

The Range Lights



www.SOSChannelLights.org



Publication of Save Our South Channel Lights

Lake St. Clair, Save Our South Channel Lights

Winter 2011/2012 Volume 20 Number 1



2012 President's Message



We have reached a critical point in saving the front range light and we need extra help from our life members along with our regular membership renewals. In years past, renewal envelopes were not included in our annual Range Lights newsletter to our life members. This year we will include an envelope to all the members, hoping everyone will find it in their budget to fund a leap forward for SOSCL.

When we started this organization over 20 years ago we set the life memberships at \$200. Until we realized that wasn't realistic and raised the life memberships to \$1,000. The regular membership dues have never been raised.

Hopefully our members will upgrade and the life members will assist us by giving to this opportunity to save the front light with very expensive foundation work.

We have applied for a \$60,000 grant with a 50 percent match and we are confident we will more than qualify for this important work that is sorely needed. However, the financial realization falls short of the estimates and we must find ways to make up the difference. If we could convince many of our life members to purchase a brass step plaque at \$800., your message will be forever engraved on a step in the rear light.

(Continued on page 2 – President's Message)

**ANNUAL ELECTION MEETING
MEMBERSHIP CELEBRATION DRIVE
SUNDAY MARCH 11TH
AT 3 P.M.**

Presentation
Membership Drive
50/50 Raffle
Following Entertainment



**Slippery Rock
51083 Washington St.
New Baltimore MI, 48047**

EDITORS MESSAGE ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE



Please join us for our Annual SOSCL Meeting, Membership Drive and Celebration on March 11th at Little Camille's Slippery Rock, located at 51083 Washington St. in New Baltimore 48047.

We will present the progress over the last year as well as give an update on future plans and for the Lights and fundraising events. This event is open to all, come on out, enjoy Mark Millers Little Camille's Slippery Rock of New Baltimore and bring your friends and family.

(Continued on page 2 – Editors Message)

If you have any questions, please call or e-mail me and I will be more than happy to explain any details or concerns you may have. Our biggest plus is that we persevere. When finances become available we do the things that are most important on the priority list.

Recently a plastic light lens was donated to us and it will be installed in the lantern room of the rear light. It weighs about 20 pounds and is almost three feet tall. The Coast Guard Aids to Navigation Team (Randy Burr) was instrumental in seeing that we received this great addition to our restoration effort. 'Keeper' Dave Bollinger will mount the lens on the restored pedestal this spring.

Some challenges remain but we will continue our efforts to "Save the South Channel Lights."

Chuck Brockman
President SOSCL



Don Hall and Chuck



Captain Don Schmidt

Smile of the year:

Don Schmidt of Michigan Marine Salvage. Don has helped SOSCL in so many ways over the years and we couldn't help but see this genuine smile as a good Oman.

Thanks for all you've done!

SOSCL DUES RENEWAL TIME

It's dues renewal time. You will find a renewal envelope inserted in this *Range Lights* newsletter. We ask you to please stay with us during these tough times, we have worked very hard to make this restoration happen and we can't stop working now.

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 efforts and direct them to our web site. We have membership options to fit every budget, ranging from \$15 to \$1,000 Life membership. Thank you!

Chuck Brockman
President SOSCL

HUGE THANKS TO MY GUYS AT THE LAKE ST. CLAIR NETWORK www.lakestclair.net!

Again this year we included the SOSChannelLights.org URL to our coozie merchandise order for 1500 units for 2012. Over the last 5 years, that's over 10,000 units **on** and **around** the lake exposing the SOSCL web site!



The Lake St. Clair Network
www.lakestclair.net
Save our South Channel Lights
www.soschannellights.org



Rob Schoenmann
Director and Editor SOSCL

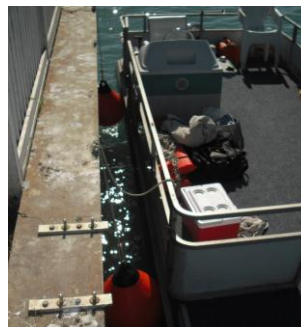
PONTOON Update:



Our Pontoon boat was fully restored with much hard work, summer docked on Harsens Island with new plastic gas tanks, winter stored at Sunset Marina, shrink wrapped by Dave Blaz and all these things were donated! We can't thank you enough.

