

THE RANGE LIGHTS

PUBLICATION OF SAVE OUR SOUTH CHANNEL LIGHTS

LAKE ST. CLAIR
 SAVE OUR SOUTH CHANNEL LIGHTS
www.soschannellights.org

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP ELECTION MEETING AND CELEBRATION!

The annual meeting for SOS Channel Lights will be at Fritts' American Bistro, formally known as Fritts' Pub (www.frittspub.com) in downtown Mt. Clemens on Saturday, April 8th. The meeting to start at 7 p.m. located on the second floor now called Club Seventy-Seven.

Following the meeting the 50/50 raffle tickets will go on sale, the drawing for great prizes and half the pot will be announced at 10 p.m.

The celebration begins after the meeting and when you feel like getting down to your favorite flashback hits from the 70s and 80s! DJ Donny is your MC, and he guarantees to rock the place!

SOS Sales Managers Gary Strobel and William Bailey and committee, have come up with a huge new assortment of items to go on sale, including: embroidered hats/visors, polos, ultraclub Fleece tops, packaway jackets, and silk screened visor clips and boat totes. Also, there have been large donations of lighthouses, clocks, prints and other beautiful decorations for your nautical room by individuals and companies to round out the great array of SOS items.

Rob Schoenmann, one of our SOS directors, owner of the web consulting business Advanced Media Solutions www.amswebdesign.com also creators of The Lake St. Clair Network www.lakestclair.net is organizing the party, Rob is known for putting together celebrations that are wildly successful. Come and enjoy the evening.

Two 3-Year Directors will be elected at the meeting and the SOS Board has nominated Rob Schoenmann and William Bailey to fill the vacancies. Nominations may also be made from the floor.



Mihm and Shepard contractors preparing to remove lantern room



Lantern room being removed in two pieces

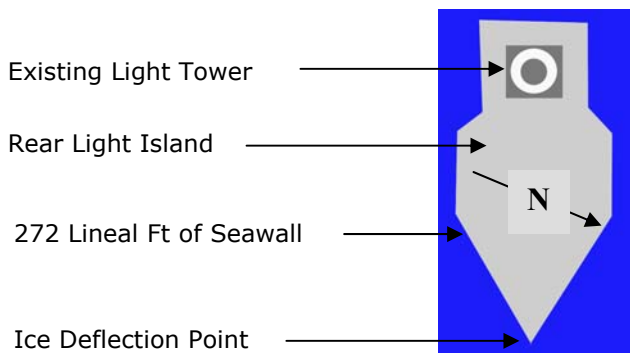
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thankfully, we are seeing some real progress at the rear range lighthouse.

After receiving our grant(s) and taking bids on the major work to be done, we didn't have enough to do both lights so we decided that we would try to completely renovate the rear light and protect the tower with a new seawall.

The island the tower occupies is somewhat shaped like an "arrow head" and the old seawall is approximately 272 lineal feet long.

We surmise that the pointed shape toward Muscamoot Bay was to deflect the ice coming out of the bay in the spring.



The seawall was a major part of the cost approaching \$1,000 per foot. The huge heavy 30-ft. sheets, driven 20-ft into the lake bottom must stand up to the heavy relentless wave action in the open lake along with the tremendous pressure of ice movement in the winter.

All aspects of the renovation have been documented with digital photos both in close-up and overall view, some of which are included in this newsletter to give our members an overall look on the ongoing work.

Congratulations to all those who never wavered and worked hard over the years to make the saving of the range lights a reality.

We still have a long road ahead, but with the ongoing help of our officers and membership we can not fail.

Mark Mckee what retired from the treasurers' position recently is much more than an officer of our organization; he is a friend and mentor.

Happily, he has consented to stay on as a member of our board. I can't say enough about this man's dedication and willingness to struggle along with us during the lean years, the better times, and now again, the lean years to come.

Mark, former publisher of the Monitor Leader and Macomb Daily newspapers in Mount Clemens is a gifted historian in his own right and has been, and continues to be, one of Macomb Counties finest examples of an exemplary leader and citizen.

Thank you Mark, for your loyalty, expertise, and the honor of your friendship.

--Chuck Brockman

SOSCL DUES RENEWAL TIME

Included with this Range Lights is a renewal envelope. If you have not yet renewed your membership, we hope you will stay the course with us.

2005 was a good year. We were able to obtain some of the grant money we needed so badly to secure the rear light.

Progress is finally beginning to show!

Amazing as it sounds, by the end of the coming navigation season we will have spent over \$750,000.00 at the lights.

A major part of that were the seawalls that had to be constructed around both lights.

We will spend out entire grant and match money this year and will be back at square one financially, but have made the foundation needed to save the lights.

