Safe Ashore: The 1940 Armistice Day Storm
A Ric Mixter Lecture

Unequalled in wind velocity by any other recorded storm on the Great Lakes, the Armistice Storm was born on the west coast, where it toppled a suspension bridge before ripping towards the Great Lakes. When it hit Lake Michigan, it roared at 125 mph, and slammed into several freighters who were at the mercy of the waves generated in its fury.

Ric Mixter was the first to create a documentary on this storm, featuring two survivors aboard the doomed freighter Novadoc. Coast Guardsmen couldn't find the shipwreck and it was up to local fishermen to take the 17 sailors who were trapped on board.

40 others weren't so lucky aboard the American freighter Davock and the Canadian steamer Minch. Both ships were devastated in the gale, sunk with all hands. Minch was ripped into two pieces, and grain from her hold scattered all along the east coast of the lake.

Ric shares interviews with the wheelsman and fireman on the Novadoc as well as exclusive footage of the rescue and an interview with a Coastguardsman who braved the waves to rescue the crew of the stranded Sinaloa.

Named for the short telegram sent by the Novadoc's wheelsman, Safe Ashore is unequalled in its scope for chronicling Lake Michigan's worst storm, based on the popular PBS documentary by Ric Mixter. The story is also featured in Ric's book "The Wheelsmen".

Total time is about an hour with time for questions and answers. Ric needs a projection screen but will provide his own projector and amplification for the video. Larger audiences (over 75 patrons) may require use of amplification such as a microphone, amp and speakers of which your facility would be responsible for. In this case, Ric would like to plug into your system using a MAC computer with earphone output for your amplification.

Lecture cost is $300 plus travel costs from Wixom, MI. Virtual options exist and hotel room and meals are required if more than three hours drive from Oakland County, MI.

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