



The Pennant

15 May 2011

Newsletter of the Cayuga Lake Cruising Fleet

Second Race Day of the Spring Series, Sunday, May 15

Here is the race report from the point of view of Weta sailor Richard Stephens:

The English have as many words for rain as the Eskimos have for snow: Drizzle, mizzle, showers and pelting... we had them all for the 2nd day of the CLCF spring series. But rain is nothing to a sailor, as long as the wind is blowing, and seven boats took part in the races today: Two J24s, Clare Fewtrell's MEHITABEL and David Feavearyear's SNITCH; Tim Bonniwell's Catalina 30, INVICTUS; and new to the fleet, the C&C 24, MAJORITY RULES, sailed by Paul Sillick who has come back to the Cruising Fleet after an active spell racing on Lake Ontario and Long Island Sound. There were also three Wetas: Richard Stephens' HONEY, Ben Arthur's GRAY MATTER and Keith Rice's SILVER.

We had about a 5-7 knot northerly gradient wind funneling down the lake. With the cold water and thick cloud cover, there were no thermal effects, and the wind was steady, with very few gusts. The course for the first race was a square: C-F-G-J, with all marks rounded to starboard. The Weta fleet had their first outing on Cayuga Lake this year and were late getting to the start line, but the girls on the point kindly restarted the sequence for us.

Mark F is a race buoy in about the location of the old Grey Barge. The reaching leg from C to F was too tight for even the Wetas to fly spinnakers. I did give it a try, but I was not able to come up to the course and had to turn downwind to furl it. One thing about the Wetas is that sailing downwind is just as tactical as sailing upwind. While I gybed down the East shore, Ben found some good pressure out in the middle of the lake, and rounded the East Shore mark in the lead. The rest of the race was a close> duel all the way, and we finished with about half a boat-length between us. The wind held about the same for the second race, which was a triangle course: C-G-I. About the time I rounded the Sycamore mark, we had a heavier patch of rain and a few minutes of stronger breeze. 8 knots feels pretty good when you have been racing in 5! But as the cloud passed the wind became very light and fluky, and my lead evaporated to a few boat lengths. Rather than try to guess where the wind would fill in, I had to play some defensive tactics to ensure I stayed ahead of Keith and Ben.

Many thanks, as always, to our race committee for braving the cold wet weather. It was a fun day of really close racing for us!

Third Race Day of the Spring Series, Sunday May 22

The skippers' meeting is at 12:45 at the South Pavilion of the Ithaca Yacht Club. We again hope to run two races. Weather permitting, the first race will start at 1:30. See you at the South Pavilion.

Eberhard Alsen, CLCF Secretary, ebalsen@twcny.rr.com

Keelboat Results, Sunday, May 15, 2011

Spring Race #3 Start Time 13:30 Wind: N 5-7 Course: CFGJ

Boat	T-T	FT	ET	CT	Place
Snitch	0.9053	14:26:23	0:56:23	0:51:03	1
Invictus	0.8868	14:27:57	0:57:57	0:51:23	2
mehitabel	0.9053	14:26:51	0:56:51	0:51:28	3
Majority Rules	0.8387	14:39:10	1:09:10	0:58:01	4

Spring Race #4 Start Time 14:53 Wind: N 5-8 Course: CGJ

Boat	T-T	FT	ET	CT	Place
Snitch	0.9053	15:53:30	1:00:30	0:54:46	1
Invictus	0.8868	15:56:16	1:03:16	0:56:06	2
mehitabel	0.9053	15:59:07	1:06:07	0:59:51	3
Majority Rules	0.8387	???	???	???	4 ??

Weta Results, Sunday, May 15, 2011

Spring Race # 3: 1st: HONEY, 2nd: GRAY MATTER, 3rd: SILVER

Spring Race # 4: 1st: HONEY, 2nd: GRAY MATTER, 3rd: SILVER

Spring Series Standings

<u>Race #</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>Total</u>
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Keelboats

Invictus	2	0.75	2	2	6.75
Mehitabel	0.75	2	3	3	8.75
Snitch	4	4	0.75	0.75	9.5
Majority Rules	4	4	4	4	16

Wetas

Honey	2	2	0.75	0.75	5.5
Gray Matter	2	2	2	2	8
Silver	2	2	3	3	10