Sunset Harbor

www.theboatmechanic.net



Perfect fit next to seawall



Recovered seat with blue piping

2011 RESTORATION UPDATES

The 2011 boating season has now come and gone. It was truly a great year for restoration activities at the South Channel Lights. We made some very significant progress toward our goals. The season started early with my first trip on April 1st. We had a gorgeous sunny day as we carefully negotiated through the ice flows coming down from the river. It is always great to return to the lights and see that things are intact and in good shape.

We had two weddings scheduled at the lights in 2011. One of the improvements that I envisioned was to build a paver patio at the doorway of the rear light to better accommodate visitors for weddings and other functions. We began the task of hauling out 1800 pounds of pavers on my boat. We made several trips, and over the course of a few weeks we constructed a patio and two landing pads near the entry gates. We also added several new cleats around the perimeter of the seawall so that we could easily secure additional boats on the island.

Our first wedding went without a hitch (no pun intended) on May 21st. Mark Lemke and Deborah Singleton had a gorgeous day with calm seas for their special day. Our second wedding was at sunset on July 18th when Granville Ford and Shelly Boone tied the knot. They too were quite lucky with the weather. As we were preparing the island for the big event it was raining and windy. Fortunately, just as the happy couple arrived, the sun came out and they had a beautiful ceremony at the doorstep to the rear light.

One of my other goals for 2011 was to get all commemorative plaques installed in the rear light. SOSCL has plaque space available for purchase in the lantern room, and on the stairs and landing. I am very happy to report that this task is complete and they look really great. We had piloted some ideas for mounting the plaques and we now have a workable solution. We also accomplished the normal grounds keeping and maintenance tasks on both islands.

SOSCL has been very fortunate to have had help from the Eagle Scout program to accomplish some of our projects at the lights. The cedar fence was installed on the rear island by Jeremy Crissman for his Eagle Scout project in 2009. We had another successful Eagle Scout project in 2011. Brock Gabbert took on the task of designing, building and installing a historically correct outhouse. After much planning and teamwork a very nice outhouse was installed on the island exactly as depicted in our historic photos. This one is non-functional of course. Both of these projects have had a very noticeable positive impact at our South Channel Lights.

I am saving my favorite achievement in 2011 for last. My team of volunteers and I have been working on cleaning up the front light for several years now. One very interesting thing about the front light is that the original light base was still bolted in place in the lantern room. However it was trapped in place by the aluminum cap that the Coast Guard installed in the 60s and the mounting bolts were heavily corroded in place. I have been planning to extract and restore this artifact for a long time. I was determined to retrieve it in 2011. I started by soaking the rusted mounting bolts in penetrating oil for several days. Unfortunately when I tried to remove the fasteners, two out of three bolts broke off when I applied pressure.



RANGE LIGHT LENS

Our new rear Range Light lens will be used to temporarily "Light the Night" August 7th on National Lighthouse Day. Watch for more information to come. Check

www.soschannellights.org



Rescued pedestal from Front Light and installed in Rear

This forced me to drill out the bolts which were difficult to access. Once the bolts were drilled out and the base was free, I had to slowly drive it toward the hatch with a block and hammer inch by inch. Finally the pedestal was free! I was amazed at how heavy this incredible artifact was. It is made from heavy cast iron with a brass insert, and it weighs in at a whopping 98 pounds. Over the next few weeks I cleaned it up and repainted it. Finally on one of the last trips of the season in November, my wife Heidi and I carried it to the lantern room of the rear light and mounted it in place. It looks awesome and will now be safe and secure. The pedestal installation was a trigger for our President Chuck Brockman, to contact his Coast Guard friends. He was able to get us a decommissioned light lens that will fit very nicely on top of the old base. I am now in process of cleaning the lens up, and I will install it just as soon as the ice goes away. I am very excited to begin the 2012 season. We have a lot of goals for this year and perhaps we can even have a special event where we light up the lantern room with our new pedestal and lens!

Dave Bollinger
SOSCL Vice President and Volunteer

STAY INFORMED. SAVE THE LIGHTS



Do you want to stay informed about events and news on the Lights? SOSCL has many media outlets to keep in touch. The official site of the Lights is www.soschannellights.org. You can view Chuck's latest President's Message, renew or establish memberships and view latest merchandise.

