

# Star Hampshire 2013

**WELCOME:** We look forward to a weekend full of music, dance, and fun! Following is essential weekend info, committee contacts, and Star Island info. Read this letter carefully! Print it for reference! An island map, ferry directions, and draft of the schedule are attached separately. We share the island with other conferences (yoga/singing/women) which are described on [starisland.org](http://starisland.org).

**“NEW SHOALERS”:** If you have never been to Star Island, you are a “New Shoaler.” Please visit the Star Island Corporation website before the weekend. There are interesting, useful, important, fun details therein – all of which will deepen your enjoyment of your first time in this special place. Start with the main SIC page ([starisland.org](http://starisland.org)) and [Important Info for Guests](#) (under the “Conferences” tab).

**DIRECTIONS TO DOCK:** Using MapQuest/GoogleMaps, enter “Isles of Shoals Steamship Co., Portsmouth, NH.” See online Dock Directions or attached [.pdf](#)

**FERRY:** M/V Thomas Loughton *departs Portsmouth at 2:55 pm on Friday, Sept. 13.* Peggy Martin will welcome you at Isles of Shoals Steamship Co site. **Be at the dock circa 2:00 pm,** to guarantee your luggage gets to Star on Friday. Allow time to sit in *heavy* I-95 traffic, unload luggage, park, check in, and board. (If you’re late, your luggage might not arrive until Sat. If you miss the boat, it’s challenging to get to Star otherwise.) Reminder: The *ferry fee is included* in the SIC fees but *parking will be added* to your SIC bill. (Fee is \$24 *per car* – Carpool! Save \$!) **We get back to Portsmouth approx 4:45pm on Sunday, Sept. 15** and optional farewell dinner there follows immediately. [Boats and Parking Info](#) under “Conferences” tab.

**LUGGAGE:** Limits on checked baggage are strictly enforced. Each person may bring:

-“*checked*” *baggage*, goes on luggage boat (1 bag <40 lbs ~~–or–~~ 2 bags <25 lbs each.) Duffel bags without wheels are best. Don’t put alcohol or prescriptions in checked bags.

-*one small carry-on bag* (backpack/small tote) – bring prescriptions in carry-on!

NOTE: No alcohol allowed on the Thomas Loughton! (See “Social Hour” below.)

-*a specialty item*, such as a musical instrument

Complete [Luggage Details in Boats & Parking](#) section of “Conferences” tab.

**STUFF TO BRING:** Weather can range from “Sunny and 85” to “Wind, rain, and 39.” The Star Island facility provides bedding, towels/washcloths. Heat is only in some common spaces. Bring:

-clothes, footwear, outerwear, raingear for *all weather conditions*—hot, cold, dry, wet

-comfortable dance shoes

-flashlight/headlamp – for walking on rocky paths at night

-optional byob for social hour (see below)

-snack contribution (see below)

-water bottle/mug/cup to use at dance sessions

-optional contribution for chapel (see below)

-7 day supply of essential medications – in case extreme weather keeps us on the island

-sleeping bag or warm blanket – esp. if you get cold easily and/or low temps are predicted.

-tempting items for the *Silent Auction* to raise funds supporting Star Island.

**FESTIVE ATTIRE:** On Sat. night, many dancers dress fancy, especially celestial/ocean themes.

**SNACKS & POTLUCK TREATS:** We have a water jug in the dance hall. Please BYO labeled water bottle/mug/cup. For the evening dances, *please bring a snack* to share (homemade goodies, crackers, fruit, garden treats, etc.) Last names starting A-L share on Friday, and M-Z folks share on Saturday.

**SOCIAL HOUR:** Star Island Corp. has no liquor license. Our BYO "Social Hour" is Saturday (BYO alcohol permitted only at the designated location.) NOTE: If you BYO, label your bottle(s), etc. with NAME, and either "COMMON USE" or "OWN USE". Common Use may be opened/consumed by others, and Own Use will be left for you to open and share as you wish. All social hour items go in a box on a separate boat. (No alcohol on the Thomas Loughton. Don't stash in a carry-on)

**CANDLELIGHT CHAPEL:** For Saturday's inclusive and participatory chapel service (a Star Island tradition), we invite you to share a reading, poem, song, tune that is both pithy and meaningful. Ocean/Celestial/Island/Nature themes are suggested. Program's offerings will be coordinated on Star.

**PARTICIPATION:** Enrich the experience for all! Build community! Share your talents, skills, thoughts, etc. throughout the weekend — whether program-related or just a fun diversion.

