



The Pennant

5 August 2011

Newsletter of the Cayuga Lake Cruising Fleet

50 Miler Overniter Race, Friday, August 5, 2011

The reinstatement of the historic 50 Miler Overniter Race spanning the length of Cayuga Lake was a great success! To my understanding, this epic race of endurance, fortitude and perseverance has taken place annually since the 1940s, but had been abandoned for over 10 years. Talk of bringing it back was met with a flood of mixed emotions, enthusiasm, and tales of horror countered with stories of adventure. As one might imagine, a race of this magnitude draws only the hardiest of sailors. Five worthy boats eagerly presented themselves to reinstate this epic overnight race from the IYC point, to the northern end of the lake and back. They included Richard Stephens' Corsair 28 TREVELYAN, Bill Pochal's C&C 36 PHOENIX, Clare Fewtrell's J24 MEHITABEL, Tim Bonniwell's Catalina 30 INVICTUS, & Charlie Mueller's Sabre 28 GIPSY MOTH.

The prediction was for 5-7kts out of the south with showers followed by scattered thunderstorms for the next 24 hours. Understandably, the forecast surely troubled the sailors who were on the fence to join us. However, to our great fortune, the weatherman called it wrong. The rain held off and winds were at least twice as good as predicted. At 6:00pm we had a warm southerly 6-8 kts of air to get us started. Almost the entire fleet had their chutes up before crossing the start. As usual, TREVELYAN & MEHITABEL had terrific starts and led the fleet north. Unexpectedly, PHOENIX had some issues with deploying their spinnaker, bringing up the rear of the group. No worries, though. After a few minutes wrestling with the hourglass tangle, they sorted it out and promptly made their way out into the middle of the lake, making trees on the competition. The fleet held together pretty well up until Myers point. After which, TREVELYAN slowly proceeded to distance themselves from the group. As the evening progressed, the winds built and we saw up to 14kts, oscillating from SSW to SSE. It truly was "fair winds and following seas!"

Heading north, the only jockeying for positions happened between INVICTUS & MEHITABEL who changed places multiple times. TREVELYAN was first to reach G "51A" just after sunset and only 3.5 hours. They were followed in order by PHOENIX, INVICTUS, MEHITABEL & GIPSY MOTH. Remarkably, all boats reached the mark in nearly 4.5 hours or less.

On the return trip, we enjoyed partly cloudy skies, a half moon and south winds ranging from 10-17kts. We lost the moon near 2am, but were entertained by a magnificent star and meteor show. In the vicinity of Aurora, INVICTUS was able to pass PHOENIX and take second position in the fleet. TREVELYAN's stern light was visible and noted to continue to pull away until it was lost near Myers point.

TREVELYAN won line hours, crossing just before 3am. As the rest of the fleet neared the finish, the winds finally began to wane, dropping to less than 5kts. The next three boats finished within a half an hour of each other in the order of INVICTUS, PHOENIX, & MEHITABEL. GIPSY MOTH cleaned up the fleet, crossing near 6:30am. In the following chart, you can see the corrected times and order of place. The trophy goes to INVICTUS.

Congratulations to all boats and crew! The race turned out to be great fun for all. The weather was magnificent and all reports thus far have been very favorable. Nighttime sailing certainly takes preparation and careful planning. In the right conditions, it changes your perspective on our beautiful

lake and can be quite exhilarating. I expect we will see this race again next year and in the years to come.

Injured CLCF Skipper

Eberhard Alsen and his boat FANTASY had planned to participate in the 50 Miler race, but he was unfortunately involved in an accident. When last spoken to he seemed to be in good spirits, and recovering from surgery. His condition and injury are stable. We wish him a speedy recovery and hope he is back on the water soon!

Hospice Cup

Next weekend is Women Swimmin on Saturday, followed by the first annual Hospice Cup regatta on Sunday, August 14, 2011. The details are still being worked out, but should be out soon. At this time, we expect at least two races. Entrance/donation fee is \$25 per boat. Larger donations are certainly welcome. All proceeds will go to Hospicare of Ithaca. It should be a fun event and I hear there may be a party following sponsored by the IYC. Stay tuned to your email or contact David Filiberto at dmf22@cornell.edu or Tim Bonniwell bonniwelltl@hotmail.com for more information.

Red Jacket

The Red Jacket Point to Point race is quickly approaching. Brad Buell @ rhuell2@twcny.rr.com is your point of contact. Reservations for dinner are being taken now. As I understand it, the Red Jacket Yacht Club has a new cook and will not take last minute reservations, so get on it, now! The deadline for reservations is August 8th . This is always a fun event with an excellent dinner, party and dancing. The Red Jacket Yacht Club has always been a gracious host. FYI: Space at the dock is limited, so plan to anchor or moor as needed. More details and Race instructions will be coming soon. On another note, we have already been contacted from one Red Jacket sailor who is interested in joining us and racing his boat in the point to point race. Keep your eye out for Trevor Erb on his Hobie 16.

Tim Bonniwell
CLCF, Fleet Captain
bonniwelltl@hotmail.com
607-342-8606

50 Miler Overniter Race-2011

Start 6:00pm, August 5, 2011

RANK	BOAT	PHRF TOT	FINISH	ELAPSED	CORRECTED
1	INVICTUS	183	04:05:06	10:05:06	8:56:35
2	MEHITABEL	168	04:31	10:31:00	9:31:14
3	TREVELYAN	42	02:57	08:57:00	9:49:37
4	PHOENIX	84	04:15	10:15:00	10:30:31
5	GIPSY MOTH	213	06:26:37	12:26:37	10:36:03