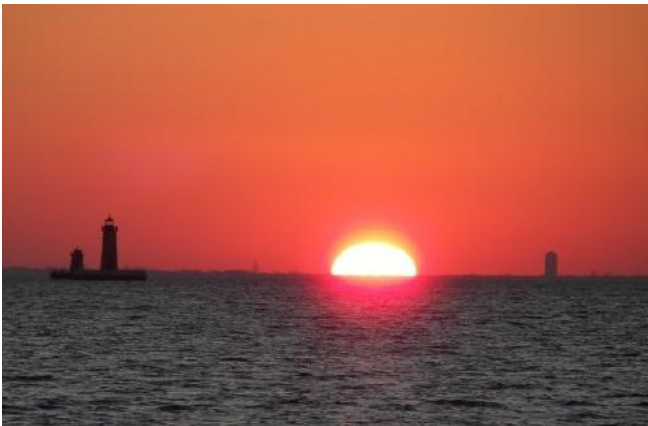
Another alternative, If you have an account or would like an account it is a simple safe registration process, SOSCL has a facebook PAGE. It can be found at www.facebook.com/SaveOurSouthChannelLights. Be sure to "LIKE" us! You will find latest info about the Lights and current events.

SOSCL also has a LinkedIn group page @ www.linkedin.com/groups/Save-Our-South-Channel-Lights.

Regardless be sure to spread the Light and tell everyone about us!

You can also find latest status of the lights on www.lakestclair.net under the South Channel Lights section of the Bulletin Boards.

Gary E. Strobel
SOSCL Director



Sun Set, Range Lights and 9 Mile Tower

SAVE OUR SOUTH CHANNEL Web Site



soschannellights.org

SOSCL needs you!

Great things are expected to happen this year, and this doesn't happen without great volunteers. SOSCL is in need of help in many areas. Help is needed for the Clinton River Cruises. Volunteers would, along with one of our Directors, give the history of the lights to passengers. This is a nice cruise aboard one of their charter boats and the speaking portion lasts about 15 minutes or so.

SOSCL is also in need of Volunteers to assist in the show events. Most of our events take place during the summer months. At the events, it is good to see our supporter's faces. We share good conversations of past, present and future of the Historical Lights! Come on out, there is often a lot to see, and we always appreciate people who donate their time.

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.

If you know of an event that SOSCL can participate around Lake St. Clair, or if you find that you can spare a couple of hours, 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.

Thanks to all who support Save Our South Channel Lights,

Gary E. Strobel
SOSCL Director

SOSCL AROUND TOWN

Here are the 2012 events SOSCL will be participating in:

SOSCL's Annual Membership Meeting 3/11 at 3:00
Little Camille's Slippery Rock located at 51083 Washington St. in New Baltimore 48047

Nautical Mile Open House & Fun Day 5/19 (SOSCL Booth in front of Mastro's Ice Cream) Visit www.nauticalmile.org for times.

9-Mack Merchants June Fest Art & Craft Show 6/02 10am to 5 pm St. Clair Shores

Antique Classic Boat Show 6/23 8am-close Algonac Harbour Club

Nautical Mile Car Cruise & Bike Night 7/19 (SOSCL Booth in front of Mastro's Ice Cream) 6-9 p.m.

Harsens Island Field Day 8/4 10am-5pm Harsens Island Pavilion, Brown's Park

Algonac Rotary's Algonac Art Fair 9/01 & 9/02 10am to 6pm Algonac Boardwalk

Boat & Outdoor Festival 9/20 thru 9/23 Metro Beach Check local listing for times

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" and purchased a step name plate, we would like to give you 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 2011. The name plates will proclaim your support of Lake St. Clair and the Lights to all who climb the steps.

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 also. Just contact us 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 makes it easier for folks to help us, and also ensures they get one of the remaining steps. This can 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 simply use the form on our website- go to <http://soschannellights.org/name.html> download and print the order form – you can then pay by check or credit card.

Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to help us "Save Our South Channel Lights!"

By Linda M. Thielholdt



Rear Light steps with plaques installed



Example name plate



Name plate installed

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. Thielholdt, Director
 646 E. Long Lake Road
 Troy, MI 48085 248-740-8867

SOSCL Merchandise - RESTOCKED

SOSCL Merchandise new for 2012

Thank you all who have purchased SOSCL items! We are in process of restocking the items that were sold out of this past year. As in the past our Polo's and Fleece Pullovers were big sale items. We will continue to offer these items. 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 contacting me at 586-698-8957 or any one of the Board members. Check out our entire list of items at www.soschannellights.org/merchandise.html

SOSCL will have full zippered fleece Men and Ladies styles and sizes. The Men's are navy in color, Ladies are pink. Both are \$38 for M-XL Ladies M-XL Men's, \$40 for Men's 2XL. Navy is also the choice for the Men's Polo's, the Ladies are Pale yellow. \$30 for average size. Both the Fleece and Polo's are nicely tailored for the ladies.

