



(SIZE: 9.5" X 6.5" X 3.5")

# The New FlagShip Transponder

*Race to Mackinac brings technology to forefront.*

*New race transponder changing the sport makes  
its debut at 2005 Mac Race.*

FlagShip Integration Services Inc., an IT consulting firm and long-time sponsor of the Race to Mackinac, will be responsible for all transponders and race tracking during this year's competition. Owned and run by Kim Flagstad, Chicago Yacht Club member and boat captain competing in her ninth consecutive Mac Race, FlagShip is pilot-testing a new, smaller and more robust transponder this year that it designed and built to exacting hardware and software specifications. FlagShip and the Club will make 75 of these new units available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

***A few are still available. Call FlagShip to reserve your transponder: 847-726-6090.***

## What's unique about the FlagShip transponder:

- **Size:** It's very small, measuring only 9.5" x 6.5" x 3.5" – similar to the size of thin box of facial tissues and less than half the size of most other transponders. It's completely self contained and water tight.
- **Power:** It operates on its own rechargeable, self-contained battery – other transponders depend on and are connected to a boat's power supply. The battery can last up to 10 days, depending on the number of transmissions.
- **Communications:**
  - Provides two-way communications
  - Transmits location, speed and heading every hour (twice as often as last year)
  - Reports critical passages at the 43<sup>rd</sup> parallel, 45<sup>th</sup> parallel, Grey's Reef and the Mackinac Bridge
  - Contains built-in GPS

## Making sailboat racing a real spectator sport:

Overall, the transponder enables better competitive tracking during the race and turns it into more of an exciting spectator sport - like NASCAR or horse racing. Family, friends and any interested party can go online and track the progress of racers using transponders during the Mac Race at <http://chicagoyachtclub.org/racetomackinac/>. FlagShip and the Club hope to make the new transponder available to all boats in the future.

## What's FlagShip all about:

FlagShip Integration Services helps businesses and their technology run seamlessly. FlagShip functions as a virtual, out-sourced IT department for regional, national and global organizations ranging from non-profits to publicly traded companies. FlagShip specializes in technologies supporting high-availability networking, security, network management, remote access and Web portal services. Since its early beginnings in 1985, FlagShip has combined the smart use of emerging technologies with best business practices to produce high-integrity, integrated solutions.

FlagShip prides itself on the following key differentiators: 1) providing clients Co-Created Value™ where clients have around-the-clock support with fixed-rate billing; and 2) beginning engagements by thoroughly understanding a client's business needs and all aspects of its IT operation and then assessing how technology can support the bigger picture.

## If you are interested in discovering more about FlagShip IT services:

Then please contact Kim Flagstad or Jim Hill at (847) 726-6090.