



The Range Lights

Lake St. Clair

Save Our South Channel Lights

Summer 2021 Volume 29



www.SOSChannelLights.org

2021 IS A YEAR TO MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME

YOU CAN HELP IN SEVERAL WAYS!

This year we have started two great new ideas for fundraising. We are hosting our **first annual golf outing on September 25th at the Michigan Meadows Golf Course** and we have started selling metal **Nautical Anchors** which can be attached to almost any structure and wrapped in lights to display your nautical support. To learn more about either of these new and exciting fundraisers, read the details inside this newsletter or contact one of our directors. Every penny helps, why not have fun or decorate your space while **helping us SAVE these Historic Lighthouses**. Thank you for your support.

Annual Membership Meeting and "Light the Lake" Children's Art Show

Downtown New Baltimore
across from the Washington Street Winehouse

Saturday August 7th
Annual meeting starts at 3:00

The Art Show starts at 11:00
Brought to us by the Conn-Artist Studio
See page 2 for more details.

Membership Drive - 50/50 Raffle
SOSCL merchandise available for purchase.

President's Message

Pushing onward, hope for 2021 to be business as usual. As we all deal with uncertainty, trying to figure out what's next in our lives, we have to push on. Many of us have had our lives turned upside down whether it was due to covid or other tragedies, but as great as we humans are, we will prevail. Like many other groups and business, we cannot survive with a repeat of last year!

I thank you all who supported us with your memberships, online purchases, and online donations. They helped keep the lights on, no pun intended. Please see our published events that we will attend throughout the year.

2021 Goals

Our goals are still the same as they were last year, but they are taken off the shelf and dusted off and re-evaluated. The group will tend to the lights, restore the fence, repair the badly damaged shed and outhouse. As you know, all three structures continue to be beaten down by the strong waves year after year. Over the winter the shed was pushed onto the land. Thank goodness Dave was able to secure the shed and prevent it from being washed into the water. I think the shed is unsalvageable so a rebuild may be in order.

We have purchased a bird deterrent system for the rear light and will be installed very soon. This is crucial since over the past few summers, the bird situation has gotten so bad that we could not maintain the rear island, IE cutting the weeds, fence and shed repairs and regular maintenance on the rear light. So bad Dave was bird spike in the back of the head and others as well. Hopefully, this will be successful so we can



(President's Message continued from page 1)

focus on the work and hold events on the island again! Our hope is that we drive them back to the front light where the Detroit Zoo was granted access from SOSCL to provide a temporary habitat. Now that the birds are off the endangered list, we need to take back our rear island!

Annual Meeting moved to August 7th this year!

This year due to covid concerns, we've decided to move the annual meeting to August 7th, which coincides with National Lighthouse Day. We have also teamed up with the Conn~Artist Studio and Gallery in New Baltimore. Constance Hipwell had an inspiration to provide an art event to children in the Anchor Bay community and created 1st annual "Light the Lake" art contest, an event for children kindergarten through 12th grade. The event will take place in downtown New Baltimore on Washington Street. Tents will be set up in the Famers Market Square across from the Washington Street Wine House and Celtic Sisters Candles and Candies. SOSCL will begin the Annual Meeting portion at 3pm.

Information for the LIGHT THE LAKE ART CONTEST

The 1st annual art contest is open to all children. A free art demonstration will be offered to participants. The contest's subject matter is to draw or paint any lighthouse on Michigan's shoreline. Artwork may be kept or donated to be auctioned off at the "Light the Lake" Children's Art Show (Aug. 7) to benefit Save Our South Channel Lights. **For more info, contact Constance Hipwell at 586-839-8111.** 8.5 x 11 inch submissions will be accepted in-person at The Conn-Artist Studio & Gallery July 24-31. Check the business Facebook page for hours. Awards given based on age. Winning submissions will be displayed at the Gallery.

DEMONSTRATION INFORMATION

WEDNESDAY, 7/14

TIME: 6:00 - 7:30PM

LOCATION: Aurand Memorial Park

(52915 Huntley Ave. New Baltimore, MI 48047)

COST: FREE



Local Fine Art, Art Instruction, Home or Office Curation

36310 Main Street, New Baltimore • 586-839-8111

Annual Meeting Agenda

General introductions – 3:00pm

General election – 3:15pm

Keeper's update – 3:30pm

OPEN Form for questions 3:45pm

Please join us to learn more about the history and preservation of the South Channel Range Lights. All are welcome.

