



The Range Lights



Publication of Save Our South Channel Lights

Lake St. Clair, Save Our South Channel Lights

Winter 2018/2019 Volume 27 Number 1

Overcoming Mother Nature

President's Message

If you followed us on Facebook this past year, you know the islands were beat up. If you didn't, I will briefly explain.



Early spring of 2017, Mother Nature unleashed a Spring storm that sent at least 10-12-foot waves crashing into the islands.

Moving the grounds from one side to the other and ripping 9 sections of fence out of their footing.

Late fall another storm was on replay and damage was done to the outhouse and additional sections of the fence. Dave Bollinger and team worked all summer to make repairs and the costs are adding up. Please see his report later in this publication.



**\$1000 FIRST PRIZE
INDOOR POKER RUN @
BROWNIES ON THE LAKE
\$50 BUY IN
GO TO**

**[WWW.SOSCHANNELLIGHTS.ORG/EVENTS/
ANNUAL-MEMBERSHIP-MEETING/](http://WWW.SOSCHANNELLIGHTS.ORG/EVENTS/ANNUAL-MEMBERSHIP-MEETING/)**

TO REGISTER

**5PM-ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
6PM-FLOOR OPENS TO HORS D'OEUVRES, DANCING
LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE
630PM FIRST STATION OPENS
700PM-50/50 RAFFLE - DRAWING AT 8PM**

RULES

SIX STATIONS. FIRST ONE OPENS AT 630PM, THE OTHERS WILL OPEN AFTER 15 MIN INTERVALS. THE SIXTH IS AN OPTIONAL STATION FOR PURCHASING AN EXTRA CARD AFTER DISCARDING. \$20
1ST PLACE \$1000, SECOND PLACE \$500, THIRD PLACE SOSCL PRIZE
HIGH CARD DRAW IN CASE OF A TIE
ALL CARDS DRAWN MUST BE SIGNED AT THE DRAWING STATION



The lights looked pretty bad all summer and we fielded a lot of inquiries as to what was going on. We assessed the damages; researched for sturdier mounts for the fence posts and volunteers were gathered to perform the much-needed work. About half the sections were repaired and painted. We hope this year's weather will be kinder and we can get the remaining work completed early on, but this winter's ice is going to hinder the start, I am sure there will be large amounts of debris from docks and such being ripped out making it difficult to gain access to the islands. we contacted some marine contractors and a few have come forward to provide us estimates for the needed fill around the seawall and if any modifications can be made to elevate any future damage.

Continued from page 1

The expected cost is going to be around \$7000 to \$10,000. So, to help fund this we are trying new things to help us raise the funds and provide some fun for you all. We have launched a progressive raffle called the Jack of Spades raffle. 54 cards will be drawn or until the Jack of Spades is picked. The Drawings will be at Little Camille's by the Bay in New Baltimore. Each card picked will also have a prize with it. We are working out the details as this is going to publication. Please visit www.soschannellights.org for more details.



Although the damages done over this past year were severe, we have jumped right back into fundraising to make sure these repairs can be funded and accomplished. We have launched a progressive raffle called the **Jack of Spades raffle**. 54 cards will be drawn weekly, or until the Jack of Spades is picked.

The Drawings will be at Little Camille's by the Bay in New Baltimore. Each card picked will also have a prize with it. Prizes range from SOSCLA gear and prints to money! New tickets are sold weekly online or at Little Camille's. Please visit www.soschannellights.org for more details.

Another exciting day we have planned for you is our annual event. Yes I know, another boring meeting listening to us needing to fix the lights and raise the funds. **WRONG!!!**

We are taking it back to St. Clair Shores at Brownies on the Lake. We will have our **"Indoor Poker Run/Membership Meeting"**, along with our membership meeting on **April 14th**.

JACK OF SPADES RAFFLE

PRESENTED BY SAVE OUR SOUTH CHANNEL LIGHTS

**60%
PAYOUT
TO
THE
WINNER**



**TWO
JOKERS
WORTH
PRIZES**

**DRAWINGS AT LITTLE CAMILLE'S BY THE BAY
51083 WASHINGTON ST.
NEW BALTIMORE, MI 48047**

**DRAWING HELD EVERY TUESDAY AT
8:30PM STARTING FEBRUARY 27TH**

**THERE WILL BE 54 DRAWS OR UNTIL THE JACK OF
SPADES IS DRAWN**

**TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED (\$5) AT LITTLE
CAMILLE'S OR FROM ANY SOSCLA OFFICER OR
BOARD MEMBER**



NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

Every card draw guaranteed a prize!

