



Preparing a race proposal in Google Earth

29 December 2009

Race proposals in Google Earth

- Content of a race proposal
- Creating the framework
- Creating the race elements
- Finishing touches

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Race elements

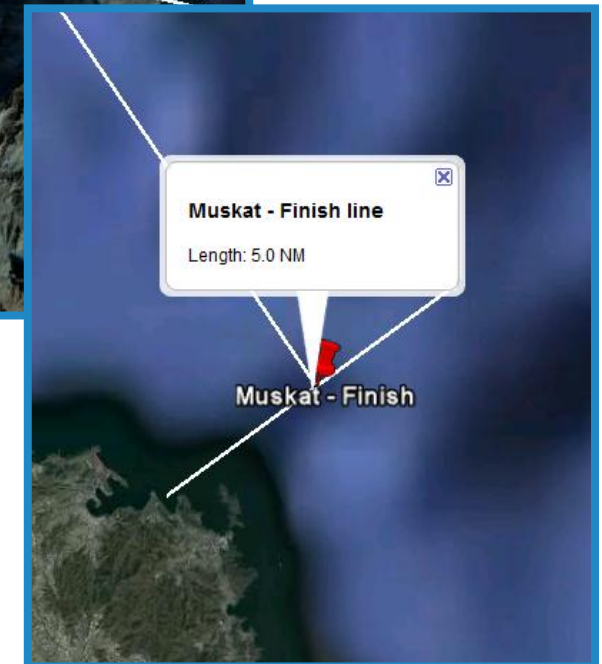
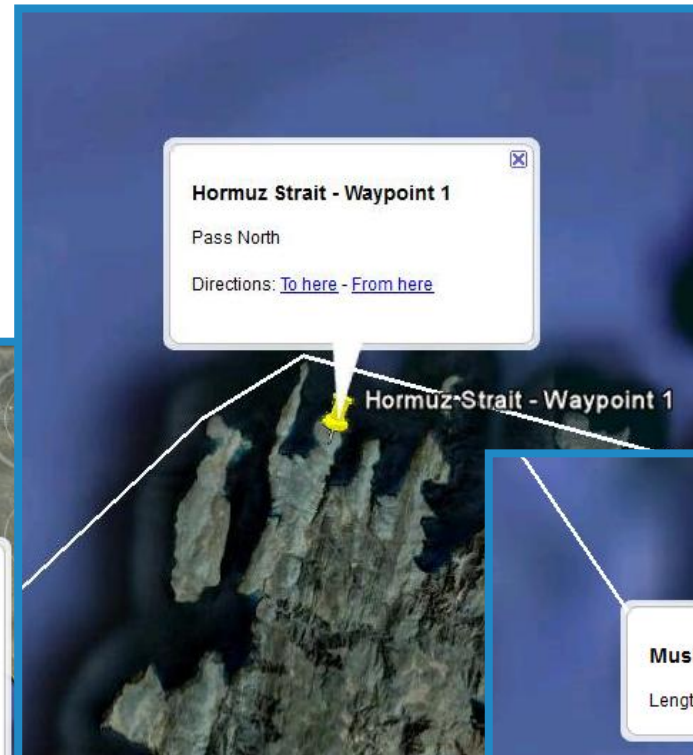
Each race proposal consists of the following elements:

- Course
- Start
- Waypoints
- Finish
- Finish line



Element descriptions

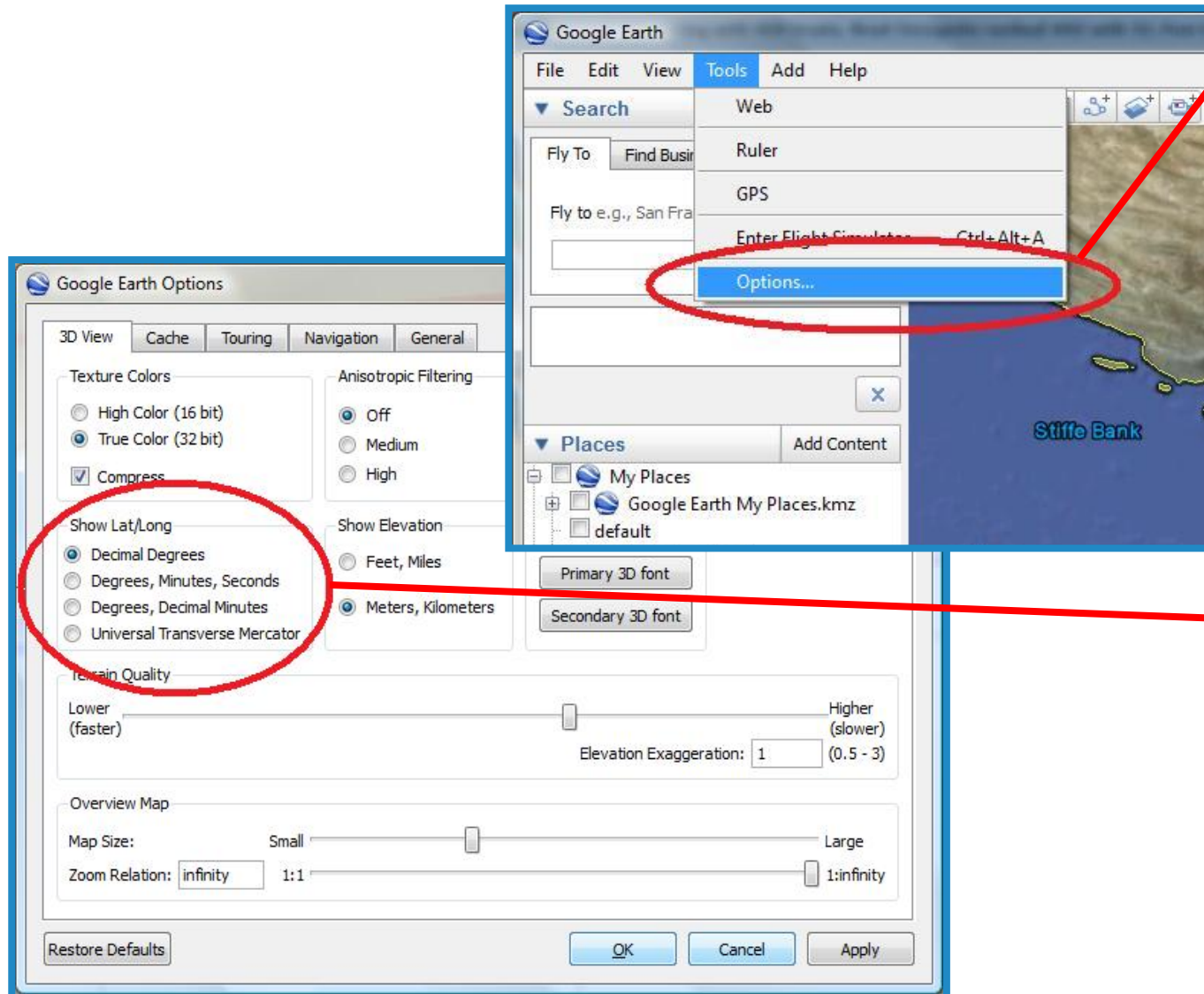
- Double-click on course, waypoints or finish line to see a more detailed description.



