



The Range Lights



Publication of Save Our South Channel Lights

Lake St. Clair, Save Our South Channel Lights
Winter 2014/2015 Volume 23 Number 1

The Passing of a Legend

It is with heavy hearts and crying eyes that we have to announce that we lost our President and dear friend Chuck Brockman. He is now welcomed into heavenly arms and with his wife Scotty (Margarite).

Charles (Chuck) Brockman died March 1st, 2015 at his home on Harsens Island. He was born May 28th, 1934. Mr. Brockman was born and raised in Mount Clemens and worked in the Macomb Daily newspaper composing room for 34 years, semi-retiring in 1999, he continued to write the boating column for the paper until 2006.

Serving in the Army from 1954-56 in Munich, Germany he traveled extensively in Europe.

He was predeceased by his wife of 30 years Margarite, his father, Harvey and mother, Roma, sister Janet Grime and is survived by a niece and three nephews.

An avid lifetime recreational boater, Mr. Brockman cruised to many destinations in the Great Lakes and called Lake St. Clair his home port. Taking delivery of their last boat in New York, they brought it back through the Hudson River and Erie Canal to the Great Lakes treating the cruise as a vacation.

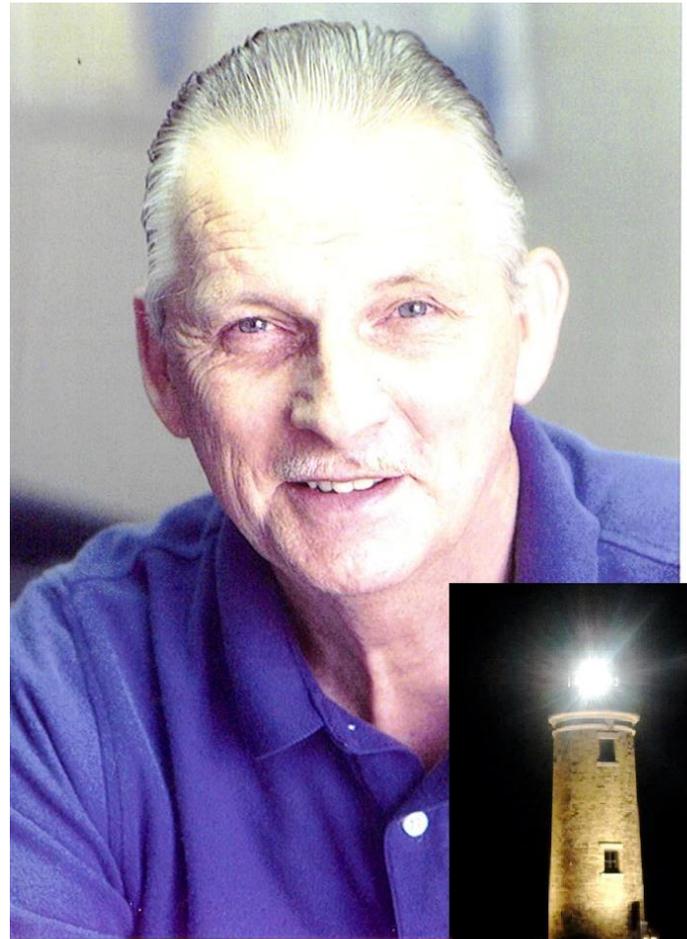
Mr. Brockman was the founder and ONLY President of Save Our South Channel Lights, heading the organization efforts to restore the historically important lighthouses in Lake St. Clair. Memberships in organizations include: Lake St. Clair Save Our South Channel Lights, The Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association, Harsens Island/St. Clair Flats Association, Michigan Lighthouse Alliance, Idle Hour Yacht Club, North Star Sailing Club, Great Lakes Maritime Institute, The Detroit Historical Society, Mount Clemens Elks, Nautical Mile Merchants Association, and the Old Crowd.

Loving a bit of adventure, he also liked to fly in large and small planes of every type, including parasailing and sail planes. At the age of 71 Mr. Brockman did a successful tandem sky dive saying it was something he always wanted to do.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Save our South Channel Lights Organization.

For any additional information on contributions to SOS Channel Lights you may call (586) 242-6047 Kathy Brady, Gary Strobel (586) 698-8957 or Deb Strobel (586) 698-8958. Donations can also be done directly on the site www.soschannellights.org (Donate)

We lost a great man, a role model and mentor today. Rest assure, the light restoration project will continue in his and his families honor. We will honor Chuck at this year's Annual meeting April 25th at MacRay Harbor.



Chuck Brockman May 28, 1934- March 1, 2015

"As daylight fades and shimmering crystals surround me, I hear the advance then retreat of never ending seas and in the distance I faintly see the outline of my purpose, for mine is to guide."

May his spirit and his lighthouses forever shine.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE
SATURDAY APRIL 25TH
AT 6 P.M.

Presentation
Membership Drive
50/50 Raffle

Lake St. Clair's Range Lights books, polo's, sweatshirts and more will be available!