We will open it up to hors d'oeuvres, dancing and the Poker run at 6pm. DJ Nikki will be on hand to put us in the boating mood. 50/50 will also be drawn. We hope you will join us for a fun evening.

Be sure to visit us throughout the summer at many events around town to say hello, check out our latest merchandise, and to renew your membership! Thank you for your continued support,
Gary Strobel
President



A look back at the progress made in 2017



As we move forward into 2018 I would like to reflect upon our work at the lights in 2017. My first trip out last year was on April 1st. It was immediately apparent that Mother Nature had taken a toll over the winter.

The entire island was severely flooded to the point that we lost lots of fill and the flooding caused almost all of the perimeter fence posts to shift. Nine sections of fence were washed out and our buildings were filled with sand. In addition, we lost some siding on our tool shed. During the March storm that took out power over much of the state the marine forecast predicted over 6 foot waves coming from the west. At the water levels last spring it was only 2.5 feet from the seawall cap to the water. That means when we get waves that are over 3 feet, water flows over the seawall. Some have said that the water levels are "normal". This depends upon your perspective. Levels are below record highs which occurred in 1986, but have been trending upward for several years.

Since September 2014, the Great Lakes have been above their monthly average levels for the first time since the late 1990s. The extremely wet conditions of 2013 and 2014 ended the 15-year period of below-average water levels on the upper great lakes. The quick rebound in water levels on the upper lakes broke records across the region. The net rise in water levels on Lake Superior from January 2013 through December 2014 was approximately 2 feet. According to NOAA this was the highest net increase ever recorded for a 2-year period. The current trend is great for boating, but the water levels will continue to present a problem maintaining our fence and peripheral buildings. The good news is that the actual lights are safe and secure.



We worked very hard all season to repair the flood damage. The main problem is that when the island floods the soil liquefies and the fence posts which are set in concrete sink and move which tears up the fence. After some research we were able to find a bracket system that enables us to secure the fence posts to the top cap of the seawall. In addition to the clamps we then set the posts in concrete. This method works very well but installation is labor intensive. Just this season we hauled 1,200 pounds of concrete out to the island. We were able to secure a number of key posts in this way, but we simply did not have time to place brackets on every post. This task will continue during the 2018 season. Again the lighthouse structures are fine, but when the fence looks bad the entire island looks unkempt.



Sadly, in August we lost a great friend and supporter of Save Our South Channel Lights. Mark West, father of our hard-working team member Dean West, passed away. Please join me in extending our condolences to the entire West family. Mark and Dean have contributed much hard work in support of our restoration efforts. Rest in peace Mark.



Continued on page 4

On Monday September 11th, I took my DXC Technologies work team out to the South Channel Lights for a day of volunteering. Our main focus was working on the perimeter fence and we accomplished a lot! We completed painting over half of the fence, replaced 3 broken fence posts, cleaned the interior of the tower, painted the windows, pulled weeds, cleaned the patio and organized the shed. My sincere thanks to Dan Hayes, Scott Jackson, Bob Marselle, Craig Mazurek, Erin Myers, Liza Rafe and Kate Gorman! Also, a special thanks to DXC Technology for supporting our efforts.

I had one of those old 35mm disposable cameras in a junk drawer for at least 15 years. I had no idea what pictures were on it. Rather than toss it out, I sent it in to a film developing place. Imagine my surprise when I just got these scans. A real testament to the progress made by the SOSCL team! We have come a long way....



We put in a lot of hard work in 2017 and it is truly a labor of love. We face challenges such as the flooding that we have experienced out at the island, but we will continue to solve the issues that arise and move forward. My last trip to the lights for 2017 was on December 4th, when I battened down the hatches for the winter. As always we appreciate all our supporters and volunteers and I look forward to continuing our work in 2018!

Dave Bollinger
Vice President and Keeper of the lights



Photo by William Elling

Be a Beacon of light for SOSCL



Please help us by liking and sharing all things SOSCL!