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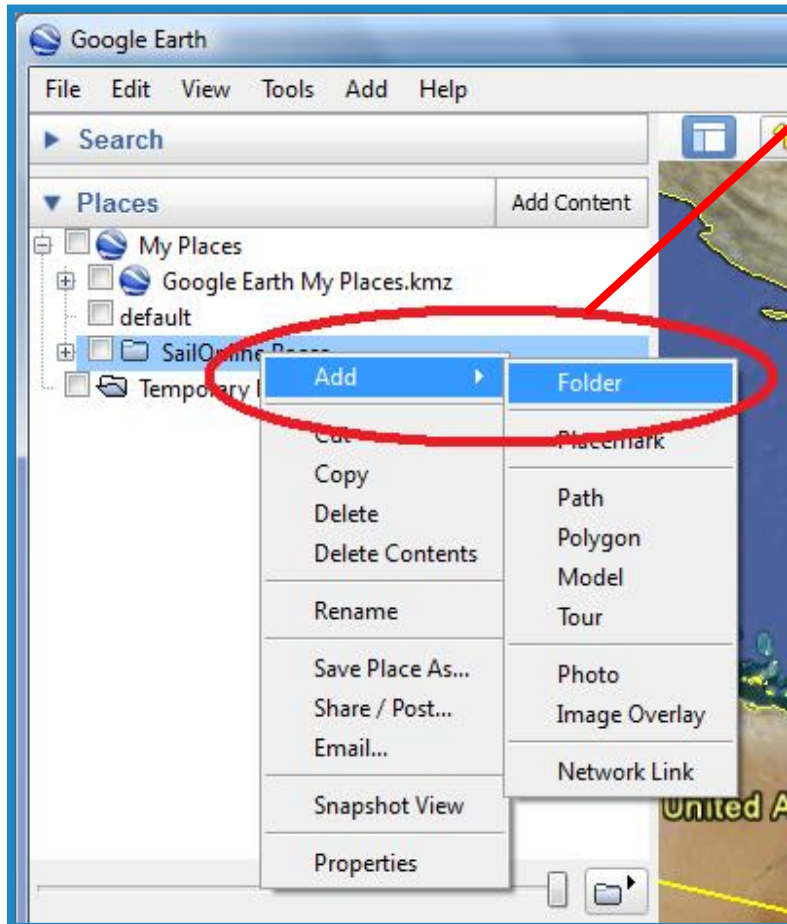
Position format



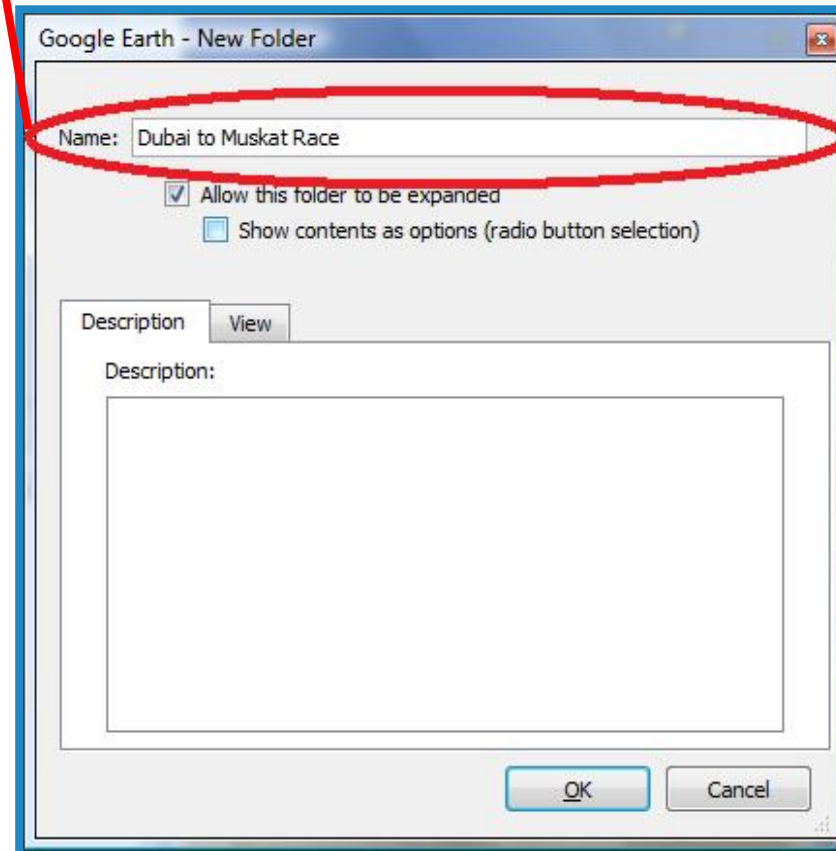
- In the main menu, go to **Tools**, then **Options**.

- In the **3D View** tab, set **Show Lat/Long** to the SailOnline format **Decimal Degrees**.

Race folder



- Right-click on an existing folder in your Places.
- Add a new Folder with the Name of the race. Example: 'Dubai to Muskat Race'.

