

## CBS Interviews FlagShip



The week before the beginning of the 2005 Race to Mackinac Island, FlagShip personnel met with CBS to talk about their involvement in this annual yacht race, which starts at the Chicago Yacht Club. CBS has made FlagShip's race tracking and the transponder technology the focus of an hour-long piece that will be due to air on July 30th. They were interested in talking to FlagShip personnel about this new and exciting technology and how it is bringing sailboat racing into the 21st century.

FlagShip's dual interests in technology and sailing have combined to provide a technological solution for the Race to Mackinac that no other race implements. The relationship with the Chicago Yacht Club began in 2001 when FlagShip provided internet connectivity in the Yacht club before the race and on the Island after the race so the sailors could access the latest weather details as well as having access to email. The response from the sailors was overwhelming.

In the following years, FlagShip has worked to meet the every growing needs of the Mac Race, and in 2002 they began providing race tracking technology. Present at the CBS interview was FlagShip engineer Dick Hildreth, who's responsible for writing the program and developing the software that allows viewers to experience the race online. "I never thought the program I wrote and developed would be the focus of a CBS interview," says Hildreth. "It's great that something I've spent so much time working on is getting so much attention."



Also present for the interview was engineer Dale Kirby, who has been responsible for designing and building FlagShip's new transponders. "I look forward years from now having people watching these races online and being able to say to my grandkids, I did that," says Kirby.



This year, viewers of the race online will notice a marked improvement in the graphic image of Lake Michigan, which more closely resembles a nautical chart. The whole race tracking software, back end, and the transponder front end provide a symbiotic partnership that can provide any sailing race a one-stop race tracking solution, which can be easily used to promote their own races and the sport.

On Saturday, July 16, 2005, FlagShip will take the next step in its relationship with the Chicago Yacht Club and the Race to Mackinac as we, for the first time, track boats carrying transponders designed and manufactured by FlagShip Integration Services.