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 <u>not</u> want to race, BYRA and VISA have organized this non-racing event. Participants are requested to join the regatta activities including dinner and after dinner entertainment, and will have the chance to win prizes, separate from the racing sailboats.

2)   DEFINITIONS

Distributing Boat – a boat that will distribute playing cards to a Participating Boat.
Participating Boat – a boat that sails in the event to claim playing cards to create a poker hand.

3)   SAFETY AND LIABILITY RELEASE

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

Participating Boats, their owners, skippers and Persons in Charge 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.

A skipper's meeting will be held at 1230 hours April 25, 2026 on the VISA deck to explain the event and its rules.

Four Distributing Boats will be stationed in the Roanoke River section of the lake, 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. There is no need for Participating Boats to approach closer to Distributing Boats than "hailing distance". Cards can be claimed as the Participating Boat sails or motors by.

A deck of cards will be shuffled and dealt to the four Distributing Boats and the dock at VISA. Each Participating Boat will sail to each of the four Distributing Boats and claim a card. The last card for each Participating Boat will be available at the dock at VISA and will be distributed after the Participating Boat has claimed their other cards at the Distributing Boats.

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

If other Participating Boats are trying to claim a card at a Distributing Boat, the arriving Participating Boat must wait for a safe and reasonable opportunity to claim 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 and will be identified by flags.

5)   CARD PICKUP

The Distributing boats will each have a card selection board with ten cards, the backs of which will be showing, organized into two rows and five columns.

	1	2	3	4	5
A	🟥		🟥	🟥	🟥
B	🟥	🟥		🟥	🟥

In the example above cards A2 and B3 have been claimed.

The Participating boat will hail the Distributing Boat claiming their card by row and column number. No one will know what the card is until it is claimed and turned over. The Distributing Boat will remove that card from the board and write the boat's name on it, leaving an empty slot. The Distributing Boat will tell the Participating Boat what the card is.

After Participating Boats have visited each Distributing Boat (or as many Distributing Boats as they can while the Distributing Boats are on station) they are to proceed to the VISA dock to receive 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 claim a card is encouraged. Safety of each boat and its crew is paramount. **Collisions are to be strictly avoided at all costs!**

7)   WIND

If the wind is too light to sail, Participating Boats can use their engines to motor between the Distributing Boats for approximately 80% of the time they are trying to claim cards. This requirement will be self policing.

Should the wind or sea conditions make hailing to claim a card unsafe for any reason in the sole discretion of the skippers of the Distributing and Participating Boats, the Participating Boat may call the Distributing boat by cell phone to select their card. The Distributing Boat's cell phone number will be posted on the card selection board.

8)   RANKING POKER HANDS

Poker Hands will be ranked and ties determined according to Poker.org.

9)   PRIZES
Prizes will be awarded to the winning Participating Boats immediately after dinner on Saturday night on the deck at VISA.
Prizes will be awarded to the top three ranked poker hands.
First Prize $100 cash
Second Prize Gift certificate
Third Prize   Gift certificate