

THE RANGE LIGHTS



PUBLICATION OF SAVE OUR SOUTH CHANNEL LIGHTS

LAKE ST. CLAIR

SAVE OUR SOUTH CHANNEL LIGHTS

Winter 2009/2010 Volume 18 Number 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Although we are still looking for a match grant, the Old South Channel Lights are looking better each season thanks to volunteers, members and our exceptional board members. There are many things to do and some are more visible than others.

Our "before and after" aerial photos of the rear light in this publication documents the exterior work, and there is much more than meets the eye inside the tower.

We are fortunate to have a board the contains excellent speakers. Each and every speaker is qualified in presentations that are customized to the audience, such as school, axillaries, yacht clubs, fraternal groups, and maybe others. A recent show at the Grosse Pointe Was Memorial was well received, put on by Kathy Brady and myself, we have already been asked to do another soon.

If you would like a presentation please call and we can reserve a date for your group. Each show contains donated professionally produced DVDs, slides and still photos along with the history of our lights.

It's not too soon to line up a boat cruise out to the Old South Channel Lights from Metropolitan Beach. You can call them to find out their schedules for this upcoming season. These trips are fun and informative.

The front light has been completely cleaned and closed up by Director Dave Bollinger and his "Bollinger's Buddies". This very unpleasant cleaning deserves a special hearty THANK YOU! from all of us. This gentleman has been a real plus on our board and continues to take on unpleasant jobs and he has plans to take on even more. A special thanks to all the Bollinger's Buddies.

(Continued on page 2 – President's Message)



ANNUAL ELECTION MEETING MEMBERSHIP CELEBRATION DRIVE SATURDAY MAY 22ND AT 7:15

7:00 – Directors Meeting
7:30 - Presentation
8:00 – Celebration
8:30 - Auction

Membership Drive
50/50 Raffle – FREE Appetizers
Following Entertainment

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE



Please join us for our SOSCL Annual Meeting. Membership Drive and Celebration on May 22nd at Dockside Jack's located in the Emerald City Harbor Marina in St. Clair Shores.

We are excited to bring our members update on our progress and what plans are in store for years to come. This is open to all, come on out, enjoy the new Jack's and celebrate with friends.

(Continued on page 2 – Vice President's Message)



The New Dockside Jack's

24214 Jefferson Avenue
St Clair Shores, MI 48080
(586) 445-8080
in Emerald City Marina

(President's Message continued from page 1)

The front light is the focus for the grant money match that will hopefully come soon. It is in the best condition it's been for many decades. Our next step has to be the new foundation, then the restoring of the lantern room. This major work will have to be done first as we will use all of our match money to straighten the precarious leaning light. The bricks may come loose as it is moved to the perpendicular position. The doorway dimensions may change and the lantern room could change too. The window and floor will also be observed closely. This major work by professionals will affect everything and until that is accomplished we can't start work on the other important jobs still yet to be done.

The Coast Guard will be informed of our work as they have the right to service the light and mounting. We have a long term lease on the bottom land and own the lights themselves which we purchased from the General Services Administration in 1994 for one dollar.

Our thanks to Joe and Jill Bosy who donated our pontoon boat, also Bob Bryson at Tashmoo Marina for his knowledgeable help as I was fortunate enough to be seated next to them at a recent function at the Idle Hour Yacht Club. The conversation turned to SOSCL needing a boat of some kind to ferry volunteers and materials to the lights. Both Jill and Joe asked immediately if we would like to have a pontoon boat they would donate. Of course I said yes! Rob Schoenmann and Gary Strobel will combine their talents to prepare the pontoon for a Coast Guard inspection.

Donations and materials for the boat will be greatly appreciated. We would also like to thank Bob and Susan Bryson at Tashmoo Marina, Sunset Marina and Art Cook for their help.

We are closer to having a wedding performed at the rear light. Director Kathy Brady is getting the plans ready. Stay tuned.

Chuck Brockman
President SOSCL

SOSCL DUES RENEWAL TIME

It's dues renewal time. You will find a renewal envelope inserted in the current Range Lights newsletter. Please stay with us during these tough times, we are working hard to make this restoration happen.