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Please join us for our Annual SOSCL Meeting, Membership Drive and Celebration on Saturday, April 25th at MacRay Harbor located at 30675 N. River Road in Harrison Township at 6 p.m.

Address Change

Please make not our new address is PO Box 815 New Baltimore, MI 48047

MACRAY HARBOR
MacRay Harbor
30675 N. River Rd.
Harrison Township MI
48045

Join Us for a TRIBUTE TO
CHUCK BROCKMAN AND A
PREVIEW OF THE TRAILER,
IT TAKES A VILLAGE

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!

Rob Schoenmann
SOSCL Director and Range Lights Editor



Chuck Standing in the Rear Light Doorway

EDITORS MESSAGE



I truly hope you make our Annual Meeting and Membership Drive at MacRay on April 25th, I look forward to seeing everyone and sharing the memories we had with Chuck and the Range Lights.

Truly Thankful for Everything, Chuck and Scotty

I met Chuck and Scotty at the 2000 Spring Metro Boat Show in the main tent, the lakestclair.net booth was located down from the SOSCL booth. When we spoke we shared our passion for the lake, boating and making the lake a better place. We developed a bond that couldn't be broken.

That weekend I made an alliance to join the mission to help restore the Range Lights. Chuck has done fascinating work and I wanted to be a part of history. I grew to respect and love this man like he was my father. It was an honor to work side by side with him and accomplish so many amazing things. For that Chuck, I truly thank you! From the bottom of my heart, you made my life richer in so many ways.

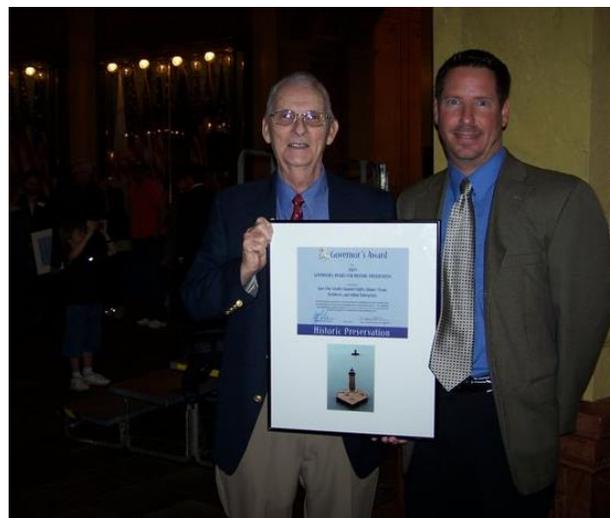
With Chuck's nurturing the SOSCL team became a family, we all support one another and Chuck inspired us to share his vision. He encouraged us to use our life passions and skills to help bring the Range Lights back to life. To this day we are here for each other and truly miss the man who brought us all together.

This 2015 Range Lights News Letter volume 23 is dedicated to Chuck Brockman. Your passion over the years inspired a group of us to do great things and be a part of something bigger than ourselves, something generations will be able to appreciate.

Rob Schoenmann
SOSCL Director and Range Lights Editor



SOSCL Board of Directors



Chuck and Rob Accepting the Governors Award



2014 was certainly a productive year for restoration progress at the South Channel Lights, and I am very excited to share the success stories with you. One of our goals last year was to build a bench on the rear island to better accommodate visitors and provide a back drop for wedding photos and other activities.

My friend Craig from Xtreme Remodeling answered the call once again. In June I took my team of volunteers out to the lights, and using materials donated by Johns Lumber, we built a beautiful and functional cedar bench that enhances the island and provides a place to sit and enjoy the scenery. Thanks Craig Cova, Mathew McGreehan, Dean West and Dave Kowachek for your help and dedication to the cause!

The other enhancement that we wanted to make was to move one of the huge limestone blocks that was left over from the rear light restoration, and use it for an additional step into the rear light. The first step from the ground was a big one and we wanted to improve upon the safety aspect of that situation. However that limestone block weighed 600-700 pounds and was going to be a challenge to move. On one of our trips out to mow and maintain the grounds, we decide to see if we could use science and the methods of the Egyptians to move that chunk of rock. We used levers, boards and pry bars to begin the movement of the block. After some friendly debate we came up with a method of lifting, sliding and flipping the stone. To be honest, I was skeptical that we were going to accomplish the task. However little by little we honed our methods, and before long we had our new step very close to the front patio. We figured out exactly where we wanted it and with one end over end flip and a ground shaking thump we had a new step! It looks great and we no longer have to take that first big step into the light.

