



# The Pennant

April 5<sup>th</sup> 2008

## Newsletter of the Cayuga Lake Cruising Fleet

### First JBY Latitude Race

The first ever "Latitudes" race was sailed today in perfect conditions - a brisk northwesterly with sunny skies. We set course letter 'C' which is, for the J24s, a 3 nautical mile change in latitude. Each boat had to sail to a pre-determined latitude based on their rating, and back to finish at the Ithaca Yacht Club. Course 'C' takes the fastest boat in the fleet up above Taughannock, while the slower boats turn shortly above Myers Point.

Five boats, equipped with GPS, were on the start line at 2pm, or in some cases, shortly after. The fleet captain was running a little late (with no sails up when we went into sequence) and did not have time to grab the air horn to make the required sound signals. Sorry about that! No matter, we all started on GPS time, and sailed into a shifty, puffy westerly breeze. Once clear of the shore, however, the wind filled in to a steady northwesterly.

Now, the latitudes race, simple as it may seem, is actually something of a navigational challenge. With a northwesterly breeze the lines of latitude are at an angle to the wind, making the right hand side of the lake the favored turning point. Some boats had done their homework and made their final port tack on the layline to turn close to the east shore. Others seemed to be cruising on up the west shore, and sailed a lot of extra distance! The chart below shows the tracks of two boats (who shall remain nameless) who could have chosen a better turning point.

The downwind leg was a blast! JNX hit a top speed of 8.4 knots... I never knew a J24 could do that! Meanwhile Trevelyan hit 16 knots, coming in hot to the finish!

Afterwards, the general feeling was that this race format was a success. I hope we can develop it into an easy way to bring new boats into the fleet.

The results were as follows:

Boat	Finish Time
Trevelyan	3:25
Fantasy	3:27
Moondance	3:29
Mehitabel	3:30
Jnx	3:46

Meanwhile, Snitch was away at Canandaigua for the J Daze regatta, where they raced in a fleet of 28 J24s under some challenging conditions. "We were competing with a lot of the Big Boys and having some pretty good moments keeping near them while still having fun", said Dave.

Richard Stephens  
Fleet Captain.