If you are a life member, of course there is no need to contribute, but if you know of anyone that would like to join the effort to save the range lights, please tell them about our web site and memberships ranging from \$15 to \$1,000 Life.

Thank you for all the support you've given our team and we hope you will continue.

Chuck Brockman
President SOSCL

(Vice President's Message continued from page 1)

WE CANNOT THANK YOU ENOUGH

I have been a part of the Save Our South Channel Lights (SOSCL) organization for 10 years and I can't tell you how grateful we are. In case you don't know me, I own and run The Lake St. Clair Network (LSCN) (lakestclair.net), we are a web site dedicated to the Lake St. Clair and surrounding communities, we started the site May 19th in 2000 which was 10 years ago the day when I met Chuck Brockman.

I played several roles in the SOSCL organization and currently serving as the Vice President, on several occasions I would ask our LSCN members to step up to the plate and either donate their time or items to improve the Lights, and in several cases they have. Our overwhelming gratitude goes out to all The Lake St. Clair members and everything you do. Thanks from the SOSCL Board and Members.

Rob Schoenmann
Vice President SOSCL



Our thanks to Joe and Jill Bosy

NAUTICAL MILE CAR CRUISE AND BIKE NIGHT

NMMA Car Cruise and Bike Night come to the Nautical Mile, all proceeds to benefit the Save our South Channel Lights on July 29th, 2010. Rain date is set for July 30th, contact robs@amswebdesign.com for details.

6pm – 9pm at Mastro's Ice Cream on Jefferson just south of 10 mile rd.



Nautical Mile Merchants Association
All Places for All Seasons
Discover the Nautical Mile
www.nauticalmile.org

RESTORATION PROGRESS AND 2010 GOALS

As I look out at frozen Lake St. Clair, I find myself daydreaming about the arrival of Spring. I just cannot wait for open water and the opportunity to get back out to the lights. We made significant progress with restoration activities at the South Channel Lights in 2009, and I am ready to get started again this season. In addition to normal maintenance activities, each year we establish a set of goals, and last year we were quite successful checking off the following accomplishments:

- Leveled brush/weeds at front light
- Sealed off top of front light to prevent birds from entering
- Conducted underwater searches for lantern room parts around the front light
- Added cleats to front light to facilitate access for restoration activities
- Created and maintained a visitors log for lighthouse activities
- The most significant accomplishment was shoveling out years of bird droppings in the front light. This was a nasty task, but critical to the preservation of the light. Now the objective is to continue to stabilize the interior and prevent further damage.

So what are we going to accomplish in 2010? At the rear light there are three large limestone blocks that are out of place. We made a couple of attempts to move them, and realized that it would be a formidable task. It turns out that limestone weighs about 150 pounds per square foot. That means that the blocks weigh from around 800 pounds to well over 1000 pounds. We have some ideas that we will execute this year. In addition to moving the blocks, these items made the list of goals for 2010:

- Ground cover/mulch to stop weeds and discourage birds at the front light
- Wash down interior of front light
- Paint the steps and platforms inside the front light
- Fabricate and install a door that opens/closes for the top of the front light
- Continue underwater searches for lantern room parts at the front light
- Map and video the lake bottom around both lights
- Stop minor water leakage into the lantern room at the rear light
- Paint the railing inside the rear light
- Create a walkway to the door at the rear light
- Evaluate and implement bird deterrents for both lights

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my team of volunteers; my son Alex, Kevin Burns, Mark West, Dean West and Dave Burkitt. They are always ready to jump in and help with genuinely "dirty jobs" and bring them to completion. I look forward to continued work on our list of goals just as soon as the ice leaves the lake.

Dave Bollinger
SOSCL Director



STAY INFORMED. SAVE THE LIGHTS



Do you want to stay informed about events and news on the Lights? Then send an e mail to: sosclsales@gmail.com Include your first and last name, and you will receive periodical emails of current

events, up and coming merchandise, and special information regarding SOSCL.