Now I would like to share the most exciting major accomplishment of 2014 in support of our restoration goals. In 2013 the Save Our South Channel Lights organization received a matching grant from the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). This grant was in the amount of \$60,000 and had to be focused on very specific improvements as approved by the State. We targeted a much needed stabilization project at the front light. Our ultimate goal is to straighten the light and completely preserve it for the future. To straighten it, the root cause of the problem has to be addressed which is a failing foundation. The first step in the project is to stabilize the structure in order to lift it off of the old foundation and build a new one. The scope of the project that we accomplished in 2014 was to strip off the yellow paint that was added to the structure in the 1960s. Then every mortar seam was ground out and all structural cracks were repaired using steel staples. Furthermore, all missing bricks were replaced. Finally the entire structure was freshly repointed. In addition the interior of the tower was cross braced to prepare the tower to be lifted off of the base. The actual straightening will be another project after we have raised the appropriate funds. Here is a timeline of the activities at the front light:

6-12-2014: Received the following documents for review and approval from our Architect firm:

- Bidding Drawings
- Bidding Specs
- Bidding Requirements
- Invitation to Bid

7-7-2014: SOSCL provided approval of the Bid Package. SOSCL submitted the advertising plan to the State Historic Preservation Office.

7-13-2014: SOSCL Placed Request for Bid ads in the legal section of the following 3 publications:

- The Macomb Daily (Sunday Edition)
- The Heritage (Sunday Edition)
- The Port Huron Times Herald (Sunday Edition)

7-14-2014: Began the process of receiving bids.

7-20-2014 I took contractor representatives to the lights in my boat for a detailed walk through of the work to be performed.

8-6-2014: Deadline for Bids. We held a bidders meeting and began the process of evaluating bids. We received bids from the following three companies:

- National Restoration Incorporated
- Mihm Enterprises
- Grunwell Cashero

8-21-2014: SOSCL provided feedback to SHPO about the bids that were received.

National Restoration was the low bidder and was selected as the contractor for the project.

9-3-2014: Notified bidders about contract award.

9-10-2014: Submitted draft contract to SHPO for review before signing with winning bidder.

9-30-2014: I took John Fletcher from National Restoration Inc. and Brandon Frisk our Architect from Quinn Evans out to the front light in my boat for a detailed site survey. The good news is that after viewing the structure inside and out, they both agreed that there were no surprises and that the structure was relatively sound. We walked through every aspect of the project and John estimated that the work would take approximately 7-10 days on site. John obtained a mortar sample and sent it off to a lab so that a perfect match could be formulated.

10-14-2014: We received confirmation that the final contract had been sent out for signature.

10-14-2014: We received confirmation that National Restoration would begin the work on Monday October 20th at first light.

10-20-2014: On-site restoration work begins.

11-7-2014: Front Light work completed.

11-12-2014: Performed on-site inspection of the completed work.

The completion of this project is tangible progress toward the ultimate goal of straightening the light. This work will ensure that the structure will be stable while we continue to raise funds for the next phase. It was an enjoyable experience to work with Bryan Lijewski and Joelle Letts with the State Historic Preservation Office. Their help and support during this process is much appreciated. The National Restoration team was a pleasure to work with and they did a really great job.

Continued from page 3

I learned a lot from the entire team, and we all learned more about the history of the lights during this project. It was always a mystery as to why the front tower had been painted a mustard yellow by the Coast Guard in the 1960's. When the paint was removed I think we learned the answer. There are a couple of rows of red brick near the base of the tower that do not match the rest of the bricks which are a cream color. Our theory is that the red bricks were used to repair the tower when it was rebuilt in 1874 to remediate a severe lean just 15 years after its construction. We think that they simply did not have any of the original bricks and they used what was available. The National Restoration team was also able to point out areas of the original brickwork where they could tell that there were various individuals performing the work which resulted in style variations as the tower was built. I never knew that there was so much to learn about laying brick! I am honored to have the opportunity to manage this phase of our work.

As a bonus to this project we were able to do additional fill around the perimeter of the seawall to prevent an endangered species of Common Terns that nest on the island from getting trapped in the gaps that existed around the seawall. We worked with Tom Schneider, curator of birds at the Detroit Zoo to accomplish this task.

We are making great progress one step at a time towards restoring these historic treasures to their original state. I cannot wait to get back to work on the lights in 2015.

Dave Bollinger
Vice President and Keeper of the Lights



Before and After Front Light 2014

How I got to know Chuck Brockman

Being an avid boater I went to all the local boats shows, and I had briefly talked with Chuck at the SOSCL booth at several events. I thought restoration of the old lights was a noble and exciting idea. Flash forward to 2005 when the major restoration of the rear light was completed. I saw a posting on Lakestclair.net requesting a volunteer to cut the weeds on the island. I called up Chuck and told him I would be happy to get involved. My son Alex and I began making trips out to the island to take care of the grounds. Our adventures became an incredible father-son bonding experience.

We were very happy to be able to contribute to the cause, and we enjoyed keeping the grounds neat and tidy. Then our family experienced a bit of a tragedy when we had a devastating house fire. We were wrapped up with restoring our house, and going to the light had to become secondary priority. I received a call from Chuck one day, and he politely explained that he had been out to the lights and the weeds were getting pretty tall. I apologized, and explained that we had experienced a fire and that we would get out there and take care of things as soon as possible.