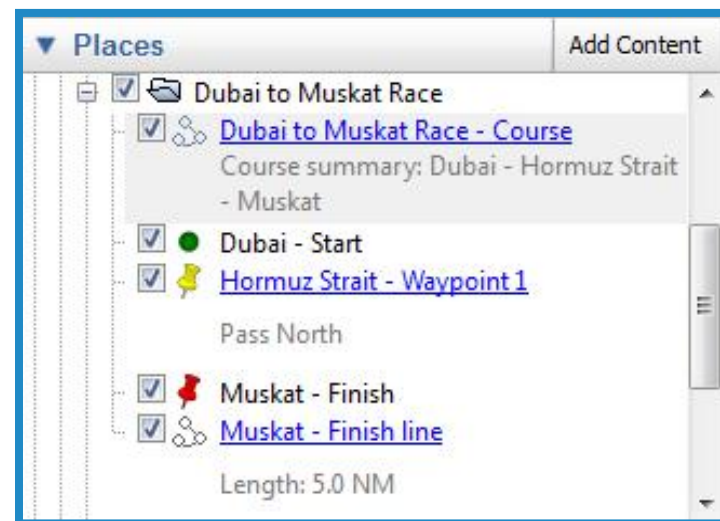
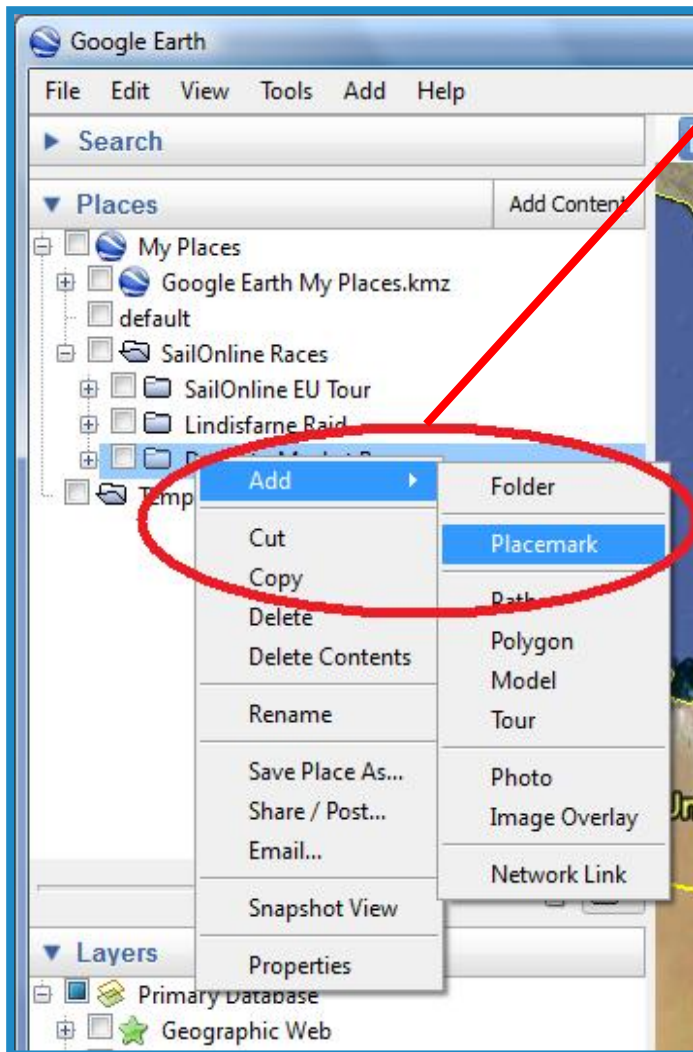


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Race elements

- Right-click on the race folder, and add the elements that will constitute the race proposal.
- **Placemarks:** start, finish and waypoints.
- **Paths:** course and finish line.



Formatting concept

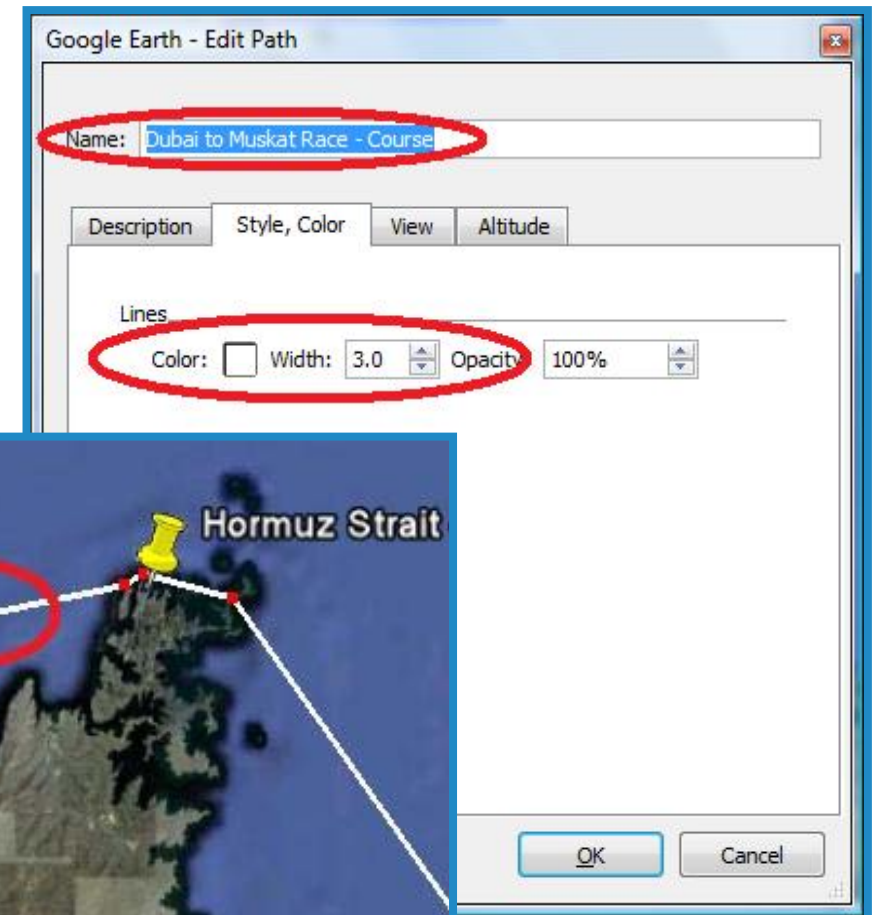
- Colors and other formats have been chosen to achieve:
 - High readability in Google Earth
 - Quick understanding of the proposed race
- Placemarks:
 - Start, waypoints and finish have different icons to distinguish them when they are at the same position.
 - Start: green dot
 - Waypoints: yellow pushpins
 - Finish: red pushpin
 - The tip of a pushpin indicates its position.
- Paths:
 - Course: white line, width 3.0
 - Finish line: white line, width 3.0

Course - 1

- Right-click on the path in the race folder to edit its properties and:
 - Click & drag to move path points
 - Click to add path points
 - Right-click to delete path points

- Change the **Name** to 'Race name – Course'.
Example:
'Dubai to Muskat – Course'.