**SOSCL t-shirts for a quick cover up.
Sizes S-XL are \$15. 2XL for \$17.**

SOSCL will also have hats and visors to keep the sun out of your eyes \$15. Previous stock, \$10.

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

Over run 150th items may be still available at a deeply discounted price.

Need a special gift item for that someone? SOSCL carries books and artwork by local authors and artists. "Life on the Flats" by Michael M. Dixon gives good history about times 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 on all artwork while they last. This year for 2012, SOSCL is hoping to have unique artwork and prints available from area artists like Dave Denner and Richard L. Anzinger.

Some of SOSCL's merchandise and artwork can be found at the Country Scene Gift Shop on Harsens's Island, The Antique Store in Algonac, and Little Camille's in New Baltimore. If you are near stop on in and say hello. So remember....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!

Gary E. Strobel
SOSCL Director

RANGE LIGHTS HISTORY



Jon Ottman

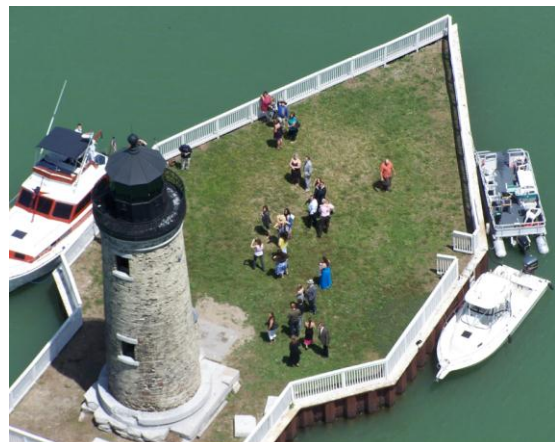
The history of the Range Lights will be published this year. The excellent Thesis for his Masters Degree by Jon Ottman and edited to book form by our Historian Arthur Woodford will be a great addition to our knowledge. Details on cost and availability will be available on

www.soschannellights.org

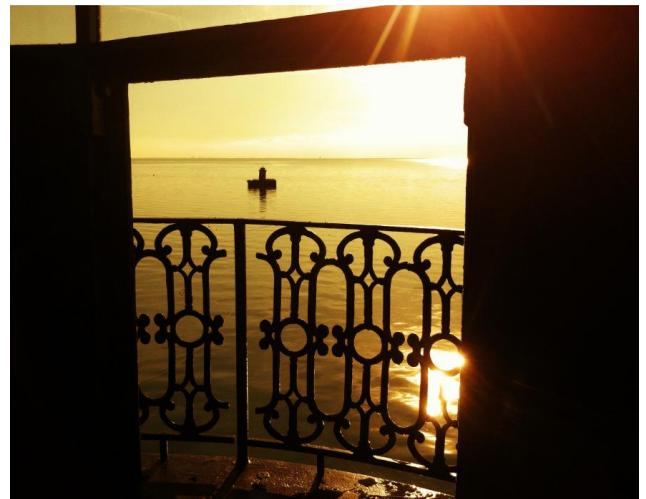
Or by contacting 810-748-1888.



Rear Range Light outside brick damage



First wedding on the Rear Light



Rear Light lantern room view

2012 Boat/US Cooperating Group Renewed

The 2012 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.



Brock Gabbert Eagle Scout project of 2010/2011



The McClarty's

SOSCL Good Friends:

The McClarty's have continued as great members for many years. We appreciate their dedication and help.

Thanks for all you've done!

2012 Officers

Chuck Brockman, President and CEO
 Dave Bollinger, Vice President
 Deb Strobel, Treasurer
 Kathy Brady, Secretary

2011 Directors

Directors serving this past year were:

Three Years: Chuck Brockman, Dave Bollinger.

Two Years: Gary Strobel, Mark Miller

One Year: Rob Schoenmann, Kathy Brady, Deb Strobel

Directors

The board has nominated Rob Schoenmann, Kathy Brady and Deb Strobel to fill the vacancies.

Other nominations may be made from the floor.

Directors Emeritus are: Mark McKee, Linda Thielholdt.

Help Stop Vandals!

As more and more projects are completed at the Lights, we need your help when out on the lake.

Shortly after the rear light were completed in 2005, the Winter-Spring of 2006 vandals tried unsuccessfully breaking into the Rear Light. New brackets had to be fabricated from the damage created.