A few days later I received an envelope containing two keys to the light house. Chuck had written a note expressing sympathy for our situation with the fire, and that maybe having access to the light would provide some relief from the stress that I was experiencing. I was thrilled to be entrusted with such a gift. When the stress of dealing with our house situation would start affecting me, I would go out to the lights and clean the windows and sweep the steps and soon the world was right again. Working out at the lights became my therapy, and the gesture of being designated "Keeper of the Lights" helped me through a very hard time in my life. I formed a bond with Chuck and those lights that will last a lifetime. I am very thankful to have known such a great man, and to have the opportunity to be involved in the restoration of those historic treasures. I later got elected to the Board of Directors, and ultimately Vice President.

Thanks for the opportunity Chuck, and rest in peace my friend.

Dave Bollinger
Vice President and Keeper of the Lights



Chuck and Dave and Donated Rear Light Lens

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.

Thanks for falling us, be sure to spread the light and tell everyone about us!

Gary E. Strobel
SOSCL Director

DON'T BE CAUGHT WITHOUT YOUR SOSCL MERCHANDISE!

It's fundraising time and our goals are ever so important this year. We need to make a strong push to raise enough money to finish the front light. Our current priority is to secure funding for straightening the front light and recasting the lantern room. We achieve these goals through grants, donations and merchandise sales.

We still offer our history book by Jon Ottman/Art Woodford and latest video by Ron Robinson Studios. Be sure to check our website for purchasing options. Reordering merchandise is in process, due to our great sales volume last year. All of these items can be obtained at one of the shows. 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.

This year we will offer long sleeve t-shirts and ladies tank tops. SOSCL will still offer full zippered fleece and polo shirts in Men and Ladies styles and sizes. The fleece jackets are navy in color; Ladies are pink and a second color added, winter white! 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 shirts, the Ladies are pale yellow. Both the fleece and polo shirts are nicely embroidered and tailored. Priced at \$30 for average sizes.

Don't forget your 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 years stock, \$10.

Need a special gift item for that someone? SOSCL carries books and artwork by local authors and artists. We still have a few "Light the Night" prints by Harsens Island's own George Crown, and a commissioned print by renowned artist Gary Odmark. "Life on the Flats" publication 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.

Some of SOSCL's merchandise and artwork can be found at 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 it's time to tie up for that evening dinner at your local on-the-lake establishment, show off your SOSCL wearables!

Help Keep Chuck's Vision Alive, PLEASE VOLUNTEER!

Here are the 2015 events SOSCL will be participating in:

SOSCL's Annual Membership Meeting/President Chuck Brockman Tribute - 4/25 6pm @ MacRay Banquet and Event Center

9-Mack Merchants June Fest Art & Craft Show 6/06 10am to 5 pm St. Clair Shores

Celebrate the Lake 6/13 12pm-4pm MacRay Harbor & Marina

Antique Classic Boat Show 6/27 8am-close - Algona Harbour Club Algona, MI

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

New Baltimore's Music by the Bay 8/8 3pm Walter & Mary Burke Park

Algonac Rotary's Algonac Art Fair 9/5 & 9/06 10am to 6pm Algonac Boardwalk

Boat & Outdoor Festival - 9/17 thru 9/20 - Metro Beach Check local listing for times

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.

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 have happened. 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 they are in, and we wouldn't 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.

Volunteers make it happen. If you find that you can spare a couple of hours, SOSCL is always in need of good people who care about the Lights. Make sure you visit this year to purchase a membership, our new book about the South Channel Lights, our newest video produced by Ron Robinson Studios, or all three for a special price!

Gary E. Strobel
SOSCL Director

A FRIEND AND MENTOR

A friend, and mentor, he was more than just Founder and President Chuck Brockman of SAVE OUR SOUTH CHANNEL LIGHTS.

Meeting Chuck at one of the fundraising events at the Metro Boat show, I didn't realize a long friendship would develop. Chuck became like a grandfather to me since mine passed when I was younger. If you had honesty and you were honorable, you had a friend for life in Chuck. I got to spend a lot of time with Chuck over the years trying to raise the funds for the Lights. With that, we shared many meals. It was fun trying to outwit each other finding ways to pick up the tab. He always had stories to tell and compliments to give. He loved life, he loved people and accepted my family like they were his own. He explained why he started the organization and why it meant so much to him. All the reason to carry on in his honor. I will miss him. I will always remember that tear he had in his eye when we lit the rear light for the first time in the lights history in over 100 years. It marked an accomplishment for him. I am grateful for his knowledge and companionship.

Take care of the lighthouses in Heaven Chuck! Goodbye my friend.

