

History and Officers of the Blackwater Yacht Racing Association

On January 12, 1985, a group of 40 sailors/racers got together at the Pelican Point Yacht Club to further sailing activities on Smith Mountain Lake. This group formed a steering committee to see if there was enough interest to form a new sailing club. The steering committee consisted of: Mark Bittle, Howard Chilton, Eddie Hornick, George Konizer, Charlie Manning, Dale Poe, and Jeff Powell. The steering committee members contributed \$22.00 each to get the club started. Ralph and Ginny Zahn contributed \$100.00 and offered the use of Pelican Point Yacht Club to help get us started.

We began to talk about an open membership racing association for Smith Mountain Lake. The Virginia Inland Sailing Association (VISA) already existed here, but was a private club with a long waiting list, and there were no other organized activities elsewhere on the lake.

Our goal was to have another racing and sailing organization that would be simple, low cost, and anyone could become a member without waiting lists or initiations.

On February 23, 1985, the first BYRA meeting was held in Pelican Point's service shop.

The following people were nominated to be BYRA's first officers:

George Konizer - **Commodore**

Barry Moss - **Vice Commodore**

Joyce Firing - **Rear Commodore**

Jack Chamberlain - **Secretary-Treasurer**

Mark Bittle - **Fleet Captain**

With the name settled, Blackwater Yacht Racing Association (BYRA), club officers elected, by-laws drawn up, dues paid, racing schedule approved, and socials scheduled -- We were ready to go!

Blackwater Yacht Racing Association Charter:

The Blackwater Yacht Racing Association was founded as a non-stock, non-profit, educational organization to fulfill the following objectives:

- ☐ To further the competition and sportsmanship of yacht racing.
- ☐ To provide the opportunity to become familiar with the various elements of seamanship.
- ☐ To strengthen the common bond between sailors through cruising and social activities.

Charter Members

Steve Armstrong & Nora Niles	Robert F. Bell
Alvin Bennett	Mark Bittle
James L. Bowen	Maxie J. & Anne E. Caldwell
Dick & Freddie Hood	Neal Hood
Eddie & Carolyn Homick	Richard & Helen Hunter
Guy Johnson	William & Eileen Keeney
Carl Padgett	Ann & Dale Poe
Jeff Powell	Hans Rott
Don Salisbury	Manfred C. Schmidt
Jack & Jo Chamberlain	Howard & Katherine Chilton, Jr.
William L. Cox	Floyd L. & Joyce Firing, Jr.
Walter Hugh Hagood	George B. Konizer
Bill McMann	Charlie Manning
Barry & Sarah Moss	H.C. Pace
David R. Williams	Phillip P. Wright
Ronald L. Wright	Loretta & John Yeaman
Ralph & Ginny Zahn	

2026 Officers

David Chapin	<i>Commodore</i>
Open	<i>Vice Commodore</i>
Des Runyan	<i>Rear Commodore</i>
Pete Phillip	<i>Fleet Captain</i>
Bob Toone	<i>Treasurer</i>
Courtenay Becerra	<i>Secretary</i>
Lee Arnold	<i>Quartermaster</i>
Bryan Burkhalter	<i>Member-at-Large</i>
Des Runyan	<i>Past Commodore</i>

Previous Officers

2025	
Des Runyan	Commodore
Open	Vice Commodore
John Schramm	Rear Commodore
Glenn Cliborne	Fleet Captain
Bob Toone	Treasurer
Courtenay Becerra	Secretary
Lee Arnold	Quartermaster
David Chapin	Member-at-Large
Jim Evans	Past Commodore
2024	
Des Runyan	Commodore
John Schramm	Vice Commodore
Open	Rear Commodore
Glenn Cliborne	Fleet Captain
Bob Toone	Treasurer
Courtenay Becerra	Secretary
Lee Arnold	Quartermaster
David Chapin	Member-at-Large
Jim Evans	Past Commodore
2023	
Jim Evans	Commodore
Des Runyan	Vice Commodore
John Schramm	Rear Commodore
Tom Miller	Fleet Captain
Bob Toone	Treasurer
Courtenay Becerra	Secretary
Lee Arnold	Quartermaster
David Chapin	Member-at-Large
Jim Schaible	Past Commodore