We need your membership now more than ever, hopefully you will be able upgrade your membership and convince others to join us. If you have already renewed, thank you, and please pass the envelope on to someone who wants to help.

SAVE OUR SOUTH CHANNEL LIGHTS

SAVE YOUR  HERITAGE

SOSCL Needs You!

Save Our South Channel Lights, an all volunteer organization is heavily dependent on the people who donate their valuable time to further our efforts in saving the Lights. Throughout the 16 years since SOSCL was formed, many charitable individuals have come and gone, but one thing still stands to this day, in no small part due to their efforts and that is the "Twin Sisters." The sole income of SOSCL comes from the many shows that this organization is invited to where a variety of merchandise is offered for sale. These shows are held in many locations and at different times of the year and we have an ongoing need for personnel to work the SOSCL booth at these events. Yes, there is some work, but often little perks come along with the events, and you won't find a nicer group of folks than boaters. Take the Antique Boat show for instance, where the sights of Classic mahogany boats of the years gone by take center stage and where you can get an up close look at some real beauties. June Fest in St. Clair Shores brings good entertainment and some great art, and usually ending the year is the Metro Boat show. All in all, some great boating events that you won't want to miss.

If you are interested in lending your time and company for a few hours, please contact SOSCL at sosclsales@comcast.net 810-748-1888 or soschannellights@yahoo.com. Listed here are the shows where we hope to have booths throughout the year; we really could use some help with staffing them. If you can only volunteer for one show and only for a couple of hours we sure could use your participation - call or email us today! Of course if you cannot volunteer and do attend any of these shows be sure to stop by our booth and check out some great merchandise, your purchase will help us save the lights!

- - Gary E. Strobel



Visit our on-line store at
www.soschannellights.org

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR EVENT schedule

February

Nautical Mile Merchants Association
Chili Cook Off, Blossom Heath
St. Clair Shores

April

Annual Meeting and Member Party
Fritz Pub-Mt. Clemens

June

June Fest Street Fair Mack at 9 mile
St. Clair Shores

Antique Boat Show
Algonac Harbour Club
Algonac

August

Harsens Is Field Day – Browns Field Pavilion
Harsen's Island

Grosse Pt Summer Fest - Kerchavel between
Lakepointe & Wayburn
Grosse Pointe

Idle Hour Yacht Club Craft Show – IHYC
Harsen's Island

September

Algonac Art Fair - Algonac Boardwalk

Metro Boat Show - Metro Beach

December

Marine Mart - Belle Isle Casino
Belle Isle



SOS Director Gary Strobel and SOS President Chuck Brockman at SOS Lighthouse restoration project site.

BOAT/US COOPERATING GROUP RENEWED FOR 2006

Members of SOS Channel Lights may join or renew their membership at Boat/US membership, which includes a subscription of Boat/US for half price.

Along with all the perks of Boat/US membership, which includes a subscription to their excellent magazine, is the fact that the organization lobbies in the recreational boaters behalf in Washington, fighting unfair taxes, fees and government regulations.

It's worth the half price joining just for that alone.

If you are renewing your Boat/US membership, be sure to mention the SOS Cannel Lights co-op group number **82854B** to get the special rate.



After being disassembled, cleaned, coated and reassembled it's ready to be put back into place.

MARK MCKEE RETIRES AS SOSCL TREASURER

Our long time treasurer and board member Mark Mckee has served SOSCL for most of the years our organization has existed.

We are losing a dedicated and able man, but we are happy that he has consented to still serve on our board of directors.

When asked if he would stay on as a director, he said, "I would be happy to be connected to the dynamic organization that has persevered in saving this very important piece of local maritime history."

Mark and wife Cara Mae have recently decided they would like to spend winter months in Arizona near their children and grandchildren, our loss is their gain.

At a recent directors meeting, Debra Strobel was nominated to fill the treasurers' position vacancy and elected.

Deb. Has been a real help in manning the functions and booths that we go to along with her husband Gary and children Rebecca and Jacob.

When asked if she would consider taking on the job of treasurer, she said, "I would be happy to help, this project any way I can."

Of course the position is a very important one and although we are handling large amounts of funds now, it won't be long when we will be scraping the bottom of the barrel for additional money to keep the project on track for complete restoration of both towers.

-- Chuck Brockman

CURRENT OFFICERS 2005

Officers for 2005

President – Chuck Brockman
Vice President/Secretary – Linda Thielholdt
Treasurer(s) Mark McKee, Deb Strobel

Directors for 2005

1 – Year, Rob Schoenmann – William Bailey
2 – Year, Gary Strobel – Linda Thielholdt
3 – Year, Chuck Brockman – Mark Mckee

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Could be your stamp on history! Could be a legacy for future generations! Could be a cool gift for the person who has everything!

