



US 500

# LAKE RONKONKOMA Iceboat and Yacht Club

MARCH <http://www.iceboatlongisland.com> 2026



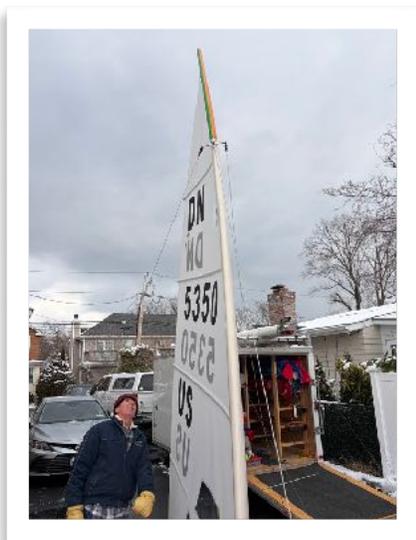
January 1, 2026. Orient Iceboat Yacht Club and LRIBYC promoting ICE on Hallocks Bay, Orient

IT WORKED



**DN TRAVEL TEAM, SCOTT AND PETE**  
**January 20, 2026 - January 31, 2026**  
**North American and National Championships**

**“Final look at the sled including a new ABSS speed sail at a top secret testing facility in Scott’s driveway. No word yet on a destination but certainly west. Scouts are out as far as South Dakota. Hopefully something closer is the choice as that might be a bit too far for us. Call should be made Wednesday.”**



**“Heading back to lake Wawasee where we sailed in 2019. P”**

**“Arrived about 30 minutes ago. Nice room and about to have dinner. Cold low single digits tomorrow so we’ll scope out the launch and rig and sail a bit if it’s not too cold. Haven’t checked wind yet. P”**

**“Temps fell all night so now 4 degrees and -15 wind chill with some light snow earlier this morning. Scoping out the possible launch site choices. Breakfast was with a small band of other early arrivals and expect people to arrive today. Right now this lake is the only option and we’re expecting snow Sunday and hoping it’s light enough to blow off. Holding off rigging until tomorrow after we get more info and a bit warmer. P”**

**“Rigged for tomorrow. P”**

**“Postponed and possibly relocating to Wisconsin. Snow forecast here just getting too bad- up to 8”. Decision to be finalized Sunday. P”**



**“Morning was cold and calm today but by lunch time a little warmer and a small breeze maybe 5-8. Rigged up and pushed out and spent about a hour and a half sailing. Base layer of ice is Hollywood black but much of it covered in a patch work of gray ice snow patches and some areas of refrozen garbage ice so a bit challenging. The snow patches are probably the stickiest I have ever seen. Not too deep but it’s like slamming on the brakes hitting them. Best bet was to steer between them anyway you can.**



**A few other boats out but no real organized practice so we called and headed in. Boats now back in the trailer as we wait for tonight’s snow. Scouts out on green lake WI tomorrow I don’t see any way we can race here so ready to roll if that’s the call. Looks like Scott is continuing his global search for speed tips and might be looking to pick the Swede’s brains a bit. Having a blast with everyone else despite the lack of sailing. P”**

**“Packing up and heading north. Snowed out here so off we go again. About 5 hr drive so not too bad. LRIBYC Road Crew”**

**“A bit of a slow roll to get here- heavy lake effect snow at the bottom of Lake Michigan and assorted traffic issues to go with it Too dark to see the ice yet and cold again tonight (-11) but should warm up a bit going forward. Road Warriors”**



**“View from breakfast. Place we’re sailing is the other end of the lake. Still cold but will get down to launch and set up to sail if it isn’t too cold. Nite nationals and ISA also called for here for next weekend. Fred get your bubble boat in the trailer.”**

**“Got on the ice today for a couple of laps just to check a few things. Still cold and registration and opening ceremonies tonight so we didn’t stay out long 3 fleets planned so we will be up first for bronze qualifier Good ice and wind for**

tomorrow so it should be fast. P”

“First race day postponed until tomorrow due to somewhat chilly conditions. Allows for a leisurely breakfast and time to put on 18 layers and go do a bit more tuning and a few more practice laps. Supposed to be windy so Scott will try the MS-1 he picked up awhile ago and never really tested so if you hear a sonic boom ignore it. P”

“Opening ceremonies were held last night with several countries represented. Australia, Sweden, Denmark, Poland, Germany, Netherlands, Canada and the US. They sang their national anthems, always entertaining. We will race starting tomorrow. Another update coming shortly. Your traveling fools. Pete and Scott.”



