



Virgin Islands Shipping Registry

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SAFETY ALERT

NOTICE TO MARINERS

No.1/2018

Applicability: All vessels within Virgin Islands waters

Date of Issue: 14th May 2018

Poker Run 2018

Poker Run competition is organised by Leverick Bay Hotel and Marina

Date of the Poker Run completion: **27th May 2018**

Designated area of competition: Leverick Bay, Virgin Gorda – Scrub Island Marina – Great Harbour, Jost Van Dyke - The Bight Bay, Norman Island – Road Harbour, Tortola – Leverick Bay, Virgin Gorda.



The organiser of this Poker Run, Nick Willis, can be contacted on Phone: (284) 495 7421 and further information is available on the website: www.Pokerrunbvi.com.

Members of the public, participants, boat owners, and mariners are advised that during the event, the safety of the users of our pristine waters is of utmost importance. Apart from sailing and power boating, the BVI is host to various water sports activities such as swimming, snorkelling, paddle boarding, diving, surfing, kite surfing etc. Therefore, safety measures must be strictly observed to avoid any accident or incident.

Attention of the participants is particularly drawn to the following:

- All participants are to operate only within the designated area during the competition.
- Always maintain a sharp lookout for persons in the water and other users of our waterways.
- All boats should be fit for purpose and fitted with the necessary equipment for safe navigation.
- Masters are reminded to always proceed at a **safe speed, maintain a proper lookout** and obey the Collision Regulations (Rules of the Road) as well as the rules of the Poker Run competition.
- When within a harbour or anchorage (e.g The Bight Norman Island), proceed at a speed not exceeding (5) Knots.
- Prepare for and practice your emergency response for accidents and incidents such as man overboard, drowning, collision and serious injury etc. prior to the Poker Run.
- Responsibility for safe operation lies with the Master of the vessel.

The general public and other water users are reminded to:

- Be aware of boats going at full speed within the area of the poker run during the time of the races.
- Avoid if possible water sport activities in the area of the poker run for the duration of the competition if possible.

**Capt. Raman Bala, Director
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cc: BVI Ports Authority, Royal VI Police Force, VISAR, DDM, HM Customs & Excise, Fire & Rescue, USCG San Juan and St. Thomas.