2022	
Jim Schaible	Commodore
Jim Evans	Vice Commodore
Open	Rear Commodore
Tom Miller	Fleet Captain
Bob Toone	Treasurer
Courtenay Becerra	Secretary
Lee Arnold	Quartermaster
John Schramm	Member-at-Large
Mark Gobble	Past Commodore
2021	
Mark Gobble	Commodore
Jim Schaible	Vice Commodore
Open	Rear Commodore
Glenn Cliborne	Fleet Captain
Bob Toone	Treasurer
Paul Hemler	Secretary
Warren Theis	Quartermaster
Tom Miller	Member-at-Large
Kurt Lindquist	Past Commodore
2020	
Mark Gobble	Commodore
Open	Vice Commodore
Open	Rear Commodore
Glenn Cliborne	Fleet Captain
Bob Toone	Treasurer
Paul Hemler	Secretary
Warren Theis	Quartermaster
Tom Miller	Member-at-Large
Kurt Lindquist	Past Commodore

2019	
Kurt Lindquist	Commodore
Mark Gobble	Vice Commodore
Eric Johnson	Rear Commodore
Jim Schaible	Fleet Captain
Bob Toone	Treasurer
Paul Hemler	Secretary
Warren Theis	Quartermaster
Rod Schraw	Member-at-Large
Chuck Tunnell	Past Commodore
2018	
Kurt Lindquist	Commodore
Mark Gobble	Vice Commodore
Eric Johnson	Rear Commodore
Jim Schiable	Fleet Captain
Bob Toone	Treasurer
Paul Hemler	Secretary
Warren Theis	Quartermaster
Rod Schraw	Member-at-Large
Chuck Tunnell	Past Commodore
2017	
Chuck Tunnell	Commodore
Kurt Lindquist	Vice Commodore
Eric Johnson	Rear Commodore
Pete Phillip	Fleet Captain
Bob Toone	Treasurer
Scot Podosek	Secretary
Warren Theis	Quartermaster
Maurice Becerra	Member-at-Large
Carl Perdue	Past Commodore
2016	
Carl Perdue	Commodore
Chuck Tunnell	Vice Commodore
Jim Schaible	Rear Commodore
Pete Philip	Fleet Captain
Bob Toone	Treasurer
Scot Podeseck	Secretary
Warren Theis	Quartermaster
Kurt Lindquist	Member-at-Large
Pete Phillip	Past Commodore

2015	
Pete Phillip	Commodore
Chuck Tunnell	Vice Commodore
Jim Schiable	Rear Commodore
Mike Maloney	Fleet Captain
Bob Toone	Treasurer
Scot Podeseck	Secretary
Warren Theis	Quartermaster
Jim Evans	Member-at-Large
Glenn Cliborne	Past Commodore
2014	
Glenn Cliborne	Commodore
Pete Phillip	Vice Commodore
Carl Purdue	Rear Commodore
Mike Maloney	Fleet Captain
Bob Toone	Treasurer
Jim Schaible	Secretary
Chuck Tunnell	Quartermaster
Scot Podeseck	Member-at-Large
Warren Theis	Past Commodore
2013	
Warren Theis	Commodore
Jim Forrester	Vice Commodore
Carl Purdue	Rear Commodore
Mike Maloney	Fleet Captain
Bob Toone	Treasurer
T.J. Witten	Secretary
Bob Grogan	Quartermaster
John Short	Member-at-Large
Pete Phillip	Past Commodore
2012	
Pete Phillip	Commodore
Warren Theis	Vice Commodore
Jeff Witten	Rear Commodore
Carl Purdue	Fleet Captain
Bob Toone	Treasurer
Bob Grogan	Secretary
John Breckenridge	Member-at-Large
Bob Gearhart	Past Commodore

2011	
Bob Gearhart	Commodore
Pete Phillip	Vice Commodore
Kurt McGuire	Rear Commodores
Warren Theis	Fleet Captain
Bob Toone	Treasurer
Bob Grogan	Secretary
Bill Hughes	Member-at-Large
Dave Sweet	Past Commodore
2010	
Dave Sweet	Commodore
Bob Gearhart	Vice Commodore
Bill & Bonnie Hughes, George & Holly DeMestro	Rear Commodores
Warren Theis	Fleet Captain
Bob Toone	Treasurer
Glen Cliborne	Secretary
Pete Phillip	Member-at-Large
Gil Miekina	Past Commodore
2009	
Gil Miekina	Commodore
Dave Sweet	Vice Commodore
Paul & Stephanie Triska	Rear Commodores
Pete Phillip	Fleet Captain
Bob Toone	Treasurer
Glenn Cliborne	Secretary
Bob Gearhart	Member-at-Large
George DeMestro	Past Commodore
2008	
George DeMestro	Commodore
Gil Miekina	Vice Commodore
Bill & Bonnie Hughes	Rear Commodores
Pete Phillip	Fleet Captain
Warren Ibaugh	Treasurer
Loretta Manning	Secretary
Bob Boe	Member-at-Large
John Breckenridge	Past Commodore