We have a unique opportunity in the restoration efforts of the lights. There are 41 steps to the top in the rear light and we have decided that you can buy one – well the name plate that would be attached to each step – that is.



41 Steps leading up the lantern room, be part of history and help keep the lights alive.

As a way to further our restoration efforts we will be offering naming rights for each step. Each step will have a small brass plate attached to it where your company name, your name, or the name of a loved one name could be engraved. We will be offering these for sale at \$800 per step. Two have already been sold! If you would like more information on this or would like to order your nameplate please contact SOSCL Vice President, Linda Thielholdt at 248-740-8867. Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to help us save the lights!

-- Linda Thielholdt



Thanks to Arbor Press, Royal Oak, MI for the printing of our SOSCL member brochure. We appreciate this generous donation and their willingness to help save the Lights!!

www.arborpress.com



Lantern room top being put back in place. It was taken off site to be completely taken apart, cleaned, and repaired and reassembled.



Renovated lantern room back in place. The new sea wall starts taking shape around island crib that totals 272 lineal feet.

TREASURERS REPORT

1/1/2005 through 12/31/2005

Category Description 1/1/2005- 12/31/2005

INCOME

Uncategorized	1,959.22
CD Cancellation	261,664.21
Clay Township	-100,000.00
Gifts received	4,540.22
Interest Credit	238.77
Membership	3,353.62
Sales Credit Card pro items	2,334.85
Sales pro items	8,898.10
Sales Tax	-501.71
TOTAL INCOME	182,487.28

EXPENSES

Uncategorized	169,292.78
Accounting information	750.00
Booth rental	50.00
CMI GRANT MATCH FUNDS	2,000.00
Corporation Report	25.00
Cost goods sold	5,280.51
County Chges	38.00
Credit Card Charges	11.35
eqp purchase	99.00
Fees deducted	373.86
Lease	50.00
Liability Ins.	2,386.55
Lights maintenance	400.00
Maintenance Fee	2.00
Memberships	-20.00
MLAP	889.67
mlap planning grant	-16,854.00
Office Supplies	125.65
P.O. Box rental	64.00
Postage	74.00
Professional Services	25,281.00
State Chges	20.00
Telephone	917.32
Website chges	219.95
TOTAL EXPENSES	191,976.64

TRANSFERS

FROM S.O.S. Com. Cen. S.	21,364.02
TO S.O.S. Com. Cen. C.	-21,364.02
TOTAL TRANSFERS	0.00

OVERALL TOTAL **-9,489.36**

-- Mark Mckee / Deb Strobel

SOSCL Web Site

Visit the new and improved web site for the most update pictures and information about the Range Lights. Send a link to your friends!

www.soschannellights.org



SOS President Chuck Brockman receives donation from Pre-Thanksgiving Party 50/50 raffle from AMS / LSCN President and CEO Rob Schoenmann.

THE LAKE ST. CLAIR NETWORK GINO'S SURF PRE-THANKSGIVING RECAP

The Lake St. Clair Network and Gino's Surf Pre-Thanksgiving party was a complete success. Not only raising hundreds of toys for Toy's for Tot's, the 50/50 raffle raised \$413 for the restoration of the Lights. Toni Mannina which won half the pot, graciously donated \$100 bringing the total to \$513.

NAUTICAL MILE CHILI COOK OFF



Nautical Mile Chili Cook off raffle crew.

The Nautical Mile Merchants Association was a complete success. The 50/50 raffle raised \$159 for the Save our South Channel Lights organization. Visit the NMMA web site at www.nauticalmile.org.

-- Rob Schoenmann

NEW RANGE LIGHTS NEWSLETTER NEW look

I want to thank Chuck Brockman for giving me the opportunity to create the next generation Range Lights newsletter. However I did not realize what I was getting myself into and find myself working very late, but enjoying it a great deal.

I would like to thank all involved in providing content and guidance and I hope you enjoy this newsletter.

-- Rob Schoenmann

Join the SOSCL mailing list

Send an e mail to: soschannellights@yahoo.com

Include your first and last name and you will receive periodical e-mails of current events, up and coming merchandise, and special information regarding SOSCL and the Lake St. Clair Network.

Join up. Save the Lights

-- William Bailey

SOSCL CONTACT INFORMATION

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S.O.S. Channel Lights
P.O. Box 15
Harsens Island, MI 48028



Seawall construction begins around the rear light.



The lighthouse tower was connected to the dwelling by a covered walkway.



The rear light is protected with 272 feet of seawall and the restored lantern room perched on top.