



# The Pennant

2 May 2010

## Newsletter of the Cayuga Lake Cruising Fleet

### First Race Day of the Spring Series, May 2 (Report by Richard Stephens)

With an approaching cold front promising some thundery weather, it felt like we had some typical mid-summer weather for the start of the spring series. However, the front was moving slower than forecast, and we had two good races in a gusty southerly breeze. It was one of those days with alternate warm and cold gusts of air, coming from all directions, around 5-15 knots. Only three boats competed today: Lorelei, Invictus (sporting vibrant new yellow topsides) and Mehitabel. Snitch was away racing at J-Daze inn Canandagua (we are looking forward to hearing the blow-by-blow stories), and Trevelyan is recently returned from the Corsair Nationals in Florida and isn't undergoing daggerboard repairs. Clare invited me to join the crew of Mehitabel, and I jumped at the chance.

I think this is the first time we have used the "Alternative Race Procedure" specified in the Sailing Instructions, with no race committee on the point. We did not have a signal horn available, so we agreed to do the 5 minute signal by VHF. That worked great, up until my radio went overboard just before we were due to go into sequence! After a valiant man-overboard drill on Mehitabel, and some confusion in the rest of the fleet, we managed to start a race a few minutes late. The course was I-C (Start at point heading south, round Sycamore to port, round Far Maplewood to port and upwind finish at the point).

All three boats were flying full sail, with their biggest genoas, and we were all kept on our toes in the gusty conditions. The key was to anticipate the direction of each gust before it hit us, and Luke Miller, crewing on Mehitabel, gave us a great demonstration of that uncanny ability. We all flew spinnakers downwind, carrying them most of the way on port tack, as there was enough of a westerly component in the wind. Lorelei took line honors, with the rest of the fleet finishing in the order of their ratings.

The second race was the same course, and pretty much the same conditions. This time, Mehitabel got on the wrong side of some big shifts on the approach to the Sycamore mark, and Lorelei rounded well ahead of us. Our spinnaker was slow going up (again), and Lorelei got a solid lead on us in this race. After the race, chatting with the guys on Lorelei, I commented on how you could trim most of the lines on a J/24 by hand, and how much higher the loads are on their boat. That prompted a quick count of fingers to see if anyone had lost any during the race. What do you know: The total count was less than expected! Isn't there a rule that you have to finish a race with the same number of fingers on board as at the start?

It was one of those days where, if there was no race scheduled, any sane sailor looking at the forecast would have stayed home. But it turned out to be a

fantastic days sailing. One of the great benefits of the Cruising Fleet is it gets you out on days like this!

## Second Race Day of the Spring Series, May 16

Remember that we decided to start an hour later than in previous years. So the skippers' meeting will be at 1:45 and the start at 2:30. See you at the South Pavilion.

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## Race Results for Spring Series Races 1 and 2

Race # 1                      Start 14:33:00    Course I C    Wind SE 5-15

<u>Boat</u>	<u>TonT</u>	<u>FT</u>	<u>ET</u>	<u>CT</u>
Lorelei	0.9168	15:16:22	0:43:27	0:39:49
Mehitabel	0.9053	15:17:50	0:44:50	0:40:36
Invictus	0.8868	15:20:21	0:47:21	0:41:58

Race# 2                      Start 15:35:00    Course I C    Wind SE 5-15

<u>Boat</u>	<u>TonT</u>	<u>FT</u>	<u>ET</u>	<u>CT</u>
Lorelei	0.9168	16:16:12	0:41:12	0:37:46
Mehitabel	0.9053	16:19:07	0:44:07	0:39:55
Invictus	0.8868	16:21:12	0:46:12	0:40:58