What You mean to the organization

I often get asked at shows, events, and presentations, "What does my membership get me"? My typical response is a Newsletter, SOSCL decal, membership card, and a status of being a member of the SOSCL group. But what your membership really means to the organization is sustainability. We get to continue to operate and seek grants, pay for the insurance, make the small stride each year and to maintain the lights. We get to purchase merchandise each year to offer to you all. Funds also help for repairs and lawn equipment. But most of all we get to peruse Chuck and Scotty's dream of saving and restoring the Lights.

Thank you and best wished for 2021!

Save Your Heritage

Gary Strobel

President



Our Keepers Message from the Vice President

Happy 2021 everyone! What a challenging year 2020 was to say the least. I think we are all ready to move forward. Hopefully, this update finds you all healthy and prosperous. Spring is finally approaching, and I look forward to getting out to the lights again in 2021. Here is a review of our activities for 2020.

We made our first trip of the season out to the lights on April 8th. The lights themselves came through the winter in good shape. However, our fence and sheds have been taking a beating from the high-water levels. It was wonderful to get out to the island, since by April we were all anxiously watching the spread of the Global COVID-19 pandemic. I was planning to spend every possible moment at the lights since they represented 'normal' to me. Just two days later on April 10th, motorized boating was restricted in Michigan and my activities had to cease. It was

and we could return to the lights. I do not want to dwell on the COVID-19 crisis, but it will forever be a part of our history, and it made an impact on our progress with lighthouse maintenance.

The last few years, near record water levels have presented a challenge. Levels have been running less than two feet below the seawall cap, so every time we get significant waves our fence and sheds get pounded by the force of the water. The waves scatter 6-7 inch rocks that we installed around the perimeter to prevent erosion. Our tool shed floor joists got lifted off the mounting bracket, and it is in danger of being washed away. It has moved about two feet from the original position. We used chain hoists and cables to try and get it back in place. We were able to move it but not entirely back into position. We will need a barge to complete the job. We ran cable around the shed and mounted it to the seawall to secure it. We are certainly hopeful that it makes it through the winter. On a positive note, we were able to install pilings on both the North and South side of the island to make docking much safer.

We had to wrap up our Lighthouse work for the season in late November. We took the last trip on November 28th. We battened down everything for the Winter and said goodbye to the lights until Spring. Even with the challenges presented by COVID-19, we logged 58 hours of onsite volunteer time in 2020. So, what can we expect for the 2021 season? I think there is some good news for water levels in 2021. The Corps of Engineers in their February report predict a range that would represent a drop of about 7-8 inches from the last two years. This is further supported by the relatively light snowfall in the Lake Superior region this winter. This would bring much needed relief to our waterfront neighbors and spare us from the damage that we have been experiencing at the lights. As always, we will deal with whatever mother nature throws at us and continue our work as soon as the Spring thaw comes. We appreciate the support of our volunteers and fans of the South Channel Lights!

Dave Bollinger

SOSCL Vice President & Keeper of the Lights

SOSCL Needs Volunteers!

We are always in need of good volunteers. Most of our events take place during the summer months and we always appreciate people who donate their time to SOSCL. Chuck Brockman (our founder) used to say, "Some people can give of their hard earned money, others can give of their precious time. Here at the South Channel Lights organization, we want to recognize and appreciate both types of helpers." We realize summer is short here in Michigan and we know what a sacrifice it truly is to work a booth on a beautiful Saturday afternoon. Helping one of our directors at an event would be of great assistance to us. We could really use an extra set of hands at some of our shows - even a few hours would be an enormous help!



This year we are trying to organize a volunteer day to help with some maintenance on the rear island. Some projects include the re-construction and installation of the fence into the newly installed bracket system along the seawall, grounds work, and assistance with our privy and our shed. Both outbuildings have been badly beaten over the last few winters. If you or your company are able to assist us with organizing a crew of help, please contact Dave Bollinger at sosclvpres@gmail.com. Thank you.

If volunteering is not your thing, donations are always accepted. We have accepted nautical items that can be auctioned off at our various events. Donations can be arranged by contacting us at soslights1@gmail.com.
--Kathy Brady

Thank You! Macomb and St. Clair County Marine Sheriff departments.

We appreciate your watching these South Channel Range Lights for the safety of the lighthouses and for those who wish to visit them.

We need to remind everyone that these Range Lights are on private property and for safety reasons, we appreciate if our wish to abstain from entering the property were adhered to.

Visitations may be scheduled by contacting our President, Gary Strobel. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

SOSCL Dues Renewal Time

Dues, the life blood that keeps the non-profit, all volunteer organization going.