Gary E Strobel
SOSCL Board of Directors

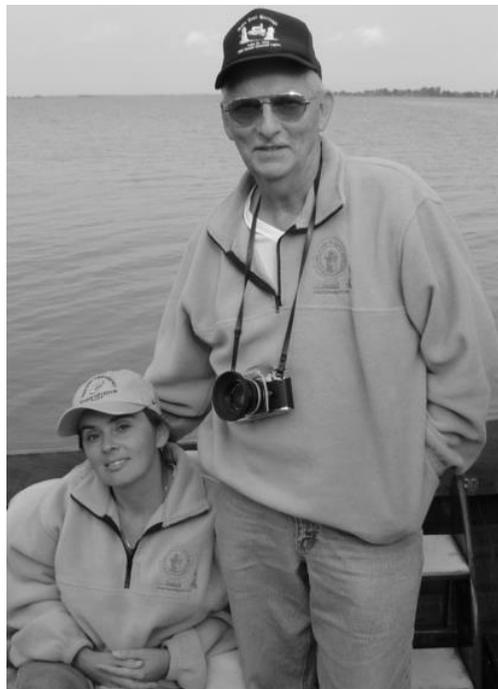


Chuck and Gary Overseeing Rear Light Progress

WE CALLED HIM DAD

We called him dad, he treated you like family and it all seemed right. His passion for the lights overflowed and you couldn't help but follow his footsteps. I became part of something bigger than just a nonprofit organization. You always felt better when you were around him and he usually had a good joke for you too. He brought me into SOSCL as treasurer many years ago. He was pretty coy about the way it was done but nonetheless I am very honored to have the position. He was always there to help in whatever capacity was needed. He was a wealth of history and if you ever had any questions, he most surely knew the answer. Mr. Brockman you hold a place in my heart that will never be replaced.

Debra Strobel
Treasurer/Director/Friend



Chuck and Debbie During Rear Light Construction

FOND MEMORIES OF CHUCK

"I had the privilege of meeting Chuck Brockman for the first time some 20 years ago. Since then we grew to be good friends and since 2001 neighbors here on Harsens Island. I have two especially fond memories of Chuck. First, working with him to preserve, edit and publish the history of the lights. The second is the ride out to the lights in his boat one beautiful summer day and witnessing firsthand how proud he was of our two range lights and of the team he lead in preserving these structures as a part of our maritime heritage."

Art Woodford
SOSCL Historian

CHUCK MADE A LEGACY

Chuck made a legacy for himself that he did not even know. He and his wife rebuilt history, history of the lights in Lake St Clair. He spent many years, time, sweat, and love to something he held near and dear to his heart, a legacy to his wife and all those who knew him. I am proud to have known him I wish I could have known him better but the short time I did get to know him he has taught me that history does matter. History makes us better people; it makes us think of the challenges they had before us which will help our challenges in front of us. I hope all of you will rally around Chuck's legacy and help us continue his legacy by supporting the Range lights in Anchor Bay known as the South Channel Lights. Please make a donation to Save Our South Channel Lights in his name and get involved helping restore a great landmark of history. Chuck I know you are looking down at these lights and we will keep them burning in the night sky. God Bless my friend.

Mark Miller
SOSCL Director

MEMORIES of My FELLOW BOARD MEMBER AND FRIEND.

It's been almost 30 years since I first met Chuck. My dad kept his boat right next to Chuck and Scotty's and since we were both in the publishing business we found a lot to talk about every time I visited my folks. The thing that stands out in my mind from that first summer all these years later is the twinkle in Chucks eye, his ready smile and his open hearted attitude. We became fast friends.

Fast forward a few years and he had started SOSCL and was looking for volunteers. He had a way about him that made you want to say yes. And I did. My first job was helping with the membership list, I bought my first computer just so I could make it easier. After we got that organized I took on the job of the Newsletter. In the early years we put things together on a very small budget and I called in every favor and donation from my printing vendors I could. I remember working boat shows when the only thing we had was a fish bowl and a poster. Standing in the rain with Chuck at the Metro show one Fall we both said we would be dead before we saw the lights restored at the rate we were raising money. Soon after we got the idea to have some buttons made – we figured we could sell them for \$1. Sell them we did. It was slow going but we managed to raise enough money to get a matching grant to put a temporary sea wall around the front light. We celebrated that victory too!

One of the ways we spread the word about SOSCL was to visit civic groups and boating club. Chuck was so good at telling our story and we raised money doing this for several years. One time Chuck said "Linda I want you do to this next one." I had only been there as a helper and this was a big step. I remember getting up in front of a boating club group and giving the speech I had heard Chuck give so many times. Chuck was in the back grinning with those eyes twinkling. We walked out to the car with a check and he put his arm around me and said "I think you have a new job!" I laughed and he said "no I'm serious, we have never gotten that big of a donation before and I think they would rather listen to a pretty girl rather than this old man!" Classic Chuck; humble and committed to the cause no matter what it took.

