

Offshore Outposts

A Ric Mixer Lecture

Michigan is home to over 120 lighthouses, which not only mark harbors but also guide ships around underwater obstructions. These beacons are located anywhere that ships may travel, meaning many of them are in the middle of the Great Lakes, including the most remote lighthouse in the United States, Stannard Rock. It was here that an explosion ripped through a machinery building, killing the chief keeper and wounding a young electrician sent to the light to perform maintenance. In an exclusive interview, Ric Mixer shares an eyewitness account of the man who was wounded in the the explosion with his story of awaiting rescue on the deck with two other men.

Ric also shares scientific missions now taking place on these remote outposts, including Spectacle Reef in the Straits of Mackinac. Stories from Lake Superior's Huron Island are also a highlight of this talk, with an interview from a young man whose father was stationed off L'Anse.

Also featured is the million dollar rehab of DeTour Reef, including stories from the men who were stationed in the St Mary's River for several months out of the year.

Ric Mixer is a former three term president of the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association, and a frequent contributor to Beacon magazine. This presentation is a must for lighthouse fans and people interested in how men survived working on these desolate towers.

Total time is about an hour with time for questions and answers. Ric needs a projection screen but will provide his own projector and amplification for the video. Larger audiences (over 75 patrons) may require use of amplification such as a microphone, amp and speakers of which your facility would be responsible for. In this case, Ric would like to plug into your system using a MAC computer with earphone output for your amplification.

Lecture cost is \$300 plus travel costs from Wixom, MI. Virtual options exist and hotel room and meals are required if more than three hours drive from Oakland County, MI.

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