Another alternative is that SOSCL is now on www.facebook.com. If you have an account or would like an account it is a simple safe registration process. You will find latest info about the Lights and current events. You will find us under Save Our South Channel Lights, or Save Our Channel Lights. You can also find latest status of the light on www.lakestclair.net under the South Channel Lights section of the Bulletin Boards.

And last the official sight of the Lights is www.soschannellights.org. You can view Chuck's latest President's message, renew and establish a membership or view latest merchandise.

Gary E. Strobel
SOSCL Director

SAVE OUR SOUTH CHANNEL WEB SITE



Visit www.soschannellights.org for the latest on news and information

- 🔗 History
- 🔗 Monthly Message
- 🔗 SOSCL Forums
- 🔗 Gallery
- 🔗 SOSCL Video
- 🔗 Merchandise
- 🔗 License Plates Information
- 🔗 Membership Information

SOSCL Needs You! VOLUNTEERS

Optimism is high for 2010, and many are looking to leave 2009 as a memory. Save Our South Channel Lights managed to raise funds, but efforts must go on to fundraise for the completion of the Front Light. Last year economy made it difficult to seek matching grants and we are hopeful a grant will be awarded.

Dave Bollinger has continued to be the Lights best friend, caring for the lights and islands. He has recruited many friends and families to assist in many dirty jobs that many would not. Weeds, bird dropping, and many odd end ends have been completed thanks to Dave and crew.

Most of our shows and events take place during the summer months and we always appreciate people who donate their time to SOSCL. We realize summer is short here in Michigan and know what a sacrifice it truly is to work a booth on a beautiful Saturday afternoon. At the events, it is good to see our supporter's faces. We share good conversations about the happenings of the Historical Lights!

Listed below are our major events throughout the year. If you find it in your heart to spare a couple of hours, please contact 810-748-1888 (Chuck Brockman) or 586-698-8957 is my contact info. If volunteering is not your thing, donations are always accepted. We have taken various items such as nautical items that are auctioned off at our events to Memorial Dedications in name of a loved one. Items/or donations can be arranged by contacting us at: sosclsales@gmail.net or 586-698-8957.

SOSCL Planned Events:

Please visit <http://www.lakestclair.net> for show updates.

SOSCL's Annual Membership Meeting 5/22/10 7:30pm
Dockside Jack's located in Emerald City Harbor in St. Clair Shores.

9-Mack Merchants June Fest Art & Craft Show 06/06/10
10am to 5 pm Mack @ 9 mile

Nautical Mile car Show 6/12/10 6 to 9pm

Antique Boat Show 6/26/10 8am-close Algonac Harbour Club

Nautical Mile Car Show 7/23/10 6 to 9pm

Harsens Island Field Day 8/7/10 10 am-5pm Harsens Is Pavilion

Algonac Art Fair 8/28 - 8/29/10 10am to 6pm Algonac Boardwalk

Metro Boat Show 9/22 - 9/26/10 Metro Beach

Maritime Marine Mart 12/11/10 at GP War Memorial

If you know of an event that SOSCL can participate around Lake St. Clair, please contact sosclsales@gmail.com or 586-698-8957. We are a 501c3 organization and would appreciate donated spaces to share the word and merchandise.

Gary E. Strobel
SOSCL Director

Stepping Up

Since 2006 we have offered name plates for each of the 41 steps leading to the top of the rear light. For those of you who have "stepped up" purchased a step name plate, I want to say a great big thank you! The response has been terrific and considering the economic state of things here in Southeast Michigan I hardly know what to say – thank you does not seem to be enough!

There are still a few steps available for purchase and if you or your organization would like to help us finish the job, we would be happy to have a brass plate engraved and installed in the Summer of 2010. The name plates will proclaim to all who climb the steps your support of Lake St. Clair and the Lights.

If you or anyone you know would like to set up a memorial fund with SOSCL, we have a special form that will allow you to share your wishes to honor a loved one and make it easy for others to do so. Just contact me at 248-740-8867 or email me lindat@devlingroup.com.