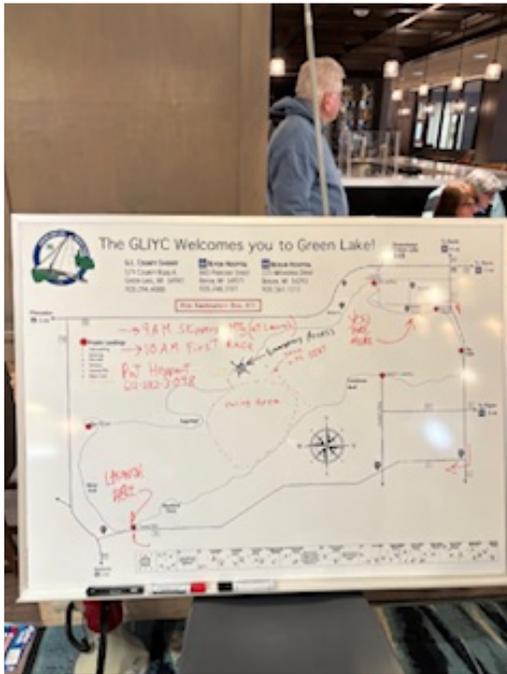
“Stoning some runners after some sailing and making a slight modification on Scott’s boom. P”

“We were lucky to get a shop tour of iceboat legend Joe Norton. You might recognize some of the people in the pictures. Scott”



“This is the racing hazard board. The lake is 7 miles long and close to 2 miles wide and the deepest part around 250’”

“More to follow but we both qualified up into the silver fleet Scotty showing excellent speed but had a tap out dsq. I spent the afternoon spinning out. Results are on sailwave link of the class website. Cold very hard ice and a breeze. Stoning tonight for me. P”



**“Cold morning so delayed 1 hour for warming up. Very hard fast ice and breezy 12-15. Starting with bronze qualifier which we both got through ok and then on to the silver. Scott going well with a few tips from our Canadian friends. I was having issues with not sharp enough runners so I spun out jibing and double spun in the second race so poor results from that. Spent at least an hour last night stoning- hopefully enough for today. Less wind on tap and a bit warmer this afternoon. 3 races done and assuming we’ll try for 4 more today. Having a blast. Keeping an eye on all your ice scouting. Hopefully the next snow doesn’t flatten us and we can continue sailing when we get back Results posting on a link off the class website. P”**

**“Wind has dropped from 3-4 to 0. One painfully slow gold race so far. P”**

**“A beautiful day but super tricky sailing in very light wind with huge shifts. Hard to even set a course. One race for each fleet with one more planned for tomorrow to be immediately rolled into the US Nationals. Scott kept his boat going more consistently than I did and beat me again. I ended up out of the boat probably around 6 times to push. It would get going and then all evaporate in a shift or soft spot. Last lap really tanked me upwind and I thought I was last. One nice thing about no wind is no wind chill either but a little more would have helped. Speed tuning clinic in 10 minutes so definitely going to that. Bigger boats showing up for ISAs this weekend. Get out to Hallocks and sail and save some ice for us when we get back. P”**

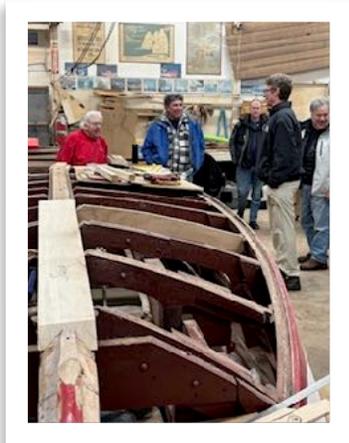
**“More tomorrow but we had a great final day in 15-18 knts Last 3 races for NAs and first for Nats which will try to race tomorrow without us. All packed for early departure tomorrow. Lying in bed listening to the lake rumble and bang like distant fireworks. P”**

**“A blast of a final day. 15-18 kts with some huge shifts. Fast ice but with some cracks and ridges some of which could launch you a bit. Even with**

the temperature up into double digits it felt colder than the other days with the windchill. RC got us 3 races for each fleet to close out the NAs. Scott and I came just about down to the final race to settle things. Last lap he nipped me at the top mark to set up a drag race to the finish sailing almost straight down the course on a large shift about 20' apart. One last jibe and I managed to just squeak inside to just get him by about 1/2 boat length. Felt like a good way to end the regatta. One final race to start the Nationals which we took as one more practice/test with Scott tying another even faster sail which looks very promising. We're picking people's brains on how to get these things to go and I keep coming away thinking There's a hell of a lot we don't know. Wrapped up with awards last night with several of our New England and Canadian friends collecting prizes. Really great to see everyone here- even the delays and postponing is ok with good folks to

