



Before 1989

# THE RANGE LIGHTS

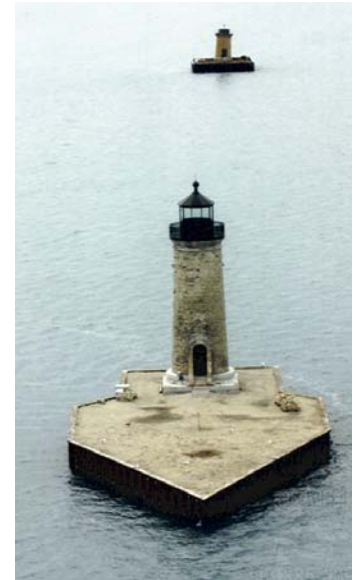
PUBLICATION OF SAVE OUR SOUTH CHANNEL LIGHTS

## LAKE ST. CLAIR

### SAVE OUR

## SOUTH CHANNEL LIGHTS

Winter 2006/2007



After 2006

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We've all heard the "Good News and Bad News" comment, but here it's all good news.

Yes we have much work to do, but we have done some great things over the last two years and there are a multitude of people that should be thanked. Some of the major players in this progress will follow. There isn't enough room to mention everyone who had a hand in making our story a success, but we thank the everyday support members and officers who are the core of the organization.

Our match grants were provided by the Clean Michigan Initiative, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program. This includes a major match contributor who wants to remain anonymous.

That being said, our almost daily contact with the MDEQ was Susan Sandell, the largest grant representative. Susan was, and still is, a friend, mentor, plus expert in the swirl of reports, affidavits, and the zigzagging trail of paperwork. We will be much more intelligent preparing for future grants because of her. Thank you Susan.

MLAP was the grant for planning and our thanks go to Teresa Goforth and Denise Sachau for their unwavering support in planning for both lights. Ilene Tyler of Quinn/Evans Architects, bid winner, prepared excellent documents to support the restoration at both lights.

However, we were unable to work at the front light, as the total grant was only enough for work at the rear light and island, but the plans are still prepared for future work at both towers.

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP ELECTION MEETING CELEBRATION

Jack's Waterfront Restaurant, Waterfront Room

**Saturday April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30**

Located at Emerald City Harbor on the Nautical Mile

24214 Jefferson Ave. St. Clair Shores, MI 48080

Membership Drive  
50/50 Raffle

Appetizers

Following Entertainment in Main Bar

Two directors for three-year terms will be elected at the annual meeting



Close up of new decorative railing and ventilator ball

The crew of Mihm Enterprises, the other bid winner, are experienced lighthouse restorers that worked hard – many times in inclement weather – to finish most of the work on the rear island and the tower itself. Frank Mihm and Bob Ziman both deserve a hearty thanks for their can-do attitude.

Now we have a nearly finished project that will require constant upkeep and maintenance. Weekly visits will be necessary. Last fall was a beginning in clean-up efforts by Kathy Crissman and her son's Boy Scout Troop. They worked hard cleaning the island of building materials, weeds and debris.

Hopefully, we will reach the point where we will be able to have visitors come to the lights as tourists, providing our liability insurance allows it. Visit our Web site for updated news at [www.soschannellights.org](http://www.soschannellights.org).

Jon Ottman has joined us as our new historian and has uncovered many facts we were unaware of while preparing his Masters Degree project on the Old South Channel Lights. See his report elsewhere in this Range Lights.

Please join us as a member in this worthy effort.



Scaffoldings surrounding the rear light



Photo by Wayne Sapulski

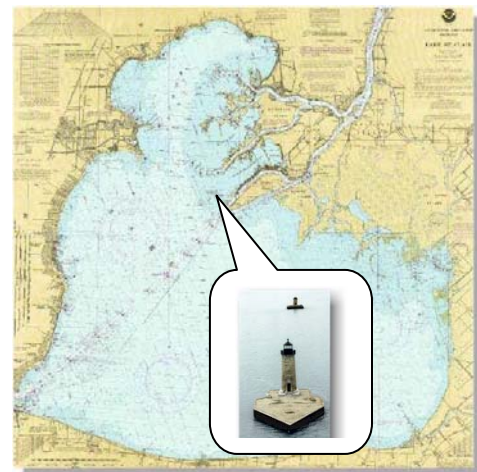
A surprise award and generous donation were presented to Chuck Brockman and SOSCL during GLLKAs Blue Water Cruise last September. Our thanks to GLLKA president Dick Moehl and cruise organizer Bob Hazen.

