



The Pennant

18 June 2011

Newsletter of the Cayuga Lake Cruising Fleet

Sheldrake Race and Party, Saturday, June 18

Race report by Tim Bonniwell

The summer sun was shining. It was a fantastic day to be on the water, especially if you were water skiing or sun bathing. The weatherman called for NNW 5-7kts in the morning building to 10-11 by noon. Unfortunately for us, he was off by about 6 hours. Still, we had a good show with many new faces and boats. The PHRF fleet consisted of five keel boats: Charlie Mueller's Sabre 28, GIPSY MOTH; Susan Swensen's Cape Dory 26, QUETZAL; Bruce Caward's Bayfield 25, YOSHIMI; Mike Thomas' Catalina 310, PEARL; and Tim Bonniwell's Catalina 30, INVICTUS. The Weta fleet was in full force with the three usual suspects: Richard Stephens with HONEY, Ben Arthur with GRAY MATTER, and Keith Rice with WETA 254.

The skippers' meeting took place as planned, and we saw the arrival of fresh-faced, eager crew. We divided the floating crew among willing boats and set off for the day. The Weta skippers were absent from the meeting as they transported their trailers to Sheldrake Point 12.6 miles away, thus not having to sail all the way back to the Yacht Club.

We started on time and had a nice southerly breeze at 3-4kts. The favorable wind looked promising and until the fleet approached the Near Maplewood mark. At this time, the light breeze disappeared and our anemometers sat motionless. Some boats managed to plod along at 0.5-1kt in the proper direction, while others looked to be bobbing in circles, searching for a wisp of wind. Meanwhile, the Weta fleet regrouped and started 15-20 minutes after the Keelboats. Magically, they were able to take advantage of the lightest air and catch the fleet in no time. For the next three painstaking hours the race proceeded up the lake upon intermittent moments of wind. My hat is off to the Wetas who were without the fortunate provisionings of the larger boats, which all seemed to have ample supplies of sun screen, beer, snacks, and rum.

Finally, after 3+ torturous hours, and realizing there was no way any boat would make the 5 hour finish time limit, the decision was made to shorten the course. The Taughannock inlet mark was chosen and announced via VHF. Not surprisingly, there were no complaints from any of the skippers. After the boats finished, there was much swimming, splashing and rejoicing! The Weta fleet put out a call for tows to the end-of-race BBQ. However, as the last boats were finishing, the wind filled in from NNW as predicted and we did indeed see 10-11kts. Too bad it was so late. The Wetas rescinded their call for help and proceeded sharply to Sheldrake Point and the BBQ. Due to the late hour, some of the boats were unable to attend the BBQ and celebration and missed out on Richard's famous Tandoori chicken.

The day did not turn out as expected, but it was not a complete bust. We managed to still have a race and entertain some new sailors and boats. So far this year, we have been fortunate to have excellent winds and it was only a matter of time before we encountered our

first drifter. As one of my mentors used to say, "Even a bad day sailing is better than a good day at work!" The sail home was awesome and downwind all the way.

Sunday, June 26th, is the start of the Summer Latitude Series. That race was originally planned for July 3. The revised calendar of summer races is on the next page. Our summer races are open to any racing or cruising sailboat. If you need crew, we can help you with that, as we currently have more floating crew than openings on boats.

See you on the Water!

Tim

First Race Day of the Latitude Series, Sunday, June 26

The skippers' meeting will be at 1:45 at the South Pavilion of the Ithaca Yacht Club. The race starts at 2:30. There will be only one race, and the length of this race will be determined by the amount of wind we have. If there is lots of wind, we'll sail farther, if there is less wind we'll sail shorter distances. For an explanation of how latitude races work, go to our website:

www.cruisingfleet.org

Eberhard Alsen
CLCF Secretary
ebalsen@twcny.rr.com
607-533-4716

Race Results, Saturday, June 18

Sheldrake Race
Keelboat Class

Start: 9:00 Wind S 3-4/NW 0.5-1 Course YYC-Taughannock

<u>Boat</u>	<u>TonT</u>	<u>FT</u>	<u>ET</u>	<u>CT</u>
Invictus	0.8868	12:20:21	3:20:21	2:57:40
Gipsy Moth	0.8519	12:47:00	3:47:00	3:13:23
Quetzal	0.8207	13:22:44	4:22:44	3:35:38
Yoshimi	0.7898	13:48:01	4:48:01	3:47:29
Pearl	0.8941	13:24:00	4:24:00	3:56:38

Sheldrake Race
Multihull Class

Start: 9:15 Wind S 3-4/NW 0.5-1 Course IYC-Taughannock

<u>Boat</u>	<u>Finish</u>
Honey	1
Weta 254	2
Gray Matter	3

Revised Calendar of Summer Races

Sunday, June 26	Latitude Race #1
Sunday, July 3	Latitude Race #2
Sunday, July 10	Latitude Race #3
Saturday, July 16	J-24 Regatta
Sunday, July 17	J-24 Regatta
Sunday, July 24	Latitude Race #4
Sunday, July 31	Latitude Race #5
Friday, August 5	50 Mile Night Race
Saturday, August 6	50 mile Night Race
Sunday, August 7	No Race
Sunday, August 14	Hospice Cup
Saturday, August 20	Red Jacket Race
Sunday, August 21	Return Trip from Red Jacket YC
Sunday, August 28	Latitude Race # 6