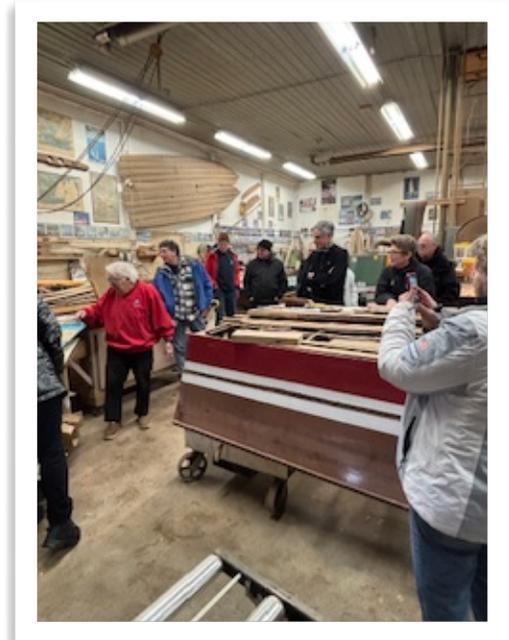
hang out with.

Home tomorrow  
and see you  
Tuesday. P&S"



Thank you, Scott  
and Pete, for  
representing our

Club and the entire Long Island Iceboating Community in the International Sport of DN Iceboat Racing. While reading your trip notes your commitment and focus on equipment and racing skills required to compete at this level are apparent. Congratulations!



## LAKE RONKONKOMA - 02/05/26 - 02/15

TO ALL: 2/05/26

"Yesterday Rosemary B., Ralph H., Gary C., Joe C., and Mike G. sailed in a beautiful NW breeze. The snow ice held up and the black ice was hard and fast.

Today, once again, Ralph H, Joe C., Lee C., and Mike G. were gliding along on super fast black ice and achieving some impressive speed considering the light to moderate breezes.

The lake was scouted out again today.  
All slush fields have healed up.

The lake is starting to develop pressure ridges causing a ramp effect on either side of the blemished ice.

Taken at high speed it could cause your boat to launch up into the air.  
Taken slowly, and your runners will slice the thin top layer crust and find 1 inch of ice. Definitely a runner trap or possibly a plank ripper.  
See map included. Pressure ridges of ice in red.  
Pressure ridge at the east side of the lake is 85 yards long.  
Pressure ridge at south side of the lake is 150 yards long.  
As time goes by, pressure ridges will get more severe, especially if temps start to rise and the ice sheet starts to expand."

THINK ICE!

John Ziermann DN-5426/Gambit/LS45/BloKart/Treasurer

"Caution advised for the weekend- Yesterday I posted that I thought there may be a morning opportunity to sail a bit before the wind really kicks into gear. John's new post about possible pressure ridges and likely snow cover along with possible reduced visibility suggest that sailing may not be a great idea- be careful and patient. I don't think we are done yet but might want to wait until after the weekend weather goes through and another ice check is done. P"

"Five **never give up, never surrender** ice boaters sailed on super fast black ice in the slightest zephyr of a breeze(3-8mph).

Speeds of **20 mph** were obtained by Rosemary B., Ralph H., Joe C., and Lee C. on a combination of snow and black ice.

Tomorrow and Sunday will be completely different. An experience that should be avoided with gusts up to **40 mph Sat.** and **35 mph Sun.**

There are still some soft spots, cracks, and pressure ridges that may be hidden under the snow we are going to receive late tonight into Sat.

These conditions are definitely a plank breaker."

John Ziermann DN-5426/Gambit/LS45/BloKart/  
Treasurer

"After a dead calm early morning 3 DNs and Joe's sternsteerer managed several hours of sailing in fairly light air 5-7 tops. Ice is plenty thick and tight across the entire lake with a variety of surfaces from smooth to fairly bumpy. Local firefighters cut 2 holes about 100' out from ramp which are now marked with branches and caution tape. The launcher Joe found is still there but easily avoided. Some snow tonight and an iffy week of weather ahead so all boats have been pulled off. Will have to wait and see if this is it or if the thick black ice base holds on a bit longer Ice did get a little softer in the afternoon but was still sailable as the wind died out. PT"