--Chuck Brockmann



Kathy Crissman and her son's Boy Scout Troop 371 from Mt. Clemens worked hard cleaning the island of building materials, weeds and debris

SAVE OUR SOUTH CHANNEL LIGHTS  
SAVE YOUR  HERITAGE





**A six-month research project into the history of the St. Clair Flats South Channel Range Lights has recently concluded.**



Jon Ottman

I have recently graduated with a Master's of Science Degree in Historic Preservation from Eastern Michigan University. My area of expertise includes the administration and interpretation of historic sites and buildings. I also have training in the assessment, conservation and treatment of historic building materials. For my final EMU project, I spoke with Chuck Brockman about helping in some way with the ongoing restoration of the lights. During our discussion, I learned that there were gaps in the research dealing with the early history of the lights, their construction and operation. The project began in June 2006 and research sources across the country were consulted to answer some of the outstanding questions.

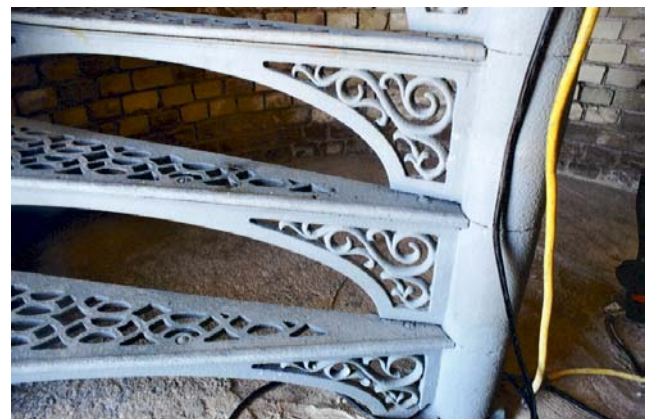
The project has shed "new light" on the history of the ranges, their operational history, and other uses like those of the Pros't Club. There is still more to discover. The demolition date for the keeper's dwelling and the circumstances under which it was removed have proven elusive. I also was unable to find construction drawings and logbooks from the Range Lights. These may still exist in some other location, or they may have been discarded at some point because the Range Lights were no longer primary aids to navigation. The plans in particular will be critical if any effort is undertaken to reconstruct the keeper's dwelling.

Further investigation and research may hold the keys. The compiled information will be helpful in interpreting the history of the lights and will be useful for demonstrating the significance of the site for grant applications. Future plans call for the project paper to be rewritten in a format suitable for sales or distribution. It may also possibly be uploaded to the Internet. It is a working document that will be updated as new information is compiled.

--Jon Ottman



Interior steps before renovation



Interior steps during renovation

**SAVE OUR SOUTH CHANNEL Web**



Visit [www.soschannellights.org](http://www.soschannellights.org) for the latest on news and information

- ✦ History
- ✦ Monthly Message
- ✦ SOSCL Forums
- ✦ Gallery
- ✦ SOSCL Video
- ✦ Merchandise
- ✦ License Plates Information
- ✦ Memberships Information

## The First Step

With the completion of the Rear Light coming to an end, and SOSCL's focus on the remaining projects and tasks, I want to share of what I believe to be the first step. Not only in the lights themselves but also in SOSCL in itself. In comparison, in 1855 the foundation, structure and steps were constructed. In 1989 Chuck Brockman and his wife Scotti organized and dedicated their life mission to restore the Old Channel icons. It is in this leadership and example that such historic sites remain for generations. People have come and gone in the organization, two people have held steady at the helm. SOSCL has had a dedicated leader since its inception. Scotti, his wife who has since passed and Chuck's second love lives on in her. It is this determination that this project is a success thus far. Oh, of course he will be humble and say " I couldn't have done it with out everyone else's volunteerism". The truth is, if everyone that has served under him didn't see in his heart the dedication Chuck has given to the retired lights. This project would not be. It is this First Step that is the example for future members, volunteers, and directors to follow. I am proud to work with Chuck and the directors of SOSCL. Thank you Mr. Brockman!

