

# Shine On!





### THE MISSION

The mission of North Manitou Light Keepers is to restore the North Manitou Shoal Light Station, make it and its history available to the public for education and appreciation, and cultivate an active community of stewardship for this piece of Michigan maritime history that stands amidst one of America's most beautiful locations.

### THE VISION

North Manitou Shoal Light is an active lighthouse where people honor its history and legacy while enjoying unique and amazing experiences, immersed in awe-inspiring beauty.



## Hello Lightkeepers!

We are excited to share with you the inaugural edition of **Shine On!**, the annual report of the North Manitou Light Keepers. We hope you like it and future editions!

A common question we get these days is "when will we be able to stay overnight at the Crib?" The answer is: it depends. As a group, we have accomplished a lot! We cleaned up the lighthouse, painted it, restored its windows, and started tours for the first time in its 85 year history. This year,

we opened the sea doors for the first time since 1980 and replaced the badly deteriorated roof over the living quarters.

Our next phase of restoration is to fix up the interior. This includes some structural restoration, installation of mechanical systems, and adding furnishings to the kitchen, radio room, bathrooms, guest quarters, and other spaces. This will enable members to stay overnight or for a weekend at the Crib! Our vision, however, goes much further than that! In the future, we see the Crib being a place for special social events, retreats, and team building activities, a platform for education, and taking its place as a special part of Leelanau County's beautiful historical sites. We cannot wait to get there!

How fast we can get there will depend on resources, specifically private donations, grants, sponsorships, and useful in-kind contributions. This support will make all the difference. Please check out the information later in our report, which lays out what work is coming up and what it will take to complete it. If you can help get us there, please pitch in!

Thank you and . . . of course,

## Shine On!

**Daniel Oginsky**, President \ **Dave McWilliam**, Chief of Restoration and Operations  
**Todd Buckley**, Board Member \ **Jake Kaberle**, Board Member \ **Anna Oginsky**, Board Member  
**Jason Sieloff**, Treasurer \ **Kim Kelderhouse**, Business Manager

# WHAT IS GOING ON WITH RESTORATION?

*Lots!*

**This summer saw the completion of two important projects:**  
*The sea door and the re-roofing of the mid-deck.*

The sea door is complete and has been a monumental project. Cutting out the old door which was “permanently” welded shut by the Coast Guard and never designed to be opened again, fabricating an authentic reproduction door, and framing out the opening has been a challenging project. Everything is heavy steel - the new door weighs over 400 pounds!

Completion of this project has allowed much simpler and safer access to the lighthouse. Since the opening of the sea door, we have had guests this year as young as nine months old, and some over 80 years old!



*Sea Door*



A special thanks goes out to our main contractor Geoff Niessink, with the assistance of “Joy” Captain, Joel Peterson. Their skill, innovation, and expertise has made this project possible. Also, a huge “Thank you!” to the Paul family, who sponsored this project to make the lighthouse accessible to as many people as possible.

## *Mid-Deck Roof*

The other major project has been the re-roofing of the mid-deck. This important project was necessary to stop major water intrusion and damage to the living quarters of the lighthouse. This \$125,000 project was paid for in part by a grant from the State of Michigan's “Save our Lights” license plate program, a generous grant from the Edmund and Virginia Ball Foundation, and generous donations from our members and supporters. Thank you all for your support - we couldn't have done it without you!



So what's next in 2023? Now that the final major water intrusion has been stopped, we will turn our focus to the interior. Plans for 2023 include structural steel repairs, and completely refurbishing the bedrooms, radio room and kitchen.

We will also start the initial planning and installation of interior systems as part of creating a comfortable space for overnight stays. There are several other smaller projects planned as well, including a solar/wind-based electrical system and a functioning toilet and waste system.



2017  
NMLK contracts Mihm Enterprises to remove 35 years worth of bird guano, clean the interior, and begin to prime and paint the exterior.



2018  
The exterior painting is finished. *The lighthouse's appearance has been restored to its former glory!*



2019  
Window and lens room glass restoration complete! *Light fills the lighthouse once again!*



2021  
Tours Begin! *The Lighthouse welcomes its first guests to learn about the Crib's unique history.*



2022  
Accessibility to the lighthouse is enhanced by the opening of the Sea Doors and use of BEAR, a 12 passenger landing craft. The third level deck roof is restored, further protecting the lighthouse from water intrusion.



## The Future is Bright!

### 2023 & Beyond

In the years to come critical work will include:

- Structural repairs
- Main deck resurfacing
- Railing repairs
- Interior and exterior doors
- Establishing a power source
- Establishing a water source
- Plumbing
- Electrical
- Ventilation system
- Plaster repair
- Interior restoration and finishes

To complete this work and open the lighthouse for overnight stays, events, workshops, & educational experiences we need your support! This could look like a Campaign for the Crib contribution, volunteering, sponsorship, in-kind donations, or connecting us with helpful resources.