- In the **Style, Color** tab:
 - Set the **Color** to white
 - Set the **Width** to 3.0



Course - 2

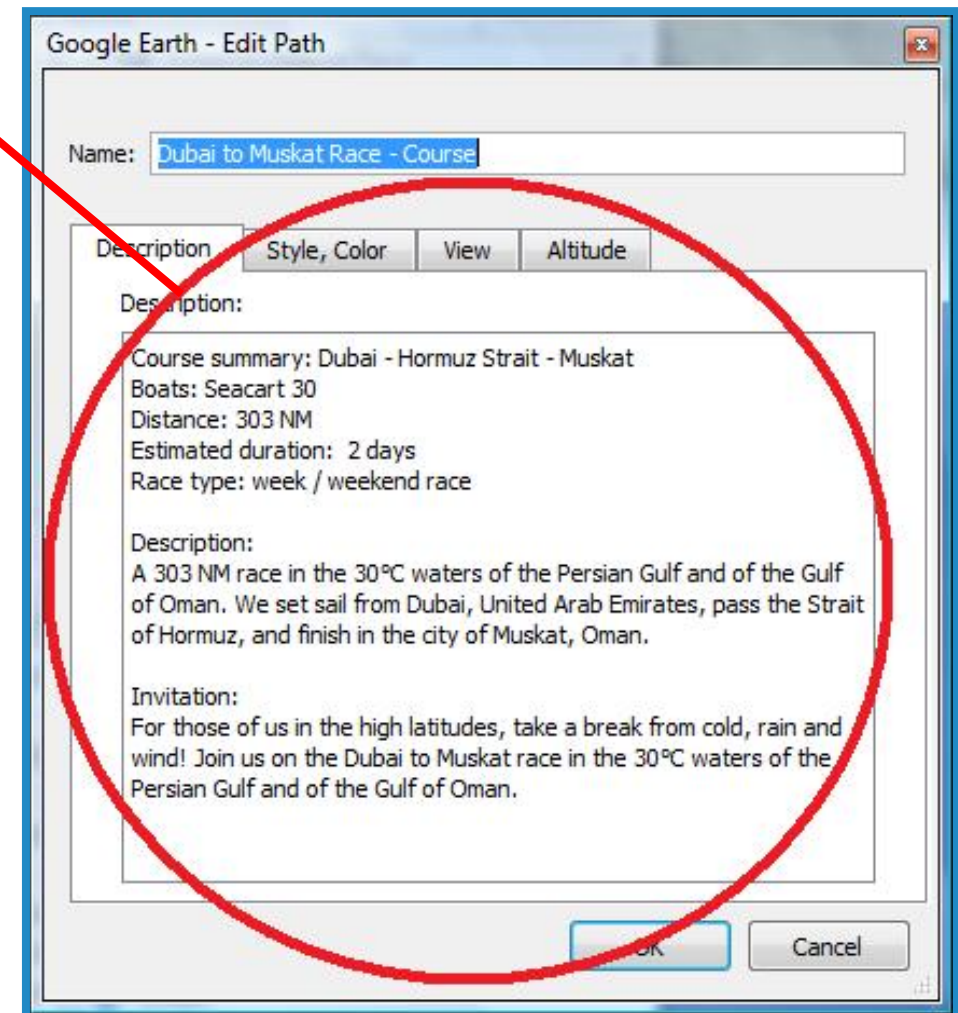
- Draw the course in such a way that it can be easily understood.
- Return legs should not overlap with initial legs. Example: Round White Island Race.
- Position start and finish of longer races clear of immediate obstacles, as many players might want to use delayed commands.



Course - 3

Add the following information in the [Description](#) tab according to the layout shown to the right.

- Course summary:
 - Maximum one line
 - At least start and finish
 - Only the most important waypoints
- Boats
- Distance in NM
- Estimated duration in days
- Race type
- Description: short, about 30 words.
- Invitation: optional. Somewhat longer and might be quite personal and light-hearted if you like.



Google Earth - Edit Path

Name:

Description Style, Color View Altitude

Description:

Course summary: Dubai - Hormuz Strait - Muskat
 Boats: Seacart 30
 Distance: 303 NM
 Estimated duration: 2 days
 Race type: week / weekend race

Description:
 A 303 NM race in the 30°C waters of the Persian Gulf and of the Gulf of Oman. We set sail from Dubai, United Arab Emirates, pass the Strait of Hormuz, and finish in the city of Muskat, Oman.

Invitation:
 For those of us in the high latitudes, take a break from cold, rain and wind! Join us on the Dubai to Muskat race in the 30°C waters of the Persian Gulf and of the Gulf of Oman.

