



The Range Lights

Lake St. Clair

Save Our South Channel Lights

Summer 2022 Volume 30



www.SOSChannelLights.org

We have so much to update you. This past two years have taken its toll on the islands of the two South Channel Range Lights, “twin sisters”. Our outer appearance has been neglected and effected by several things out of our control. It has always been our intent to be transparent and keep our supporters informed. It's always been our tradition to host a meeting in the springtime to share that information. At this meeting, friends gather and the SOSCL Board will catch you up to date on the progress of the lights. Please join us.

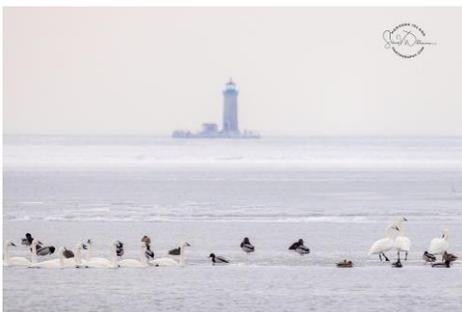
Let The Fun Begin!

If you're ready
for social gatherings,
if you're ready to kick-off the 2022
boating season on Lake St. Clair,
if you're ready for some fun,
JOIN US
at our

**2022 Annual
Membership meeting
Saturday, April 9th
1:00-5:00 pm**



**Meet The Team
Keepers Presentation
Election of New Directors
General Meeting
Membership Drive
50/50 Raffle**



President's Message

Repeat 2021 for 2022, a great year thanks to your support!

It's not what you think! We're not sure if it was because everyone was cooped up in their homes during 2020 and just glad to be out in 2021, but the love and support that SOSCL received last year was enormous! Our merchandise sales were up. I believe the **new, exclusive, decorative anchor** and the new annual **GOLF OUTING** were both good additions for us as successful fundraisers! I personally want to say **THANK YOU** all for the support and donations throughout the last year.



This year we're looking forward to seeing everyone again in person and updating you on our progress at our once-a-year general meeting and membership drive. We are planning a fun-filled event at **Total Sports in Mt. Clemens**. Save the date for **Saturday, April 9th**. We hope to pack the room **from 1 to 5pm**. A current state of the lighthouse presentation will be delivered by our VP-lighthouse keeper, and our Officer/Board member elections will be held. This year we will swear in three new directors. Both Bob and Wally have offered to step down from their directorship positions since their wives are also active on our team. This will allow for new-fresh directorship to come onboard and help expand our reach. New people bring new ideas, and new life. Thank you, Bob and Wally, for your continued help and service! I look forward to still having you on board as volunteers.

This year's Annual Golf Outing is set for Saturday, October 8th! Get ready for a **9am registration** and **Bloody Mary Bar at Michigan Meadows Golf Course**. You can sign up now! **Book your spot online soon for early registration savings.** Last year's event was a blast that included dinner afterwards, raffles and awards for various golf achievements! It was a fun event for all who attended.

Our new, exclusive decorative anchors are available again. You can order yours online or pick them up at one of our shows. See the list of events so you can pick one up.

Speaking of online, all of our great merchandise has been added; along with our events and latest happenings, check us out at www.sosChannellights.org

Help us while you shop!

A member brought it to our attention, and at first I was skeptical - because we had just been scammed a few weeks prior. We verified it, and it's valid! If you login to your Amazon account by typing smile.amazon.com and selecting *Save Our South Channel Lights* as your non-profit, or by using the hot link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-2850872> your shopping will lead to Amazon donating 0.5% of your purchase to the organization. It may not seem like a lot, but if enough people use it, it will add up quickly! **Please Share the word!**

Common Terns effect the cost of Conservation

Many of you have been making donations year after year, many have helped us along the way in some other way or form.

Many boaters have driven by the lights the past few years and have mentioned they've seen nothing done to the lights and quite frankly, are witnessing increased destruction. We often get asked about our progress at the shows we attend for fundraising, and by phone calls or email messages. A lot of you have shown concern. Some people are frustrated, just as we are. Some are blatantly rude to us. Let me explain...

