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PASSAGES

* PO Box 307 * Drummond Island MI 49726 * drlps@drlps.com * www.DRLPS.com * 906-493-6609 *



Today!

Issue 44

We'll Keep the Light on for You!

Spring 2022

DeTour Reef Light is Without Commercial Power 2022 Keeper and Tour Programs Cancelled



Power cable before 2003 repair to steel protection

On March 21st Cloverland Electric Cooperative informed De-Tour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS) preservation and maintenance chair Brian Nettleton that there was a ground fault on the submarine cable powering DeTour Reef Light and power has been terminated. The power cable extends from Point DeTour over 4,000 feet to the Light. In November of 2003 Dave Bardsley inspected the cable and discovered that it lies on the shoreline where it enters the lake and the steel box protection made of angle irons clamped together had failed. (See photo). He recruited Norm Muench and Ken Walker from the Drummond Island Lions to reconstruct the box protection with material to DRLPS specifications fabricated by Bunker Manufacturing in Sault Ste. Marie.

DRLPS has consulted with several companies referred by Cloverland Electric on possible ways to determine how to address the ground fault. Only two methods were suggested: 1) replace the entire 4,000 feet of cable or 2) locate where the fault occurs on the cable and splice in a fix. Specialized equip-

ment can be used to send an electrical signal down the cable to get an approximate location of the failure. To do this, the exact configuration of the cable must be known, which can only be determined by disconnecting the cable at one end, requiring the coordination of the power company and an electrical contractor. If the failure is on shore or close to shore correction may be an affordable solution. If the failure is on shore or close to shore correction may be an affordable solution.

(CONTINUED on Page 3)



Placing new steel protection on power cable to DeTour Reef Light

A Keeper Experience to Repeat



Brad at the microphone chatting with a ham operator in Germany.

What is the American Dream? Presumably 2 cars, 1.5 kids, 3 bedrooms in the suburbs with easy access to highways, theaters, and shopping. We chased it for a long time and when we finally got it right, walked away to just the opposite. Our retirement home is a Cold War relic circa 1957 AT&T microwave relay site in south central Montana. (See picture on page 4.) Built to survive a nuclear strike within 2 miles, this above ground bunker features a massive 180-foot-high self-supporting steel lattice tower—perfect for a ham radio hobbyist's dream station! We gradually modified and added on to make this remote facility our retirement home. So, when it came time to take an appropriately unconventional vacation, where else could we go but DeTour Reef Light?

First day out was scrubbed due to wind and high surf, so by the time we got to the light on Saturday our keeper mates only had one night to stay. We extended a few nights longer so had a lot of time alone on the light. Amazing solitude, a balm to the soul. But still a great place to

play! Of course, ham radio had to be set up, with DRLPS permission a small antenna system was deployed and many afternoons and evenings were spent making contacts with radio operators in New Zealand, Europe, South America, and all over the states. Hams are like many other folks; they love collecting the unusual—in this case a “QSL card” confirming radio contact with a very unusual location. A total of 373 contacts in 23 countries was made over 4 days!

Would we do it again? You bet we'll do it again, next time for a week! This will allow more time to clear spider webs from windows and doorways (think twice about going if you have a thing for spiders!), make even more ham radio contacts, and become more creative **with the guest keeper logbook. Then there's the amazing library of lighthouse and maritime related books in the keeper's office, we barely got started on them....**

(More pictures on page 4.)



Brad with the temporary ham radio antenna setup on the crow's nest railing.

Power Problem (Continued from page 1)

Since the steel protection installed in 2003 could have failed over time, Dave Bardsley inspected the cable on April 5th. The exposed length of the protected cable was fully intact and showed no evidence of damage over more than 18 years of exposure to the elements.

Establishing the location of the failure will not be a simple or quick action. Repair will be more complicated. Accordingly, the 2022 season of keeper programs and lighthouse tours have been canceled. Refunds will be made to those who have already made paid reservations. A request for reservations for the 2023 season can be made by email to tours@drlps.com or keepers@drlps.com. Tour and Keeper coordinator Mary Chamberlin will respond to such requests.