OK Cancel

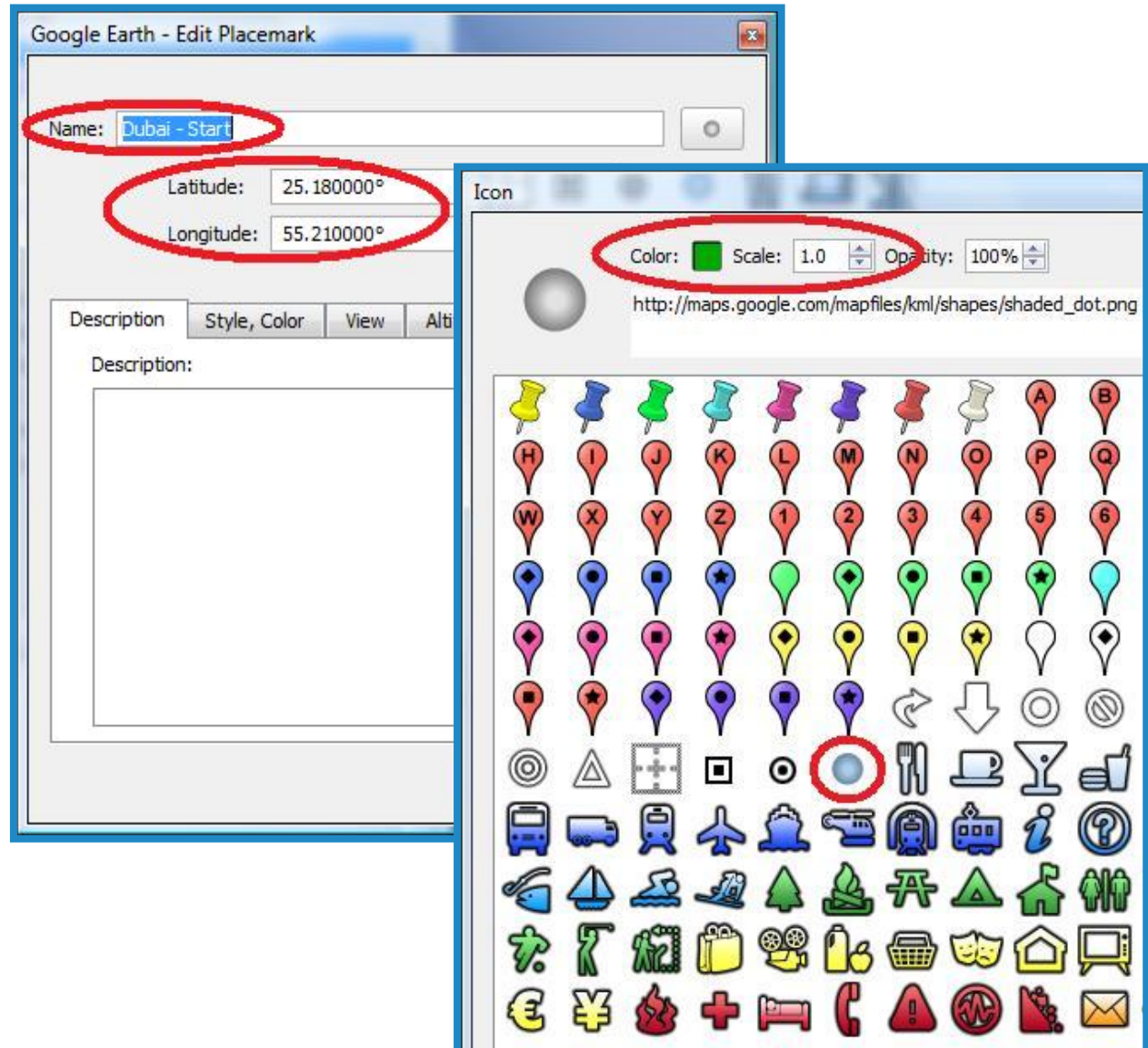
Course - 4

- Estimate the race duration by applying some rule of thumbs:
 - ~350 NM per day for VO70, 60 ft trimaran, Orange
 - ~300 NM per day for Open 60, 90ft monohull
 - ~200 NM per day for Seacart 30
 - ~170 NM per day for First 40.7
 - For other boats, take the speed at a TWA of 80° with a TWS of 12 kts.

- Races are classified as follows:
 - Drag races: a few hours
 - Week and weekend races: ~2 days
 - Offshore races: ~5 days
 - Ocean races: > 7 days

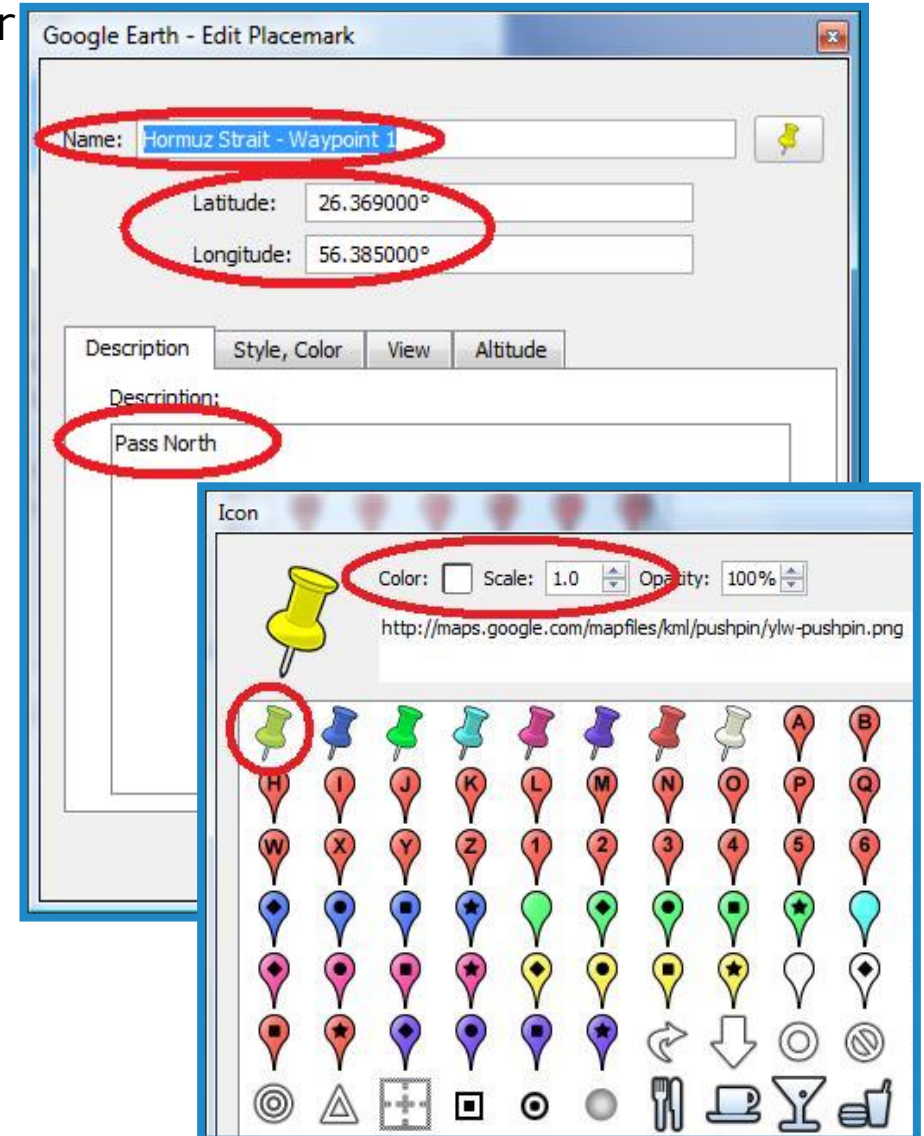
Start

- Right-click on the placemark in the race folder to move it and to edit its properties.
- Change the **Name** to 'Start name – Start'.
Example: 'Dubai – Start'.
- Fine-tune the **Latitude** and the **Longitude**.
- Change the **Icon**:
 - Set the **Shape** to a dot
 - Set the **Color** to green
 - Set the **Scale** to 1.0.