First, I would like to formally announce my resignation from the SOSCL board of directors. I have very much enjoyed working with everyone over the past three years and have learned a great deal about the organization. I don't plan to be gone forever and I will still lend a hand from time to time. I plan to stay on and help with the editing of this newsletter and the management of the website. I would like to thank everyone that I've talk to over the years and all the volunteers that have gifted their time to SOSCL.

Saying that, I would like to take the time to thank those who volunteered for SOSCL this past year.

Wally Dombrowski
Mike & Charlotte Blake

Board members come and go but the one goal remains the same. We must raise funds to save the lights! This newsletter officially kicks off fundraising season! Unfortunately, with all the damage to the lights over the winter we also need to divert some of our current funds to repair the front light. We are also continuing our goal this year to raise over half a million dollars to straighten the front light. We have made some progress on this goal last year; however, it is a large goal and we expect it might take a little bit of time. That being said, the time crunch is still on! It is important to raise the funds in time because of the lights being historical structures if one falls we are not able to rebuild. Our funding mainly comes through grants, donations and merchandise sales. It is important to remember that 100% of everything donated goes directly to the restoration of the lights.

Be sure to check our website for purchasing options. We had great success introducing new products this past year. Some of our top selling products were the moisture-wicking running shirts, ladies' tanks, and ladies running jackets. All of these items can be obtained at one of the shows. If there is anything you would like to see restocked let us know. You may also send an email to sosclsales@gmail.com or call 586-698-8957 to purchase or check merchandise availability. Check out our entire list of items at www.soschannellights.org/merchandise.html.

Keep an eye out for new things, we consistently reorder new sizes and colors in to keep up with demand. One thing we always have is our SOSCL t-shirts, which come in sizes S-2XL.

Need a special gift? SOSCL carries books and artwork by local authors and artists. Currently we have:

- "Light The Night" prints by Harsens Island's own George Crown
- Commissioned prints by renowned artist Gary Odmark
- "Life on the Flats" publication by Michael M. Dixon
- SOSCL's own history book by Jon Ottman and Art Woodford
- It Takes a Village: the building of the South Channel Lights and SOSCL movie by Ron Robinson
- Also available is artwork from local artists Rose, Chilluffo, Kubacki, and additional Odmark. Keep in mind we have limited quantities of artwork so once it's gone we might not be able to get it again!

Another project that we started last year that we are continuing into this year is the Gofund me page. the sole purpose of this page is to raise funds for the restoration needed on the front light. You can donate at: <https://www.gofundme.com/dontletmefall> Or follow the link on our website.



As we mentioned before a majority of our funding comes from grants. One way that money is raised for those grants is through the purchasing of the lighthouse license plate program. You can purchase these plates at your local Secretary of State or by mail. You can learn more about this program at: <http://www.michigan.gov/sos>



Get Excited! Here are the events you can find us at in 2018

SOSCL's Indoor Poker Run /Membership Meeting

April 14th 5pm-8pm
Brownies on the Lake
Meeting starting at 5pm.

Celebrate the Lake

June 9th 12pm-4pm
MacRay Harbor & Marina

Antique Classic Boat Show

June 23th 8am-close
Algonac Harbor Club Algonac, MI

Harsens Island Field Day

August 4th 12am-5pm
Harsens Island Pavilion, Brown's Park

Algonac Rotary's Algonac Art Fair

September 1st 10am to 6pm
September 2nd 10am to 5pm
Algonac Boardwalk

Metro Boat Show

September 13th thru 16th Check local listing for times
Lake St. Clair Metro Park

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

Visit soschannellights.org to volunteer at an **EVENT!**



The front light is stable and ready for the next phase. Without the help and hearts of all our members and supporters, this wouldn't happen. YOU help us raise the money for matching grants. If various anonymous donators didn't give from their hearts, the lights would not be in the state it is in, and we would be able to carry on! SO, you see, together we all make this happen. We all are saving a piece of our heritage. We all are making a man's dreams come true. Please continue to support SOSCL, every penny you spend goes directly towards restoration of the lights. Together we will finish the front Light.

If you find that you can spare a couple of hours, SOSCL is always in need of good people who care about the Lights. If you are interested in volunteering, please visit the website and enter your information under the volunteer tab. Not only are you helping to restore the lights but you are able to get into various art shows for free! You will also meet people that share the same love of the lighthouses. If you have any questions, feel free to email sosclvolunteer@gmail.com.

