



Scotch Bonnet Light Race

The Event Name

June 6, 2025 Tony Gambacurta

The name of our event is sometimes a source of confusion. People may wonder, what is a **Light Race**?

The event founder, Peter Allen, was looking for a way to do a long distance race that would be a test of navigation. This ruled out coastal races. The nearest place that involved offshore sailing was this place on the chart near Canada called Scotch Bonnet Light.

Below is a chart from the 1980 Sailing Instructions. The significant aspect is that the chart, from the 70's labels Scotch Bonnet as "Scotch Bonnet Lt." (Lt. = Light) This is where the name of the event originated. Current charts label it as "Scotch Bonnet I.". The I meaning Island.

I surmise that Peter Looked at the Lake Ontario chart in 1972 and saw Scotch Bonnet Lt and named it after this clearly marked spot along the Canadian shore.

One may wonder if the charts in the early 70's said Scotch Bonnet I, as they do now, if the event might have been named the Scotch Bonnet Island Race.

The event has been referred to a number of ways:

SBL

SBLR

Scotch Bonnet

Scotch Bonnet Race

Scotch Bonnet Light Race

Scotch Bonnet Light Offshore Race

Scotch Bonnet Light House Race (incorrect)

The proper way to refer to our event is:

Scotch Bonnet Light Race -or- SBLR

Sometimes **Scotch Bonnet** if it makes the narrative flow better.

1980 chart below.

1980 SCOTCH BONNET RACE

GENESEE
YACHT
CLUB