Dave Bollinger and crew worked all summer of 2010 cleaning and painting in the Front Light. After years of bird debris and neglect they left it in pristine and secure condition. Birds could not gain entry and mess it up. However in spring, it was found with the door pried open. Needless to say, more cleaning had to be done.

In addition, both "No Trespassing" signs are missing. It is unknown if Mother Nature had her way with the signs and they are in the bottom of the lake or if vandals took them.



Please keep on eye out for any wrong doers. St. Clair and Macomb County Marine Patrols, US Border Patrol and The US Coast Guard all are watching as well. Please contact anyone of these Authorities or a SOSCL Officer or Director if you spot something out of place. The Lights are private property owned by SOSCL, no one should be on the lights, and only are to be authorized with a SOSCL Officer or Director.

Come on A Cruise to See The Range Lights First Hand.

Learn the history of these two lighthouses beginning with the reason they were built, who lived there, the rum runner years, the artifacts, when and why they were decommissioned, and the renovation process.

For June & July Dates, Rates and Times, contact the
Lake St. Clair (Metro Beach) Metro Park
 31300 Metro Parkway, Harrison Twp., MI 48045
 (586) 463-4581 • www.metroparks.com

Hope to see you soon!

2011 Newsletter Financial - Income & Expense Report

Summary Between 1/1/11 and 12/31/11

TREASURERS REPORT

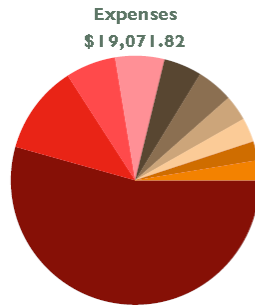


Deb Strobel
SOSCL Treasurer

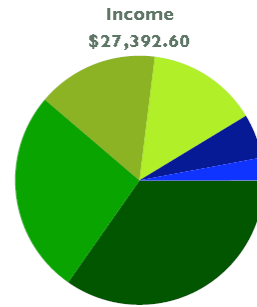
SOSCL Account Balances

CD 1 Balance *\$85,165.83
CD 2 Balance \$97,017.00
Total Bal. \$162,413.25

*Transferred to Checking 12/28



- Merchandise For Resale \$10,363.45
- Insurance, Bus \$2,201.00
- Pontoon Boat \$1,244.85
- Bank Charge \$1,221.41
- Printing and Reproduction \$940.61
- Monthly Raffle Tickets \$905.00
- Utilities \$633.05
- Legal-Prof Fees \$600.00
- Rent \$470.00
- Other \$492.45



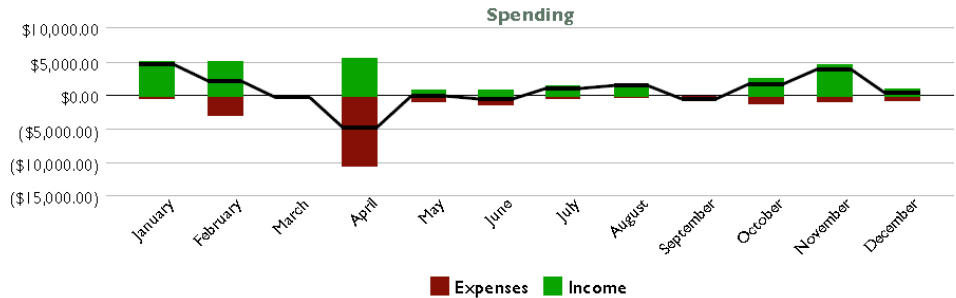
- Donations \$9,514.00
- Gr Sales \$7,261.10
- Memberships \$4,310.00
- Interest Inc \$3,935.24
- Invest Inc \$1,569.78
- Whats In A Name \$800.00
- Refunds \$2.48

Mark your calendar.

Our next lighthouse wedding is scheduled for Saturday, June 16th. The Bride and Groom would like to invite everyone to come out and respectfully witness this event.

