

Star Hampshire 2014

WELCOME! Get ready for a weekend full of music, dance, and fun! **Read this letter carefully. Print for later reference.** (Thanks!) We share the island with yoga, singing, & women's conferences, and are welcome to occasionally join their activities.



ORIENTATION: Immediately upon arrival on Star (1) go to the Well House (if rainy, Oceanic Porch) for our *Star Hampshire Orientation* and (2) attend the MANDATORY *“Fire & Water” Star Island Orientation* in Elliott. After both orientations, front desk check-in is optional. (But it may be helpful, especially for New Shoalers.) Chrissy will confirm room assignments on the ferry.

“NEW SHOALERS”: If you have never been to Star Island, you are a “New Shoaler.” Definitely explore the Star Island Corporation’s [website](#) before the weekend. The interesting, important, fun, useful details there will deepen your enjoyment of your first time in this special place. Start with [starisland.org](#) and [Important Info for Guests](#) (under “Conferences” tab). More links on p3 (below) An “Old Shoaler” buddy will be assigned to you, as a helpful resource throughout the weekend.

DIRECTIONS: Directions are [online](#). Using MapQuest/GoogleMaps, enter “Isles of Shoals Steamship Co., Portsmouth, NH.”

FERRY: We *depart Portsmouth at 2:55 pm, Friday, 9/12.* To guarantee your luggage gets to Star, **drop your luggage 90 min early.** Allow time to sit in heavy I-95 traffic, unload, park, check in, and board. (Don’t miss the boat!) Reminder: The ferry fee is included in the SIC room/board fees but parking is extra. (\$24 per car – Carpool!) We return to Portsmouth 4:45pm Sun., 9/15. Optional on-shore farewell dinner at 5pm. More [Boats and Parking Info](#) online.

LUGGAGE: Each person may bring:

- *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 carry-on specialty item* – e.g. a musical instrument, easel, tennis racket
- *“checked” bag* – goes on luggage boat (1 bag <40 lbs –or– 2 bags <25 lbs each.) Duffles w/o wheels are best. NO alcohol or prescriptions in checked bags. Bags are tossed in transit and brought to 3 pickup spots on Star. More [Luggage Details](#) (scroll down webpage.)

WHAT TO BRING: Weather can range from “Sunny and 85” to “Windy, rainy, and 39.” Only some common spaces are heated. Star Island provides bedding, towels/washcloths. Here’s a list:

- clothes, footwear, outerwear, raingear for all weather conditions—hot, cold, dry, wet
- comfortable dance shoes
- 7 day supply of essential medications – in case extreme weather keeps us on the island
- sleeping bag or blanket – esp. if you get cold easily and/or low temps are predicted.
- flashlight/headlamp – for walking on rocky paths at night
- byob for social hour – optional (see below)

- potluck snack contribution (see below)
- water bottle/mug/cup to use at dance sessions (see below)
- contribution for candlelight chapel – optional (see below)
- items for our *Silent Auction* to support Star Island’s Annual Fund (and be ready to bid on items brought by others!) Questions? Sharon Beaufait -- sbeaufait@gmail.com

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

POTLUCK SNACK TREATS: Please BYO labeled bottle/cup. For the evening dance parties, please bring a snack to share (homemade goodies, crackers, fruit, garden treats, etc.) Last names A-L share Fri. M-Z folks share Sat. (Fridge in dining room – ask at Front Desk.)

SOCIAL HOUR: We’ve ordered snacks and soda/juice for our Saturday social hour. Any wine/beer/etc. is BYOB – Star Island Corp. has no liquor license. Also, alcohol is permitted *only* at our social hour location. *NOTE:* If you BYO, **label your bottle(s), etc. with YOUR NAME.** All BYO alcohol goes in a “social hour box”, and travels to Star w/ checked bags. (No alcohol on the ferry.) Bring about what you might want to consume (extra is hard to deal with, given alcohol policies). *This year, open only your own BYO bottles.* (You can share afterward.)

CANDLELIGHT CHAPEL: For Saturday’s inclusive and participatory chapel service (a Star Hampshire tradition), consider sharing a brief and meaningful reading, poem, song, tune, etc. Ocean/Celestial/Island/Nature themes are suggested. The chapel program is 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: Star Island is passionate about their [Green Gosport Initiative](#) to protect 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 “carry in/carry out” when 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: Located in Oceanic basement aka “The Underworld”, updated in 2013, with extended late night hours just for us! If we limit ourselves to 2 showers apiece for the w/e... SIC says great.

CELL PHONES: Cell phones compromise the peaceful atmosphere of retreat on Star Island. Please channel Miss Manners if you must bring your cell phone. (Thanks!)

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

OTHERS JOINING OUR DANCE SESSIONS: We welcome “Pelicans” (island staff) at the Fri or Sat night dance parties, and folks from other conferences may join us too. However, to ensure that all of our Star Hampshire attendees dance as much as they would like to during the weekend, please consider seeking dance partners from within our group first, before inviting the visitors.

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

HOTEL BILL: Your Star Island Corp. bill includes the balance of your room/board/ferry fees (R/B/F bill minus your \$100 deposit) plus any of these that apply: \$24/car parking, ~\$16/lobster, \$5/hour rowboat use, and any tabs at island shops. Please check bills for accuracy, and pay promptly. Visa/MasterCard accepted but *Check or Cash is preferred*.

LOBSTER: For Sat supper, (optional) pre-ordered lobsters cost ~\$16 each. The lobster eaters start that meal early. *Orders due by Sun. Sept 7 to ktaadn_me@hotmail.com*. Pick up your lobster ticket at the hotel front desk anytime, but definitely before “Social Hour.”

SUNDAY DINNER: Consider the farewell meal & brew on the mainland (restaurant TBD.)

MEDICAL CONSIDERATIONS: Star Island is remote. Visitors come to the island at their own risk. The island first aid station is 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 is at least 1 hour. Notify island medical staff re. 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 – ask at the front desk.) Complete [medical info](#) online.

EMERGENCY #: Island front desk is (603) 601-0832 -- if you need to be reached.

RETRIEVING LOST ITEMS: Contact SIC: (603) 430-6272 or office@starisland.org

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. You also may call Peggy Martin at home: (603) 726-3033. Deadline for a decision regarding total cancellation shall be 5:00 pm on Thursday, Sept. 11. This is a non-profit event. If the event is completely canceled by Thursday at 5 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 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. *Especially if you are a “New Shoaler”*, check out these links! If you have questions after you’ve looked for answers on the SIC & Star Hampshire sites, please contact us!

See you on Friday, September 12! ☺

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