We also offer the opportunity for clubs, groups and individuals to reserve a step and continue to contribute or raise the full amount of \$800 over an extended period of time. This has made it easier for folks to help and also ensure they do get one of the remaining steps. This can also be an on-going fundraiser for your club or group and we welcome your participation. To find out how to reserve a step and to set up an extended contribution plan, please contact me. The sale of the remaining steps could really go a long way in helping us complete this project. To order you can simply use the form on our website- just go to <http://soschannellights.org/name.html> download and print the order form – you then pay by check or credit card.

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

By Linda M. Thielfoldt
SOSCL Director



Your Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: ___ Zip: _____

Email: _____ (we do not share your information with anyone)

Payment: Check (made out to SOSCL) or Visa

Visa Acct. No. _____ Exp. Date _____

I authorize my Visa account to be charged \$800.00 for purchase of name plate

Signature _____

Brass Plate to Read: _____
(35 spaces and characters max.)

Please send this form and your check or visa information to:

Save Our South Channel Lights
c/o Linda M. Thielfoldt, Director
646 E. Long Lake Road
Troy, MI 48085

248-740-8867

SOSCL Merchandise

When the cool weather hits or when its time to tie up for that evening dinner at your local on-the-lake establishment. Show off your SOSCL wearables.

SOSCL has full zippered fleece in Women's and Men's styles and sizes. They are navy in color. Both are \$38 for S-XI-Ladies M-XL Men's \$40 for 2XL

Navy is also the choice for the Men's Polo's, the Women's are Pale yellow. Both the Fleece and Polo's are nicely tailored for the ladies. \$30 for average sizes.

SOSCL has also t-shirts for a quick cover up. Sizes S-3XL. They are \$15.

When watching the sunset on a cool evening or a lunch on one of Lake St. Clair's beaches, it is always nice to have a fleece blanket. SOSCL's Pac-a-way Stadium blankets are nice. They are fleece lined on one side and nylon on the other. \$26 is worth the warmth!

For keeping those beverages hot or cold, SOSCL has you covered. SOSCL has 16oz travel mugs \$5, and for those quick dinghy runs a soft sided 12 pack cooler is compact either full are stowed. \$10

When driving around town, show your support by displaying the 150th SOSCL window decal \$3

SOSCL also has hats to keep the sun out of your eyes \$10

Need a special gift item for that someone? SOSCL carries books and artwork by local authors and artists. Life on the Flats & Motormen and Yachting by Michael M. Dixon gives good history about time and shipping in the Harsens's Island area. Rose, Chilluffo, Kubacki, and Odmark are some of the local names of the artwork SOSCL has to offer. Reasonable prices are offers on all artwork while they last.

Some of SOSCL's merchandise can be found at the Country Scene Gift Shop on Harsens's Island , The Antique Store in Algonac and Pointe Pastry Shoppe in Harrison Township. If you are near stop on in and say hello.

All this merchandise can be purchased at one of the shows or arrangements can be made to get the merchandise to you by either emailing at sosclsales@gmail.com or 586-698-8957.

Gary E. Strobel
SOSCL Director

Thank You Sun Set Harbor

Sunset Harbor



Videos Now Available **Only \$10**



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. 810-748-1888



2010 Boat/US Cooperating Group Renewed

The 2010 Boat/US cooperating group has been renewed. Our members can join or rejoin the Boat/US group which follows legislation in Washington that relates to recreational boaters.

Mention member Group **82854B** in your renewal.

Our thanks to Boat/US.

2010 Officers

Chuck Brockman, President
 Rob Schoenmann, Vice President
 Treasurer, Deb. Strobel
 Secretary, Kathy Brady

2010 Directors

Directors nominated by the board for three year directorships are:

Current Officers for 2010
 Gary Strobel and Linda Thielholdt.

Nominations may also be made from the floor at the regular general membership meeting.

Directors currently serving are:

Currently serving 2-year directorship are: Rob Schoenmann, Kathy Brady and Deb Strobel

Currently serving 1-year directorship are: Chuck Brockman and Dave Bollinger for a one year directorship.

