

Rushlight Club Fall Meeting October 24th to 26th, 2025 in Andover, Massachusetts

The 2025 Fall meeting will be held in the northwestern suburbs of Boston, MA. Friday activities start at 2pm so plan your arrival accordingly. Our hotel is the DoubleTree by Hilton in Andover. The address is 123 Old River Road. The hotel telephone number is: 267-494-0440. Details on room reservations and rates are shown on the enclosed registration form. The cutoff date for our rate is September 23, 2025.

Thursday Afternoon / Evening members may begin to arrive. There are no official activities, but members are welcome to gather in the hotel restaurant's bar/lounge area. Dinner is on your own.

Friday Morning is on your own to explore, for those that arrived on Thursday.

Friday Afternoon we will visit the Historic New England Haverhill Center in Haverhill, MA from 2-3:30 pm. Historic New England is one of the most comprehensive independent preservation organizations in the United States, with thirty-eight exceptional museums and landscapes, a major collections and archives center, and 127 privately owned historic properties in the region. We will be viewing select historical lighting examples from their collection.

Friday Evening dinner will be on your own. Suggestions will be in your registration packets. In the evening, registrants will be able to gather in the hotel restaurant/bar area for socialization.

Saturday Morning at 10 am we will tour the Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust's Spalding House in Lowell, MA. The Spalding House is a witness to Lowell's changes since the Colonial period.

Built in 1760, the property was purchased in pounds and shillings during a time when we still lived under the rule of a king. Debates about taxation took place here in what was then called the Moses Davis Inn. The Inn was a refuge for barge keepers bringing lumber down the Merrimack River before the canals were built. Our visit will focus on a appropriate pieces from their diverse lighting collection.

We will gather for lunch at a nearby restaurant.

Saturday Afternoon at 1:30 pm we will visit the Andover Center for History and Culture's Blanchard House in Andover, MA. The 1820 Amos Blanchard House illustrates the daily life of the Blanchard family in the 1830s. The Blanchards represented a typical upper middle class family in Andover. Amos Blanchard was a Deacon of South Parish Church and the first cashier of the Andover Bank. Elizabeth Blanchard was involved in issues of the day, including Temperance and the missionary movement. Select items from the Center's collection will be available for our study.

Saturday Evening we will have dinner and the annual membership meeting at the DoubleTree hotel. Our speaker, David Kilroy, will lead a discussion/presentation on the cast brass whale oil lamps of William H. Webb of Warren, Maine and an as-yet unidentified firm from Eastern MA that produced similar lamps. Members are encouraged to bring examples of cast brass lamps of the period for discussion. Other events will include the usual show and tell session and a silent auction.

Sunday Morning is open for members to explore or visit the Boxborough Antique Show, starting at 10 am at a cost of \$8/person, in nearby Boxborough, MA (about a 30 minute drive to the southwest).