

To: Bedford Bulletin  
From: SMLBA/Chuck Poss, president 540 982 6500  
Subject: Press release  
Headline: What Is A Poker Run

It appears that even though the SMLBA's Tom Maynard Memorial Poker is in its thirteenth year,, that many people still do not understand exactly what it is all about. According to Marshall Prillaman, this year's event chairman, he has received numerous phone calls and e-mails from prospective participants that were very confused as to the details.

First, the poker run is a charitable fund raising event that gives players an opportunity to play "a card game" on the water. It is definitely **not** a race. There is a limit of seventy five boats, but captains can have as many players and registered guests on board as their legal capacity allows. The boats travel to seven card stops situated all over the lake to retrieve a playing card at each stop at the end, each player presents their best five cards to be eligible for several thousand dollars in cash prizes. The first player to get four aces receives \$5000.00. The SMLBA has awarded this top prize at two of the last three events. There is also a \$1500.00 prize for the best hand, and many other cash awards for various categories such as best appearing crew and the most players on a boat. Proceeds from the event go to various lake organizations such as The Smith Mountain Lake Marine Volunteer Fire Dept.

Boats of every description are welcome. Past events have featured large cruisers, house boats, pontoon boats and even small runabouts...speed is not a factor. If a vessel is too slow to cover the entire course in the four hours of the event, then they are "spotted" a card stop or two and may draw those cards at the end of the run. The larger boats have an even better chance of taking home the cash for the most players on a boat.

The tax deductible entry fee is \$175.00 a player, with a two player minimum per vessel. The guest fee (also tax deductible) is \$75.00. Guests may participate in the entire weekend's festivities, but are not eligible to play the game. All players and guests are treated to a dinner and entertainment by The Kings at Mangos on Friday night, then the event moves to Mariners Landing for the actual poker run, where many of the participants will be staying. Upon their return to Mariners Saturday afternoon, players, guests, volunteers and sponsors will join together for a beer garden, followed by a dinner catered by Benjamin's At the Pointe. Then all can dance the night away to music by Burning Bridges. This Saturday portion of the event is all new for 2010.

According to Chuck Poss, SMLBA president, In the interest of safety, they have a bus chartered to run a shuttle back and forth between Bridgewater Plaza and Mariners Landing on Friday night to assure that no cars or boats need to be driven, especially if alcohol has been consumed. Poss also says that all interested in participating in this year's event, or becoming a sponsor, should go to [www.smlba.com](http://www.smlba.com), or contact event chair, Marshall Prillaman at [mprillamanm@aol.com](mailto:mprillamanm@aol.com).or call 540-761-5147.