

Sponsorship Support from KVH Industries Enhances Racing Experience



Temptress (USA 45016) sailed by Arent H. and Robert Kits van Heyningen passing Castle Hill, Newport RI in 2009 ILDR.

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Ida Lewis Distance Race: Sponsorship Support from KVH Industries Enhances Racing Experience

NEWPORT, R.I. (June 8, 2010)— Fans of the annual [Ida Lewis Distance Race](#), which is scheduled to begin its sixth edition on August 20 off Newport, R.I., will have a new way to follow the action and a new trophy to cheer for, thanks to [KVH Industries](#). The company, headquartered in Middletown, R.I.,

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and known globally for its mobile communications solutions for commercial, leisure and military markets, has signed on as one of the major “Finish Line” sponsors of the event in support of two new initiatives: the use of [Kattack LIVE](#) (not affiliated with KVH Industries) for bringing real-time race tracking to the Ida Lewis Distance Race website and the commissioning of a new perpetual trophy for the PHRF Cruising Spinnaker Class. The trophy will be named after Arent H. Kits van Heyningen, age 94, who is a member of host Ida Lewis Yacht Club and finished third among 17 entrants in the PHRF Racing Class in 2009, sailing with his son, Robert W.B. Kits van Heyningen, aboard his IMX 45 *Tempress*.

“The tracking initiative supports Ida Lewis Yacht Club’s mission of making this race more exciting for the participants and more engaging for their families, friends and fellow sailors, whether they are in Newport for the event or somewhere else in the world



wanting to know what’s going on out on the race course,” said Dirk Johnson, explaining that in the early days of the regatta, state-of-the-art tracking was a large chart posted at the yacht club with two types of yarn strung between push pins to depict the two different courses offered, one a 177 nm “Montauk” course and the other a 150 nm “Block Island” course.

“The trophy initiative underlines our goal to be inclusive of all types of sailors, from racer/cruisers to grand-prix types,” said Johnson, pointing out that the 2010 Ida Lewis Distance Race will include divisions for IRC, PHRF (Racing and Cruising Spinnaker Classes), One-Design (including NYYC 42s) and Double-Handed boats. As well, a Youth Challenge, announced earlier this year, will play out as part of the PHRF competition.

“The PHRF, One-Design and Double-Handed sailors who may or may not have had prior exposure to distance races enjoy the shorter course,” said Johnson, “while the IRC sailors consider the longer course a worthy challenge for their typically larger, faster boats.”

Last year, the IRC roster included such headliners as winner *Titan 15*, *Rambler*, *Highland Fling XI*, *Rima2*, *Privateer*, *Devocean* and *Decision*. According to Alex Merrill, navigator aboard *Rima2*, “I found it to be one of the best races I have ever done. I absolutely loved it. It had challenges for the drivers, foredeck, navigator, everything.”

With its courses covering some of the most storied and beautiful sailing grounds in the world, the Ida Lewis Distance Race features a spectacular start off Fort Adams in Narragansett Bay and includes turning marks at Castle Hill, Brenton Reef, Block Island, Montauk Point, Martha’s Vineyard and Buzzards Tower on its way to a signature champagne finish inside Newport Harbor off the historic Ida Lewis Yacht Club.

With 40 teams competing last year, organizers are planning for between 40-50 this year.

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The event is open to boats 28 feet and longer and is a qualifier for the 2010 New England Lighthouse Series; Northern and Double-Handed Ocean Racing Trophies; and the US-IRC Gulf Stream Series.

About KVH Industries, Inc.

Middletown, R.I.-based KVH Industries, Inc., and its wholly owned subsidiaries, KVH Europe A/S and KVH Singapore, are leading providers of in-motion satellite TV and communications systems, having designed, manufactured, and sold more than 150,000 mobile satellite antennas for applications on vessels, vehicles, and aircraft. KVH's mission is to connect mobile customers around the globe with the same high-quality digital television entertainment, communications, and Internet services that they enjoy in their homes and offices.

In addition to Finish Line Sponsor KVH are Starting Line Sponsors North Sails, New England Boatworks, and ATC Tech. Contributing sponsors are Dockwise Yacht Transport, Sea Gear Uniforms, Rig Pro Southern Spars, Narragansett Beer, and Mac Designs.

Deadline for entry in the Ida Lewis Distance Race is August 6, 2010.

For more information, visit www.ildistancerace.org and its [Facebook Page](#) or contact info@ildistancerace.org.

Contacts for the Youth Challenge are Joe Cooper, 401-965-6006, Hoodri-sales@att.net, and Andy Dickinson, 401-423-0600, andy@jby.com; for sponsorship anncsouder@aol.com, 401-439-6377.

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