DeTour Reef Light power cable with steel protection looking East toward power pole



DeTour Reef Light power cable with steel protection looking West

Mark Your Calendars 2022

Light Keeper Weekends

(Maximum 6 people per weekend)

Friday thru Sunday

Weekends - June 17-19 thru September 2-4

Cancelled for 2022 Season

For more information contact:

Mary Chamberlin 906-430-8169

Email: keepers@drlps.com

<http://drlps.com/stay-or-visit/stay-at-the-lighthouse/>

Lighthouse Tours

(Maximum 6 people per tour)

Saturdays - June 18 thru September 3

Cancelled for 2022 season

For more information contact:

Mary Chamberlin 906-430-8169

Email: tours@drlps.com

<http://drlps.com/stay-or-visit/tour-the-lighthouse/>

Evening Under the Stars

Drummond Island Yacht Haven

Saturday, July 16, 6 PM

For more information contact:

Mary Chamberlin 906-430-8169

Email: StarsEvent@drlps.com

<http://drlps.com/news-events/evening-under-the-stars/>



Nordic Bocce

Drummond Island Township Golf Course

Sunday, August 14, 2 PM

For more information contact:

Joe Henne 906 630-5093

Email: DRLPS@drlps.com

<http://drlps.com/news-events/bocce/>

Pictures continued from page 2



Our “lighthouse” in Big Timber, Montana, former AT&T microwave relay site in front of the Crazy Mountains.

Great opportunity to practice one’s skill with a drone—or maybe a great way to lose a \$500 toy into Lake Huron?



Brad and Barbara leaving the light, smiling because we’ll be back next summer. One advantage of being alone on the light is that there’s never a problem with luggage space on the boat!

Dinner with fellow lighthouse keepers, including future DRLPS Tour and Keeper Program co-chair Mary Chamberlin (r). This was our favorite room, a great place to get together with a world class view.

Found on Drummond Island

Ashley LaPointe, owner of the shop Fall But Once on Drummond Island is all smiles showing a sweat shirt with a graphic she designed of the DeTour Reef Light.

If you’re interested in the sweat shirt she is on FaceBook. Find her at “Fall But Once”.



NEWS OF DRLPS NORDIC BOCCE

Joe Henne

Passages friends:

I apologize for being negligent and slow in informing DRLPS members of our last two outdoor events of 2021. The 5th ANNUAL DRLPS NORDIC BOCCE was held again on the second Sunday of August - August 14. We had terrible stormy weather for the couple of days leading up to the event, then about an hour before first bocce ball was to be tossed the wonderful Potagannissing sun brought in a warm blue sky and we had a rain free event lasting approximately three hours! We did have a few no shows, but the eight teams that played had a great time. **THELIA's TRU TOSSERS we're the winners.**

Joe Henne presents the 2021 Bocce trophy to the champs Karrie Cloudman, Mike Ostlund, Phil, Perry, and Gary Cloudman

The team this year was comprised of Gary Cloudman, Carrie Cloudman, Mike Ostlund, and Phil Perry. (Thelia and Barb were adventuring with pals in Traverse City). Anyway the Esprit 'd Corp was great, refreshments enjoyable, the brats tasty! Please save the 2nd Sunday in August 2022 to celebrate DRLPS NORDIC BOCCE in and around Drummond Island Township Golf Course. REGISTER EARLY for 2022. Call Thelia G. or Carrie Cloudman!

The Annual Bocce Tournament returns for 2022 on Sunday, August 14

Get your DRLPS ORIGINAL NORDIC BOCCE T-SHIRTS to wear at the tournament.
YELLOW BLUE GRAY SIZES: L, XL, XXL

Early Season Sale : \$20
call Joe (906) 493-6639 or (906) 630-5093



The awards ceremony was enjoyed by all the players even though they were smelling the brats and ready to eat..



The coveted trophy

DeTour Reef Light 2 DVD Video Available

The best way to learn about DeTour Reef Light, short of visiting the light in person, is to view the "Gateway to Superior" video set. Conditions prior to restoration, the restoration effort, interviews with those who built the light in 1931 and operated it when it was a manned by the Coast Guard, and the recent experiences of volunteer keepers of DeTour Reef Light are documented. It is a must see. The set is available from DRLPS for \$8 plus \$0.64 tax. Shipping is available (priority mail) for \$7.20. Mail your order to DRLPS Video, P.O. Box 307, Drummond Island, MI 49726 or Email DRLPS@DRLPS.com. Charge cards are accepted.