Thanks to all who support Save Our South Channel Lights,

Rebecca Strobel
SOSCL Director

Merchandise you can find at this year's shows or online at: <http://www.soschannellights.org/merchandise/>



Ladies tank tops size S-XXL



Unisex moisture wicking shirts, comes in white or navy sizes S-XXL



SOSCL burgees

SOSCL Contact Information

Gary Strobel (President)
soslights1@gmail.com

David Bollinger (Vice Pres)
sosclvpres@gmail.com

Kathy Brady (Secretary)
sosclsec@gmail.com
<http://www.soschannellights.org/schedule-an-event>

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Mark Miller (Director)
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sosclmemberships@gmail.com

Merchandise
<http://www.soschannellights.org/merchandise/>

SOSCL 2018 Officers

Gary Strobel, President/CEO
Dave Bollinger, Vice President
Kathy Brady, Secretary
Debra Strobel, Treasurer

Nominated by the board for directorship are:

Gary Strobel (serving a three-year term, nominated for two year term)
Debra Strobel (Serving One year term, nominated for three year term)

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

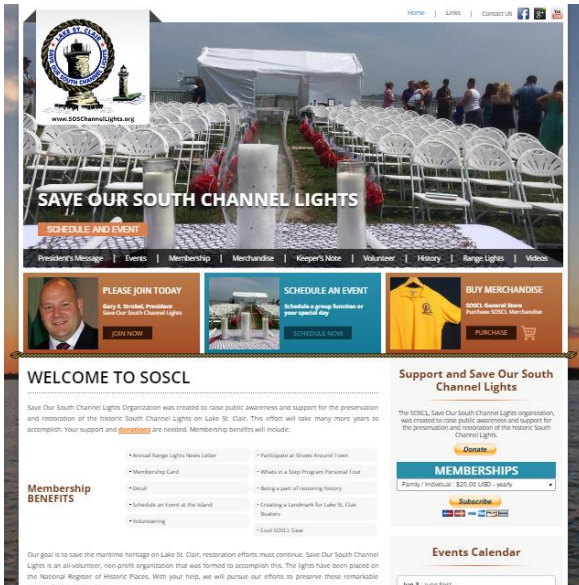
2018 Directors currently serving are:

Kathy Brady (three year, term ending 2019)
Dave Bollinger (two year term ending in 2019)
Mark Miller (one year term ending in 2019)
Marge Dombrowski (three year term ending in 2020)

Notable Mentions

Director Emeritus, Linda Theilfoldt
Historian, Arthur Woodford
Director Emeritus, Rob Schoenmann

Memberships and Donations
Please Send to:
S.O.S. Channel Lights
PO Box 815
New Baltimore, MI 48047



Joseph L. Simasko Accounting



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



Visit us online

If you haven't gotten a chance to check out our website please take a minute to visit www.soschannellights.org

From this page you can:

- Renew your membership
- Purchase merchandise
- View upcoming events
- Donate
- And much more...



Deb Strobel
SOSCL Treasurer

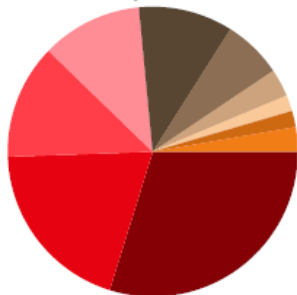
Balance Sheet as of 12/31/17

Account	Amount
Cash Assets - US Dollar	
Sales Tax	\$0.00
CD 1 \$85,163.83 transfer for grant a...	\$0.00
CD 2	\$66,552.38
Customer Invoices	\$0.00
SOS Channel Lights	\$95,379.30
Total Cash Assets - US Dollar	\$161,931.68
Total - US Dollar	\$161,931.68

2017 Newsletter - Income & Expense Report

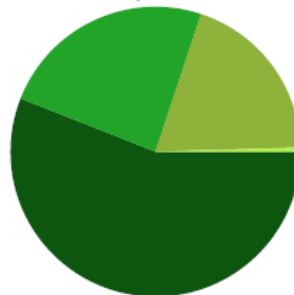
Summary Between 1/1/17 and 12/31/17

Expenses
\$14,447.99



- Tax \$4,305.91
- Insurance, Bus \$2,838.00
- Printing and Reproduction \$1,850.00
- Merchandise For Resale \$1,622.50
- Visa Machine Charges \$1,518.63
- Supplies, Lighthouse \$954.24
- Postage and Delivery \$445.02
- Licenses and Permits \$260.00
- Fundraising \$259.21
- Other \$394.48

