

The Pennant

23 August 2009

Newsletter of the Cayuga Lake Cruising Fleet

Red Jacket Race, Saturday, August 22

The Red Jacket Yacht Club's dinner in honor of the Ithaca Yacht Club was well attended. Forty people from Ithaca made reservations. About twenty of them came by powerboat or sailboat; the rest drove up.

Some sailors motored all the way, but ten of us sailed, or tried to. At the 9:30 start, there was a light southerly breeze which began to fizzle when we were between the Milliken power plant and Long Point. It died completely for a while at Long Point and then veered first to the west and finally to the northwest. But it kept dying again and again. Those of us still sailing cranked up our engines when we realized that if we continued to sail, we would not reach the Red Jacket Yacht Club in time for the 6 o'clock dinner.

So it turned out to be another race of attrition. It was won by CLCF Fleet Captain Richard Stephens with his Corsair 28, TREVELYAN. This is how Stephens described the wind conditions toward the end; "The wind pretty much died when we were a couple of miles away from the finish. The last mile took us over an hour." The only other sailor who persevered was a previous Red Jacket winner, Clare Fewtrell with her J24, MEHITABEL. While Stephens made it to the Red Jacket Yacht Club in 5 hours and 52 minutes, it took Fewtrell 8 hours and 30 minutes.

The food at the dinner was excellent as usual. We had a choice of chicken cordon bleu, prime rib (the pieces were huge), and baked fish, combined with mashed potatoes and veggies and ice cream for desert. After a longish pause for digestion, there was dance music by a live band. However, only very few people danced; most just sat back and listened.

The trip back on Sunday was everything the race should have been. A hefty NW breeze made for a lovely four hour spinnaker run back to Ithaca with the knot meter reading more than 6 knots most of the time.

Sixth (and Final) Latitude Race Sunday, August 30

The skippers meeting is at 1:00 p.m. at the South Pavillion of the Yacht Club. The start is at 2:00 (wind permitting).

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