Russ Norris Elected President of DRLPS for 2022



After serving as President of the DRLPS for 5 years, Joe Henne has passed the gavel to Russ Norris. This is a return to the Presidency for Russ who previously served as President of the Society for 2 years (2008 and 2009). He has been on the DRLPS board since 2005 and teaches Social Studies and Computer Technology at DeTour High School. He coordinates the youth activities on the Light.

Russ Norris's first involvement with the DRLPS came in conjunction with an after-school technology program that he was coordinating for the school. With the assistance of Chuck and Jeri Feltner, students were able to participate in a wide variety of projects including transcribing oral histories, developing websites and brochures, recreating lighthouse drawings in digital formats, recording and editing digital photographs and videos of and about the DeTour Reef Light, and even visits to the Lighthouse to assist with its care and upkeep.

In accepting the Presidency, Russ stated, "The DRLPS has set a rare standard of excellence for historical preservation. It is a source of tremendous community pride and I am grateful for all of the individuals who have contributed to its many achievements and accolades. I sincerely hope that we can keep the light on for many generations to come! "

Thank you, Russ, for taking the helm of the DRLPS and "Keeping the Light On...."

Joe Henne Completes 5 Years as President of DRLPS

Thank you, Joe Henne, for 5 years as President. You have brought us Nordic Bocce, Dark Skies and with your wife, Chris, Evening Under the Stars. **You have been a "hands on" President with innovative ideas for fund raising and membership growth!**

Joe will continue to chair the Silent Auction for the Evening Under the Stars and will finding more unusual, interesting and exciting items to bid on.



Charter Boat Services Sought

DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS) is seeking to contract with a charter boat to ferry passengers between Fort Drummond Marine and DeTour Reef Light

Since 2005 DRLPS has conducted tours and overnight Lighthouse Keeper programs on DeTour Reef Light. Generally, keepers are taken to the Light early Friday afternoon and are picked up about 1pm Sunday afternoon. Keepers have the option of extending their stay any number of days past the weekend. Tours are usually conducted on Saturday afternoon. These programs run from mid-June until Labor Day weekend. Please email DRLPS@DRLPS.com or call 906-493-6609 for more information.

These charter services have been provided by Sturgeon Bay Charters and Captain Ivan Gable for 15 years. The service has been excellent, and we wish Captain Ivan well in his retirement from this part of his business.

New Folks at DRLPS

Mary Chamberlin has stepped up to coordinate the scheduling of the Tour and Keepers Programs. The DRLPS is grateful for her involvement, and she is a welcome addition to the programs. The tour number remains the same and is now also the keeper number. Call 906-430-8169 for information on the programs.

Mary is also chairing the Evening Under the Stars on July 16. Joe Henne will be chairing the Silent Auction with her. There is more information on “Stars” on page 8.

From Mary Chamberlin:

I taught for 32 years at the Western School District in Parma, Michigan in general education, special education and STEM education. I am active in the Destination Imagination program and am on the Michigan Creativity Association Board of Directors. My husband and I are retiring on Drummond Island and we love lighthouses and their history. I love DRLPS because it is my favorite light and I am so impressed with how the history of this light has been maintained



Brad McGann will be taking over as the editor of Passages. Paula Bardsley and Ann Method Green will continue as co-editors while Brad learns the ins and outs of getting the newsletter published and out to the membership and friends of DRLPS.



From Brad McGann:

Born and raised in Virginia, my work as a cellular wireless engineer kept us moving as I planted cell towers in various states from Tennessee to California and even some in Panama. Married (Barbara) with an adult son (career Army), I now live in south central Montana where my love for all things unusual keeps me busy maintaining our antique 1954 Seeburg jukebox and early 1990's “Terminator 2” and “Star Trek Next Generation” pinball machines.

Past Editor's note:

The Board and Chairs have been meeting through Zoom over the last many months. Because of Zoom both Mary and Brad have been able to participate and support the DRLPS remotely. Others are on Zoom from Bay City/Saginaw, Ann Arbor, South Carolina, Montana, and Mid-Michigan They are proving that you don't have to be in the DeTour Reef Light area to participate.