2007	
John Breckenridge	Commodore
Bob Boe	Vice Commodore
Bill and Sandra Cox	Rear Commodores
Pete Phillip	Keelboat Fleet Captain
Michael Martin	Sunfish Fleet Captain
Warren Ibaugh	Treasurer
Loretta Manning	Secretary
Gil Miekina	Member-at-Large
Ellen Ramsey	Past Commodore
2006	
Ellen White	Commodore
John Breckenridge	Vice Commodore
George and Holly DeMestro	Rear Commodores
Sandra and Bill Cox	Rear Commodores
Glenn Cliborne	Keelboat Fleet Captain
Marty Minot	Sunfish Fleet Captain
Warren Ibaugh	Treasurer
Loretta Manning	Secretary
Bob Boe	Member-at-Large
Karen Litz	Past Commodore
2005	
Karen Litz	Commodore
Ellen Ramsey	Vice Commodore
Bob Grogan	Rear Commodore
Jeff Moorefield	Keelboat Fleet Captain
Marty Minot	Sunfish Fleet Captain
Warren Ibaugh	Treasurer
Loretta Manning	Secretary
Bob Boe	Member-at-Large
2004	
Edgar Cliborne	Commodore
Karen Litz	Vice Commodore
George & Holly DeMestro	Rear Commodore
John Breckenridge	Keelboat Fleet Captain
Jeff Moorefield	Sunfish Fleet Captain
Warren Ibaugh	Treasurer
Loretta Manning	Secretary
Larry Richmond	Member-at-Large

2003	
Don Davis	Commodore
Edgar Cliborne	Vice Commodore
George & Holly DeMestro	Rear Commodore
Mark Davis	Keelboat Fleet Captain
Karen Litz	Sunfish Fleet Captain
John Breckenridge	Treasurer
Loretta Manning	Secretary
Ben Gardner	Editor
Marty Minot	Member-at-Large
2002	
Seth Oginz	Commodore
Don Davis	Vice Commodore
Bill Hughes	Rear Commodore
Jim Forrester	Keelboat Fleet Captain
Kirk McGuire	Sunfish Fleet Captain
John Breckenridge	Treasurer
Loretta Manning	Secretary
Vickey Cliborne	Editor
2001	
Robert Bowles	Commodore
Seth Oginz	Vice Commodore
Ben Gardner	Rear Commodore
Glenn Cliborne	Keelboat Fleet Captain
Tom Hardy	Sunfish Fleet Captain
John Breckenridge	Treasurer
Loretta Manning	Secretary
Steve Mehder	Editor
2000	
Ben Gardner	Commodore
Robert Bowles	Vice Commodore
Patrick Sizemore	Rear Commodore
Warren Ibaugh	Keelboat Fleet Captain
John Breckenridge	Sunfish Fleet Captain
Steve Mehder	Treasurer
Loretta Manning	Secretary
A 13' 4" Boston Whaler was purchased by BYRA to use as a chase boat.	

1999	
Kurt Lindquist	Commodore
Ben Gardner	Vice Commodore
Pat Cliborne	Rear Commodore
Don Davis	Keelboat Fleet Captain
Robin Giles	Sunfish Fleet Captain
Steve Mehder	Treasurer
Steve Mehder	Secretary
Loretta Manning	Hornpipe Editor
The Sunfish Hauler was acquired by the Sunfish Fleet in 1999.	
1998	
Tom Hardy	Commodore
Kurt Lindquist	Vice Commodore
Butch Meredith & LuAnne Nolley	Rear Commodore
Alvin Bennet	Keelboat Fleet Captain
Charles Manning	Sunfish Fleet Captain
Christine Giles	Treasurer
Christine Giles	Secretary
Loretta Manning	Hornpipe Editor
1997	
Butch Meredith	Commodore
Tom Hardy	Vice Commodore
Robert & Meg Cliborne	Rear Commodore
Kurt Lindquist	Keelboat Fleet Captain
Bill Cox	Sunfish Fleet Captain
Christine Giles	Treasurer
Christine Giles	Secretary
Cheryl Lindquist	Hornpipe Editor
1996	
Charlie Manning	Commodore
Jim Brunson	Vice Commodore
Butch Meredith & LuAnne Nolley	Rear Commodores
Al & Darleen Groden	Rear Commodores
Ed Neal & Edgar Cliborne	Keelboat Fleet Captain
Jim Brunson	Sunfish Fleet Captain
Christine Giles	Treasurer
Christine Giles	Secretary
Cheryl Lindquist	Hornpipe Editor
Sunfish Fleet 686 was created.	