We worked countless shows together and one year we were given our very own booth at the Cobo boat show for free. We were so excited and did really well. One night I was working the booth alone, the other volunteer left early and the next one never showed so I left the show that night in the dark and cash box in hand – I had no choice. When I called Chuck the next day to give him the details of the proceeds he asked how it went and how it was working with the other board member. I said he never showed and the line went quiet. I said Chuck are you there? He could barely speak he was so mad. I had never seen him or heard him that mad. I remember him telling me money can be replaced but you can't. Classic Chuck; worried about his team and the people he cared about. We were lucky in all the shows and all the cash boxes the volunteers carried out at night we never had an incident

We had many years when it seemed like we would take one step forward and two or three back but in all those years and all the work and hours donated by many people Chuck never wavered. He never got discouraged. He never quit and he worked tirelessly toward the goal against seemingly insurmountable odds. A lesser man would have quit. Chuck and I served on the board for many years and saw many board members come and go and in all that time he never once tossed his hands up and said enough!

When my Dad died Chuck was there for me. They were good friends and he knew how hard it was for me. When he lost his wife Scotty he became more open about telling people he cared about how he felt. I remember him lecturing me at our frequent dinner or lunch dates to "not waste a minute" and to "tell the ones you love that you love them." He was a night owl like me and we often emailed late into the night, this was before texting. One year he confided in me that he had been diagnosed with cancer, he said "I'm not telling anyone else in the family because I don't want them to worry. Oh and I'm not giving up cookies so don't get any idea about stopping the baking!" Classic Chuck; always concerned about others.

One year I sent him a Father's day card. He called me and got choked up on the phone. After we both had our Kleenex moment he said "I couldn't be prouder to be called that by you." Soon after many of the other board members started calling him that and one time when we were playing golf I asked him about that and how it made him feel. He confided in me that "he was a rich man to have so many people feel that way about him and that he probably didn't deserve it." Classic Chuck; caring and humble.

Chuck was just like the lighthouses we are committed to saving. Standing strong no matter the weather, no matter what was thrown at him, brightly lighting the way. Chuck never took the credit for the success of the group and if the truth be told the lighthouses would not have been restored had it not been for his unwavering commitment. He was a man among many and those of us that knew him and loved him will miss him more than we can describe but his legacy will shine brightly and to take the words from his favorite poem.... "I faintly see the outline of my purpose, for mine is to guide." And he did.

Linda M. Thielfoldt
Director Emeritus



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

Big THANKS TO SUNSET HARBOR

Sunset Harbor

www.sunsetboatharbor.com

2015 Boat/US Cooperating Group Renewed

The 2015 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.

TREASURERS REPORT



Deb Strobel
SOSCL Treasurer

Account	
Cash Assets - US Dollar	
CD 2	\$66,275.52
SOS Channel Lights	\$119,296.10
Total Cash Assets - US Dollar	\$185,571.62
Total - US Dollar	\$185,571.62

Joseph L. Simasko Accounting



New Unique Up-close and Personal Rear Island Tour.

SOSCL Private Tour to the Rear Light Island, picnic style lunch provided. Limited seating available, reserve your space today.

Coming in July/August

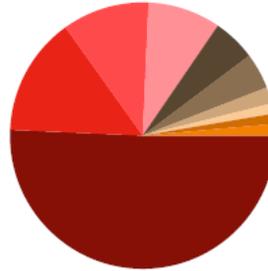
Limited Time Only **\$100**

Contact Kathy Brady
586-242-6047

2014 - Income & Expense Report

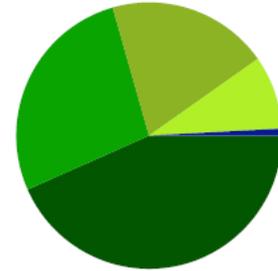
Summary Between 1/1/14 and 12/31/14

Expenses
\$22,322.38

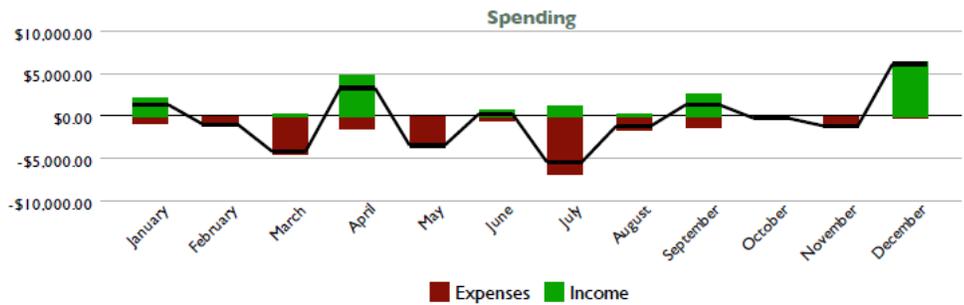


- Merchandise For Resale \$11,316.23
- Restoration \$3,217.50
- Insurance, Bus \$2,362.00
- Printing and Reproduction \$1,979.98
- Utilities \$1,158.91
- Visa Machine Charges \$973.49
- Postage and Delivery \$446.04
- Bank Charge \$279.90
- Tax \$273.07
- Other \$315.26

