



The Range Lights



Publication of Save Our South Channel Lights

Staying the course

President's Message

It's been a cold and unpredictable winter so far, but spring is upon us! The temperature is bound to break soon. Days are getting longer; the sun is making its

appearance more often and folks are getting outside.

We at SOSCL are anticipating the new season as well. 2018 was a year a great progress. After most of the Common Terns left the island, Dave and Dean West secured a majority of the posts and replacing ones that were broken, missing or deemed not usable. Huron Pointe Excavation was contracted to fill the washed away areas with rock to aide in the erosion. They will complete this task early spring of this year.

We had a lot of special guest this year to the Lights. April 22nd marked my and SOSCL's first visit and assessment on how the lights fared over the winter.

On July 20th, Fran Dollinger and husband came from Colorado to photograph the light. They were on a journey to take as many pictures of lighthouses as they could in their allotted time.

A world record attempt was made on August 11th and SOSCL was a benefactor. We received a lot of donations and memberships, along with some good attention by folks who didn't know much about the Lights.

Michael Gore proposed to Missy Colby and chose the Lights as their site for Engagement pictures. Beautiful sunsets and backdrops were had on August 13th. September 3rd was a reschedule for the Wit family after their Special date was a rain out. Mark Wit surprised his parent with a special trip to the Lights to celebrate their 40th Anniversary. Congratulation Roger and Susan. The Wit family toasted and toured the Rear Light.



SOSCL'S 2019 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT LITTLE CAMILLE'S BY THE BAY IN DOWNTOWN NEW BALTIMORE

2ND APRIL



6PM-DOORS OPEN - CASH BAR AND FOOD - 50/50 RAFFLE SALES
630PM ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & ELECTION
700PM PRESENTATION
800PM-50/50 RAFFLE DRAWING \$1 TICKET/ARMS LENGTH \$10
8-10PM SOCIAL MEET THE SOSCL BOARD

Continued from page 1

September 17th was a cleanup day. Board members and volunteers worked to clean up the island, fence sections were scrapped and painted and ready for re-installation. One thing to note the spiders were extremely bad this year. Luckily Dave brings a torch to clear the Light entrance. Each occasion, there were 100's of spiders taking residence on and in the lights.

As we finalize our project list, we can't wait to get out there. We authorized the purchase of some bird deterrents. They are on order and will be here for the first visit. Last year Dave was spiked by one of the common terns on the rear island while working on the fence. It drew blood and gave him a nasty headache. Dave said it felt like getting hit in the head with a hard ball. For this reason, we sought ways to hopefully steer the terns, pigeons and other birds away from the rear island. Siding work is another major project that needs to be done. Along with painting of the remaining fence and sheds. Mark Wit was so taken by the island he offered up his crew to help. We are grateful for this and will take him up on that!

Another successful event SOSCL had was the Jack-of-Spades Raffle. Every Tuesday a drawing was held, and one ticket was drawn from the week's tickets. It started in Early March and it took until October 10th for the Jack of spades to be found. Cash collected was over \$10,000. 60% went to the winner. SOSCL received 40%. Of course, taxes were taken out and the winner pocketed roughly \$6,000. This event alone raised awareness of the lights, raised funds which paid for the fence and stone for along the seawall and was enjoyed by all. Such a good event, the board voted to hold the Jack-of-Spades raffle again in 2019. The first drawing was held on March 12th and will run until December 17th. No drawing on July 2nd. \$5 Tickets can be purchased at Little Camille's by asking your favorite waitress for tickets.

If you are a long-standing member or a life member, I thank you for your support throughout the years! Photos show the progress. The Front light is our focus. Together we will get this done. Continue to share the

the word about the Lights, encourage folks to look us up, contact us and join or donate. This will take a joined effort to get this done. Visit our website or stop by an event and see our nice wearables, or merchandise for purchase.

If you are a new member, reach out to us. Learn about the lights and its history. And also do the same as mention above, visit our shows, volunteer. Save our icons of the lake! This is how every board member today got involved.

