

BLACKWATER YACHT RACING ASSOCIATION

Smith Mountain Lake
Union Hall, Virginia

BYRA was formed in 1985 when a group of local sailors decided that a sailboat racing club was needed at Smith Mountain Lake. Our club's goal has always been to provide a low-cost organization to encourage and sponsor sailboat racing and provide non-sailors an opportunity to experience our exciting sport. The club is based at the Pelican Point Yacht Club in Union Hall, VA. Race days start there with pre-race skippers' meetings and end with post-race socials at their club house. BYRA maintains club power boats for use in running the sailboat races which are stored at Pelican Point.

BYRA's racing season begins in April and extends through November. The Spring Series includes four race dates during April and May/June with two races scheduled each day. The Fall Series also includes four race dates during September and October/November. In addition, BYRA holds a Spring invitational 2-day regatta which is open to non-members, a summer pub race and an annual night race. Awards are presented to top finishers in each fleet for Series Races and Invitational Regattas.

Our membership consists of 30 to 40 families with 12 to 25 keelboats competing on any given race day. Race days begin at 11:00 AM with the skippers' meeting at Pelican Point YC.

BYRA members take turns serving as the day's race committee.

After Saturday races, there are snacks and beverages available at no charge for an after-race social hour. The year's event schedule is concluded in November, with the annual awards banquet.

BYRA membership is open to anyone with an interest in sailing. Sailing experience and/or boat ownership are not required. Racing skippers are eager to take on new crew and provide the sailing and sailboat racing experience.

In 2025, BYRA membership costs \$300 per year for boat owning members, or \$200 per year for members who do not own boats. Membership includes entry into the BYRA club races and participation in the social activities. Many of our members are also members of the Pelican Point Yacht Club and moor their boats at the marina.

Pelican Point Yacht Club is a privately-owned gated marina with the finest amenities on the lake including a pool, beach, tennis courts, showers and clubhouse as well as a full service yard, boat launch, and yacht store. A separate membership is required for Pelican Point Yacht Club for yacht storage and unlimited use of the facilities.

Visit our website www.byrasailing.org for a membership application, racing schedule, handicaps, scores, history, photographs, sailing instructions, and contact information.

Directions to Pelican Point: If on Route 220 exit at Rocky Mount onto Route 40 east. Drive 12.2 miles to Union Hall. Turn left at the Marathon gas station onto Kemp Ford Rd. Drive 1.5 miles and turn right onto Dillard's Hill Rd. Drive 3.2 miles to Pelican Point Yacht Club entrance (just past Contentment Island).

If you are coming via Route 29 exit at Gretna onto route 40 west and drive about 18 miles to Union Hall. Turn right at the Marathon gas station and follow directions shown in preceding paragraph.



By water Pelican Point is on the Blackwater River between B10 and B11.

For further information, please contact the Membership Chairman listed on or website: www.byrasailing.org.