Election of SOSCL officers will be made following the regular annual meeting at the directors meeting held separately.



Algonac Antique Mall

Joe Hatton
 Manager
 810-794-4455

OFFICE HOURS
 Mon-Fri – 9am - 5:30pm
 Saturday – 9am - 5pm
 Sunday – 9pm - 5pm

1031 ST. CLAIR RIVER DRIVE
 ALGONAC, MI 48001
 e-mail: tkssalgonac@hotmail.com



1031 ST. CLAIR RIVER DRIVE
 ALGONAC, MI 48001
 www.turnkeyselfstoragealgonac.com

- ◆ CLIMATE CONTROLLED
- ◆ MONTH TO MONTH LEASES
- ◆ ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE
- ◆ 24 HOUR ACCESS, 365 DAYS PER YEAR
- ◆ VARIETY OF SIZES (5X5-10X20)
- ◆ PACKING SUPPLIES
- ◆ FAX/ COPY CENTER

Joe Hatton
810-794-4455

Volunteers who helped Dave Bollinger on the front light are: wife Heidi, son, Alex, Kevin Burns, Mark and Dean West and Uncle Dave.



TREASURERS REPORTS

11/1/2008 through 10/31/2009	
INCOME	
Donations	\$ 5,974.00
Gross Sales	\$ 5,560.00
Interest Inc	\$ 1,278.59
Memberships	\$ 4,630.00
What's in a Name	\$ 2,195.22
TOTAL INFLOWS	\$ 19,637.81
Expenses	
Bank Charge	\$ 693.90
Fundraising	\$ 50.00
Insurance Bus	
Other Insurance	\$ 192.00
Insurance Bus	\$ 1,959.00
Legal-Prof Fees	\$ 50.00
Licenses and Permits	\$ 77.00
Maintenance	
Website Management	\$ 119.40
TOTAL Maintenance	\$ 119.40
Merchandise for Resale	\$ 10,166.65
Office Supplies	\$ 513.42
other office	\$ 38.00
Total Office	\$ 551.42
Pontoon Boat	\$ 25.00
Postage and Delivery	\$ 194.70
Printing and Reproduction	\$ 662.91
Marina Lease	\$ 50.00
Space Rental	\$ 50.00
Total Rent	\$ 100.00
Returns	\$ 76.00
Supplies, Bus	\$ 420.00
Tax - Business State	\$ 10.19
Total Tax	\$ 10.19
Utilities	
Telephone	\$ 768.97
Total Utilites	\$ 768.97
TOTAL Expenses	\$ 16,117.14
OVERALL TOTAL	\$ 3,520.67
Balance of 1/28/2009	
Certificate - 3 to 5 months	\$ 74,734.09
Balance of 1/28/2009	
Certificate - 7 to 11 months	\$ 55,249.73
Checking account current balance Deb	

Deb Strobel
SOSCL Treasurer

*You are cordially invited
to extend this invitation of matrimonial ceremony
to any romantic couple that may be delightfully
interested in joining their love forever
or to renew their vows
on a private lighthouse island on Lake St. Clair.*



SOSCL CONTACT INFORMATION

Chuck Brockman (President)
soslights1@aol.com
810-748-1888

Rob Schoenmann (Vice Pres.)
robs@amswebdesign.com
586-206-6580

Linda Thielholdt (Director)
lindat@devlingroup.com
248-740-8867

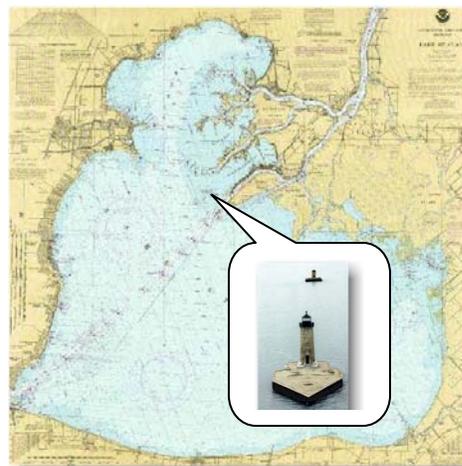
Memberships and Donations
Please Send to:
S.O.S. Channel Lights
P.O. Box 15
Harsens Island, MI 48028