It's been a long hard struggle and it will be more time before we are finished restoring these nautical gems. However, we are making progress! Thanks to the dedication of our board, hard working volunteers, and generous supporters, we will prevail. We understand this past year has brought many struggles in various forms to many of us, if you find it in your heart to help us continue our cause, please renew your membership today. There will be a renewal envelope included in this Range Lights for your convenience. If you have already renewed, please pass this envelope on to someone you think may like to help us in our mission. You'd be surprised how many people have never heard of the South Channel Range Lights. We are always looking for new members.

In the words of our founding father... "It's hard to measure success, when everyone works so hard to persevere these lights. We must renew our efforts and together, we will win this battle. The 1859 lighthouses are an important part of Lake St. Clair history. Please stay the course with us."

Secretary's Message

First off, let me start by saying I am happy life is beginning to return to what was more normal. I would like to offer condolences to all of our supporters who have lost loved ones during this past year of such devastation, fear, and uncertainty. I hope the worst is behind us as we all begin to move forward with a tenacity and determination to make up for lost time. I hope each of us refresh our health and mentality with renewed passions and strength.

Our Board of Directors have had our share of up's and down's over this last year. We still feel the enormous loss of one vitally important part of our team, we were faced with repeated tragic high water levels which played havoc on our properties, such that a lot of our prior work is now gone in vain and needs to be redone. And we have lost a full year of much needed fundraising and many opportunities to spread the word of our worthy endeavor.

Despite all of this, we as a Board have continued to meet quarterly and progress has prevailed behind the scenes. New ideas have come to light. We have taken a sound look at our strengths, our weaknesses, and our purpose. We have gained a few good allies to help us fight our cause. I want to remind everyone that sometimes it is through hard work following tragedy that we learn new tactics or different points of view. Even the tiniest steps forward in a mission like ours are still considered progress



in the right direction. I read somewhere once that tiny steps in water often create ripples and waves over time.

Kathy Brady
SOSCL Secretary



SOSCL 2021 Officers

Gary Strobel, *President*
Dave Bollinger, *Vice President/Keeper*
Kathy Brady, *Secretary*
Bonnie Krieg, *Treasurer*

Nominated by the board for directorship re-election are:

Kathy Brady (serving a two-year term, nominated for one year term)

Dave Bollinger (serving a one year term, nominated for three year term)

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

2021 Directors currently serving are:

Gary Strobel (serving a one year term) 2022

Marge Dombroski (serving a two year term) 2023

Mark Miller (serving a two year term) 2022

Kenneth Kmieske (serving a two year term) 2023

Bonnie Krieg (serving a three year term) 2022 (filling Debbie's vacant spot)

Wally Dombrowski (serving a three year term) 2024

Bob Krieg (serving a three year term) 2024

Notable Mentions

Director of Emeritus, Linda Theilfoldt

Director of Emeritus, Rob Schoenmann

Historian, Arthur Woodford

Historian and Author, Jon A. Ottman

Volunteer-Honorable Assistant Lighthouse Keeper,
Dean West

Volunteer, Rebecca Stros

In Memory (Chronological order)

Margarite "Scotty" Brockman

Mark McKee

Chuck Brockman

Debbie Strobel

and all who served, volunteered, or donated in the past.

Look back at how far we've come ~restoration of the Rear Lighthouse and island thru 2020



Our keeper, **Dave Bollinger** and his team of **volunteers** (especially **Dean West**) **WE THANK YOU VERY MUCH!** They've worked countless hours out on the lighthouses over the past 15 years. Maintenance alone is never ending. Please consider volunteering, so together we can preserve this set of nautical heritage for future generations.

SOSCL has a unique opportunity available to our lighthouse organization this year. We applied for a grant in 2020 with the St. Clair Foundation but was not awarded the funds as there are so many worthy causes around our neighborhood. However, They told us that what monies we can raise in 2021, they will match. So we have come up with *two new fundraisers* to help us make up for lost time due to COVID-19 (since we were not able to attend a single event last year). Our first is what we intend to become an annual event – **A golf outing at Michigan Meadows Golf Course with dinner at the new Little Camille’s By The Green restaurant.**

Cost is \$120.00 per person or \$400.00 for a team of four (4). Registration and a Bloody Mary Bar open at 0800. Shotgun start is at 0900. Players will receive a hot dog, chips, and a pop at the turn.

- Closest to the pin on par 3’s, Skins, Prizes, Gift Basket Auction.

Hole Sponsorships are available (and a great way to make a donation to our fundraiser goal) *for \$100. per hole and \$300 for hole #18.*

For more information or to book your foursome’s spot, call Mark Miller at Michigan Meadows Golf course today or visit our website at

<http://www.soschannellights.org/events/soscls-1st-annual-golf-outing/>

Or at www.soschannellights.org

Hope to see you there!