2022 DeTour Reef Light Tours and Keeper Program Canceled

The 2022 season of keeper programs and lighthouse tours has been cancelled. Refunds will be made to those who have already made paid reservations. A request for reservations for the 2023 season can be made by email to tours@drlps.com or keepers@drlps.com.

Evening Under the Stars

The snow is finally starting to melt in the UP and the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society's Evening Under the Stars team is busy making plans for this summer's event.

First of all, the date -- Saturday, July 16, 2022. Please mark your calendars now so that it doesn't get forgotten amidst all of the other summer activities.

The location -- Same as last year, the Drummond Island Yacht Haven "Big Dock" Building on Water Street on Drummond Island. This worked out very well last year. It's wide open to the beautiful view of the boats and water but still covered just in case the weather isn't perfect.

The meal -- Barbecue Chef Extraordinaire Joe Claxton will once again be preparing the meat course, with an assortment of sides and desserts still to be determined. This year we won't run out of food. Last year we had lots of "walk-ins" that we hadn't planned on (it hasn't happened before), and sadly, some guests got short-changed on dinner. Our apologies, and rest assured, that won't happen again this year.

Silent Auction -- We are already starting to line up some great items. If you would like to donate something for the auction, please contact Joe Henne at 906-493-6639 or 906-630-5093.

Our chairperson this year is Mary Chamberlin. You can call her with questions or to assist on the night of the event at 517-879-9511.

The cost -- \$75 per person, the same as last year. Something new -- you can reserve an entire table for 8 for \$600. Payment must accompany your reservation, but you won't have to identify just who those 8 people are until closer to the date of the event.

Smiles from the 2021 Stars Event

Left:

Jim and Barb Gusfa with Joe Fennell welcome Stars attendees.

Right:

The Chairs of the Event, Joe and Chris Henne with the help of their daughter Megan Kusseldorf, (center) setting up for the events



Dark Skies Initiative

The INAUGURAL DRLPS DARK SKIES INITIATIVE was also held at the Drummond Island Township Golf Course on August 8th. The invited presenter was MARY STEWART ADAMS. Ms Stewart-Adams was one of the pioneers in planning and building the Dark Skies Park that is affiliated with Wilderness State Park near the Mackinaw Bridge in Emmet County between Mackinaw City and Harbor Springs. She also has an affiliation with dark skies and National Public Radio. Her most recent work came in the form of writing a book which links different constellations with nursery rhymes! HER PRESENTATION WAS EXCEPTIONAL and the executive board awarded her with a year's DRLPS membership, a small honorarium, and an open invitation to return to witness one of the best dark skies that she has ever seen. Did I say she was wonderful and terrific? The event was attended by a combination of approximately sixty friends and members of DRLPS. We forgot to pass the jar so consequently came up empty in the fundraising department but a most enjoyable evening was had by all who attended. Next year we may try again. Let us know whether you would like to attend a dark skies event!



Mary Stewart Adams sharing stories of the Stars while waiting for the planets and stars to come out.

Mary Stewart Adams sharing stories of the Stars while waiting for the planets and stars to come out.

More Smiles from the 2021 Stars Event

Left:

Kathy and Paul Johnson are all smiles over their Silent Auction win



Right:

Lois Bryant checks out the Silent Auction Table.



DRLPS salutes Ann Method Green 15 years promoting our Light



*Ann Method Green and Joe Henne
with US Flag flown over the Michigan
Capital Building*

Senator John Damoose attended the 2021 Evenig Under the Stars and presented Ann Method Green with a US flag in recognition of her service to the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society.

Joe Henne spoke of Ann's contribution to the DRLPS: "To say that Ann is an active supporter of the DeTour Reef Light and the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society is an understatement." Her involvement with the DRLPS started in 2006 when Jeri Baron Feltner encouraged her to step up as Public Relations Chair.

In 2007 she was elected to the Board and became President in 2011. While serving as President she continued as PR Chair and also coordinated the Roof Repair Grant with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). She served as President for five terms ending in 2015 and also picked up the responsibilities of chairing the Tour Program. She and the other tour guides continue sharing the Light with people on the tours and thoroughly enjoy regaling them with stories of the escapades of the young men serving on the Light.

