

*Blue Ridge Regatta*

*Smith Mountain Lake, VA*

*April 25/26, 2026*

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

**Poker Run Sailing Instructions**

**1) GENERAL**

To increase participation in the Blue Ridge Regatta for sailors who do not want to race, BYRA and VISA have organized this non-racing event. Participants are invited to join the regatta activities including dinner and after dinner entertainment, and will have the chance to win prizes, separate from the competing sailboats.

**2) DEFINITIONS**

Distributing Boat – a boat that will give out playing cards to a Participating Boat.

Participating Boat – a boat that sails in the event to pickup playing cards to create a poker hand.

**3) SAFETY**

Safety of the Participating Boats, sailors and Distributing Boats is of paramount importance.

Participating Boats, their owners, skippers and Persons in Charge and agree that the boat will comply with all requirements of Virginia law at all times during their participation.

**The responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in the event or to continue participating is hers alone.”**

By participating in this event each Owner, Skipper, Person in Charge and Crew Member agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. **Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of damage or permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.**

The event organizers (organizing authorities, host clubs, sponsors, or any other organization or official) will not be responsible for damage to any boat or other property or injury to any participant, including death, sustained as a result of participation in this

event. By participating in this event, each participant agrees to release the event organizers from any and all liability associated with such competitor's participation in this event to the fullest extent permitted by law.

#### **4) EVENT PROCESS**

This event is a "Poker Run" modified for sailboat participation. Four boats (the "Distributing Boats") will be stationed in the Roanoke River, west of R8 and east of R16. They will be spaced to give the Participating Boats a couple of hours sail between the Distributing Boats – closer together if the wind is light, farther apart if the wind is good.

A skipper's meeting will be held at 12:30 April 25, 2026 on the VISA deck to explain the event and its rules.

A deck of cards will be randomly divided between the four Distributing Boats and the dock at VISA. Each Participating Boat will sail to each of the four Distributing Boats and pick up a card. The last card for each Participating Boat will be available at the dock at VISA.

Participating Boats will sail to each Distributing Boat in any order. A card selected by the Participating Boat will be given to that boat by the Distributing Boat.

If other Participating Boats are trying to pick up a card at a Distributing Boat, the Participating Boat must wait for a safe and reasonable opportunity to pick up their card.

No organized racing type start will be held. Boats are not required to start at VISA.

Distributing Boats will be on station from 1400 to 1600 or earlier if all Participating Boats have picked up their cards.

#### **5) CARD PICKUP**

Participating Boats will approach Distributing Boats and, if possible, hold onto the Distributing Boat to choose a card kept face down on a tray held by the Distributing Boat. If holding on is not possible, they will sail close enough to make their choice known to the crew of the Distributing Boat.

After Participating Boats have picked up cards from each Distributing Boat (or as many cards as they can while the Distributing Boats are on station) they are to proceed to the VISA dock to pick up their last card. The "poker hands" of each Participating Boat will be recorded and ranked.

#### **6) PENALTIES**

A Participating Boat that collides with another Participating Boat or a Distributing Boat and causes any damage or injury will be disqualified from the event. **The use of fenders and**

**fending off from other Participating Boats and the Distributing Boats is strongly encouraged!** Use of the Participating Boat's engine while maneuvering to pick up a card is encouraged. Safety of each boat and its crew is paramount. **Collisions are to be strictly avoided at all costs!**

## **7) WIND**

Should there be less than 2 mph of wind, Participating Boats can use their engines to motor between the Distributing Boats for 80% of the time they are trying to pick up cards. This requirement will be self policing.

Should the wind or sea conditions make picking up a card unsafe for any reason in the sole discretion of the skippers of the Distributing and Participating Boats, the card the Participating Boat chooses will be marked with the name of that Participating Boat and kept aside for pickup by that Participating Boat at the dock at VISA.

## **8) RANKING POKER HANDS**

Poker Hands will be ranked and ties determined according to [Poker.org](http://Poker.org).

## **9) PRIZES**

Prizes will be awarded to the top three ranked poker hands.

First Prize     \$100 cash

Second Prize   Gift certificate

Third Prize     Gift certificate