends volunteers are responsible for the planning and implementation of the boat trips. Mary Jane Warren and Nancy Martin were the staff people who co-ordinated the boat trips, along with the volunteers' efforts.

The Friends Board of Directors will be reviewing where the boat trips fit in the organizational structure, and how they will be managed for 1987. Please contact me with any thoughts, ideas, and energy that you may have for next year (569-8395).

--Suzanne Gall Marsh

Thompson's Island Treasure

No, not Captain Kidd's legendary buried gold and jewels, but the memory of a day spent on the island, October 25, at the Annual FBHI Retreat. As a newcomer, this was my first time at the retreat.

After a 15-minute boat ride, in beautiful weather, we arrived, unpacked and had lunch. Although I was not staying the night, I was favorably impressed with the attractive dormitory, which featured clean, pleasant rooms, classrooms on the lower floor, and a warm, inviting lounge, complete with comfortable chairs, bookcase, and wood stacked lovingly beside the large fireplace.

The formal program was prefaced with an ice-breaker -- a game in which various elements of Boston Harbor were pinned on individuals' backs, and the object was to discover "who" or "what" each person represented. Then we divided into four major workshops, according to choice, to discuss long-range planning, and pool ideas and suggestions. We met again as a group and shared results with each other and planned for further discussions the following morning.

Before and after workshops, I managed a long, solitary walk to either end of the island. The fields were full of white and purple asters and the seeded, fairy hair of opened milkweed pods. I came upon two gorgeous, ring-necked pheasants, engaged in a loud, domestic confrontation. Before the sun had set, I saw three more of these beautiful creatures, relatively unafraid in this protected environment. In late afternoon, as the tide was low, I took a path to the beach and followed the shore, finding joy in driftwood, shells, and some "mermaid's tears", revelling in my role as beachcomber. A small pond in the island, surrounded by a grassy nest, itself encased by a ring of ocean water, sparkled like a precious gem.

As shadows lengthened, I retraced my steps, avoiding the swarms of flying insects that gathered at dusk. In the Administration Building, a particularly nice dinner awaited us.

Throughout the day, I found the group to be warm and friendly, and I did not feel like an outsider, but welcome to share in what was said and done. At 8:00 we convened once more, in costumes, for our Halloween Party, and a really special spread of homemade, mouthwatering refresh-

ments. A lot of ingenuity went into the costumes and it was fun to guess "who was who" under the make-up. For first prize, Joe Kolb scared us with a realistic terrorist/gorilla costume. Runners up included Wynelle Scenna who wore a most original and intriguing costume, with dazzling eye make-up; Catherine McCafferty as a very fetching witch; Donna Robertson as a very believable Raggedy Ann. A spidery, cobwebbed Lady in Black turned out to be Nancy Martin. Blossom Hoag also presented a masked version of the phantom who stalks Fort Warren. Joan Jouzaitis made a very whimsical white bunny rabbit and one of the most original costumes was a face mask by Donna Harvey - molded from life and made up like a clown.

We had a program of superb slides of the various Harbor Islands, supplied by Nancy Martin and Robert Scenna. They were truly works of art and brought out wonderful highlights and colors of various island features.

Next on the program was a hair-raising ghost story, written by Paul Nyren, which took place on Thompson Island. It had us gripping the edge of our chairs. This was full of gory details and an interesting play on words. Truthfully, it was a "fiery" tale of Halloween which indeed shed LIGHT on the evening!

Regretfully, I missed the rest of the evening which included poetry by Joe Kolb, songs, pumpkin carving, and the end of the Red Sox game, as I had to take the last boat back to the mainland and reality. I made a dash for the dock, accompanied by Suzanne and George Marsh and Catherine McCafferty (all still in costume) affording me protection from the hobgoblins lingering in our minds after the ghost story. Surely a day to treasure.

--Phyllis Merseerlian



Boston Harbor Today



The current status of Boston Harbor and some of the approaches towards cleaning it up will be the subject of a multi-projector slide show, sponsored by the New England Aquarium and the Sierra Club. This presentation will take place on Friday, December 5, 1986 aboard the NE Aquarium DISCOVERY at 7:45 PM. Call 227-5339 for more details.

Thompson Island Weekend II
The Planning Sessions

More than 30 members of the Friends visited Thompson Island over the weekend of October 25 and 26. Two planning sessions were included in the weekend events so that the members could participate in the planning process that's currently underway. The Friends are developing a plan to guide their future activities and to assist in fund raising.

From similar sessions in the past, the Friends have gathered much information about what we want to achieve in the areas of education, preservation, advocacy and management. These four broad areas of Friends' interest come from our mission statement which was developed at last year's Thompson Island session.

At this year's Saturday workshop, we explored different methods of accomplishing the Friends' goals in the four areas. Then on Sunday we looked more closely at a few of those methods. For example, the advocacy and preservation groups combined on Sunday to detail how an advocacy group could be formed that would work toward the preservation of the islands.

The workshops were productive in having us all think together about how the Friends should proceed and also in clearing the pathways that we will use to move ahead. As a direct result of the weekend, a bylaw review task force and advocacy group were officially formed.

The planning group will be continuing with this process, reviewing the many different ways of reaching our goals of education, preservation, advocacy, and good management. We'll try to determine what resources would be needed for each project and when it could be carried out. This information will then be formulated into a plan that will be presented to the Board of Directors at its December meeting and to the membership at the annual meeting.