Income
\$11,554.70

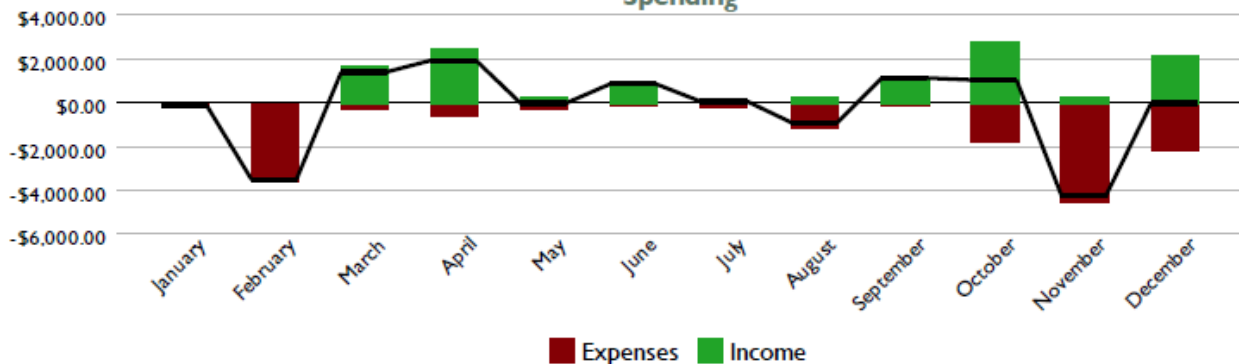


- Gr Sales \$6,469.45
- Donations \$2,784.65
- Membership Renewal \$2,245.22
- Interest Inc \$55.38

Income & Expenses by Category

Category	Total
Income	
Donations	\$2,784.65
Gr Sales	\$6,469.45
Interest Inc	\$55.38
Membership Renewal	\$2,245.22
Income Total	\$11,554.70
Expenses	
Bank Charge	-\$4.80
Fundraising	-\$259.21
Insurance, Bus	-\$2,838.00
Licenses and Permits	-\$260.00
Maintenance	-\$100.00
Maintenance:Website Management	-\$100.00
Media	-\$35.99
Merchandise For Resale	-\$1,622.50
Office	-\$203.69
Office:Office Supplies	-\$203.69
Postage and Delivery	-\$445.02
Printing and Reproduction	-\$1,850.00
Rent	-\$50.00
Rent - Other	-\$50.00
Supplies, Lighthouse	-\$954.24
Tax	-\$4,305.91
Tax:State	-\$3,427.91
Tax - Other	-\$878.00
Visa Machine Charges	-\$1,518.63
Expenses Total	-\$14,447.99
TOTAL	-\$2,893.29

Spending



Range Light Special Events



Are you and your partner looking for something completely unique for your wedding ceremony? Look no further! You can have a once in a lifetime experience for you and your guests on your wedding day by being at the lights! Not only will your ceremony be seamlessly coordinated by SOSCL board members but the lights create a beautiful backdrop for photos that your guests will talk about for years to come.

If you would like more information on having your special day on the Rear Light or a unique up-close and personal Rear Island tour, Schedule your event with SOSCL by contacting Kathy Brady at 586-242-6047.

<http://www.soschannellights.org/schedule-an-event/>

Kathy Brady
SOSCL Secretary

A few words from our newest board member



I am overjoyed to be a part of the Save Our South Channel Lights team. I met Chuck Brockman in the early 90's and started talking about our joy in boating and lighthouses. I asked Chuck if he would be a guest at the school I worked at to talk a little about the lighthouses and how important they are to all of us.

Of course, he didn't refuse and interacted his presentation to touch all the students aged 18-26 in special education Chuck returned to the school many times and each visit was always enjoyed by the students.

My husband and I started volunteering at SOSCL shows over the years. I loved learning about the history and how hard the group works to preserve our majestic and historical twin sisters. Preserving them for generations to come. I would like to extend an invitation to all who are curious to get involved in our group.

A little about me; I have been in education for many years and am a certified Special Olympic coach for over 36 years, I am also a volunteer for the theaters. I've been in boating all my life including being a Past Commodore for two boat clubs.