Our second new fundraiser **is the Nautical Anchor, made of metal to be hung outdoors, adorned with lights** (not included) and used to beautifully decorate our homes and businesses with the maritime pride while supporting the South Channel Range Lights. These beautiful anchors have four (4) screw holes which assist in mounting it to building structures, trees, telephone poles, fence posts, etc. They are sure to become a favorite amenity to many neighborhoods around Lake St. Clair. Please check our booths at the events listed to view these gems in person. Order forms to come.



* More anchor details to come as the board was finalizing them at the time of publication.

Treasury Report

Bonnie Kreig
SOSCL Treasurer

BALANCE SHEET
As of December 31, 2020

I am looking forward to beginning my position as SOSCL Treasurer. Through my career accounting has always been my interest and I have worked in this capacity for many years. Although I am new to Quick Books and Gmail, I have worked on many similar programs, working full time as office manager for Janssen Refrigeration. Thanks for the opportunity to work as treasurer. I am sure it will be a great experience!

Bonnie Kreig



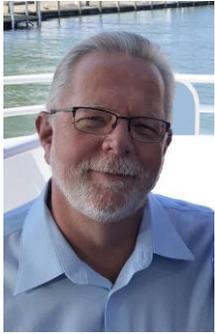
	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Certificate - 7 to 11 months (1412)	66,635.56
Interest/Income	-55.64
TCF Small Business Checking (9910)	115,016.10
Total Bank Accounts	\$181,596.02
Other Current Assets	
Inventory	1,815.00
Uncategorized Asset	-119.09
Total Other Current Assets	\$1,695.91
Total Current Assets	\$183,291.93
TOTAL ASSETS	
	\$183,291.93
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Credit Cards	
Visa Machine	-661.75
Total Credit Cards	\$ -661.75
Total Current Liabilities	\$ -661.75
Total Liabilities	\$ -661.75
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	162,496.55
Retained Earnings	21,457.13
Net Income	
Total Equity	\$183,953.68
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$183,291.93

Lake St. Clair SOS Channel Lights

PROFIT AND LOSS
January - December 2020

	TOTAL
Income	
Donation	6,536.00
Jack of Spades	-567.00
Memberships	-200.00
Sales	3,899.44
Uncategorized Income	4.00
Total Income	\$9,672.44
GROSS PROFIT	
	\$9,672.44
Expenses	
Advertising & Marketing	100.00
Bank Charges & Fees	970.24
Office Supplies & Software	633.31
Other Business Expenses	50.00
Printing	1,028.20
Shipping, Freight & Delivery	541.75
Taxes & Licenses	634.00
Uncategorized Expense	2,752.00
Total Expenses	\$6,709.50
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$2,962.94
NET INCOME	\$2,962.94

Meet the Board of Directors



Bob Kreig

I have been a business owner for 24 years. Most recently served on St. Clair Shores Sail and Power Squadron Bridge for several years which included serving as Commander for 2 years. I completed seven years as District Boat Show Chairman and District Program Coordinator. After stepping down from Power Squadron commitments, I now have time to work with lighthouse activities and pleased to do so. Bonnie and I have been members of SOSCL for several years and as a board member we are looking forward to helping our group work toward the goals they are so committed on reaching.



Wally Dombrowski

What a honor becoming a new member of the South Channel Lights, built before Lincoln became President, ours to cherish.

These off-shore lights make even minor upkeep a challenge. Looking forward with this group and those supportive to continue the preservation for generations to come.



Margueritte Dombrowski

2020 was a difficult year for a lot of our Board members and membership. Because of Covid we are hoping things will do a turn around this year for the better. Sad news our Treasurer Deb Strobel passed away in late fall. We send our thoughts and prayers to her husband our President Gary Strobel and his family. We are all looking forward to a much better up coming season.

Save Our South Channel Lights would like to say
THANK YOU to the
HARSENS ISLAND OLD CLUB
for all of your generous support over the years!
Your help has made an enormous difference.

