

The Pennant

of the Cayuga Lake Cruising Fleet

28 June 2010 Newsletter

Sheldrake Race and Party

Here is Richard Stephens' report:

We had five boats on the start line for the 2010 Sheldrake Cup race: INVICTUS (Catalina 30), SNITCH (J-24), two Weta trimarans raced by Ben Arthur and myself, and a Sabre 28 skippered by Charlie Mueller. With a light wind from the south, we were by no means certain that we would make it to Sheldrake. In fact, at the start, the wind dropped to barely a zephyr, and there seemed to be a bit of north-going current. That's my excuse, anyway, because my Weta, HONEY, was on the wrong side of the line at the start and I struggled to get back onto the pre-start side!

The five boats drifted northwards, looking for wind. INVICTUS headed for Myers point and seemed to find breeze along the east shore. SNITCH and HONEY found some puffs on the West shore. Ben and Charlie stuck it out in the middle, but were soon left behind there. It took us about an hour to get to Taughannock, and by that time the wind had filled in a little, still from the south. By this time, INVICTUS had a solid lead, with HONEY second and SNITCH close behind. The wind continued to build a little, but then the sky became dark. Then the wind dropped to nothing as a steady rain settled in. I was hoping the rain would bring us a fresh northerly breeze to finish the race, but we only had a gentle breeze from the north for a few minutes, then it was calm again. At this point INVICTUS was about at the finish, and SNITCH and HONEY retired from the race, as we both had family coming to meet us at the party. Ben and Charlie both stuck it out, and eventually the wind filled in again from the south. INVICTUS' elapsed time was about 3 hours, Ben's was just over 5 hours, and Charlie's was about five and a half hours.

The rain stopped and we had a great party on my dock at Sheldrake, with succulent shrimp, tasty tandoori chicken, banana bread, corn and hummus, all washed down with plenty of beer.

So, here are the results. Well done to all the competitors, especially Tim and the crew of INVICTUS who win the historic 1902 trophy this year!

Tim Bonniwell	INVICTUS	1st
Ben Arthur	Weta 358,	2nd
Charlie Mueller	Sabre 28	3rd
David Feavearyear	SNITCH	DNF
Richard Stephens	HONEY	DNF

Dave took some nice pictures of the event, which are here;
<http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=66173&id=1158470362>

First Race of the Johnson Boat Yard Latitude Series, Sunday, July 4

Like all our summer events, this race is open to anyone who has a keelboat. So please talk it up among your non-Cruising Fleet friends and acquaintances.

The skippers' meeting will be at 1:45 at the South Pavilion of the Yacht Club, and the start will be at 2:30.

Attached are the latitude series Sailing Instructions, the Course Tables, and a Latitude Chart. Anyone who doesn't know his or her PHRF rating should ask the race committee to look it up. Remember, the PHRF ratings assume that you will use a spinnaker. If you do not use a spinnaker, just add 12 points to your rating to find the latitude where you are supposed to turn around.

Wish I could join you all for the first latitude race, but I'll be out of town.

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