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### ***For Your Consideration: Who are we?***

Our organization has an identify problem. Up until the 1990s, we were known as the Southern Massachusetts Yacht Racing Association or SMYRA (Su-MY-RA). It was an easy name to pronounce and rolled off the tongue well. Then the United States Yacht Racing Union or USYRU (U-SY-RU) changed their name to United States Sailing Association or US Sailing for short in order to reflect a more inclusive atmosphere. Many of the sailing associations throughout the country followed that lead. I was in the room when we voted to change SMYRA to Southern Massachusetts Sailing Association and recall the struggle the board went through in order to come up with a snappy "nickname" that rolled off the tongue as easily as SMYRA. There was not an obvious choice and it was decided that we would go by SM Sailing to mirror the newly renamed US Sailing (see that, only one letter different) and use the initials S-M-S-A. Yet over the past 25 years, while US Sailing has caught on, there is a whole generations of sailors who have no idea what to call us. I hear a lot of SIM-SA or S-MIS-A, but it is easy to see there is no "I" in S-M-S-A. The solution is to keep correcting those who say it wrong. It's similar to when people call me the wrong name. Officially, I am "Robert" but everyone calls me "Rob." When people call me "Bob" which is a fine name and my father's name, but not my name, I politely correct them and hope they remember it next time. Same is true for those who call us SIM-SA. It's SM Sailing or the initials S-M-S-A and I hope that they remember it next time.

One of my past sailors suggested that we re-title ourselves "Southern Massachusetts Youth Racing Association" and call ourselves "SMYRA" again. The idea has merit given the amount of junior racing the organization

supports, but I am not sure we want to officially cut off a large portion of the population or our mission for the sake of an easily pronounced acronym. So what to do? Last year, the board approved the purchase of SM Sailing burgees (see angry whale flag at top of the page) for all member clubs. Many have been handed out already and I am happy to distribute more to those clubs who have not received one yet; just find me at regattas or meetings. SM Sailing also purchased several larger burgees as gifts to clubs that host SM Sailing regattas. And this year, we have 1000 burgee stickers to give away. So get yourself a SM Sailing burgee or "angry whale" sticker and place it proudly on your boat or car. And when someone asks you what it represents, respond with confidence, "Oh that. That is the burgee for SM Sailing, but everyone calls it S-M-S-A."



The 2015 [SMSA Grand Prix](#) results have been updated. The C420s have completed 2 of 6 regattas with almost this weekend; the Optis are half way done with Wianno the next stop. Questions, comments, & concerns can be addressed to [me](#). With so much data being entered, there are bound to be some mistakes. If you point them out, I can fix them quickly.

[C420 standings](#)

[Opti Standings](#)



[This Week in SMSA: July 23- July 29](#)

7/25: Stone Horse Laser Regatta  
7/27-7/29: SMSA Gill Trophy  
7/29-7/30: Duxbury YC Jr. Regatta  
7/29-7/30: Wianno Opti Regatta

[Next Week in SMSA: July 30- Aug 5](#)

7/30: Belle of the West  
7/31 - 8/2: Hyannis Regatta  
7/31 - 8/2: H class Nationals  
8/1-8/2: Chatham Regatta  
8/2-8/6: Sears, Bemis Smythe  
8/3-8/4: Scituate Jr Regatta  
8/3-8/5 CJ Buckley Regatta  
8/4-8/6: USODA NEs at Salem

[All Summer in SMSA](#)

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- C. [2015 Grand Prix Racing](#)
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