David Bollinger (Director)
dave.bollinger@eds.com
586-530-7626

Gary Strobel (Director)
sosclsales@gmail.com
586-698-8957

Deb Strobel (Treasurer)
soscltreas@gmail.com
586-698-8958

Kathy Brady (Secretary)
kathy@kydatech.net
586-242-6047



Chuck's Wish List

While attempting to secure a grant, there are other smaller jobs that can be accomplished with smaller expenditures of funds.

* Carpenters and welders to help put together a historically correct out house for emergencies, with the exception being, there will be a small modern potty inside, instead of a "hole" over the water. We have photos that were taken while it still there.

* Divers to clear debris from the bottom near the seawall on both lights. There are already certified divers volunteering for this job but, we can always use more of everything.

* The possibility of a flower garden. The sand on the rear island would require the plants to be in some sort of pots or?

PONTOON BOAT

ITEMS/SERVICES NEEDED:

- Battery
- Marine Wire
- Summer Storage (Island)
- Lines
- PFD's (10)
- Safety items
- Aluminum Cleaner
- Cleaner (to remove algae/moss from deck)
- Nav lights. Port Starboard All-around.
- Docking lights
-

THANK YOU FOR OUR DONATIONS/PLEDGES:

- Joe and Jill Bosy – Pontoon donation
- Fenders/PFD's - Donated by Adrian
- Wiring labor - Donated by Mike @ Custom Created Rides
- Engine Start up – Mike @ Custom Created Rides
- Seat recovering - Andre & Naum's (verify 3 seats, captains chair, Helm)
- Canvas - Custom Canvas (Verify Bimini, Helm cover, full cover)
- Stereo/PA – Soundwaves (Dave)
- Winter Storage – Sun Up
- Cash donations – Perfect Fit and JD (LSCN)
- Hummingbird (wide128) ft depth/fish finder, transom mount transducer - Bored (LSCN)
- Dan forth type anchor and 25 - 30 ft line – John Ottman
- 2 LARGE cylindrical fenders (10x26 or 12x34)
- A few misc 3/8" dock lines - Bored (LSCN)

TRESPASSERS will NOT be TOLERATED!

A steal 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!



Joseph L. Simasko ACCOUNTING
WELCOME SOSCL MEMBERS!



An All Volunteer Non-Profit Organization

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



Lake St. Clair Save Our South Channel Lights

P.O. Box 15
Harsens Island, MI 48028

810.748.1888
email us: SOSLights1@aol.com
www.soschannellights.org

YES! I would like to join the
S.O.S. Channel Lights Association.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

- Individual \$15
- Family \$25
- Keeper \$50
- Sustaining \$75
- Patron \$100
- Life \$1000

Lake St. Clair has two lighthouse structures built before Abraham Lincoln was President. They still stand today just off the southeastern tip of Harsens Island. Construction of the Old South Channel Range Lights started in 1855 and finished in 1859. These lights guided ships into the fresh water delta once known as the Venice of America. The front light began to lean in 1875 and was dismantled and rebuilt on its same original stone and timber crib. It has remained but is again leaning and in very bad condition from erosion of the base. We replaced a temporary seawall around the base in 1990 and filled it with limestone for reinforcement. In 1996 a permanent seawall was completed around the front light. The rear light was built on the same type of crib. It held a large keeper's house that was taken down in the early 1930's. Vandalism has played a part in the overall deterioration, combined with age and the elements it too was in major need of repairs. The foundation has been fully updated and we have been able to tackle most of what was needed to the complete this lights restoration process. If this maritime heritage on Lake St. Clair is to be saved, restoration efforts must continue. Save Our South Channel Lights is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization that was formed 20 years ago to accomplish this. The lights have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. With your help, we will pursue our efforts to preserve these remarkable pieces of history. Membership includes the Range Lights newsletter, decal and special mailings.