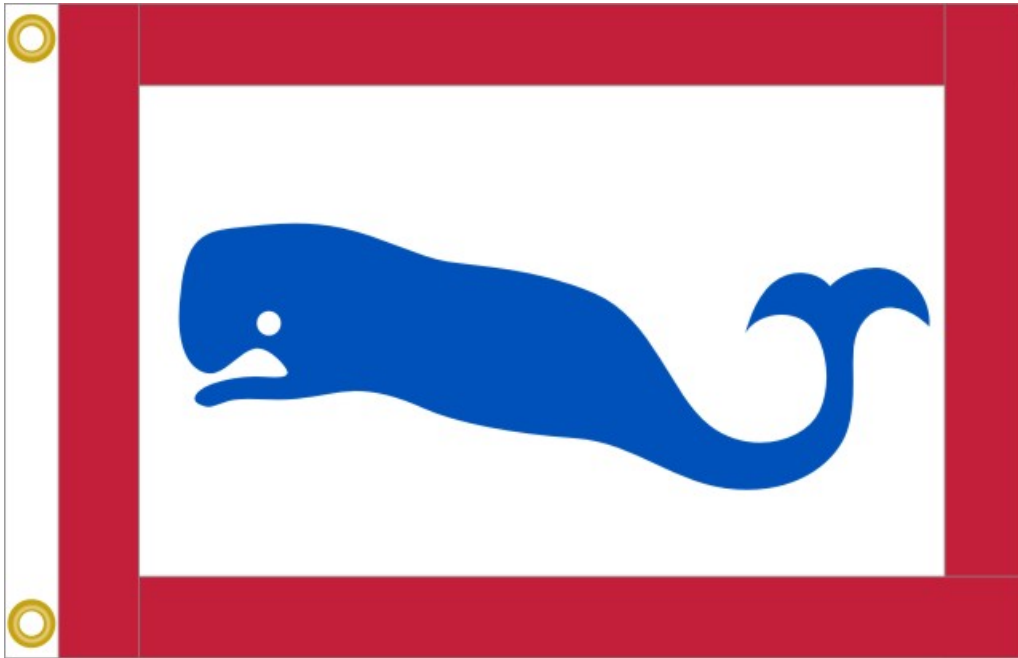


This Week in SMSA: July 9, 2016

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For your Consideration: Continuing Education

It was a crazy week for me, which is why you are getting Thursday's e-mail blast on Saturday. I have been all over the district this week, starting at Tabor Academy in Marion last Tuesday, on to Stage Harbor YC on Thursday, a quick trip to Edgartown on Friday, and back to West Dennis for the weekend. In all locations, I saw signs of happy kids and adults enjoying the waters of Southern Mass. Whether it was a learn to sail programs, an Opti regatta, rules seminar, or preparing for a C420 regatta, the attitude of the participants was inspiring.

In Edgartown, I spend three and a half hours going over the rules with a very eager group of adults, who all wanted to know how to play the game better. The rules dictate how we play the game and without them, there is no game to play. Our focused on using the rules as a shield and not a

sword, a term I first heard from the great Toby Baker. The central theme was to know enough about the rules so that someone would not take advantage of you. We also discussed the importance of meeting after racing and discussing in a clear and concise manner any interested situations that developed, so that everyone could learn.

I left Edgartown feeling inspired by the participants and the journey they were all embarking on this summer. Hope that your post fourth of July sailing experience was inspirational as well.