A few years ago, we were approached by Tom Schneider, past curator of birds at the Detroit Zoo. He presented to us the perfect opportunity to help an endangered species of bird called the **Common Tern**. He explained that he discovered a small group of these birds nesting at the front lighthouse. With help from the Zoo and the DNR, we could adjust the grounds on that front light and develop an ideal habitat for nesting. Therefore, we can help the numbers grow off the endangered list. There are only a few spots stretching from Lake Erie to Lake Huron that these birds prefer. The front Light has become one of their favorite spots because they are not bothered by natural predators or human interference.

Well, we are happy to report that the nesting has flourished, and the numbers continue to improve. But recently this is at great cost to the Lights! In addition to Mother Nature destroying the structures and fencing from several seasons of higher water levels and waves, the terns have shown territorial aggression and have now taken over the rear island also. This makes it dangerous and very difficult to perform virtually any tasks on the Lights. They are still a protected species, and their eggs cannot be damaged. Also, they do their nesting from mid-April to the end of August, leaving us only a mere two months until the end of Michigan's boating season to do any work. Keep in mind our additional and unusual circumstance, these lighthouses are not attached to any mainland. They both sit in the middle of Lake St. Clair, often making tasks more difficult and more expensive. Every section of the fence is down, the tool shed has been ripped off its foundation, and the siding on both out-buildings have a lot of damage. These issues have hindered not only our never-ending necessary upkeep, but also our ability for progress on the grounds and the lighthouse structures.

We have tried many safe deterrents to prevent the birds from taking up residence on the rear lighthouse island. These include stretching out fishing line, hanging CDs, placing wind spinners around the island, and recently we purchased an \$1100 machine that changes irritating sounds. NONE of these worked. We've mentioned before that Dave was bird spiked a few years back while trying to repair the fence, nearly needing stitches. It's just a shame, that after finally being able to share the fruits of our labors with all of our supporters, by hosting weddings and other events or small tours, to recently having these problems control our progress which not only came to a stop, but also have set us backwards. We are frustrated, but still hopeful. We will persevere!

We have recently reached out to the Detroit Zoo for help only to be told they have no suggestions. We suggested contacting the Corp of Engineers for assistance in possibly

(President's Message continued from page 2)

developing the Firecracker with a habitat to attract the birds to the end of Seaway Island. This could be a good location because it's unable to be occupied by humans. This idea was declined as well. Our next step is discussion with the DNR, hopefully by the time of publication, we'll have already met with the DNR and have a possible direction and solution. We hope to get out there early this year and occupy the island to get some work done. Ice permitting, we can gain access before the terns to assess and plan another functional season since water levels should have also decreased. The Terns usually migrate back in early April. I believe the sheer presence of people on the island will help deter them from the rear lighthouse island.

2022 Goals and wishes

Our goals are the same as last year, we are taking them off the shelf and dusting them off for re-evaluation. We are eager to tend to the lights, restore the fence, and repair the outhouse and the badly damaged shed. As mentioned above, these structures have become devastated. Over the 2021 winter, the shed was pushed onto the land by the power of the waves. Thank goodness Dave was able to secure the shed and prevent it from being washed into the water. It is unsalvageable so a rebuild is required. We have secured contractors to perform the above tasks. We need to bring her back to 2006-2007 status of beauty!

Miracles can happen

We collaboratively dig deep and try to find ways to raise the remaining funds to straighten and repair the front lighthouse. We seek out new quality and desirable merchandise to sell. We continue to search for that one grant that can rebuild the front light like we had for the rear light. Sometimes we cross opportunities seeming to good to be true and we have to walk away. Other times, an officer comes up with a great item, like the Anchor sales, or the Golf Outing. One recent dissatisfying grant opportunity lead me to think, "All it takes is to reach a dozen or so folks who need to donate." If 500,000 people were to donate a single dollar, or 250,000 people donated just \$2..., if 100,000 people donated \$5..., or if we can somehow get 10,000 people to donate \$50. It can happen!!! We just need to find those Angels that love lighthouses! We are recruiting you all and asking for your help. Please spread our efforts, share our story. There is an old shampoo commercial.... Just tell two friends!!!

What You mean to the organization

Year after year, I often get asked at shows, events, and presentations, "What does my membership get me"? My typical response is a Newsletter, SOSCL decal, a membership card, and status of being a member of the SOSCL group. But what your membership really means to the organization is sustainability. It's only because of your membership, we get to continue to operate and seek grants, pay for insurance, make small strides each year and maintain the lights. We get to purchase merchandise each year to offer to you all. Membership funds also help with repairs and lawn

Did you know you can sign into your AMAZON account with the AMAZON SMILE program and a portion (0.5%) of your sale will go to SOSCL! <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-2850872> Just another great way to support our organization!