Hope to see you out there!

Thank you for your continued support,
Gary Strobel
President



Let's take a look back at a very busy 2018 season at the South Channel Lights. My first visit to the islands was in April, and like the previous few years Mother Nature had taken a toll on the islands. The high-water levels caused

flooding on the rear island and washed out about 13 sections of our perimeter fence. Approximately 45 yards of fill dirt has been lost over the last few years leaving the fence posts unsupported in the process. We decided to take a strategic approach and replace the conventional concrete anchors with heavy duty brackets mounted to the seawall. It was a large undertaking but with help from my team of volunteers we were determined to make it happen. It was our main focus for the entire season.



The DXC Technology Team volunteer day 2018

On September 17th I took my team from work out for a day of volunteering. This is our second annual trip to the lights and we had a fantastic day. The weather was beautiful, and the seas were calm.



We installed 7 more fence clamps, painted most of the north fence, painted sections of fence that are currently removed, cleaned the light tower top to bottom, and organized the sheds. We worked hard and had a really fun day.

Get Excited! Here are the events you can find us at in 2019

SOSCL's Annual Membership Meeting

April 2nd 6-10PM
Little Camilles By the Bay
Meeting to start at 630pm

Celebrate The Lake

June 8th 12-4pm
MacRay Harbor & Marina

Michigan Chapter of the Antique & Classic Boat Society

Algonac Boat Show
June 22nd 10-4pm
Algonac Harbor Club

Harsens Island Field Day

August 3rd 12-5pm
Harsens Island Pavilion, Brown's Park

Algonac Rotary's Algonac Art Fair

Aug 31st 10am-6pm
Sept 1st 10am-5pm
Algonac Boardwalk

MBIA Metro Boat show

Sept 11th thru 15th
Check Local listing for times
Lake St Clair Metro Park

Be sure to check our website or Facebook events for latest event info.

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 extent of erosion around the perimeter of the rear island can be seen in this picture. The new fence support system is nearly complete.

Our next step for the 2019 season is to bring in a barge of large stone to fill in the perimeter where we have lost material over the last couple of years. We hope to complete that task in early spring. Things are looking really good on the island, and we hope that we have found a long term solution to our erosion problem.



Finally, the last fence post clamp!

Each year we push forward and do some great things at the lights. I would like to close with a timeline of some key accomplishments from the Save Our South Channel Light Volunteers:

- SOSCL founded in 1988
- Seawall installed around Front Light -1990
- Seawall installed around Rear Light - 1996
- Major restoration of the Rear Light - 2005 to 2006
- Rear Light interior railing fabricated and installed - 2007
- Cleanup of Front Light - Island and interior 2008
- Eagle Scout Project #1: Rear Island Fence - 2009
- Restoration of light pedestal - 2011
- Eagle Scout Project #2: Rear Light Outhouse - 2011
- Paver Walkway and Patio - 2011
- First Wedding at the Lights - 2011
- Installation of light in the rear tower - 2012
- Light the Night event - 2012
- Built garden bench - 2014
- New front step (Rear Light) -2014
- Phase 1 of the Front Light restoration (Strip non-original paint, fix structural cracks, remove paint from structure and brace for lifting) - 2014 to 2015
- Eagle Scout Project #3 & #4: Rear Island Shed - Completed May 2016
- Rebuild of the rear fence using bracket attachments to the seawall 2017-2018

Thank you to all of our supporter and volunteers, you make it possible for us to move forward with our restoration activities. As you can see we have accomplished a lot over the years, and I can't wait to get back at it. I hope to see you all on the water!

Dave Bollinger
Vice President and Keeper of the lights

A Few Words From Our Newest Board Member



It's a privilege to be a part of the Save Our South Channel Lights Team.

I met Chuck Brockman through various presentations he gave at the Anchor Bay Yachting Association and the Nautical Mile Merchants Association of St. Clair Shores.

Also, had the opportunity of participating in the Discovery Cruises out of Metro Beach that brings you for an up close and personal view of the lights along with their history and the surrounding waterways.