Summer is here!!!
Here are the events you can find us at in 2021

MacRay Garage Sale

Saturday, June 12th 12pm-4pm
MacRay Harbor - Poolside
Harrison Township, MI

Antique Classic Boat Show

Saturday, June 26th 9am-5pm
Algonac Harbour Club
Algonac, MI

Harsens Island Field Day

Saturday, August 7th 10am-5pm
Brown's Park Pavilion
Harsens Island, MI

SOSCL's Annual Membership Meeting and "Light the Lake" Children's Art Show

Saturday, August 7th 11am-5pm (Art Show)
3pm SOSCL's Annual Meeting
Downtown New Baltimore
(Across from the Washington Street Winehouse)
New Baltimore, MI

Algonac Rotary's Algonac Art Fair

Saturday and Sunday,
September 4th & 5th 10am to 6pm
Algonac Boardwalk Park
Algonac, MI

Metro Boat Show

Thursday thru Sunday,
September 16th thru 19th
Lake St. Clair Metro Park
Harrison Township, MI
Check local listing for times
(<https://boatmichigan.org/metro-boat-show/>)

SOSCL's 1st Annual Golf Outing

Saturday, September 25th
Michigan Meadows Golf
and Little Camille's by the Green Restaurant
Casco, Township, MI
(586-727-7029 for sign up/details)

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 space to share our mission and merchandise.

Meet the Board of Directors

(continued from page 9)



Once again I am pleased to be a part of such a good team of individuals. The work performed and the goals attained should be commended.

Ken Kmieske



I am proud to announce that Michigan Meadows Golf Course and Little Camille's on The Green will be hosting the first annual **GOLF OUTING**

on *September 25th*. We want to help our lighthouses make up for some much needed fundraising. We have recently opened and are happy to help. So mark your calendar and be a part of a fun day. We look forward to seeing you there! Thank you.

Mark Miller

If you haven't had a chance to check out our website, please take a minute to visit us online at www.soschannellights.org for the latest on news and information.

From this page you can:

Renew your membership

Purchase merchandise

Make a tax-deductible donation and read more about

- ⊕ History of these lights
- ⊕ Requesting an onsite visit
- ⊕ Presidents Message
- ⊕ Event Calendar
- ⊕ Photo Gallery
- ⊕ SOSCL Videos
- ⊕ Past and Present Merchandise
- ⊕ License Plates Information
- ⊕ Membership Information

We are sorry to say that the Summer Discovery Cruises out to the South Channel Range Lights from the Matro Beach Metro Park have once again been postponed due to COVID-19. (Their schedule for the season is set early in the year.) Please follow the Michigan Sea Grant organization from the University of Michigan to learn details of the upcoming schedule for 2022. <http://www.miseagrant.umich.edu/sdc>

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 Saint Clair*. We are an *all-volunteer, non-profit organization*. Our officers and Board members are committed to this task. In 2009, our team received the *Governor's award* for the tenacity and dedication toward the hard work completed at that time. The Range Lights are *on the National Register of Historic Places*. This effort will take many more years to accomplish. With your help, we will pursue our efforts to preserve these remarkable pieces of Lake Saint Clair history. Thank you!

Special recognition to Dean West and his late father Mark for all of their hard work and volunteering at the South Channel Range Lights. You are very much appreciated.

SOSCL Contact Information

Gary Strobel (President) soslights1@gmail.com

Dave Bollinger (Vice President)
sosclvpres@gmail.com

Kathy Brady (Secretary) sosclsec@gmail.com

Bonnie Kreig (Treasurer) soscltreas@gmail.com

Mark Miller (Board of Directors)
mark@littlecamilles.com

Margueritte Dombrowski (Board of Directors)
mar111888@aol.com

Kenneth Kmieske (Board of Directors)
kjwoodplaining@gmail.com

Wally Dombrowski (Board of Directors)
wally.422@yahoo.com

Bob Kreig (Board of Directors)
bksr@janssenrefrigeration.com

To Volunteer: sosclvolunteer@gmail.com

Volunteer Website:
www.soschannellights.org/volunteer/

Purchase Merchandise: sosclsales@gmail.com

Merchandise Website:
www.soschannellights.org/merchandise/

Membership Email:
sosclmemberships@gmail.com

Membership Website:
www.soschannellights.org/membership/

Schedule an Event:
www.soschannellights.org/schedule-an-event

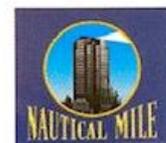
Telephone: 810-748-1888



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Joseph L. Simasko Accounting



We appreciate your support!



Save Our South Channel Lights
PO Box 815
New Baltimore, MI 48047
Visit us at SOSChannelLights.org
Phone: 810-748-1888
Join Us On Facebook

- New Membership***
 - Annual Renewing Membership***
- Membership Levels:
- \$25 Family/Individual
 - \$50 Keeper
 - \$75 Sustaining
 - \$100 Patron
 - \$250 Business
 - Life: \$1000 (One time Only)

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Save Our South Channel Lights
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An All-Volunteer, Non-Profit Organization.
We Appreciate Your Support!