THANK YOU To Our Neighbors, the HARSENS ISLAND OLD CLUB

for all of your generous support over the years! These Range Lights are in your back yard and your members get the best up-close view. Your annual end of season 50/50 raffle helps to make a huge difference for these lighthouses and the entire Lake St. Clair boating community sees that all summer long. SOSCL wants to recognize and show our appreciation for all that you do to continue helping in the restoration of these nautical gems of Lake St. Clair history.

equipment. But most of all we get to pursue Chuck and Scotty's dream of saving and restoring these lights.

We want to say Thank You and best wishes for 2022!
Save your Heritage,

Gary Strobel



Keepers Message

Happy 2022 everyone! I would like to take this opportunity to provide an update on our progress at the South Channel lights last season, as well as discuss our plans for this year. Spring is on the horizon, and I look forward to getting out to the lights again this season.

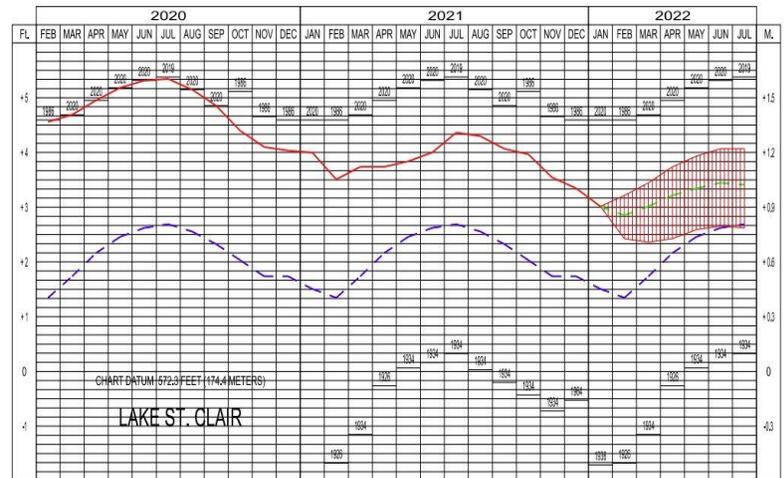
Here is a review of our activities for 2021. We made our first trip of the season out to the lights on March 21st. The lights themselves came through the winter in good shape. However, our tool shed took a severe beating over the winter. It was actually lifted off of its foundation and thrown onto the island. The high-water levels and waves were really weakening the structure by the fall of 2020 and we surrounded the shed with a steel cable to ensure that it didn't get washed into the lake. It's a good thing that we took the precautions, or it certainly would have been washed away. We are evaluating whether the building is salvageable.

We had to wrap up our Lighthouse work for the season in late November. We took the last trip on November 22nd. We secured things for the Winter and said goodbye to the lights until Spring. Even with the challenges presented by COVID-19 and the high-water levels, we logged a significant amount onsite volunteer time in 2021.

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 when we get significant waves our fence and sheds get pounded by the force of the water. The waves also scatter the large rocks that we installed around the perimeter to prevent erosion. One of the other challenges that we have been dealing with is the invasion and colonization of the light house islands by the Common Terns. These birds are a federally protected species that began nesting on the smaller front island several years ago. Their colony has grown and has spread to the rear island. The problem is that once they begin nesting, we are restricted in our activities. We have difficulty



LAKE ST. CLAIR WATER LEVELS - FEBRUARY 2022



mowing or doing other things on the island. The birds are migratory and impact us from about May until September. So, what can we expect for the 2022 season? I think there is some good news for water levels this year, it looks like we may be over the hump in terms of threats and damage due to flooding. The Corps of Engineers in their February report predict a range that would represent a drop of about 10 inches from the last year. This would bring much needed relief and spare us from the damage that we have been experiencing at the lights. We are also working with the bird experts at the Detroit Zoo and the DNR to find a workable solution to the Common Tern problem. The deterrent methods that we have tried so far have not been successful. As always, we will deal with whatever challenges are thrown 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