2/15

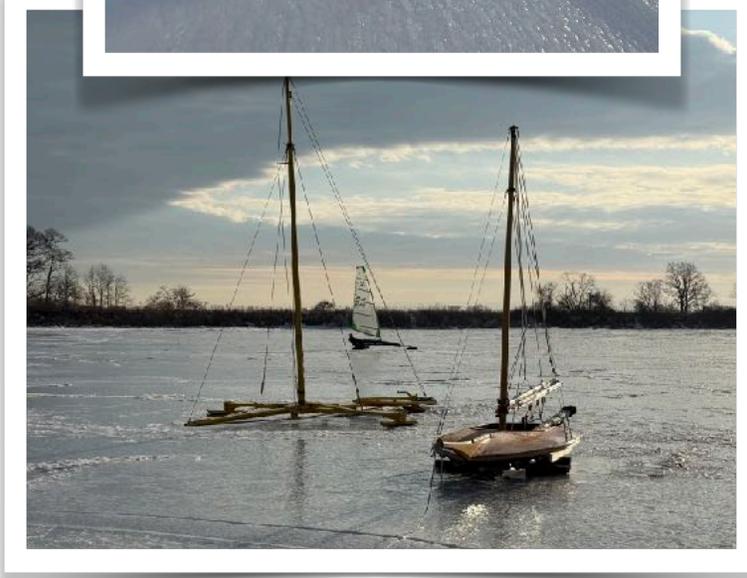
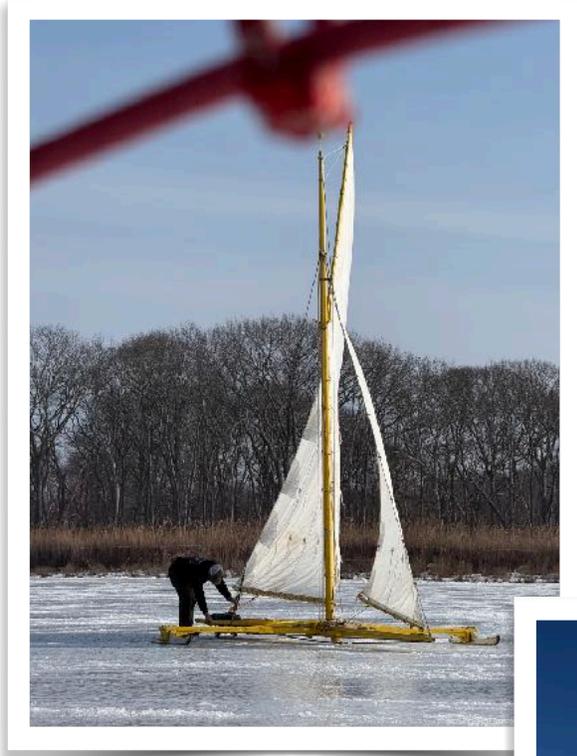


## HALLOCKS BAY, ORIENT ICEBOAT YACHT CLUB

Iceboat of all styles and shapes spent 16 days on the ice on the North Fork. Skimmers ruled the ice and reminded all present of our past Commodore, Bob Reeves. Bob, a local Greenport Plumbing Supply Store owner was the Long Island dealer of Skimmer 45's, an avid multi generation family Stern Steerer owner and the driving force behind the J14 Iceboat group on Long Island.

We sailed the Bay this winter with Skimmers, J14s, South Bay Scooters, DN's, Home built C Skeeters, a Mini Skeeter, a Pocket Skeeter, 1880 Stern Steerer and a recycled lumber and Shelter Island Dump scavenged parts Iceboat. The famous East End kids sled with umbrella sail was also reported one day. Young and old, 3 to 87, spent time on the ice and sailing. The North Fork at it's Best.







## Commodores Comments

Hello everyone!!

It was a great year for sailing on LI! I would like to thank all the intrepid ice reporters. Reports came in from Hallocks Bay, Mecox, Great River and Lake Ronkonkoma, all the reports and pictures were fantastic. I was very impressed with John Z's detailed map of our home lake it showed the locations of various types of ice, thicknesses, hazards and the "launcher". That was very helpful especially if you wanted to get some air!!



I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting. Remember we will be having an election.

This year we will be having our annual dinner at a new venue with a view of the lake.

And finally, I will be stepping down as your Commodore. It has been my pleasure to steer the helm of our great and historic club. I will still be available for runner sharpening, repairs, advice, and always stories.

Scott, DN4925

Last Club Meeting, March 10, 2026. Weeks Shipyard, 7:00 PM, Officers Election

The dinner is all set for Sunday, March 29th from 1-3 pm at the Ronkonkoma Recreation Center, 299 Rosevale Ave. Ronkonkoma NY  
We have everything we need, we just need you and your guest. Please RSVP to John Ziermann. ([racekart8@yahoo.com](mailto:racekart8@yahoo.com)) This years cost is \$25.00 per person. We will be firing the cannon and have a special surprise.  
Scott, US4925