*The lighthouse has been rescued from deterioration!*



*The Crib*

### Plans to fully restore it!

North Manitou Light Keepers (NMLK) is established as a 501 (c) (3) Non-profit to purchase the North Manitou Shoal Lighthouse from a government surplus auction.

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

# VOLUNTEERS *Making A Difference*

First, we'd like to thank all of our volunteers who have helped support our organization. A project this large is a monumental effort, and we couldn't do it without our volunteers, donors and members!

**Coby Thenikl**, a retired Coast Guardsman, attended many of our tours this summer and was able to provide a unique perspective to our tour guests about what life was like on the Crib from 1976-1978.

**Jimmy Munoz and Geoff Niessink** are our charter boat Captains on "Bear". They both navigated this summer through some difficult weather and provided us with safe and reliable transportation for all of our tours and work projects. Geoff also did our sea door work and assisted with the steel removed on the mid-deck roofing replacement. His enthusiasm and dedication to our project is much appreciated. During tour groups that he would captain, Geoff was always busy doing work cleaning up the lighthouse or hauling off trash. Your dedication and work is much appreciated Geoff!

**Jim Barnas**, volunteered with us on the spring cleanup trip. He spent the entire day pressure-washing cormorant poop off the lighthouse. His dedication to our project and willingness to get dirty was valuable and appreciated. Our entire spring cleaning volunteer group worked hard and got dirty. Thank you to all of them! More information about how to volunteer for our 2023 spring cleaning crew is coming soon.

**Don Schank** You may have read about Don in previous newsletters. Don built several highly-detailed models of the Crib for our organization and other local museums to display and enjoy. Don also laid the groundwork for our kitchen remodel and renovation, as well as designing a replica radio room. These projects will be installed over the next several years and will have a huge impact on the historic authenticity of the lighthouse. Sadly, Don passed away in February and we were grateful to be able to provide Don's wife and daughter a short memorial service on the lighthouse, as well as a flag that flew over the lighthouse this summer. Don left a lasting legacy that will be forever a part of the lighthouse.



Tour Led by retired Coast Guardsman, Coby Thenikl

Spring Cleaning Volunteers

Jimmy Munoz and Geoff Niessink

In Memory of Don Schank

# LIGHTHOUSE TOURS

The second season of tours to the Crib was a resounding success! We were able to double our tour capacity thanks to the hard work and investment of Jimmy Munoz and Geoff Niessink. Their boat BEAR, a 30ft landing craft, allowed us to take 12 guests at a time to the Lighthouse.

Tours this season were also significantly enhanced by the opening of the sea doors. The sea doors were welded shut for weatherproofing over 40 years ago. Access is now as easy as simply stepping over the rail of the boat and into the basement level.

We are grateful to our new volunteer Tour Guide, Dave Taylor. Dave enthusiastically told the lighthouse's story and shares our passion for the Crib. Are you interested in volunteering as a tour guide, or do you know someone with a little flair for water and adventure? Please reach out and let us know!

**Members receive the first opportunity to book a tour to the Lighthouse. The 2023 Tour Schedule will be announced in the Spring. Become a member today to be the first to learn about this exciting adventure!**

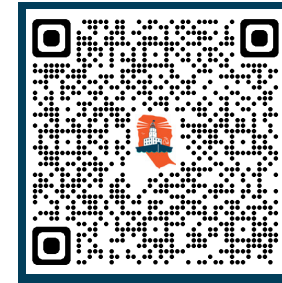


# DONORS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Saving the Crib and bringing it back to life has depended on our generous donors! We applaud the generosity and commitment of **Jon and Lisa Jipping**, who have stepped up to be guardians of the light. Jon and Lisa initially made a donation to fund our limited staffing, which has made it possible to manage necessary and important business affairs of our organization. More recently, when initial cost estimates for our L3 deck replacement project were too low (due to changes in the supply chain), they stepped up and saved the day by closing our funding gap!

**Denise Grigsby** also made a sizeable donation, in honor of her husband, to support the Crib's restoration. In addition, we have had a number of members step up to make a \$5,000 donation to sponsor one of the Crib's windows being restored.

We love all members, and in particular especially thank those who have made larger contributions to the **Campaign for the Crib!**, our capital campaign to support restoration. Scan this code to check out a list of all our donors in the last year.



*Thank you all so much!*

On a calm morning in August, Jake Bright began his 6.91 mile open water swim from Sleeping Bear Point to South Manitou. Jake used this opportunity to raise awareness and fundraise for North Manitou Light Keepers. We congratulate Jake on this tremendous accomplishment and thank him for supporting the restoration of the Crib.

Do you have a great idea for sharing NMLK's mission and work? Please reach out, we would love to grow our team!