Secretary's Message

Most of you have met me at least once over the years. I've been a part of this great organization for about 26 years or so. My son and I actually volunteered before we even saw the beauty of these lights firsthand. I worked with our founder, Charles "Chuck" Brockman for several years and I was in awe listening to him as he often spoke so fondly of these lighthouses. He invited me to come with him and his wife "Scotty" as they gave presentations to various groups of people. I listened with such intent. I became hooked on learning as much as possible about the romance and the history of these twin sisters. Little did I know that I was being recruited to take Chucks place at the podium one day. I miss him very much, he passed away in 2015. I cherish our time together and I am thrilled to continue pursuing his dream to restore

these lights. I'm not the only one. This team of board members at SOSCL are so devoted to pursuing this project, not for ourselves, but for the future generations. Our position with this project is to pay it forward, just as Chuck did.

Part of my responsibilities are promoting our goals and accomplishments through various forms of media and in person, I record our quarterly meeting minutes, and I work as many shows as I can. Restoring these lights has become more than a responsibility, it's a part of who I am.

I'd like to personally take a moment to invite you to a meeting that we hold only once a year. Our annual meeting used to be a huge event. It was THE event that kicked-off the beginning of LSCN boating season. A lot has changed over the past decade; some faces are different, peoples affordable time and abilities, even desires. One constant is the fact that SOSCL progress continues so that *these lights are still standing*. A project this large and important always visualize the discovery of new goals to accomplish. In addition to the necessary restoration work, like your homes, there is always something to merely maintain. Please show your support by booking us into your calendar for a few hours on this one day. The last-minute boat work can wait a few hours, you'll deserve a break by then. Bring a friend, share a kick-off-the-season cocktail, and come join us at 1:00 on April 9th at our annual meeting at Total Sports.

The pandemic concerns and water-levels may have slowed our manual progress, but this mighty set of lights have seen these very issues before. They are 163 years young you know. If anything, the recent struggles have taken our collaborative ideas in some new and exciting directions. We've lost much needed fundraiser money and decreased our educational outreach abilities through tours and weddings. So, our new *AmazonSmile* fundraiser should help. Pennies add to dollars and every penny helps. Last year's *Golf Outing* was a lot of work to create, being our initial one. But, the support was instant and generous, everyone had fun, and it proved to be a successful event. Then, our *exclusive, decorative SOSCL Anchor* proved to also be a great idea all around Lake Saint Clair. It's a great way to display your nautical love. Last year, we had a limited number of anchors produced and they sold out in under 30 days. We have restocked, be certain to pick one up before this year's stock disappear.

Thank you to everyone who came out in 2021 to help us in any and all ways. Gary Strobel said it best, the love and support given to SOSCL last year was enormous. In fact, it was the 2nd best year we've ever had fundraising. We definitely worked our fannies off but, what a year! If each of us directors continue working as a team, each of you continue to help us through participation in our events, and together we share the story of the South Channel Range Lights, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.

Kathy Brady

SOSCL EXCLUSIVE ANCHOR



Last year we created a new fundraiser idea that proved to be a huge success! 52 anchors were delivered to us mid-season, and every one of them sold out in less than one month. These anchors are intended to be wrapped in your favorite color and form of lighting to shine brightly throughout the night. These anchors are created of aluminum to be light weight and to prevent rusting as they hang outside. They have wall mounts welded to one side with

double screw holes on each mount which helps to hold them secure to any outdoor wall, telephone pole, fence post, etc. Whether you live along the lake in the Grosse Pointes, St. Clair Shores, Harrison Twp., New Baltimore, Ira Twp., Harsens Island, Marine City, St. Clair, or further inland, These anchors are a great way to decorate in a beautiful nautical way while showing support in restoring the South Channel Range Lights. You can get yours by visiting us at one of the events that we participate in every year or by calling us at 810-748-1888. Thank You.

\$100.00 (tax-deductible write-off donation)





Treasury Report

Bonnie Kreig

BALANCE SHEET as of December 31, 2021

SOSCL Dues Renewal Time

It's been both exciting and a struggle restoring these nautical gems. We've made a lot of progress, but we have so much left to complete. Thanks to the dedication of our board, our hard working volunteers,

we will prevail. We've 0,000 over the years to it quote to complete the 00. If you find it in your goal, please renew your membership. Included in our dinner for our children and the generation to pass this envelope on to you to thank all the links may also appreciate be surprised how many ever heard of the South Channel Lights. We are always looking for new members.