Margueritte Dombrowski
SOSCL Director

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. If you know of anyone that would like to join the effort to save the Range Lights, please tell them about SOSCL and direct them to our web site. We have membership options to fit every budget, ranging from \$25 to \$1,000 Life membership. Thank you!

Rebecca Strobel



Stepping Up

For some time now 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!

We have a few steps left for purchase. If you or your organization would like one, we would be happy to have a brass plate engraved and installed in the summer of 2018 for you. The name plates will proclaim your support for 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.

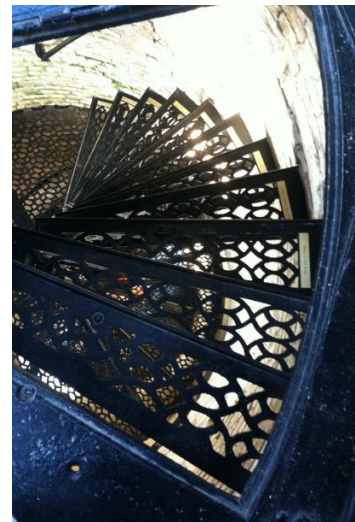
We also offer the opportunity for clubs, groups and individuals to reserve a step and continue to contribute or raise the full amount of \$800 over an extended period of time. This makes it easier for folks to help us, and also ensures they get one of the few remaining steps. This can be an on-going 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 Dave Bollinger. 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://www.soschannellights.org/whats-in-a-name> download and print the order form – you can then pay by check, credit card or PayPal.

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

Dave Bollinger
SOSCL Vice President



Name plate installed



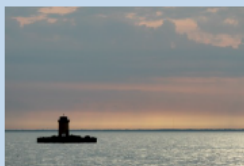
Rear Light steps with plaques installed
Visit SOSChannelLights.org for more details!

"It Takes a Village...The Story of the South Channel Range Lights" Movie

Now Available

Portion of the proceeds go to the SOSCL

"It Takes a Village...The Story of the South Channel Range Lights" tells the story of how these monuments paved the way for the American way of life. Learn how one man's crusade to refurbish these Lake St. Clair landmarks inspired an entire community. To find out more or to get your copy go to ronrobinsonstudios.com and don't forget to follow us on Facebook.



To see the video we created in Chuck's honor scan this QR code with your smart phone.



Save Our South Channel Lights Membership Form



Courtesy William Elling

Save Our South Channel Lights Organization was created to raise public awareness and support for the preservation and restoration of the historic South Channel Lights on Lake St. Clair. This effort will take many more years to accomplish. Your help and support is needed.

Visit soschannellights.org to **Join or Donate**

- ✓ Annual range lights news letter
- ✓ Membership card
- ✓ Decal
- ✓ Schedule an event at the island
- ✓ Volunteering
- ✓ Participate at shows around town
- ✓ What's in a step program personal tour
- ✓ Being a part of restoring history
- ✓ Creating a landmark for Lake St. Clair boaters
- ✓ Cool SOSCL gear



Save Our South Channel Lights is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization that was formed 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 Lake St. Clair history.

Welcome! Are you... (Check One)

- New Membership
- Renewing

Annual/Life Memberships (Check One)

- \$25 Family/Individual (Annual)
- \$50 Keepers (Annual)
- \$75 Sustaining (Annual)
- \$100 Patron (Annual)
- \$250 Business (Annual)
- \$1000 Life (One time)

Save Our South Channel Lights
 PO Box 815
 New Baltimore, Michigan
 Phone: 1-810-748-1888
 Email: sosclmemberships@gmail.com

Visit us online at:
soschannellights.org/membership

 First and Last Name (print)

 Address

 City State Zip

 Phone

 Email (If you would like to be notified of any news and events)

 Credit Card Signature

 Card Number CVV Exp Date

Save Our South Channel Lights
PO Box 815
New Baltimore, MI 48047



Save Our South Channel Lights

PO Box 815

New Baltimore, MI 48047

Visit us at:

SOSChannelLights.org

Membership Levels

- \$25 Family
- \$50 Keeper
- \$75 Sustaining
- \$100 Patron
- \$250 Business
- \$1000 Life

Save Our South Channel Lights is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization that was formed to accomplish the restoration of the Range Lights. 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 Lake St. Clair history.

Chat with us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/SaveOurSouthChannelLights>