We have two more phases to conclude, it is my wish, and I am sure, everyone else's wish that the remaining phases are completed in less than 18 years. Please continue to contribute, renew your membership, and spread the word about what this great organization is doing. Attend some of the great events the Lake St Clair Network holds for SOSCL. Visit some of the shows and purchase some merchandise. We are constantly working on introducing new product for you to purchase. 100% of EVERYTHING sold goes toward the restoration projects. Chuck is working on funding projects and wrapping up the State requirements for the last EVERY bit helps! If you have time to give, please get a hold of us. SOSCL is a 501c3 organization so everything is tax deductible. See you in 2007.

--Gary E. Strobel



Visit our on-line store at  
[www.soschannellights.org](http://www.soschannellights.org)

## SOSCL Needs You! VOLUNTEERS

If you are interested in lending your time and company for a few hours, please contact SOSCL at [sosclsales@comcast.net](mailto:sosclsales@comcast.net) 810-748-1888 or [soschannellights@yahoo.com](mailto: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!

### Event Times Location

#### February

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

#### April

Annual Meeting and Member Party in SCS  
Jack's Waterfront Lounge - Waterfront Room

#### June

Street Fest Fair Mack Ave. @ 9 mile - SCS  
Antique Boat Show June-Algonac Harbour Club  
Algonac

#### August

Harsens Is Field Day - Brown's Field Pavilion  
Harsens 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 - Grosse Pointe War Memorial

## JOIN OUR E-MAIL. SAVE THE LIGHTS

Send an e mail to: [soschannellights@yahoo.com](mailto: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 Lake St. Clair.

-- William Bailey

## WHAT'S IN A NAME 2007?

Last year we introduced a unique once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to help with the restoration of the lights. There are 41 steps leading to the top of the rear light and we have offered them for sale - well actually a name plate that will be attached to each step - and I am pleased to say the response from the community has been great.

When I think about the fact that long after I am gone from this earth someone walking up those steps in the rear light might wonder who I was and why I have my name engraved in a brass plate attached to one of the steps is very cool. To think that I could leave my stamp on history in such a way means a lot to me and judging by the sale of the steps to date, means quit a bit to some other generous folks as well.

This is a unique opportunity and one that will really help with completion of the restoration efforts on the rear light. We have 31 steps remaining and you can "buy one" - well actually the name plate that will be attached to each step. This could be a great gift for the person who has everything! It may even memorialize the life of someone you love, it could commemorate a special anniversary or if you are like me be a legacy you leave behind for future generations. It could be a group purchase, a family purchase or even a corporate purchase - any and all are welcome and appreciated. No matter what the reason as we near the end of the project funds are very tight and we now have to make decisions on what we can afford to complete and what will have to be set aside until more money is raised. The sale of the remaining steps could really go a long way in helping us complete this project.

We are offering these for sale at \$800 per step. If you would like more information on this or would like to order your nameplate please contact SOSCL Vice President, Linda Thielfoldt at 248-740-8867, or simply use the form you can print off of our website- just go to <http://soschannellights.org/name.html> and download the order form - you can pay by check or credit card.

Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to help us save the lights!

--Linda M. Thielfoldt

## TRESPASSERS will NOT be TOLERATED!

A steel door with pad lock secures the interior of the rear light. Only authorities, contractors and designated members are allowed on the island. All trespassers to be ticketed by authorities and will be held accountable for any damages. Please, help us keep an eye out!

## SOSCL DUES RENEWAL TIME

There is a dues renewal envelope included with this annual Range Lights newsletter. We hope you can increase your membership, as it is time to put together additional match grant applications.