My Past; Past Commodore of three clubs, retired from Chrysler 35 years, where I was a building manager of various plants.

Kenneth Kmieske

SOSCL Says Thank You



Our good friend **Don Hall** in Arizona recently notified our board that the Save Our South Channel Lights organization was featured on the front cover of the Great Lakes Pilot publication. We obtained a few copies for review and were very pleased to have this sort of publicity

despite a few minor misconceptions in the story. Over the years we have met many good friends and touched many hearts by sharing our tale. In the past our organization has given countless speeches of our part in Michigan's historical adventure of days gone by. Our directors along with great friends like **Michael and Charlotte Blake** have presented stories on what it was like when the lighthouses were constructed, the prohibition era, the several changes to the border line between the US and Canada, and what it must have been like to be a lighthouse keeper. We would bring stories to sailors and seafarers through various yacht clubs like the **North Channel Yacht Club, The Belvedere Boat Club, Power Squadrons, Metro Parks, New Baltimore Kiwanis** and other groups such as the **Grosse Pointe Men's Ecumenical** group, even to the youth in local schools. **ABYA** and the **Harsens Island Old Club** are kind enough to allow us to present an annual update to their groups each year, and we appreciate their generosity very much. It is through these appearances that SOSCL is able to share our story of hardship and triumph to gain additional support and reach new followers. If you belong to a group that you believe would enjoy hearing our wonderful and interesting history, please reach out to us via email or by phone. We thank you!

Over the last year our President Gary Strobel has started a new Facebook generated game of "Where's are we?" in which a photograph is taken of one of the South Channel Lighthouse prints or paintings being displayed in a local or even far off business establishment. The first non-member to guess the location of where it hangs wins an annual membership. So far, we have had many responses and much fun guessing. We would like to welcome aboard our newest members via this game... **Michelle DuVernay, Deborah Mehl, Jerry Allen Slone, James Hoffman, Matt Hendzell**. As promised your membership is effective with this spring annual drive and we are grateful you can join us. To everyone who has played along with us over these past months, THANK YOU for following the South Channel Lights!

A huge THANK YOU and "atta boy" award goes out to **Bill Barney** who chose to use his birthday as a Facebook fundraiser to support SOSCL and for raising \$227. for this non-profit organization. "atta girl" Kathy Brady for raising \$252. from her Facebook birthday fundraiser. We would also like to thank **Mandy Paul, Terry Prisbe, Virginia Saroli Furchak, and Paul Zvonek** for supporting our SOSCL fundraiser on Facebook. **Andrew Kiras at Golling Buick GMC** vowed to donate portions of sales during an auto promotion. It is with support from great friends like you that we can continue to persevere toward restoring these historical landmarks for future generations to enjoy.

Tuesday Night Fun

It is with great gratitude we give this shout out to our



Jack of Spades, Little Camille and Denise has become a great fun way to be involved with SOSCLs. Every Tuesday at 8:30 we draw from the weeks ticket sales looking for the Jack of Spades! Customers have started to make Tuesday a weekly stop to watch and play the Jack of Spades. Tickets are only \$5.00 each week and 1 winner is drawn every Tuesday at 8:30. We then open the envelope of the drawn person's card. If it's the Jack of Spades they win 60% of the sales. All other cards have prizes with them so every winner wins something. Little Camille's host the fun and also sells the tickets all week long so you can buy your tickets Tuesday through Sunday and you do not need to be present to win. So mark your calendar and be a part of a fun weekday night! Look forward to seeing you there

<https://www.facebook.com/saveourchannellights/videos/344955496326542/>

Thank you to long-standing member **Fran Dollinger** from Colorado for including the South Channel Range Lights as part of your mission to tour and photograph every lighthouse in the Great Lakes. We hope you had a memorable adventure!



If you missed it, check out our Facebook page where WXYZ-TV Channel 7 featured the South Channel Lights on their commercial this past June. What an amazing surprise! Your support touched us in a great way as many of your viewers may have never heard of us before.



