

Barefoot Sailing Club

2026 Dean Holcomb Poker Run

Thursday - January 1, 2026

Notice of Event/Sailing Instructions

Come out and have fun in the annual Dean Holcomb Poker Run on Thursday, January 1, 2026 hosted by Barefoot Sailing Club (BFSC). Because of the support Dean had provided for Barefoot Sailing Club over the years, we want to honor the memories of Dean with an event that is fun and one that Dean enjoyed. After the fun on the water, we'll have our annual chili cook-off at the Branch House Tavern. The poker game will be Five-Card Stud with the first card being handed out at the Skipper's Meeting. The participants will gather four more cards from marks on the lake.

IMPORTANT: The cards will be in envelopes **that must not be opened until the "opening" ceremony** at the chili cook-off. Each skipper will have 5 cards at the end of the event at the chili cook-off. Skippers will get their first card at the Skipper's meeting. Thereafter, while sailing the course, each boat should gather one card and only one card from each of the four designated marks for a total of 4 cards from the markers. Do not gather more than 4 cards from the designated marks.

Rules

1. The event will be governed by the "rules" as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028 (RRS) and by commonly accepted Poker Rules (see Appendix B).
2. **This is a fun event and not a race!** If a boat is so inclined, it may even motor around the course, however, motoring boats will, as always, give way to those under sail.
3. Skippers will get their first card at the Skipper's meeting.
4. The designated mark locations that have envelopes/cards will be given at the Skipper's meeting. The course will consist of marks on the lake in and around the Chattahoochee Bay area. Boats are free to choose the order in which they take the marks, however, please round all marks to port side.
5. Boats should take care to only take one envelope at each designated mark.
6. Poker hands will be revealed at the chili cook off. Be sure to bring the sealed envelopes with you to the Branch House Tavern.

Entries / Skipper's Meeting

Eligible skippers are those who register at the Skippers Meeting on Thursday, January 1, 2026 at 11:00 AM in the **Branch House Tavern** parking lot. Please note, this is not the normal location for BFSC Skippers' Meetings. We are holding it at the Branch House Tavern to accommodate the people bringing chili for the cook-off. Attendance is strongly recommended to get any RC instructions, and the first card. However, if you are not able to attend, text Jeff Elam at 678-873-2596. Your first card and mark info will be texted to you.

Registration

Sign up at skippers' meeting.

Schedule of Event

The skippers' meeting is at 11:00 AM. The Poker Run will officially begin at 1:00 PM, although the marks will have the envelopes with cards sometime in the early morning so boats can start rounding marks any time after the skippers' meeting.

Classes and Flags

There will only be one class designated for this event. No flags will be used.

Event Areas

The event area will be in and around the Chattahoochee Bay areas.

The Course

The marks will be designated by the Race Committee using LARC lettered buoys. See Appendix A for the general location of the marks.

The Start

1. The official start time is 1:00 PM, but skippers can start anytime after the skippers' meeting.
2. To avoid congestion, boats are encouraged to stagger their approach to the various marks and to take all marks to port. Boats should avoid approaching a mark while another boat is attempting to obtain an envelope. Leave appropriate distance to other boats.

The Finish

Boats are finished once they have retrieved their fifth card (four retrievals) of the poker hand. There is no official finish line. The BFSC RC will remove all unclaimed envelopes from the marks in the 3 PM time frame – or before if all boats have finished.

Scoring

Best poker hand wins.

Withdrawal

Boats can withdraw at any time. But gosh, once on the water why not sail around and enjoy.

Protests

The only protests allowed will be for really bad chili - of which we expect none.

Awards

The boat with the highest poker hand will win a bottle of rum. The boats with the second highest, third highest and the lowest hands will win a bottle of wine.

Non-Favorable Sailing Conditions

In the event that the Race Committee decides the weather conditions are such that the on-water activities will not be safe and/or fun, we will make alternative arrangements to distribute the cards.

Changes in Sailing Instructions

Any change to the sailing instructions, including any change to the schedule of event, shall be announced at the Skipper's Meeting.

Trash

Throwing trash into the lake will be grounds for disqualification and the wrath of Neptune. Please don't.

Disclaimer of Liability

This event is hosted by Barefoot Sailing Club.

Competitors participate in this event entirely at their own risk. See RRS 4, Decision to Race. The organizing authorities will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with, prior to, during, or after the event. They also will not accept any liability related to anyone claiming they got Covid during the event. By their participation, any persons involved with this event acknowledge and agree with this provision.

Appendix A – Racing Area Map



Appendix B – Poker Hands



FIVE OF A KIND



ROYAL FLUSH



STRAIGHT FLUSH



FOUR OF A KIND



FULL HOUSE



FLUSH



STRAIGHT



THREE OF A KIND



TWO PAIR



ONE PAIR



HIGH CARD

