



The Pennant

18 July 2016

Newsletter of the IYC Cayuga Lake Cruising Fleet

50 Mile Night Race Friday/Saturday Sunday, July 15/16

The competitors were Tim Bonniwell with his Catalina 30, INVICTUS; Clare Fewtrell with her J-24 MEHITABEL; and Susan and Charles Witherup with their Cape Dory 28, QUETZAL III. The boats finished in that order. See detailed race results after Charles Witherup's witty race report.

Race Report by Charles Witherup

As promised, there were sailors, sailboats, weather and (ahem) rum. Although, hey, I heard that on Clare's boat they didn't have any of the latter and the only pix I saw from Tim's boat showed all drinking Modelo! Wha? Is this sailing???

Sailors... We had a total of 8 sailors distributed across 3 sailboats - *Quetzal III*, *Invictus* and *Mehitabel*. Weather. Right. We had weather. Not quite all kinds of weather, but enough kinds to keep things interesting. Showing up on shore at 5:30 PM on Friday things looked pretty bleak - it was almost calm and surely in the low 90s. Not promising in the slightest. Luckily on the water things rapidly changed and the winds were whipping into the mid teens as we approached the start time.

In fact, I'd like to take this opportunity to give SailFlow a shout out as being closer to accurate on wind forecasts more often than other wind sites I'm familiar with. OK, OK, it doesn't really matter that they are more often closer to reality - I'll still check all of the wind and weather sites and try to decide for myself. But this time they were spot on for at least the first 12 hours of the race.

Which is to say, for the first ~4 hours we saw mid to low teens for wind with gusts that started near 20 but fell over time. Then, well, then. Then it got a little quieter and way flukier. And it remained fairly quiet and fairly fluky for the rest of the race.

Like all of the 50 mile races that don't finish quickly, it took a while to finish. Now, if I tell you that our top speed was 7kts you might say that was great but, well, our average speed was under 3kts. Still... We invoked the mighty Notus (Greek god of the South wind) and offered a sacrifice (some Gatorade) in his honor to help us cross the finish line in all of our glory and he obliged - we had a beautiful spinnaker fully out, boat flying along at 3kts! Now, you logicians might decide that there was a problem with this description and, in fact, you'd be right as it turns out that we were invoking the god of South winds and yet we crossed from North to South - with the spinnaker full. Oh well! Time to hone up on our Greek gods! Or maybe we just need to keep pissing them off like this ("Hrmph! Gatorade???) and we'll keep flying along like that!

Highlights of the race For *Quetzal III*:

- There are two new members of the yellow stripe club, according to what I hear (and felt) - *Quetzal III* and ANA join the illustrious ranks of those who have been struck by Invictus in a race.
- A large number of wind shifts that allowed for maintaining the same course on the opposite tack.
- We learned all about what fishermen would do if they were to win the lottery (FYI: buy a floatplane and drop it in the middle of the lake. Then they'd drop a hook and see what they could catch. If nothing, they'd just take that plane over to Seneca lake and drop that hook again!).

- A lovely sunset, brilliant moon, great sail, beautiful sunrise, chance to spend time in enforced intimacy with those we are friendly with - becoming closer through shared adventure, adversity and (ahem) rum.

Key points from the perspective of *Invictus*:

- *Invictus* collided w/ *Quetzal III* within a minute of the start of the race. Fortunately, it could have been much worse and everyone is okay. Penalty turns were done.
- In the early part of the race, in the heavy winds, in the heavy chop *Invictus* slowly crept back up to the fleet and joined *Mehitabel* near Myers. Then, both boats tacked and dueled for miles until they finally went their separate ways above Miliken Station.
- *Invictus* collided as she rounded 51A. We were easily clearing the mark when the wind died and she drifted into the mark and slid along her for an agonizing 20 seconds. Again did her penalty turns.
- After crossing the finish, *Invictus* noted the nightly activities had drained her batteries and that she did not have enough power to start her engine. No worries, she has had multiple practice sessions sailing into to the dock and slip and made back safely.
- Celebratory mimosas were had

And, in the end and since no one else gave me their finish times, I declare *Quetzal III* the winner - hands down! Heck yeah!

Your humble fleet captain :)

Charles

IYC Parking

A previous PENNANT contained the misinformation that Cruising Fleet sailors who are not members of the Ithaca Yacht Club are prohibited from parking in the IYC parking lot and should park "up the hill" in the Glenwood Pines parking lot. The following is a clarification from the Yacht Club:

"Sailors are welcome to park in the main parking lot across the road from the club house. If the parking lot is full, park carefully on the road, away from the edge of the cliff. Parking in the waterfront lot at the marina is for marina berth holders only. Parking here is limited to one vehicle per marina berth, so crew should park in the main parking lot."

Second Latitude Race, Sunday, July 22

The skippers' meeting is at 1:30 at the South Docks of the Ithaca Yacht Club. The race starts at 2:00 p.m.

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