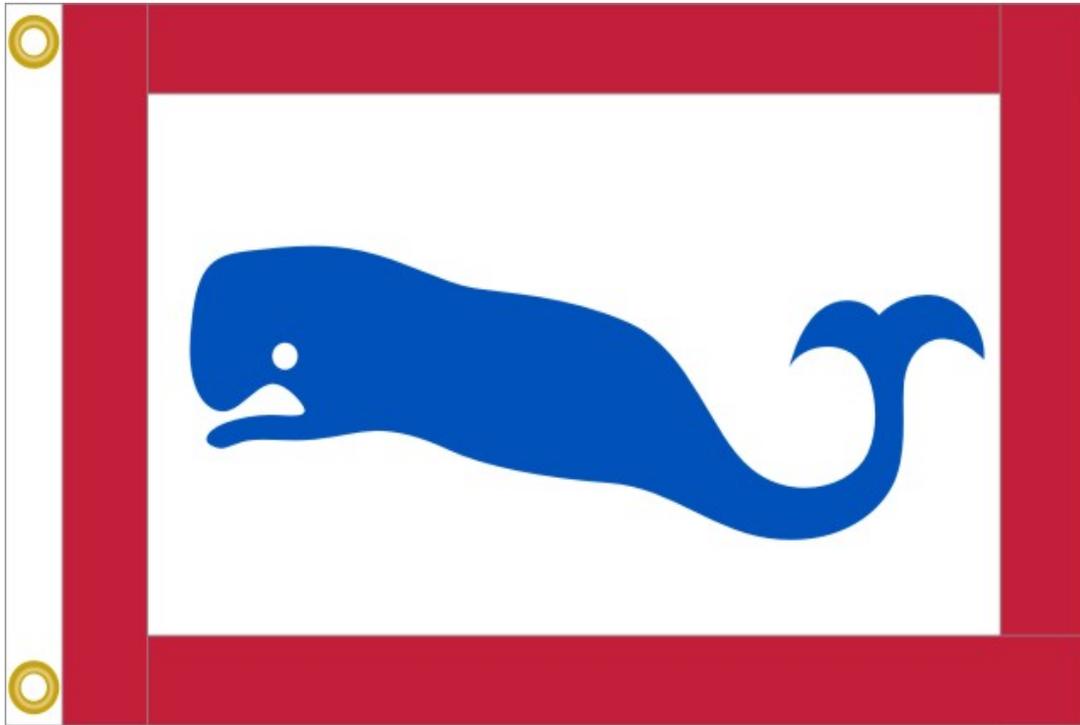


## This Week in SMSA: July 13, 2016

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### **For your Consideration: Get your House in Order.**

I helped run two junior regattas this week. I saw two things that we as adults can do to help make these events run better for our kids and the host.

First, I was surprised at how much stuff was lying around without any names or markings on it. Unless labeled, everyone's Opti Dolly looks the same, right. Tweens and teenagers are notoriously bad at collecting their things, even when labeled, so how as adults do we expect them to figure it out if they are not labeled. Furthermore, as adults, we some times try to help them out by just collecting all the "stuff" in the general area of our kids boat. At one regatta, a dolly that was clearly labeled was taken back to a club where it did not belong. Luckily, it was tracked down and returned to its owner. That is not always the case. So, adults, label your child's "stuff" clearly and instructors/coaches, label your club's

gear and keep track of it.

Second, we adults have to become more proactive in the registration process of our kids. I was frustrated by how many adults did not read the Notice of Race (NOR) - the "party invitation" that explains all that you need to do prior to arriving at the regatta. And, their lack of reading and follow through created more work for the host. Frankly, it is rude of parents/instructors/coaches/sailors not to complete their registration fully before arriving at a regatta site. Things like crew's name, sail numbers, t-shirt size, and other important data is so easy to add through your smart phone or computer prior to showing up especially since most regattas use Regatta Network for registration. Lots of times, it is the C420 sailor who does not know their sail number initially and registers as "TBD" or "XXXX." It has to become Standard Operating Procedures for coaches and program directors to decided who is sailing which boat and what their sail number is more than 24 hours prior to an event. Seems so ease for someone who is organized and conversely, shows how unorganized your program is when you don't.

So in conclusions, (1) Label your "stuff" and (2) figure out your registration before leaving your club. Don't create more work for others by your inaction.