1995	
Glenn Cliborne	Commodore
Doug Williams	Vice Commodore
Butch Meredith & LuAnne Nolley	Rear Commodores
Kurt Lindquist	Keelboat Fleet Captain
Christine Giles	Treasurer
Christine Giles	Secretary
Ben Gardner	Hornpipe Editor
1994	
Freddie Compton	Commodore
Alvin Bennett	Vice Commodore
Marty Gardner	Rear Commodore
Robert Cliborne	Keelboat Fleet Captain
Christine Giles	Treasurer
Christine Giles	Secretary
Ben Gardner	Hornpipe Editor
Acquisition of a pontoon boat to be used as a Committee Boat was approved in January 1994.	
1993	
Bill Cox	Commodore
Freddie Compton	Vice Commodore
Marty Gardenr	Rear Commodore
Wally & Judy Schwab	Keelboat Fleet Captain
H.C. Pace	Center Board Fleet Captain
Christine Giles	Treasurer
Christine Giles	Secretary
Ben Gardner	Hornpipe Editor
1992	
Marvin Huffman	Commodore
Jerry Wrightenberry	Vice Commodore
Sharon Pace	Rear Commodore
Glenn Cliborne	Keelboat Fleet Captain
H. C. Pace	Center Board Fleet Captain
Christine Giles	Treasurer
Christine Giles	Secretary
1991	
Alvin Bennett	Commodore
Freddie Compton	Vice Commodore
Pat Cliborne	Rear Commodore
Criss Huffman	Keelboat Fleet Captain
H.C. Pace	Hobie Fleet Captain
Joan Bradford	Treasurer
Joan Bradford	Secretary

1990	
Robin Giles	Commodore
Bill Cox	Vice Commodore
Katherine Chilton	Rear Commodore
Alvin Bennett	Keelboat Fleet Captain
Ed Neal	Hobie Fleet Captain
Joan Bradford	Treasurer
Joan Bradford	Secretary

1989	
Jo Chamberlain	Commodore
Charlie Manning	Vice Commodore
Christine Giles	Rear Commodore
Alvin Bennett	Keelboat Fleet Captain
Richard Kettlety	Hobie Fleet Captain
Robin Giles	Treasurer
Robin Giles	Secretary
H.C. Pace, Member at Large	Hobie Fleet

At the annual meeting in 1989, BYRA and Hobie Fleet 290 merged into one club (BYRA). Richard Kettlety was representing the Hobie Fleet. The Sparger award came with the Hobie Fleet.

1988	
Howard Chilton	Commodore
Jo Chamberlain	Vice Commodore
Helen Hunt	Rear Commodore
Judy Schwab	Keelboat Fleet Captain
Robin Giles	Treasurer
Robin Giles	Secretary

1987	
Steve Bradford	Commodore
Bob Limroth	Vice Commodore
Helen Hunter	Rear Commodore
Alvin Bennett	Keelboat Fleet Captain
Jack Chamberlain	Treasurer
Jack Chamberlain	Secretary

1986	
Jim Bowen	Commodore
Barry Moss	Vice Commodore
Ann Poe	Rear Commodore
Eddie Hornick	Keelboat Fleet Captain
Jack Chamberlain	Treasurer
Jack Chamberlain	Secretary
Jack Chamberlain	Hornpipe Editor

1985	
George Konizer	Commodore
Barry Moss	Vice Commodore
Joyce Firing	Rear Commodore
Mark Bittle	Keelboat Fleet Captain
Jack Chamberlain	Treasurer
Jack Chamberlain	Secretary
Jack Chamberlain	Hornpipe Editor