Thank you to Metro-Beach Metro Park and Julie Champion along with MI Sea Grant department at Michigan State University for the continued ability to present our story on your up close and personal tours around the lighthouses each summer.

There were countless others who took amazing photographs and shared them with us, invited us to share booth space at your event, shared our information with a friend, or supported us behind the scenes. Please know that each of you are appreciated in a great way! If not for your support, the Save Our South Channel Lights organization could not continue to restore these amazing nautical artifacts for all to enjoy. THANK YOU!

This past August we were honored to host Michael Gore and Missy Colby on our rear lighthouse island for their engagement photos and we wish them a long, happy, beautiful marriage.

It was an honor to be a part of the 40th wedding anniversary of Roger and Susan Wit as they chose our rear light to renew their vows with their closest friends and family. May you enjoy many more years of happiness together.



This past year SOSCL felt a great loss with the passing of Stephen Thomas who celebrated his wedding with us in 2015. David Foster chose to honor Stephens love of the South Channel Lighthouses with a beautiful memorial at his funeral this past fall. Rest in peace our dear friend. You are missed.

Kathy Brady



Most of us have had enough with the cold weather but it does make for some beautiful photos of the lights. Photos taken by **Rob Kennedy**



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



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

Nominated by the board for directorship are:

Kathy Brady (serving a three-year term, nominated for two year term)
Dave Bollinger (serving a two year term, nominated for two year term)
Mark Miller (serving one year term, nominated for three year term)

Visit us o

If you h

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

gotten a chance to check out our website ple
minute to visit www.soschannellights.org

From this page you can:

- Renew your membership
- Purch
- View
- Donat
- And n

2019 Directors currently serving are:

Marge Dombrowski (serving a three-year term)
Gary Strobel (serving a two-year term)
Kenneth Kmieske (serving a two-year term)
Debra Strobel (Serving a three-year term)

asurers Report



Deb Strobel
SOSCL Treasurer

**Lake St. Clair SOS Chan
Income By Category**

Unca
\$1,52
Jack of
\$2,875.0
Members
\$4,419.80
Fundra
\$7,478.

Notable Mentions

Director of Emeritus, Linda Theilfold
Director of Emeritus, Rob Schoenmann
Historian, Arthur Woodford
Author, Jon A. Ottman
Rebecca Stros, Editor-Volunteer
Dean West, Volunteer-Honorable Assistant Lighthouse Keeper

In Memory

Scotty Brockman
Mark McKee
Chuck Brockman

%
37.94% Donation
19.73% Sales
19.42% Fundraising
11.48% Membershi
7.47% Jack of Spa
3.96% Uncategori

Memberships and Donations

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



Lake St. Clair SOS Channel Lights

PROFIT AND LOSS January - December 2018

	TOTAL
Income	
Donation	15,261.44
Fundraising	7,335.71
Jack of Spades	-4,335.60
Memberships	4,419.80
Sales	7,597.72
Total Income	\$30,279.07
Cost of Goods Sold	
Shipping	283.38
Total Cost of Goods Sold	\$283.38
GROSS PROFIT	\$29,995.69
Expenses	
Advertising & Marketing	302.89
Advertising/Promotional	7,352.75
Bank Charges & Fees	544.42
Insurance	2,621.00
Legal & Professional Services	300.00
Office Supplies & Software	529.50
Other Business Expenses	100.00
Printing	775.00
Rent & Lease	31.74
Repairs & Maintenance	1,651.92
Shipping, Freight & Delivery	74.50
Taxes & Licenses	4,507.00
Total Expenses	\$18,790.72
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$11,204.97
NET INCOME	\$11,204.97