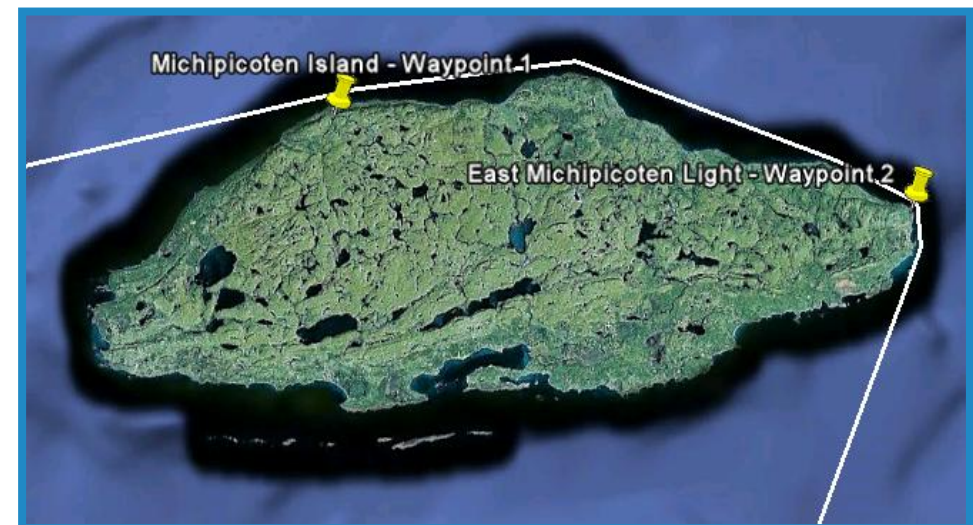
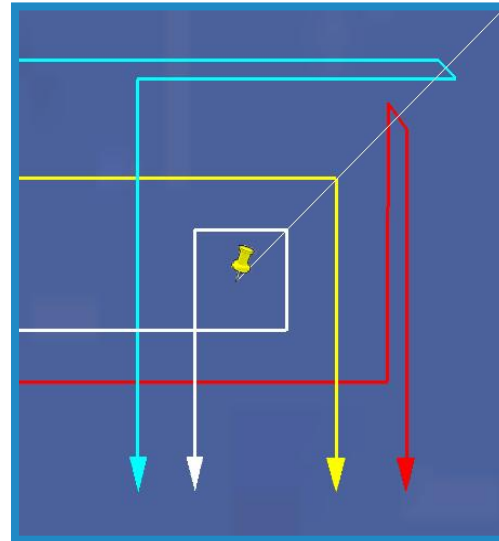
Waypoints - 1

- Right-click on the placemark in the race folder to move it and to edit its properties.
- Change the **Name** to 'Waypoint name – Waypoint #'. Example: 'Hormuz Strait – Waypoint 1'.
- Fine-tune the **Latitude** and the **Longitude**.
- Add the rounding direction in the **Description** tab. Example: 'Pass North'.
- Change the **Icon**:
 - Set the **Shape** to a yellow pushpin
 - Leave the **Color** unchanged
 - Set the **Scale** to 1.0



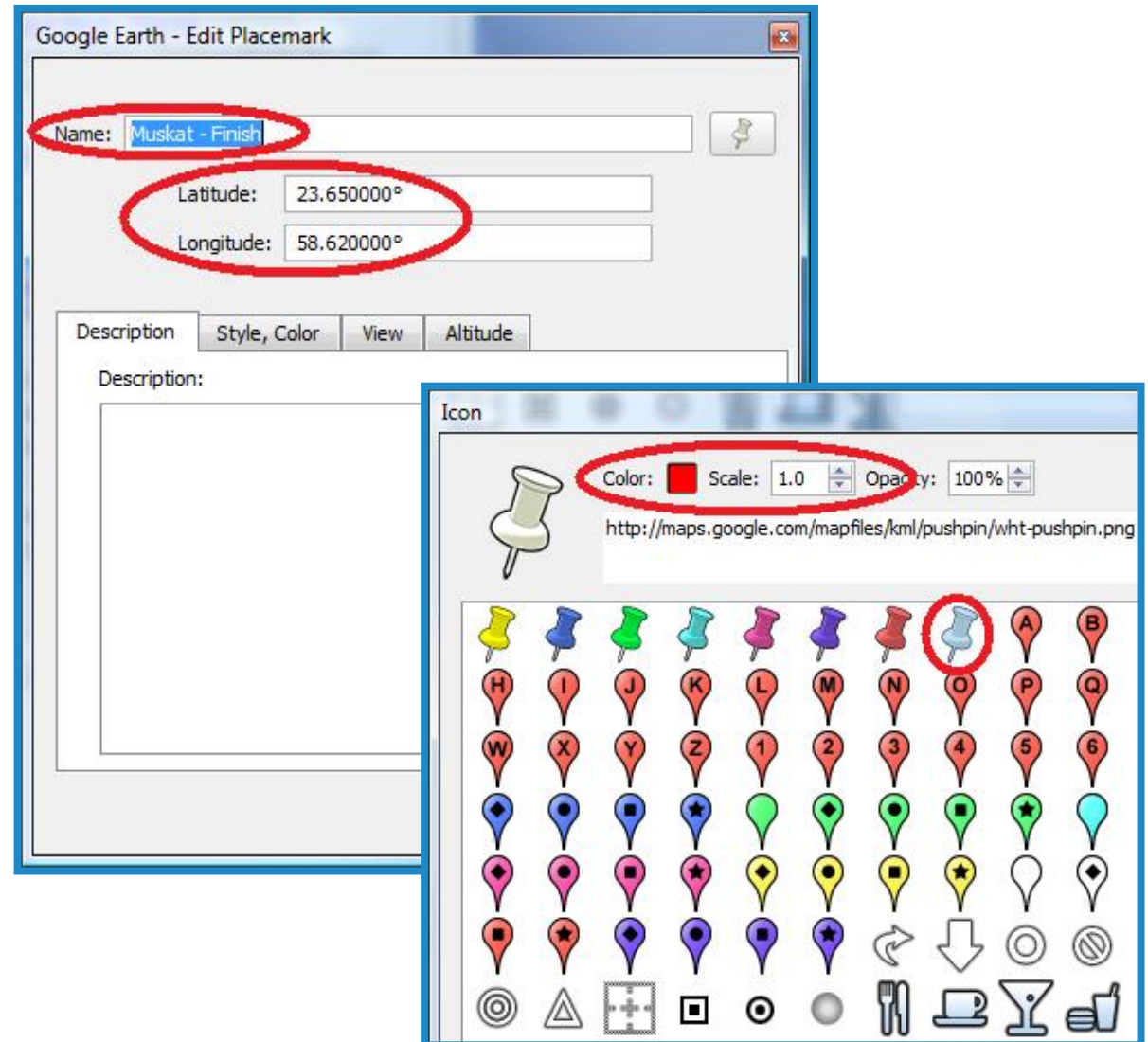
Waypoints - 2

- All waypoints in SailOnline can be crossed in the four ways shown right.
- Add waypoints to make some rounding options virtually impossible and to force rounding in a specific direction. Example: 'Michipicoten Island – Waypoint 1'.
- Add waypoints to make the rankings during the race more meaningful. Example: 'Hormuz Strait – Waypoint 1'.