Now that we have demonstrated real progress at the lights, we hope possible grantors and contributors will step up to the plate to help see the project make another giant step forward toward completion.

There are "before and after" photos in this edition and you can see the new seawall and island. What you can't see are the 25 ornate steps that had to be removed, recast and then reinstalled in the rear tower. There are 41 steps in all and we are selling the naming rights to all 41. See Linda Thielfoldt's column on how to name a step.

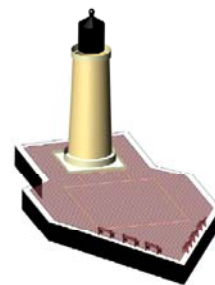
Much mortar re-pointing was done inside and some outside also. The entire lantern room was removed, completely restored at the shop and reinstalled. There were ornate panels in the railing that were recreated with the lantern room half-door that had to be done and cast at the same time.

All these processes are very expensive and required that all parts and tools had to be removed, then transported back to the site in all kinds of weather to meet schedules. Since there is no electricity at the site, a large generator had to be brought in.

We've come a long way and with your help, we will persevere.

Please increase your membership if you can, and tell others of our mission. We need you.

## PAVERS TO COVER REAR island in 2007



Donated computer perspective images will be used to help determine paver layout for rear light. Ed Buckman from J.C. Cornillie Co. expressed interest in donating the material. The plan includes catch basin with white stone between pavers and seawall. An outline of the keeper's quarters by using pavers is considered for possible design. Contractors would be needed for basin and paver installation. Thanks to Penchansky Whisler Architects.

--Rob Schoenmann



## BOAT/US COOPERATING GROUP RENEWED

We have again renewed our cooperating group membership in Boat/US which means you, as a member of SOSCL may renew your Boat/US membership for half price.

Boat/US is a leader lobbying in Washington for boaters rights and other important legislation plus unfair taxes, etc. Your membership is worth that alone.

Remember, you must mention SOS Channel Lights co-op group **82854B** to get your dues reduction. Several of our SOSCL members joined last year.

## CURRENT OFFICERS 2006

President – Chuck Brockman  
Vice-President/Secretary – Linda Thielholdt  
Treasurer – Deb Strobel

## DIRECTORS FOR 2006

**1-year,** Gary Strobel – Linda Thielholdt  
**2-year,** Chuck Brockman – Mark McKee  
**3-year,** Rob Schoenmann – William Bailey – Deb Strobel



Range Lights, rear light in the distance with telephoto lens

<b>JOSEPH L. SIMASKO &amp; ASSOCIATES</b> ACCOUNTANTS	
RESIDENCE:	OFFICE:
31032 JEFFERSON	319 N. GRATIOT
ST. CLAIR SHORES, MI 48082	MT. CLEMENS, MI 48043
586-294-0264	OFFICE 586-468-2311
	FAX 586-468-6798
	DIRECT LINE 586-954-4974

## FRIEDA CURTIS DIES

Frieda Curtis, a long time member of SOSCL passed away last September. She is remembered for donated funds on a consistent basis. She had her friend's donated returnable cans and bottles to put in with her collection and give those funds to our organization. She participated in countless activities until she was physically unable to attend our fund raising events.

Active in many clubs around her beloved Lake St. Clair she was known by many for her untiring dedication to saving our lighthouses.

Frieda was one who said what she thought, and had a heart as big as all outdoors. She will be sorely missed by her friends at SOSCL.

## Videos Now Available

Newly re-mastered copies of the History Channel program: Back to the Blueprint are now available. It also has the original promo video from 1989 on it. Only \$15 for disc w/jewel case, \$10 for disc only.



Contact William Bailey at:  
[soschannelights@yahoo.com](mailto:soschannelights@yahoo.com)  
586-925-2994

## THE LAKE ST. CLAIR NETWORK PRE-TURKEY DAY BASH RECAP AT BARRISTER GARDENS.

The Lake St. Clair Network had over a 130 people united to raise \$500 for the SOSCL organization. We also raised over 200 gifts for the Rainbow Connection children's network. For more information visit the web sites below.

