

***BYRA Weekend Sailing Events
Smith Mountain Lake, VA***

Spring Series: April – June, 2023

Fall Series: September – October, 2023

Organizing Authority: Blackwater Yacht Racing Association (BYRA)

NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notice 1 - September 7, 2023

The boats actually competing in the Weekend Sailing Events have required changes to the Classes anticipated by the Organizing Authority. The Sailing Instructions have been revised to accurately reflect the revised Class structure. The changes are detailed in the Changes to Rules tab of the website. The revisions are also reflected in the Sailing Instructions as posted in the Sailing Instructions tab and the Fall 2023 Class Assignments tab.

Notice 2 – September 7, 2023

The Board has agreed to permit boats owned or skippered by a Member of BYRA to race in our series races, even if the owner is not on board.

Notice 3 – September 23, 2023

Please see the information below from the Race Committee regarding today's racing and the weather forecast.

The 6:00 AM weather forecasts indicate that Ophelia will stay farther East than expected last night.

Rainfall and wind projections for the lake have been reduced, according to all the TV weather reports and online reports that I have seen this morning.

One of the more interesting information points I watch is that the app Windy has a feature that shows the actual recorded wind velocity and direction for the past at specific places along with the forecast for those places. One place this is active is a weather station at Penhook. That station has recorded steady winds that are much lower than the forecasts had projected (see the attached picture - the white line shows the Penhook recorded results and the forecasts). Please note the numbers in Windy are in knots.

The Windy forecast tells me that racing today should not be cancelled until the Race Committee sees the actual conditions on the lake just before our sequence commences.

*Please note carefully however that the Penhook actual line DOES NOT show wind gusts. Our rules call for racing to be abandoned with steady winds of 20 mph (17 kn) or gusts of 25 mph (22 kn). All the forecasts I have seen this morning indicate gusts **will exceed** our limits requiring racing to be cancelled. I have not yet done so and will not do so until we see the actual conditions on the course. We know from past experience and from comparing actual to forecast conditions that the conditions on the lake can be much milder than forecast.*

As the skipper of your boat, it is your sole obligation to determine whether the conditions and forecasts exceed safe conditions for your boat in its current condition and the capabilities of your crew. Please do not compete if you question if the conditions are safe for your boat and crew, even if the race committee

does not cancel racing.

Jim Evans

