



The Pennant

14 August 2016

Newsletter of the IYC Cayuga Lake Cruising Fleet

Fifth Latitude Race, Sunday, August 14

Because the forecasts predicted a string of thunderstorms for this afternoon, only four boats showed up for the race. But the forecasts were wrong. Not a single thunderstorm did we get. Yes, there was a little bit of rain for a few minutes, but otherwise our problems were an almost total calm in the middle of the race and radical shifts in wind direction. Because of the iffy wind conditions, Assistant Fleet Captain Rick Bray changed the original course from Latitude C (North of Myers Point) to Latitude B (South of of Myers Point).

The four boats that competed today were Bill Russell's Catalina 320, LITTLE WING (crewed Mel Richards and his merry men from the former LORELEI); Eberhard Alsen's Tanzer 25, FANTASY (skipped by Richard Stephens); Clare Fewtrell's J-24 MEHITABEL (skipped by Chris Mayes); and David Feaveareyear's J-24 SNITCH.

As usual SNITCH and MEHITABEL led the way for the rest of us. But after they reached their turn-around latitude, they got becalmed as did LITTLE WING and FANTASY. At one point, all four boats were pointing in different directions. When the wind picked up again, SNITCH and MEHITABEL pulled way ahead, and FANTASY managed to loose LITTLE WING who had been ahead of her at the turn-around latitude. The finishing order was SNITCH, MEHITABEL, FANTASY, LITTLE WING. Current Latitude Series Standings are attached.

Red Jacket Race, Saturday, August 20

For most of us the 22-mile race to the Red Jacket Yacht Club at the north end of Cayuga Lake is the high point of the sailing season.

The race was conceived by the founders of the Cayuga Lake Cruising Fleet in 1976 and was first sailed in 1977. Originally it consisted of two legs, the first to the Red Jacket Yacht Club and the second leg back to the Ithaca Yacht Club. Since the 1980s, the race has been only a one-way race. Also, more recently, we have been using a Bermuda Start which makes computing corrected times unnecessary. According to their PHRF ratings, slower boats start earlier and faster boats start later. Therefore the boat that reaches the Red Jacket Yacht Club first is the winner.

The race is open to anyone with a sailboat. Skippers who want to compete should get their starting times at the skippers' meeting. That meeting is at 8:00 a.m. at the South Docks of the Ithaca Yacht Club. Red Jacket Sailing Instructions are a second attachment. A third attachment is the information about the Red Jacket Dinner.

See you at the South Docks.

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P.S.: Skippers and crews not sleeping on their boats are allowed to camp on Red Jacket grounds.