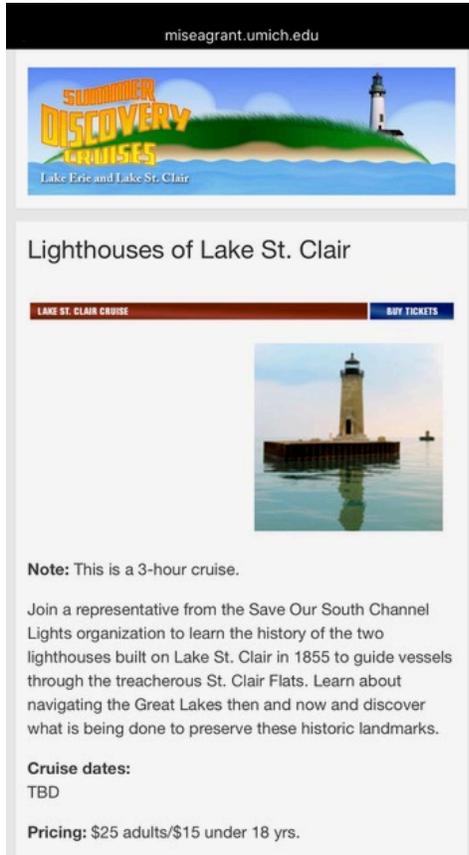
Lake St. Clair SOS Channel Lights

BALANCE SHEET As of December 31, 2018

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Certificate - 7 to 11 months (1412)	66,579.92
Interest/Income	-27.72
TCF Small Business Checking (9910)	106,192.11
Total Bank Accounts	\$172,744.31
Total Current Assets	\$172,744.31
TOTAL ASSETS	\$172,744.31
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Credit Cards	
Visa Machine	-256.66
Total Credit Cards	\$ -256.66
Total Current Liabilities	\$ -256.66
Total Liabilities	\$ -256.66
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	162,496.55
Retained Earnings	18,125.80
Net Income	-7,621.38
Total Equity	\$173,000.97
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$172,744.31

Summer Cruises

Want to have an up close experience with the lights? Visit to <http://www.miseagrant.umich.edu/sdc/buy-tickets/> schedule a cruise.



miseagrant.umich.edu

SUMMER DISCOVERY CRUISES
Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair

Lighthouses of Lake St. Clair

LAKE ST. CLAIR CRUISE BUY TICKETS



Note: This is a 3-hour cruise.

Join a representative from the Save Our South Channel Lights organization to learn the history of the two lighthouses built on Lake St. Clair in 1855 to guide vessels through the treacherous St. Clair Flats. Learn about navigating the Great Lakes then and now and discover what is being done to preserve these historic landmarks.

Cruise dates:
TBD

Pricing: \$25 adults/\$15 under 18 yrs.

Stepping Up

A Work in Progress



In the two years officially with SOSCL I have come to realize the hard work and dedication this group has. Not only the tasks at hand, but the difficulty due to the lights being offshore. You just can't easily perform daily duties and maintenance. Everything must be planned! Winter and Mother Nature takes its toll on the

on the island and lights. It is an ongoing up keep. I am so proud to be a part of Save Our South Channel Lights. It is great to look back at the year and reflect on what we as a group have accomplished.

The common Terns also make it difficult from Late April until Late August. They are a federally protected bird. Working on the lights you have to keep your wits about you because they will attack, diving at your head. Wally and I had to pleasure accompanying a guest Fran Dollinger and her husband from Colorado who came to photograph the Lights for a publication. The birds were determined, and we couldn't set foot on the island.

Weather was difficult all around. Several Metro Beach Discovery Cruises we cancelled. We participated in these in the past and are full of information. It is good to see the community and services like the Parks spreading the history of the area.

I am looking forward to the coming season and what we will accomplish this year. Please keep up your interest & support, share the news of the Lights and see you throughout the year!

Margueritte Dombrowski

“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

Save Our South Channel Lights Membership Form



Courtesy William Elling

Save Our South Channel Lights Organization was created to preserve and restoration of the historic South Channel Lights on Lake St. Clair and accomplish. Your help and

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

- ✓ 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)

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, Michigan

Phone: 1-810-748-1888

Email: sosclmemberships@gmail.com

Visit us online at: soschannellights.org/membership

An All Volunteer N

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/SaveOurChannelLights>