

***Blue Ridge Regatta***  
***Smith Mountain Lake, VA***

***April 25/26, 2026***

***Organizing Authorities: Blackwater Yacht Racing Association (BYRA)***  
***Virginia Inland Sailing Association (VISA)***

**NOTICE OF RACE (NOR)**

**GENERAL**

The Blue Ridge Regatta (the event) is a sailing regatta organized for multiple classes of sailboats to compete in multiple races during the two-day event, and to encourage participation in non-racing fun events for sailors who do not want to race their boats. The event encourages all sailors and non-sailors to enjoy social experiences on the waters of beautiful Smith Mountain Lake, Virginia.

The regatta thanks the co-organizers - Blackwater Yacht Racing Association and Virginia Inland Sailing Association, the co-hosting yacht clubs, - Pelican Point Yacht Club and Virginia Inland Sailing Association, and our sponsor ML Realty. Please enjoy the facilities visited and consider using the services they offer.

**1 RULES**

- 1.1** The event is governed by the Rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing for 2025-2028* including US Sailing Prescriptions (RRS).
- 1.2** For boats participating in the non-racing “Poker Run” part of this event, the Rules of Section 2 of the RRS are replaced with the right-of-way rules of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea.
- 1.3 Wind Rules:**
  - a) No racing class will be started unless, in the judgement of the Race Committee, the consistent wind is sufficient for boats to maintain enough headway that a race can be successfully completed.
  - b) 20 MPH (17 knots) Rule: No class will be started if the consistent wind exceeds 20 mph or gusts exceed 25 mph (22 knots). The responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or continue *racing* is hers alone.

**2 EQUIPMENT**

- 2.1** Boats shall carry a VHF radio capable of communicating on all standard US VHF radio channels for pleasure use.
- 2.2** All boats shall carry equipment and be operated as required by Virginia law (see <https://dwr.virginia.gov/boating/boaters-guide/safe-boating/>), the RRS and their class associations.
- 2.3** Boats and their equipment may be inspected at any time.

**3 ENTRY & FEES**

- 3.1** The event is open to all boats interested in sailing on Smith Mountain Lake.
- 3.2** To participate in the event, a boat shall display an identifying sail number or name.

- 3.3 The Organizing Authorities do not know how many boats of what type will enter the event. Classes will be established depending on what boats enter. Large boat classes anticipated include PHRF racing and cruising boats and Harbor 20s and Alerions. Small boat classes anticipated include Wayfarers and Flying Scots sailing as one design classes, and other various or one design boats sailing as a separate class using Portsmouth Yardstick ratings.
- 3.4 If three or more similar PHRF or one design boats signup, they will race as a class. If fewer than three similar boats signup, they will sail as a combined class use PHRF handicaps for large boats and Portsmouth Yardstick for smaller boats.
- 3.5 Entry forms are available on the Official Notice Board – [www.BlueRidgeRegatta.org](http://www.BlueRidgeRegatta.org) which show the types of boats anticipated to attend and the fees for entry.
- 3.6 The deadline for entry is April 13, 2026. Entries received after April 13 will be subject to a \$50.00 surcharge.

#### **4 SCHEDULE OF RACES**

- 4.1 Saturday April 25, 2026:  
Skippers' meeting - all racing classes, VISA deck, 0930 hours.  
First warning signal - 1000 hours, off the VISA club facilities.  
BYO lunch - VISA deck, 1200 hours.  
Racing recommences 1300.  
The intension is to run as many races as wind and course design permit.  
Dinner – VISA deck, 1730 hours  
Live band entertainment – VISA deck, 1830 hours
- 4.2 Sunday April 26, 2026:  
Skippers' meeting - PPYC clubhouse, 1030 hours.  
First warning signal - 1100 hours off the PPYC club facilities.  
The intension is to run as many races as wind and course design permit.
- 4.3 The time of the first warning signal may be delayed at the skipper's meeting or on the water by announcement via VHF radio. This changes RRS 90.2 (c).
- 4.4 Poker Run:  
A skipper's meeting for the non-racing "Poker Run" boats will be held at 1245 hours Saturday on the VISA deck. The Distributing Boats (as defined in the Poker Run sailing instructions) will be on station to distribute playing cards from 1400 to 1600. There will not be a timed start for the "Poker Run" as there would be for a race. Boats will leave the dock and start to sail individually. Participating boats may proceed to the Distributing boats in any order.
- 4.5 On the last day of racing no warning signal will be made after 1445 hours.
- 4.6 Awards ceremony:  
For the Poker Run boats - 1830 hours Saturday on the VISA deck.  
For racing boats - 1530 Sunday at PPYC.
- 4.7 Arrangements shall be provided for boats to be towed between VISA and PPYC before and after all races as they may require.