Rainbow Connection  
[www.rainbowwishconnection.org](http://www.rainbowwishconnection.org)  
Lake St. Clair Network  
[www.lakestclair.net](http://www.lakestclair.net)

--Rob Schoenmann

## 2006 TREASURERS REPORTS

1/1/2006 through 12/31/2006	
<b>INFLOWS</b>	
Bal Transferred from Closed acct	\$ 17,066.86
Donations	\$ 7,206.00
Gift Received	\$ 672.00
Sales	\$ 4,893.00
Grant Money	\$ 251,835.00
Memberships	\$ 3,975.00
Other Inc	\$ 4.51
What's In A Name	\$ 2,400.00
<b>TOTAL INFLOWS</b>	<b>\$ 288,052.37</b>
<b>OUTFLOWS</b>	
Bad Debt	\$ 320.00
Bank Charge	\$ 547.89
Construction	\$ 404,219.00
Insurance	\$ 6,639.30
Legal-Prof Fees	\$ 770.00
Licenses and Permits	\$ 188.95
Maintenance	
Website Management	\$ 119.95
Other Maintenance	\$ 225.00
TOTAL Maintenance	\$ 344.95
Postage and Delivery	\$ 538.50
Printing and Reproduction	\$ 608.05
Rent	
Space Rental	\$ 75.00
Other Rent	\$ 28.00
TOTAL Rent	\$ 103.00
Tax -State	\$ 279.18
Telephone	\$ 698.99
<b>TOTAL OUTFLOWS</b>	<b>\$ 415,257.81</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ (127,205.44)</b>

--Deb Strobel



## NMMA Chili Cook Off AT Blossom HEATH ON THE NAUTICAL MILE



Huge SOSCL turn out. The Nautical Mile Merchants Association chili cook off was a complete success. The 50/50 Raffle rose over \$200 for the SOSCL.

--Rob Schoenmann



Nautical Mile Merchants Association  
All Places for All Seasons  
Discover the Nautical Mile  
[www.nauticalmile.org](http://www.nauticalmile.org)

### SOSCL CONTACT INFORMATION

Chuck Brockman (President)  
[soslights1@aol.com](mailto:soslights1@aol.com)  
810.748.1888

Linda Thiefoldt (Vice President)  
[lindat@devlingroup.com](mailto:lindat@devlingroup.com)  
248.740.8867

Rob Schoenmann (Director)  
[robs@amswebdesign.com](mailto:robs@amswebdesign.com)  
586-206-6580

William Bailey (Director)  
[soschannelights@yahoo.com](mailto:soschannelights@yahoo.com)  
586-925-2994

Gary Strobel (Director)  
[sosclsales@comcast.net](mailto:sosclsales@comcast.net)  
586-698-8957

Deb Strobel (Treasurer)  
[soscltreas@comcast.net](mailto:soscltreas@comcast.net)  
586-698-8958

Memberships and Donations Please Send to:  
S.O.S. Channel Lights  
P.O. Box 15  
Harsens Island, MI 48028

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



### Chuck's PARTIAL wish list for the Lights.

- + 3-foot fence for the 300 lineal feet of seawall on my wish list! We must also include gates for boarding the island.
- + Carpenter to build an outhouse from old photos of the rear light island. The structure will be made large enough to conceal a porta john of some type and donation of materials.
- + Good grade white paint for the top of the rusty steel seawall cap and people to apply it. The paint will hide the seagull's droppings.
- + Volunteers to transfer three small pallets of bricks recovered from the keepers dwelling inside the rear tower in back of the stairs.
- + Experienced paver craftsmen to lay donated pavers with their own equipment.
- + We need at least two large round fenders for docking at the rear light, along the indentations of the Z-sheeting seawall.
- + Additional metal docking cleats

Printer Sponsor



**Save our South Channel Lights**



*Siegel-Robert, Inc.*

Siegel-Robert Automotive  
2006 I Volunteer "Gifts from the Heart" Award \$1000 on behalf of Gary Strobel to SOS Channel Lights, this was the second year Gary applied for the award.  
[www.siegelrobertautomotive.com](http://www.siegelrobertautomotive.com)