SOSCL Staff

Mark your calendar.
Saturday, June 16th 2012



Income & Expenses by Category

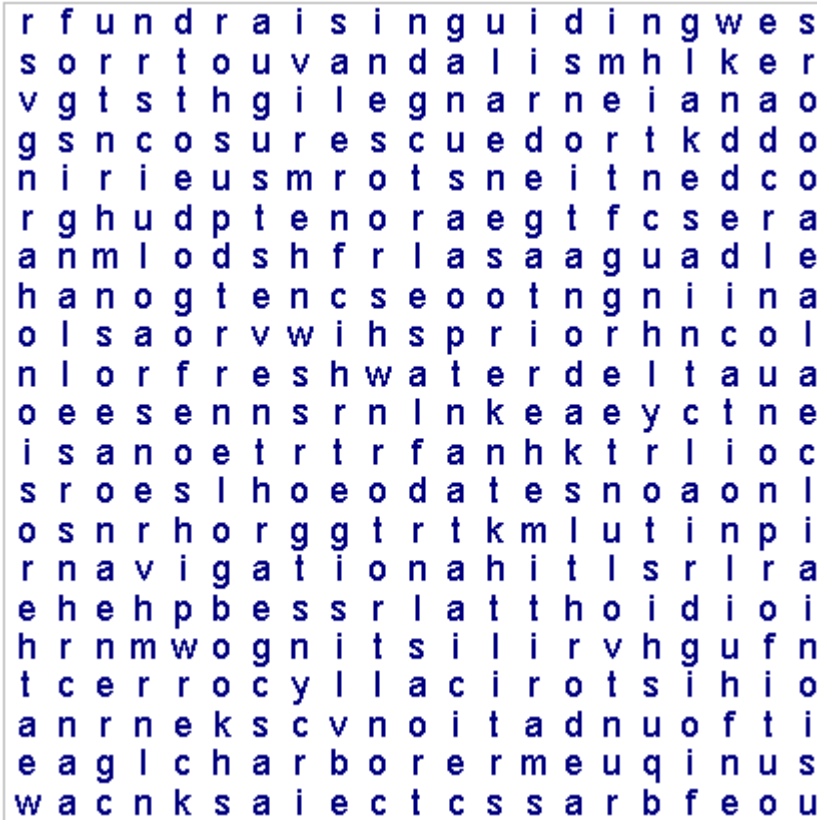
Category	Total
Income	
Donations	\$9,514.00
Gr Sales	\$7,261.10
Interest Inc	\$3,935.24
Invest Inc	\$1,569.78
Income Total	\$27,392.60
Expenses	
Bank Charge	(\$1,221.41)
Insurance, Bus	(\$2,201.00)
Legal-Prof Fees	(\$600.00)
Licenses and Permits	(\$150.00)
Merchandise For Resale	(\$10,363.45)
Monthly Raffle Tickets	(\$905.00)
Pontoon Boat	(\$1,244.85)
Postage and Delivery	(\$288.00)
Printing and Reproduction	(\$940.61)
Rent	(\$470.00)
Rent:Space Rental	(\$50.00)
Rent - Other	(\$420.00)
Tax, Business	(\$54.45)
Tax, Business - Other	(\$54.45)
Utilities	(\$633.05)
Utilities:Telephone	(\$633.05)
Expenses Total	(\$19,071.82)
TOTAL	\$8,320.78

Joseph L. Simasko Accounting



Joseph L. Simasko
Ph: 586-954-4974 Fax 586-954-3987

2012 SOSCL Word Search



south channel lights
harbor
tours
fog
inspector
donations
range lights
stairs
listing
guiding
foundation
non profit

restore
restoration
lakesaintclair
rescue
fundraising
keeper
ocean
cedar
fog signal
harsens island
erosion

maritime heritage
lanternroom
storm
historically correct
brass
lake
unique
navigation
history
weather
fresh water delta

volunteer
oil
weddings
lens
shipwreck
dedication
logbook
kerosene
august seventh
age
vandalism

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248-740-8867

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Mark Miller (Director)
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Deb Strobel (Treasurer)
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586-698-8958

Kathy Brady (Secretary)
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586-242-6047

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

2012 DATES still available for THAT IMPORTANT OCCASION!



A quick look back at 2011



KATHY BRADY
SOSCL Secretary

We Finished Updating Our Pontoon Boat, The Lemke Wedding (our first ever!) was held May 21st, An Eagle Scout Project ~Reconstruction of our Historically Correct (nonfunctioning) Outhouse Completed August 11th, Fixing and Securing The Rear Light Door From Vandalism, Algonac & St. Clair Shores Art Fairs & Harsens Island Field Day Show, The Ford Wedding in August, Refinishing the Pedestal For The Lens, Attaching the Brass Name Plates, New Patio Blocks in Front of The Lighthouse Entrance, New Merchandise For Sale, and...We Applied For A 50% Match Grant From SHPO & MLAP.

For your continued support we

Thank You...



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.