



NEXT BIG GOAL: OVERNIGHTS AND EVENTS AT THE CRIB

Being a light keeper is a mission. We care for infrastructure that enables light to shine. The Crib's light still warns ships to stay away from the North Manitou Island shoal. These days, the light also is joy and wonder our members experience visiting the lighthouse, seeing the views in the Manitou Passage, and participating in the adventure of owning and restoring a lighthouse!



Window sponsor Weldon Rutledge (left) in the radio room with a wonderful view of Sleeping Bear Dunes

After cleaning up the Crib, giving it new exterior paint, restoring all its windows and lantern house glass, we achieved our 5 year goal of starting tours this year. We also have received pledges and grants to replace the sea doors and perform work to stop remaining interior water intrusion. **We are now prepared to move to the next phase of our restoration project: completing the interior.**

The lighthouse has 4 guest rooms and space where there once was a kitchen and radio room. The radio room is a large great room with windows showing wonderful views of the Manitou Passage and Sleeping Bear Dunes.

We are now entering Phase 2 of our restoration, focused on interior restoration. Interior restoration will enable our members to enjoy overnight and weekend stays in comfortable accommodations at the Crib! What a unique and incredible experience! With the sea doors open, that also will help expand accessibility to the Crib. We hope to enjoy nice events at the Crib someday too!

OUR FIRST SUMMER OF TOURS: FUN ADVENTURE!



*The historic Inaugural Tour on June 5th!
Light Keeper Dave and tour guests Dave, Laurel,
Michelle, Melissa, and Patrick (not pictured)*

The big news this summer was the first public tours of the lighthouse in its 86-year history! We hosted tours of five to six guests every Saturday morning from Father’s Day until Labor Day. Fortunately, the weather cooperated for most of the tours, although we had to reschedule some due to high winds. Thankfully, we were able to get all our scheduled groups out for a tour and everyone enjoyed the unique adventure! Looking ahead, we will publish 2022 tour information shortly. We do expect to shift the tour schedule a little earlier into May and once again run tours on Saturday mornings.

Due to the overwhelming popularity and demand for tours, we also hosted a “Crib Cruise” in July on the Manitou Island Transit’s ferry, the Mishe Mokwa. We took 70 people on a sunset cruise to the Crib for a narrated viewing and tour of the lighthouse from the boat. The evening cruise was held after our annual “Light Keeper Rally” on July 23 and was a great success. The cruise turned out to be a nice alternative for folks who were unable to book a personal tour. We also plan to do more of these in 2022.



A beautiful evening for Crib Cruise!



*Rep. Slotkin getting her first
look at the Crib*

WITH SOME HELP FROM FRIENDS!

In addition to our fantastic tour guests, we also recruited some special helpers to the lighthouse this summer. In May, Congresswoman Elissa Slotkin and her husband Dave Moore participated in a “dry run” practice tour as we prepared for public tours. It turned out to be a beautiful “Pure Michigan” day and we got the chance to share our restoration experience with Elissa and Dave. We also talked about challenges that Michigan lighthouse groups face, opportunities for green energy projects at lighthouses, the important legacy of the Coast Guard, and the beauty and adventure of the Great Lakes too!

On our last trip of the season, we welcomed Bryan Lijewski. Bryan is the State of Michigan Historic Architect with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). To date, NMLK has received two grants from SHPO to support restoration. Bryan and his colleagues constantly demonstrate a strong dedication to restoring Michigan's lighthouses and we are pleased to have their support. We also were glad Bryan finally got out to the Crib to do some inspection work, which had been delayed so far due to COVID travel restrictions. Thanks Bryan!



Bryan taking in the view from the lantern deck on a chilly November day



The hard-working gang from Cherryland!

We also welcomed Cherryland Electric Cooperative crews to the Crib summer! When they heard we needed help investigating our underwater power cable, Cherryland jumped in to help with volunteers and equipment. Our power cable runs from Pyramid Point to the lighthouse, but has not been used for years. Its condition was unknown. Unfortunately, preliminary tests have not been encouraging, but Cherryland continues to be a big help with the possibility of repairing the cable and exploring alternative power sources. A huge thank you to Cherryland manager Frank Siepker and his crews!

HIGHLIGHT: SUPER VOLUNTEER DON SCHANK!



Our super volunteer Don Schank once again ventured out to the Crib. Since NMLK started, Don has been an important part of our restoration team. He has built replica models, stained glass pieces of art, and numerous other projects to support restoration of the lighthouse. Don made a trip to the Crib in the spring to take measurements for his next projects. Namely, Don is building a replica radio room with all the dials, lights, and gauges. He also is building a reproduction kitchen with all the associated cabinets, countertops, and kitchen items. Don's previous job and experience with Walt Disney World as a model maker has proved invaluable to the team. Don has been a blessing and a real asset to our organization. Thank you Don for all of your hard work! We are eager to see your finished projects next season!

RESTORATION UPDATES!



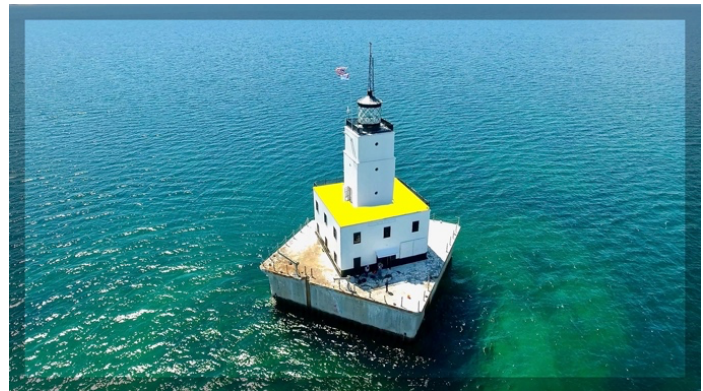
Light Keeper Jake Kaberle exiting for the first time out the newly-opened sea door.

THE SEA DOORS

This project is finally underway! Thanks to a generous pledge from members Martin and Miranda Paul, funding has been in place for this project. Until now, record Lake Michigan water levels delayed the project. The next challenge has been to find a contractor available and willing to tackle this unique job. Thankfully, Geoff Niessink and Jimmy Munoz came to the rescue! Geoff is a talented welder and fabricator. He is well known in the Leland area for helping to restore the famous Fishtown tugs and contributing his time and talent to other local projects. Despite a late start, by the end of the season, the old sea door had been cut out and the new door is scheduled for installation in early spring. During our final trip of the season this year in November, the visiting crew actually used the sea doors to exit the Crib for the first time. What a difference it made! Using the sea doors, entering and exiting the lighthouse is much more simple, safer, and will allow access to more people. The sea doors are expected to be fully functional in early spring! Thanks to Geoff and Jimmy for their hard work and contributions on this project!

L3 DECK REPLACEMENT

The other critical project we are working on right now is replacing the L3 deck (shaded in yellow in the photo). This level is an exterior viewing deck and the roof over the living quarters. Steel plates were welded down there in 1980 but now must be replaced with new decking to prevent water intrusion and damage. NMLK received grants from the "Save Our Lights" program (buy those license plates!) and the Edmund and Virginia Ball Foundation to support this project. We



The yellow area is the L3 deck which is being replaced due to severe water intrusion.

We also received a major donation from members Jon and Lisa Jipping toward this project. These grants and donations are funding most of the project. Mihm Enterprises, which has performed previous work on the Crib, was awarded the contract in the competitive bid process. This restoration step is a key to moving to full interior restoration and we are excited to see it happen!