Income
\$17,913.58



- Donations \$7,770.00
- Gr Sales \$4,873.66
- Memberships \$3,519.92
- Whats In A Name \$1,600.00
- Membership Renewal \$150.00



Income & Expenses by Category

Category	Total
Income	
Donations	\$7,770.00
Gr Sales	\$4,873.66
Membership Renewal	\$150.00
Memberships	\$3,519.92
Whats In A Name	\$1,600.00
Income Total	\$17,913.58
Expenses	
Bank Charge	-\$279.90
Fundraising	-\$50.00
Insurance, Bus	-\$2,362.00
Licenses and Permits	-\$120.00
Merchandise For Resale	-\$11,316.23
Postage and Delivery	-\$446.04
Printing and Reproduction	-\$1,979.98
Restoration	-\$3,217.50
Supplies, Bus	-\$103.38
Tax	-\$273.07
Tax - Other	-\$273.07
Tax, Business	-\$134.88
Tax, Business:State	-\$134.88
Utilities	-\$1,158.91
Utilities:Telephone	-\$1,158.91
Visa Machine Charges	-\$973.49
Expenses Total	-\$22,322.38
TOTAL	-\$4,408.80



RANGE LIGHT WEDDINGS

If you would like more information on having a special day on the Rear Light or a unique up-close and personal Rear Island tour contact Kathy Brady at 586-242-6047.



Kathy and Chuck

My TRIBUTE TO "Chuckles"

Chuck and I first met when we worked together in the composing department at the Macomb Daily 23 years ago. I can't recall if it was his candy drawer or his calm and interesting conversation that drew me to him. Regardless, we worked and trained together through corporate changes for several years until he retired. In the beginning, I remember admiring how he had talked about fixing "those lighthouses" with such a passion. Chuck didn't ask people to help with his project. My son and I volunteered. Chuck gave me an opportunity to both learn about this area and to teach my son the wonderful value of giving back through community service. We started in those early days just sitting at the old South Channel Lights storefront on Cass and selling gifts to Christmas shoppers. Jeramy and I share countless memories of unforgettable good times performing various tasks for SOSCL.

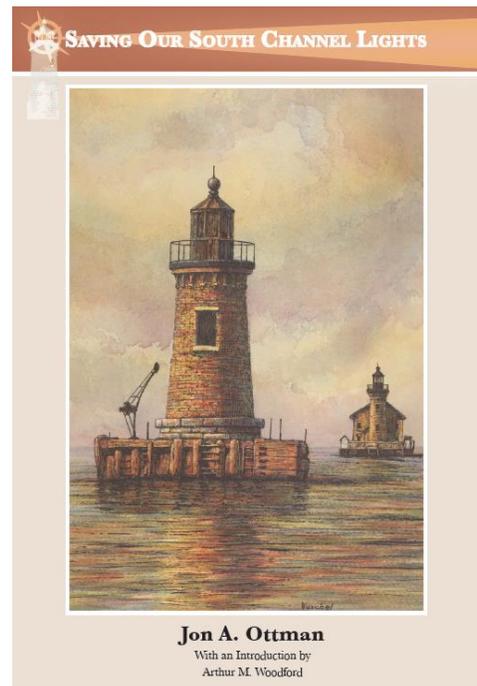
A few years later I remember telling Chuck that I bought a vacation spot in North Carolina near my parent's retirement location. He was noticeably upset and commented that I couldn't leave him, I was "too valuable." I'll never forget that moment. He made me feel like so much more than a co-worker or a volunteer. I had become a part of his plan. It wasn't long after that I felt a part of his family. I have cried on his shoulder, asked his advice, shared meals and moscato, and surprise parties together. He agreed to be my back-up father to walk me down the aisle. He helped Jeramy with every step of his Eagle Scout project and Todd & I chose our home on the island to be close to Chuck. He often introduced me as the daughter he never had and I felt it was one of my best compliments ever.

I truly enjoyed going with him to every presentation: every school, Power Squadron, Yacht and Boating club, and every Metro Beach boat cruise. Chuck believed that these lights were a marvelous local piece of maritime history that deserved to be saved. The range lights soon became his purpose. He taught me and thousands of people the importance of this purpose of these twin sisters from their start through today. I learned how hundreds of ships would pass through every day in those early years as they carried cargo to various places around the world. As he would recite it so masterfully, it always amazed me how this one set of lights held such an important piece in the history of our great country. The simple glow of these two mere lamps lined up just so helped to successfully transport the materials needed to win the war and grow commerce for multiple states. From the days of the fur trading, the Griffin, and prohibition, ships were safely guided through the treacherous curves of Anchor Bay by way of the South Channel Range Lights. Over these past 25 years Charles Brockman held an amazing piece of their history as their personal lighthouse keeper as he accomplished amazing strides in their restoration project. I'm so very privileged to have been a part of his dream and his life and I loved him dearly.