#### **5 VENUE/COURSES**

- 5.1 Races will be sailed on Smith Mountain Lake in the main body of the lake east of mark R16 on

the Roanoke River and Mark B11 on the Blackwater River. Races may be held in Bull Run north of mark BU5. Races will exclude Cradock Creek north of mark C1.

- 5.2 The choice of course type, length and racing area will be subject to wind conditions at the time of the warning signal for that race.
- 5.3 Wind permitting, the first race for the large boat classes will be a distance or “Road Course”. Other races may be around the buoys races or road courses.
- 5.4 Courses for small boat classes will be short around the buoys races designed to maximize the number of races, and give the boats the opportunity to work on starting and mark rounding techniques. A road course is an option if desired by the skippers.
- 5.5 Around the buoys race courses will generally be chosen from the Course Diagrams L, LA and TL of RRS Appendix S.

## 6 OFFICIAL NOTICE BOARD/ SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SI)

- 6.1 The Official Notice Board for this event shall be [www.BlueRidgeRegatta.org](http://www.BlueRidgeRegatta.org)
- 6.2 The SI for large boat classes, small boat classes and the Poker Run shall be posted on the Official Notice Board [www.BlueRidgeRegatta.org](http://www.BlueRidgeRegatta.org) on or before April 13, 2026.
- 6.3 Notices to Competitors and Changes to Rules shall be available on the [www.BlueRidgeRegatta.org](http://www.BlueRidgeRegatta.org) website as soon as they are published.

## 7 SCORING

- 7.1 RRS Appendix A Low Point Scoring System will be used as adjusted below.
- 7.2 At least five races are planned for the event, wind permitting. One scored race shall constitute the event.
- 7.3 RRS A 5.3 shall apply.
- 7.4 Boats not finishing within the finishing window time limit stated in the sailing instructions shall be scored TLE. A boat scored TLE shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the points scored by the last boat that finished within the Finishing Window. This changes RRS A5.3.
- 7.5 PHRF race results shall be calculated using the Time-on-Time method using light air time correction factors.

## 8 PRIZES

- 8.1 Prizes will be awarded as follows.
  - a) Trophies will be awarded for the large boat and small boat racing classes established based on entries. Prizes will be awarded to the Poker Run boats participating.
  - b) For each racing class with three or more boats competing, trophies will be awarded for first, second and third place finishes.
  - c) For classes with fewer than three participants, prizes will be awarded for the boats competing.
  - d) Cash prizes or gift certificates shall be awarded to the three boats in the Poker Run with the highest ranked poker hands. The ranking of poker hands shall be determined according to Poker.org.

**9 INSURANCE**

9.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance.

**10 MEDIA**

10.1 Competitors give absolute right and permission for any photograph and video footage taken of themselves, their crew and the boat they are sailing during the events to be published in any media.

**11 CODE OF CONDUCT**

11.1 Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from Race Officials and conduct themselves in a gracious manner.

11.2 All boats' crews shall comply with VISA and PPYC rules and regulations and reasonable requests from VISA and PPYC management while on their property.

**12 FURTHER INFORMATION**

12.1 For further information please contact:

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Dawn Pierce	<a href="mailto:dawninganu@gmail.com">dawninganu@gmail.com</a>	(540) 353-7909	(VISA contact)