

July 18, 2012: I have been a little behind this week; I am in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont at AP Physics camp. I hope there was no significant damage due to that the storm that ripped through the Cape this afternoon. It was bad up here last night, but it seems to gather strength as it headed south. The good news is that the heat wave appears to be breaking up and we are heading into good weather for the weekend, another busy one in SMSA. Falmouth YC is hosting the C420 NAs with almost 150 boats registered. Also, Duxbury Bay MS is hosting the next leg of the Grand Prix for both the C420s and the Optis.

Speaking of the Grand Prix, I had a chance to update the scores through Stone Horse for the Optis and through Vineyard Haven for the C420s before they kicked me out of the library this evening. They are posted on the web (<http://www.southernmasssailing.com/>) and as always, if there are mistakes, please let me know within 72 hours.

For those doing well in the Grand Prix, and for those who won or will win awards in other SMSA regattas like the Nash, the Jones, and Team Racing, please mark **Tuesday August 21, 2012** on your calendar. We will be holding the **Annual SMSA End-of-Summer Meeting and Awards Ceremony** that evening starting around 6 pm. The location has not been finalized, but the date and time are set. We had a good crown last year and are looking for more participation this year. This year, I will be giving away a nice bag to some lucky contestant who has not won anything from SMSA this year. So even if you are not expecting to collect any hard ware, you should attend, eat some food, offer your two cents on the organization, and maybe pick up some swag in the process. More info to follow.

Finally, I extended registration for the Gill trophy through Friday July 20th. Those registering late, after midnight tonight, can expect to pay a late fee, but should be able to register. If you have problems, please contact me (SouthernMassSailing@Gmail.com)

July 10, 2012: Lots of racing this week. Results from Stage Harbor Opti regatta (7/6), New Bedford Junior Regatta (7/7-7/8) and West Dennis Invitational (7/9) are posted on the SMSA Site - <http://www.southernmasssailing.com/ma-sailing-association-race-results.asp>

West Dennis YC picked up on a great idea this year by running a 420 line with no traps and no chutes. Yesterday they got in more races than any other class, using the high school/college format of 20-25 minute long races. Six different people won races, the fleet was tightly packed, and there was very little bumping and grinding on the course. The separate line also removed 20 boats from the spinnaker class, which gave them better racing too. Each year, many kids make the jump from Optis to C420s and there is a steep learning curve to climb as sailor moves into a two-person boat with two sails and a spinnaker. Most kids can't possibly make all those connections fast enough. The no traps/chutes line allows them to experience success, have more fun, and develop the skills to make the jump efficiently. If your club is hosting a junior regatta in July, you really should think about this idea. If you want more information, please feel free to contact me (SouthernMassSailing@Gmail.com). In the spirit of fully disclosure, I ran the no traps/chutes line at West Dennis.

It also seems that many people are registering late this year. Not sure why people are taking their time, but it is helpful to all race organizers if all programs take a look at their regatta schedule early and find a time to do registration sooner rather than later. Two big events coming up at the C420 North Americans at the Falmouth YC Regatta (<http://c420na.sailspace.net/>) and the SMSA Gill Trophy (<http://www.southernmasssailing.com/ma-sailing-us-sailing-ladder-events.asp>) clinic and regatta at Hyannis YC. The final day of the C420 NAs overlaps with the clinic day of the Girls championship, but it is not necessary to do the clinic in order to do the regatta, so female sailors can consider doing both

July 3, 2012: Happy 4th. I was out of town last week doing a US Sailing Level-1 course and had limited internet access. Seems strange these days to say that, but it was sort of nice to unplug for that week. I am back and ready to go. It seems the summer is ready to go this week too. There is a lots of racing on the calendar (see below) coming up. The SMSA Grand Prix for both Optis and C420s gets started this weekend with New Bedford Junior regatta. New Bedford Junior regatta is also the Area A Bemis qualifier; already this popular event is oversubscribed. For more info on the Grand Prix, check out the SMSA website (<http://www.southernmasssailing.com/ma-sailing-association-grand-prix.asp>)

Also, SMSA wrapped up their first regatta last weekend. Six clubs participated in the Cumming Cup hosted by Chatham YC and Pleasant Bay CB in Flying Scots. Congratulations to the winning squad from Cotuit Mosquito YC, John Keally, Andrew Solomon, and Nick Solomon, who qualified to represent SMSA and Cotuit at the Area A elimination in Newport, RI later this month. A complete report will be posted on the website very soon - <http://www.southernmasssailing.com/ma-sailing-cumming-cup.asp>