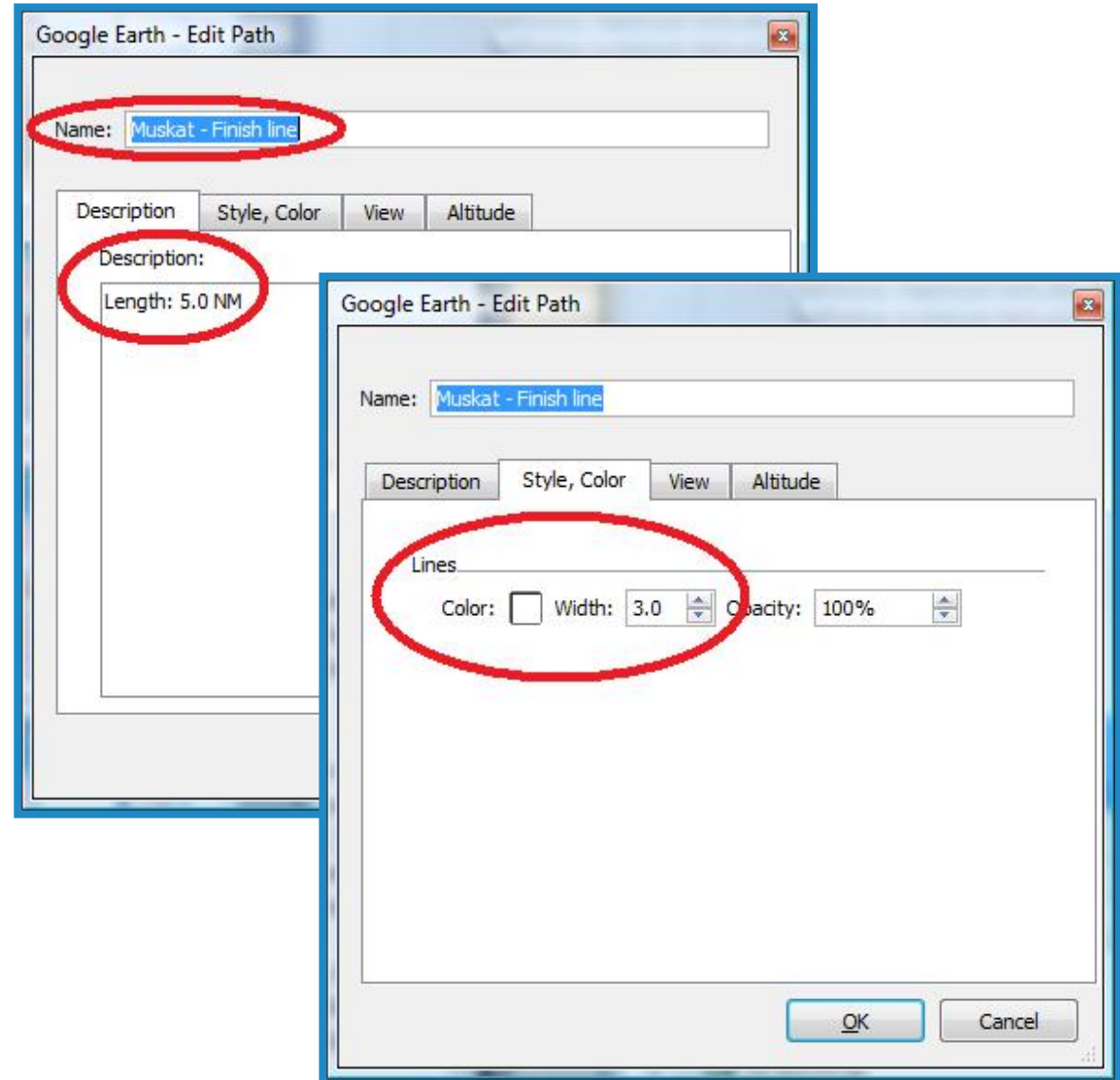
Finish

- Right-click on the placemark in the race folder to move it and to edit its properties.
- Change the **Name** to 'Finish name – Finish'.
Example: 'Muskat – Finish'
- Fine-tune the **Latitude** and the **Longitude**.
- Change the **Icon**:
 - Set the **Shape** to a pushpin
 - Set the **Color** to bright red
 - Set the **Scale** to 1.0



Finish line - 1

- Right-click on the path in the race folder to edit its properties and to adjust path points.
- Change the **Name** to 'Finish name – Finish line'.
Example: 'Muskat – Finish line'.
- Add in the **Description** tab:
 - Length: X.X NM
- In the **Style, Color** tab:
 - Set the **Color** to white
 - Set the **Width** to 3.0



Finish line - 2

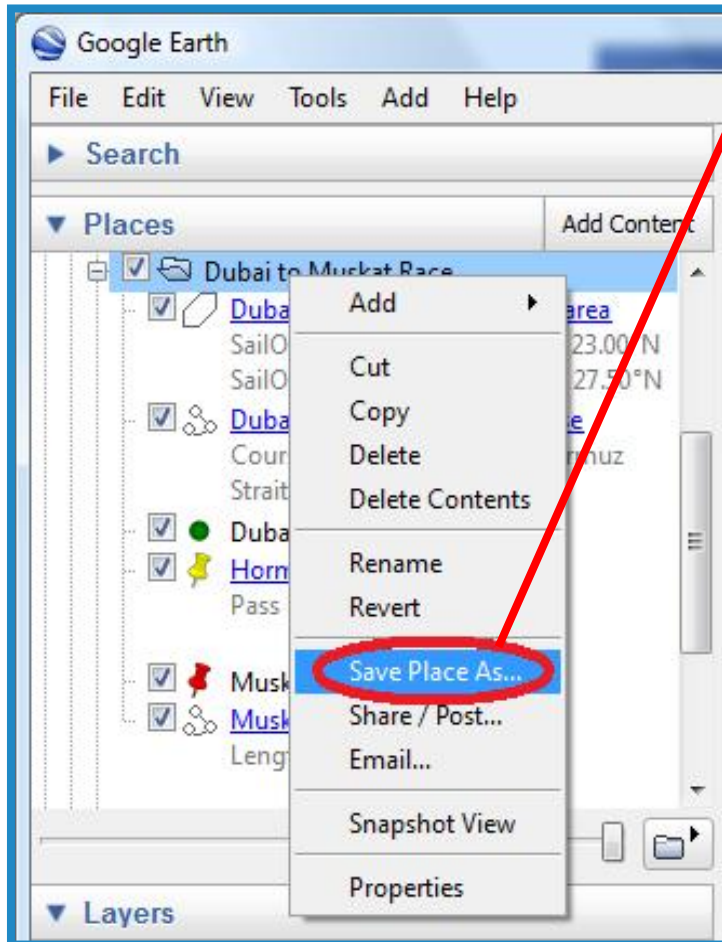
- The finish should be approximately in the middle of the finish line.
- The finish line should be approximately perpendicular to the line between the last waypoint and the finish.
- The length of the finish line should be chosen in function of the type of race:
 - ~1 NM for drag races
 - ~5 NM for week and weekend races
 - ~10 NM for offshore races
 - ~20 NM for ocean races