She has been the go-to person for the DRLPS Web site and maintains and updates it.

In addition to the tours and the web site duties, she is currently the Temporary co-chair of the newsletter that you are reading.

To enhance her support of DRLPS, Ann also serves on the Board of the Michigan Lighthouse Alliance whose goal is to support and to advocate for all the lighthouse groups in Michigan as they work to preserve and maintain these historic structures. She has served as their Treasurer since 2010.

Thank you Ann for sharing your enthusiasm and skill set with the DRLPS.

Membership Renewal

To renew your annual membership (Basic - \$30, Patron - \$50, or Keeper - \$100) by mail, please send your check or credit card information to DRLPS, PO Box 307, Drummond Island, MI 49726, or you can call our Membership Chairperson, Paula Bardsley, at 906-493-6609. Please include any changes in your address(es), phone number(s) or email address(es). Also, please consider upgrading to one of the lifetime memberships at this time (Lifetime - \$500, Grand Keeper - \$1000).

DETOUR REEF LIGHT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

PO Box 307

Drummond Island MI 49726

www.DRLPS.com

Email: DRLPS@drlps.com

President: Russ Norris DRLPS@drlps.com**Vice President:** Joe Henne VP@drlps.com**Treasurer:** David Bardsley, Treasurer@drlps.com**Secretary:** Hallie Wilson, Secretary@drlps.com**Directors:** Terry Breiler, Ann Method Green, Michael Horton, John Orr
Brian Nettleton**Founding Director Emerita:** Jeri Baron Feltner**Director Emeritus:** Clifton Haley**Honorary Director:** James S. Woodward**Public Relations:** Joe Henne, PR@drlps.com**Keeper and Tour Program:** Mary Chamberlin, Keepers@drlps.com or
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\$30 Basic, \$50 Patron, \$100 Keeper, \$500 Lifetime, \$1000 Grand Keeper.

All memberships include the family.

www.DRLPS.com * Membership@drlps.com * 906-493-6609
or write DRLPS, PO Box 307, Drummond Island MI 49726**DeTour Reef Lighthouse Preservation Society**

DRLPS is a volunteer nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization established in 1998 to restore and preserve the DeTour Reef Light. Donations are welcomed and are tax-deductible (EIN 38-3387252, MICS 27001).

The Light was automated in 1974. In 1997, the lighthouse was declared surplus property by the U. S. Coast Guard due to sophisticated navigational systems aboard ships, and the Coast Guard's not having the funding to care for the structure in accordance with historic preservation guidelines. In January 1998, local citizens joined together to save the Light.

The lighthouse was built in 1931, and proudly stands guard a mile offshore in northern Lake Huron at the far eastern end of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The structure rises 83 feet above the water and marks a dangerous reef to help guide ship traffic from and to Lake Huron and Lake Superior via the strategic St. Mary's River.

The DRLPS received the 2005 Governor's Award for excellence in historic preservation, and the Superior Award in 2006 from the Historical Society of Michigan. The DeTour Reef Light is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2010 the DRLPS was designated a Preserve America Steward by First Lady Michelle Obama.

PURPOSE: the purpose of DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society is to establish, support and promote efforts in the preservation and restoration of the DeTour Reef Light; to achieve the safe keeping of the building, artifacts and records; to educate and inform the public on lighthouse history; to enhance public awareness of the value this lighthouse and its keepers brought to our nation's development; to make the DeTour Reef Light a premier tourist attraction in Michigan's Upper Peninsula as the best example of a faithfully restored offshore lighthouse in the Nation; to provide the public safe access to the lighthouse; to raise awareness about the importance of volunteers in maintaining and preserving the DeTour Reef Light and the DRLPS for generations to come.

PASSAGES is the official publication of the DRLPS. Statements and opinions appearing herein are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of DRLPS, its officers or members. The editor reserves the right to edit all material for publication and to publish material which is felt to be in the best interest of the DRLPS. Permission is granted to reprint, providing credit will be given to the author, DRLPS, and provided that copyright is not involved, return copy of the article when published would be appreciated. To submit comments and/or articles to the Editor, email newsletter@drlps.com or send by mail to: DRLPS, PO Box 307, Drummond Island, MI 49726

Your input for the future issues of *Passages* would be appreciated. Thank you!