

2019 Moonshine Regatta

April 13-14, 2019

Virginia Inland Sailing Association - Smith Mountain Lake, VA



If you could go to the perfect regatta, what would it look like? Chances are, you'd be looking for an event that combined a beautiful setting with great RC work and close competition where you had time to relax and enjoy all of your friends. You'd want the entry fees to be inexpensive, every meal provided for the entire weekend, lodging within walking distance, and a beautiful drive to and from the event. You'd expect an interesting 'hook' to the entire event, something that you couldn't get on a regular basis at home, that makes the whole thing that extra bit interesting, and ensures you come home with great stories every time.

In short, you'd grab a Lightning and go to the Moonshine Regatta, held by the Virginia Inland Sailing Association (VISA) April 13-14 this year on Smith Mountain Lake in SW Virginia to kick off competition for the Pernell Cup in the Dixie District.

Smith Mountain Lake is a beautiful venue carved out of the Southern Appalachian Mountains by the Army Corps of Engineers in the 1960s. Like many such lakes, it curves and winds through the hills creating miles and miles picturesque coves and inlets stuffed with summer homes and cabins. VISA operates from one of them next to a resort and conference center in Moneta, VA, a setup that enabled us to find a very nice Air BnB at an equally nice price only a third of a mile from the club.

The drive down from Annapolis wound through the Shenandoah Valley and the Blue Ridge Mountains in Southern Virginia and reinvigorated our belief in Spring, getting greener and greener with every passing mile. We dropped the boat at the club at dusk on Friday night to discover about a third of the fleet relaxing on the deck, and learned that a hot breakfast, and lunch material (PB&J) was on tap Saturday, in addition to a Bar-B-Q diner Saturday night. Sunday morning breakfast included toast, bagels and fruit, and Saturday night leftovers were available for lunch after the racing. The food was fantastic, Lauren Beauchamp and the hospitality team at VISA are among the best I have ever had the privilege to experience.



Early spring regattas often provide interesting weather, and this year was no exception. The wind toyed with us all weekend, refusing to follow online predictions and serving up at various times dead flat calm, hard right instead of predicted left shifts, fog, moderate oscillating breeze, interesting shoreline effects, whitecaps, and a nearby tornado sighting (just after RC had gotten us off the water in time to get the masts down and the boats packed up – thank you!). Fortunately, there were never more than 2 or three of these things going on at the same time, which kept

the racing interesting without being too challenging – nothing a good Lightning crew can't handle! Team Buczkowski pictured here puts their Lightning game face on.

The Race Committee, led by PRO Leigh Huff knows the lake well, and took this all in stride, using single and double lap windward-leeward courses on a variety of compass headings that kept the fleet close in 6 of the 7 races, and kept all of us on our toes, as even the slightest miscue cost boats

immediately while the dynamic nature of the weather provided chances to get right back in the game.

Throughout the weekend, Krystin Mann took fantastic photos of the action, several of which are presented along with this article.

In particular, I greatly enjoyed Sundays run of 4 quick single lap short course races. The action was quick, mark roundings were crowded, the overlaps constant, and tactical game invigorating. There were many opportunities to gain/lose and immediate chances to apply lessons learned. With bad weather coming in, we still sailed all of the races and got off the water before the rain/tornado showed up.

And of course, the Moonshine (peach flavored this year) was very smooth, very good, and did a fantastic job enlivening the Bar-B-Q Saturday night.

When the racing was done and the results totaled Bob Wardell's Team eked out a narrow one point victory over Steve Constants, between them winning all 7 races, impressive sailing under the circumstances.

We have attended this regatta twice now since moving to Maryland last year and it had rapidly become one of our favorite events ever. The combination of beautiful scenery, great friends, the best hospitality in all of sailing, and the joys of competing in the Dixie District create a combination that is difficult or impossible to beat. Randy Beauchamp (photo right) and the people of VISA went all out for us, we had a wonderful time, and we'll be back next year and hopefully for many years to come.



Bill Cabrall
Lightning 15315

2019 VISA Moonshine Results

<u>Skipper</u>	<u>Race 1</u>	<u>Race 2</u>	<u>Race 3</u>	<u>Race 4</u>	<u>Race 5</u>	<u>Race 6</u>	<u>Race 7</u>	<u>Total / Finish</u>
Bob Wardwell	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	11 (1)
Steve Constants	1	2	2	1	4	1	1	12 (2)
Ron Buchanan	4	3	4	3	6	4	3	27 (3)
Bill Cabrall	5	4	3	5	3	5	6	31 (4)
Joe Buczkowski	3	6	9	7	5	3	4	37 (5)
Jim Hull	8	8	6	4	2	6	5	39 (6)
Jeff Witten	6	5	5	8	7	8	7	46 (7)
Randy Beauchamp	7	7	7	6	8	7	8	50 (8)