Kathy Brady,
Secretary and adopted daughter.



SOSCL Team Preparing Member Due Envelopes



Lake St. Clair's Old Range Lights Book
Now Available!
Visit SOSChannelLights.org for Details

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 2014 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://soschannellights.org/name.html> 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.



A WORD FROM OUR VIDEO PRODUCER



August 1st 2012... That was the day I met Chuck Brockman. I was immediately struck by his passion. It was a special level of passion. I was amazed by his energy and enthusiasm, coupled with the gleam in his eye, as he told me the story of how he and Scotty together decided to "Do Something" about those (badly decayed) lights.

He had that gleam because he knew there was much to be proud of. To say Chuck and the entire SOSCL Board, past and present, have accomplished a lot, would be an understatement. Since the inception of the SOSCL, the lights have gone from barely standing, to the re-lighting of the rear light in 2012 and most recently, the straightening and solidification of the front light. None of it would have happened, if not for Chuck Brockman.

I interviewed Chuck several times for my documentary movie "It Takes a Village...The Story of the South Channel Range Lights. After finding out about his passing, I couldn't help but go back and watch some of the footage I shot of Chuck during the production of the movie. As a way to honor chuck I produced a video, taken from that previously unseen footage, in hopes that anyone who sees it, will know at least a part of the story of Chuck Brockman, his wife Scotty, and their work with the SOSCL.

More importantly I hope it serves as a memorial for everyone who loves Chuck. Rest in Peace Chuck. You will be missed. To view the video, log onto www.ronrobinsonstudios.com/trailer or scan the QR code on the previous page.

Ron Robinson
Video Producer "It Takes a Village"



Chuck and Ron at Chuck Surprise Birthday

SOSCL CONTACT INFORMATION

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

2015 OFFICERS

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

2014 DIRECTORS

Directors serving this past year were:

Rob Schoenmann, Kathy Brady and Deb Strobel

The election committee nominated directors:

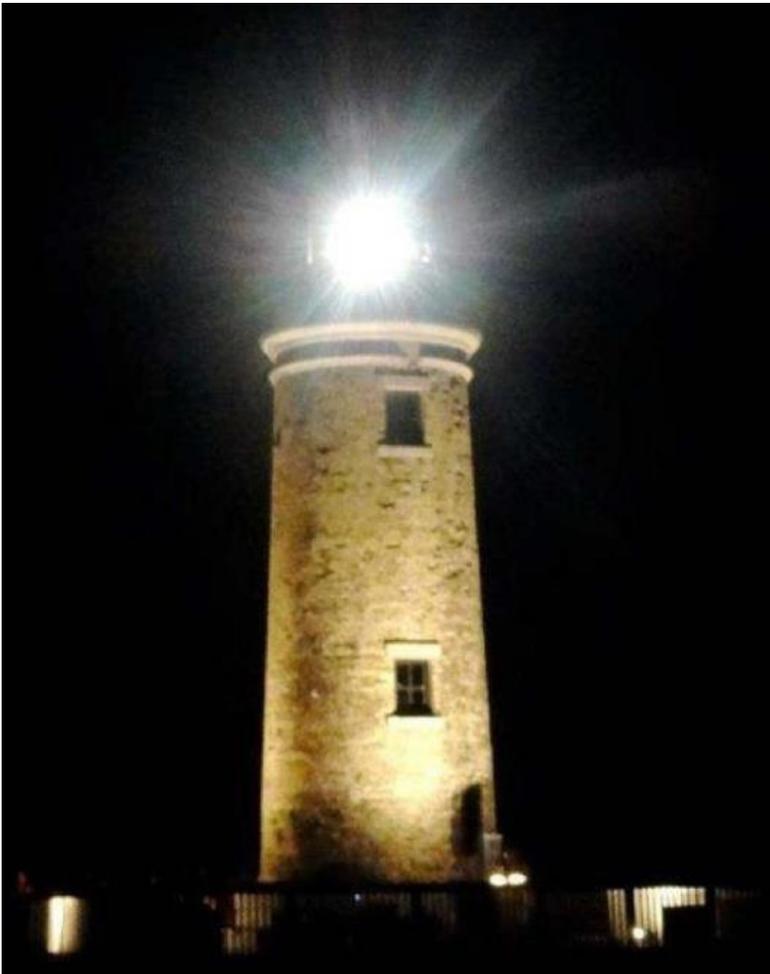
Gary Strobel, Dave Bollinger and Mark Miller to fill the new three year vacancies. Other nominations may be made from the floor by members in good standing.

There will be a directors meeting immediately after the elections.

Directors Emeritus are:

Mark McKee, Linda Thielholdt.

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



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New Baltimore, MI 48047

Visit us at:
SOSChannelLights.org

Membership Levels

- \$25 Family
- \$50 Keeper
- \$75 Sustaining
- \$100 Patron
- \$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>