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or re-

ation for a three year term) 2025
(a two year term) 2024

2024
eral

US
UNITED STATES

OUR SOUTH CHANNEL LIGHTS... A BOAT.U.S.
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up # GA82854B

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- Custom Boat Graphics and Lettering
- Low Rate Boat Financing

Visit BoatUS.com/Membership to learn about all benefits and services offered to BoatUS Members.



SAVE OUR SOUTH CHANNEL LIGHTS

2nd ANNUAL LIGHTHOUSE KEEPERS

GOLF TOURNAMENT

SAT 2022 OCTOBER 8

Rain Date: October 15th.

MICHIGAN MEADOWS GOLF COURSE
and Little Camille's By The Green
4575 County Line Rd. Casco Twp, MI 48064

To Register, Please Go To

www.SOSChannelLights.org/events/soscl-annual-golf-outing

Pre-Register by Sept 8,
\$120/Person or \$400/Team of 4.
Thereafter cost is
\$150/Person or \$500/Team of 4.
9:00 am Registration and Bloody Mary Bar
10:00 am Shot-Gun Start
3:00 Scoring, Awards, Dinner Reception
Fee includes: Greens Fee, Cart, Lunch at the

Turn, Dinner, Gift Bag.
Prizes for Closest To The Pin on Par 3,
Longest Drive, Skins, Hole In One
Don't Want To Golf But Still Want To
Get Involved, Join Us At 2:30 For Our
Reception Dinner \$35.
Sponsorship Opportunities Available
Contact Kathy at 810-748-1888

\$ 212.50

\$ 171,921.73

\$ 172,134.23

s great for the lights!

uting which helps fund restoration and keep our year was our first outing and it was a great Mary's to the gift baskets, the groomed course, followed by a great buffet dinner. Be sure to put

this in your Calendar and get your foursome together. The team is working hard for you to enjoy a great Fall day. We look forward to signing you up and you will have a blast at the 2nd Annual SOSCL's Golf

Honorable
Volunteer,

In Memory (Chronological order)





Wishing everyone a healthy and prosperous 2022. Our Director, Ken Kmieske passed away this past fall. We worked well together, both as past Commodores of local boat clubs for many years. Miss you Ken. Many were concerned about the light that was leaning. This light will require a large amount of money to straighten. Grant money has helped us to get where we are today. We need large donations & grant money once again to repair this light. Help wanted for grant money will be most welcome.

Wally Dombrowski



Hello, I am a fairly new board member trying to help out these hard-working members that have put in numerous hours or should I say YEARS in restoring the South Channel Lights

They need your help in this vast endeavor. Take a few minutes and go to our website and you will be able to see what has been done and what our goals are. There are many ways you can help out. The best way is to join up and volunteer, work either on the lights or work the fundraisers we attend (fairs, art shows, boat shows, golf outings and so on), if you cannot help physically send in a donation or help us get donations. Any effort in the right direction will help restore what has been given to us (History). If you are a boater, you know the two Range Lights still lead us in deep water from the lake into the old south channel. We need more smiling faces!

Bob Krieg

~ ~ Volunteers Needed ~ ~

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. 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 in Michigan and we know what a sacrifice it truly is to work a booth on a beautiful weekend 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! Volunteer online or by calling us at 810-748-1888. Thank you!

Thank You!
Macomb and St. Clair County
Marine Sheriff departments.
 We appreciate your watching the 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 **PRIVATE PROPERTY** and for safety reasons, entrance on to the property is only permitted with permission and the presence of one of the SOSCL directors. Visitations may be scheduled through our President, Gary Strobel. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Contact Information : 810-748-1888

- Gary Strobel (President) soslights1@gmail.com
- Dave Bollinger (VP) sosclvpres@gmail.com
- Kathy Brady (Secretary) sosclsec@gmail.com
- Bonnie Kreig (Treasurer) soscltreas@gmail.com
- Mark Miller (Director) mark@littlecamilles.com
- Margueritte Dombrowski (Director) mar111888@aol.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

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 continue to pursue these efforts to preserve these remarkable pieces of Lake Saint Clair history. Thank you!



**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)

First and Last Name (Print) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____

Credit Card Signature: _____

Card Number _____ CVV _____ EXP Date _____

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An All-Volunteer, Non-Profit Organization.

We Appreciate Your Support!