**ECOLOGY & FIRE SAFETY:** The Star Island Corp. asks us to be conscious of the fragile island environment. *Don't* pick flowers or collect animal, plant, or mineral samples. Bring biodegradable personal care products, pack food/snacks in reusable containers, and take as much of your personal trash off the island as possible. NOTE: Given fire safety and electrical system limitations, please *do not* bring appliances with heating elements (heating pads, irons, hot water immersion heaters, etc.) If you must use a hair dryer, there are safe outlets in the shower areas.

**SHOWERS:** Info on [NEW SHOWERS](#) is on the SIC website. (Old Shoalers know why this is GREAT news.) We expect to be allotted two showers during the weekend. Bring what you need for a good sponge bath in your room. SIC has a lovely wash-up service by request - a hot water pitcher comes to your room in the morning – check at front desk for details.

**CELL PHONES:** Cell phones compromise the peaceful atmosphere of retreat on Star Island. If you must bring yours, please turn it off. If an important call is expected, set it to vibrate and move to a private area to answer. If you must make a cell phone call, please do it from your bedroom.

**STUFF NOT TO BRING:** Illegal drugs, fireworks, firearms, valuables. (Nuff said.)

**GROUP PHOTO:** See program schedule for time/location. Smile!

**OTHERS JOINING OUR DANCE SESSIONS:** We welcome "Pelicans" (island staff) at the Fri or Sat night dance parties, and other conference attendees may join us too. However, to ensure that all of Star Hampshire attendees dance as much as they like during the weekend, please seek dance partners from within our group before inviting those from outside our conference.

**HOTEL BILL:** Your Star Island Corp. bill includes room/board/ferry fees (less \$100 R/B/F deposit), \$24/car parking, and ~\$16/lobster (see next section). Bills should be ready Saturday morning. Please check them for accuracy, and pay promptly. Visa/MasterCard accepted but *Check or Cash is preferred.*

**LOBSTER TICKETS:** Lobsters for Saturday supper cost ~\$16 each. *Pre-orders due to Chrissy by Sunday 9/8/12.* (ktaadn\_me@hotmail.com) On the island, anytime before Sat “Social Hour”, you’ll get your lobster ticket from the front desk. (If you do it Sat aft., you can pay your bill at the same time!)

**MEDICAL CONSIDERATIONS:** Star Island is remote. Visitors come to the island at their own risk, and individuals with chronic medical conditions should consult their physicians. “Normal” island hazards include poison ivy, seagulls, and injuries from bare feet (strongly discouraged.) The first aid station on the island is equipped only for basic first aid. In emergencies, it is merely a stop gap until patients can be transported to a hospital. Travel time to the nearest off-island medical facility (Portsmouth Reg. Hosp.) is a minimum of 1 hour. Notify island medical staff about all prescription drugs, and bring those in your carry-on. Controlled medications must be kept under lock & key at all times (lock boxes for your room provided by SIC.)

**EMERGENCY #:**

If you need to be reached in an emergency, the Star Island front desk is 603-601-0832.

**RETRIEVING LOST & FOUND ITEMS:**

Start with the Star Island Corporation office in Portsmouth: (603) 430-6272 or office@starisland.org

**SUNDAY DINNER in PORTSMOUTH:**

Consider attending the Star Hampshire farewell meal & brew on the mainland (restaurant TBD.)

**MAJOR STORM CONTINGENCY:** Given the island location, there is a remote chance that the weekend could be canceled or adjusted because of a major storm or hurricane. If threatening weather is predicted and the weekend status changes, we will update attendees via email or you may call Peggy Martin at (603) 726-3033. Deadline for a decision regarding total cancellation shall be 5:00 pm Thursday, Sept. 12. This is a non-profit event. If the event is completely canceled by Thursday at 5:00 pm, then 75% -100% of the program fee will be refunded. (We have certain fixed expenses, even with a cancellation.) Also, should the event be canceled or altered, the Star Hampshire organizers and Star Island Corporation cannot be responsible for participants’ pre-paid travel expenses (e.g. airline tickets).

**MORE Star Island INFO:**

[Starisland.org](http://Starisland.org) has details re. [Accommodations](#), [Conferences](#), [Island Activities](#) (most still relevant in Sept), [History](#) and [Geography](#). Check out the drop down menus on SIC site. Our [Star Hampshire website](#) has info about the dance weekend itself. (nhcountrydance.com/star) *Especially if you are a “New Shoaler”*, check out these links! You can find useful information as well as photos and videos that will get you ready for Star. If you have questions after looking on the SIC & Star Hampshire sites, please contact us!

See you on Friday, September 13!

**Sincerely,**

Peggy Martin, conference chair (pmartin03223@yahoo.com, h 603-726-3033, c 603-369-7372)

David Millstone, program coordinator (millstone@valley.net, h 603-448-2950)

Chrissy Fowler, registrar (ktaadn\_me@hotmail.com, h 207-338-0979)

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