The first Saturday in March was a chilly day AND a chili day on St. George Island, and the lighthouse team again participated in the St. George Island Charity Chili Cook-off, the annual fundraiser for the island’s Volunteer Fire Department.

Veteran Chili Chefs Bob Heide and Vito Bell once again did the honors, stirring up our official bean-less entry in the International Chili Society sanctioned event. Before the 2 p.m. entry deadline in the competitive event, Chef Jim Kemp kept the crowd warm with a spicy pot of Chili with Beans.

We sold more than 200 tastes of chili for $1.00, and several $5 bowls for those who had to have more – contributing $238 toward the always profitable event. This beat last year’s contribution by 36 per cent. When asked about the increase, Chef Kemp said “It was easy. I just made a bigger pot of chili!”

We also collected a fair share of the “People’s Choice” favorite chili tickets, drank a few beers, supported our colleagues in the Fire Department – and had a GREAT time!

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