Throughout the workshops and social events at Thompson Island, the Friends were energetic and enthusiastic. We made new friends and strengthened the bonds with others. We accomplished a lot but, more importantly, we had fun.

--Diane Greaney



Happy Isles

The happy isles of Boston Bay
A welcome mat do spread.
A place for all to visit,
From where the years have sped.

Gem-like, they glisten green
In sun of early morn,
And glimmer ghostly in the path
Of silver sphere, airborne.

From where mighty cannon roared,
Now sea-birds soar and turn.
The parapets where soldiers stood
Are masked with tree and fern.

Far away in space and time
Looms dear old Boston Towne
But, the islands speak serene
and cares without a frown.

The quiet tides of yesterday
Merge with ocean swell
And whisp'ring winds a-speak
Of many tales to tell.

The ghosts that roam the ramparts
And corridors most drear,
Walks with friends along the beach
'Neath starlit skies so clear.

Zephyrs speak of romance,
Of lover's trysts and dreams.
Their triumphs and the tragedies
O'er which the ocean gleams.

Stronger storms make notes
Of pirates, brigands bold.
Their dreadful deeds a-doing
And chests of buried gold.

God's hand is gently felt
All about the bay
As setting sun does sign
A passing of the day.

As homeward now we pass
Illumed by evening star
Mem'ries stay of salty air,
Waves breaking on the bar.
They will keep us whole
'Till once again we see
The Happy Isles of Boston Bay
That grace the shining sea.

--Joe F. Kolb



MEMBERSHIP FORM

We believe that our members belong to the Friends because they wish to protect the islands while also promoting the enjoyment that is felt by being involved with this unique environment. We are following an old American custom of banding together to magnify our individual efforts to better our way of life. Our diverse membership provides assistance to the Greater Boston community and the Boston Harbor Islands State Park through volunteers, interpretative services, and public education.

Part of our dues goes to maintaining the organization and the rest helps support our mission for the Harbor Park: to encourage public use, balanced with an awareness of the need to protect this fragile ecosystem and historic environment.

Your membership entitles you to:

- boat ticket discounts
- FBHI newsletters
- island volunteering
- act in a Living History performance
- learn more about the islands
- opportunities to make new friends
- special activities
- discounts on items sold by FBHI

It is only through your support and active presence that the FBHI will succeed in reaching its goals in this, our eighth year. Send your check made out to the Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, Inc., today--we'll send you your 1987 membership card by return mail. Check with your company's personnel office to see if they will match your tax deductible donation.

"Bring a friend to the Friends"

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (please print)

Name _____ Telephone _____ day
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____ eve

TYPES OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE

Note: Memberships and donations are tax deductible

Economy \$6 _____
 Individual \$15 _____
 Family \$28 _____
 Sustaining \$50 _____
 Patron \$100 _____

We will send you a membership card.

New _____ Renewal _____

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

(please check)

_____ Island Overnight weekends (June-September)
 _____ Island Daytime (June-September)
 _____ Living History programs
 _____ Newsletter/Writing skills
 _____ Membership Activities/Clerical
 _____ Finance
 _____ Fund Raising/Cruises
 _____ Exhibit preparation/Art skills
 _____ Other:

Additional Tax Deductible Gift \$ _____
 How did you find out about us?

Please mail application with check payable to:
 Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, Inc.
 PO Box 9025
 Boston, MA 02114

Wings Over Continents

On September 15th Soheil Zende, founder of the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh, spoke to a full house at the FBHI office about migrating birds. He had a wonderful slide show and very interesting narration. I think we all came away feeling excited about our next trip out to the harbor so we could bring our bird books and look for birds which before have eluded us. There were many interesting facts that Soheil brought out but the main point which caught my attention was how important it is to keep the main feeding areas of the east coast, and Boston Harbor especially, unpolluted and unbuilt upon. For many migrating birds these few feeding areas offer their main feeding binge before and after hundreds and even thousands of miles travelled. If we let these few areas which are rich in food resources go to waste, we may lose more than just a marsh or beach, we may lose entire species.

--Wynelle Scenna

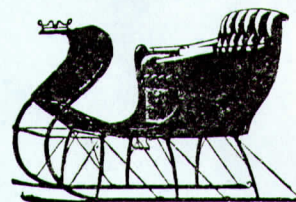


Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, Inc.
P.O. Box 9025
Boston, MA 02114
(617)-523-8386



CALENDAR

- December 5 - Harbor Update at Aquarium
- January 1, 1987 - Thompson Island Seafarers Trip (flyer to follow)
- January 17 & 18 - MDC Peddocks Island Winterfest Weekend (call Margie Coffin 268-5744 or FBHI office 523-8386)
- January 25 - FBHI Annual Meeting, Beacon House (flyer to follow)
- February 1 - Newsletter deadline - contributions of 500 words or less to Robert Scenna, 24 Piedmont St. Arlington MA 02174
- February 18 - MDC February Vacation Trip for Kids (call Margie Coffin 268-5744 or FBHI office 523-8386)
- March 7&8 - MDC Peddocks Island Expedition (tours, skiing). (call Margie Coffin 268-5744 or FBHI office 523-8386)



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