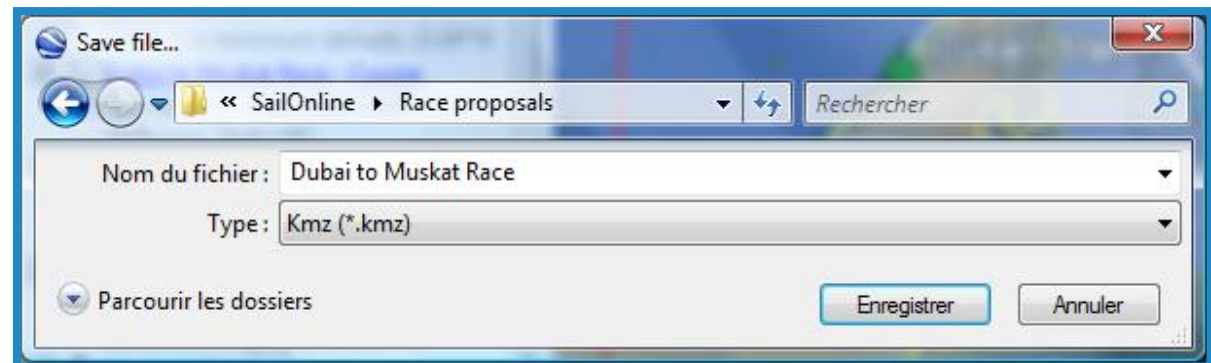
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Completing the race proposal



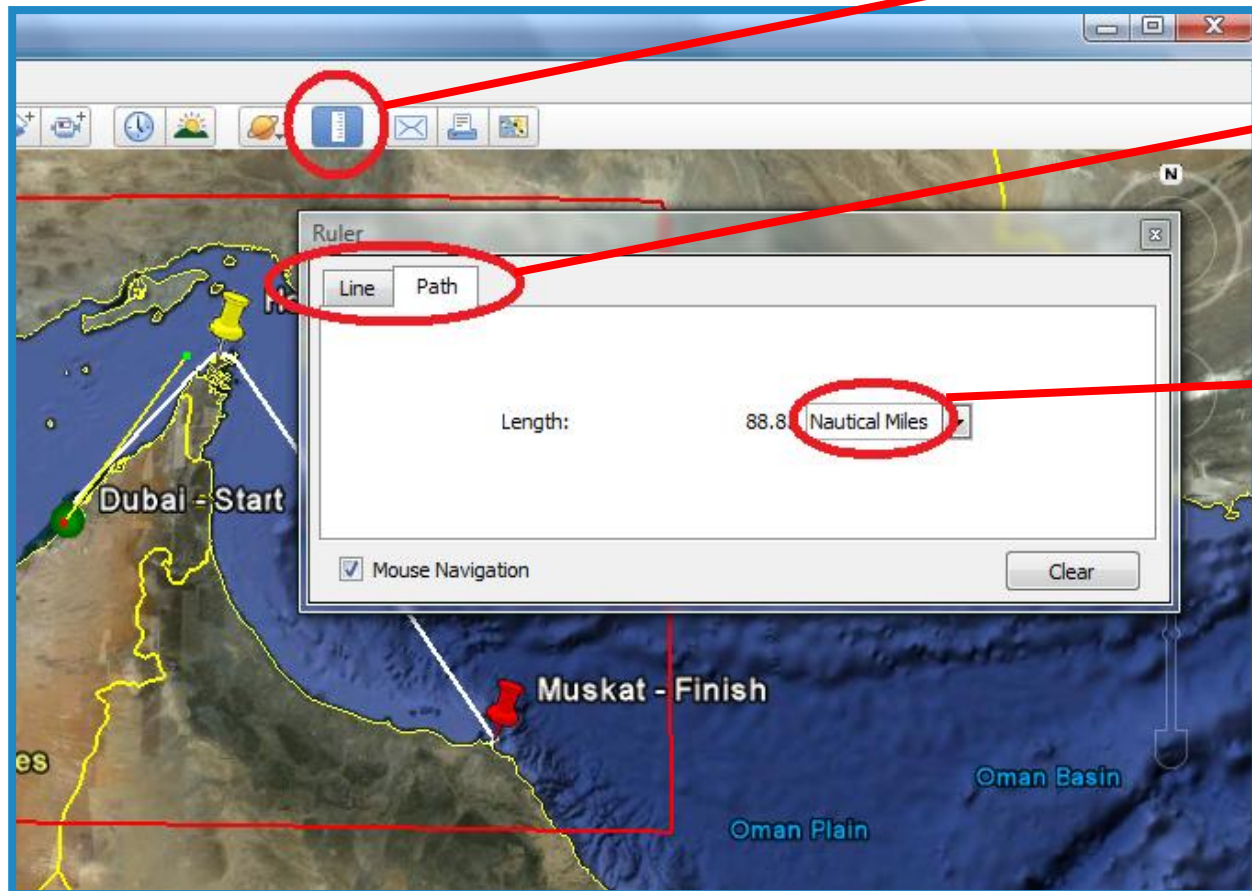
- Right-click on the race folder and chose [Save Place As ...](#) .
- Save the file and share it with the SailOnline race committee or with the SailOnline community.





Thank you!

Distances



- Use the **Ruler** to calculate distances.
- Chose the **Path** tab if you want to calculate a distance over anything else than a straight line.
- Set the unit to **Nautical Miles**.

Snapshot views

- Double-click on any object in **Places**, and Google Earth will show its snapshot view.
- Right-click on an object in **Places** and click on **Snapshot View** to set it.
- Edit the snapshot view in the **View** tab of its properties.

