



The Pennant

28 August 2016

Newsletter of the IYC Cayuga Lake Cruising Fleet

Final Latitude Race, Sunday, August 28

Once again we were flummoxed by the weather forecasts. We were supposed to have a southerly breeze of 10-13 mph with gusts to 19 and thunderstorms beginning around 3 p.m. Instead we started in a NW breeze of between 5 and 10 knots with frequent shifts in velocity and direction. By the time most boats passed Myers Point, the breeze fizzled almost completely, but at least we were spared the thunderstorms.

Six boats showed up for this last hurrah of the latitude series: Richard Stephens' Corsair 28 TREVELYAN, Susan and Charles Witherup's Cape Dory 28 QUETZAL III, Eberhard Alsen's Tanzer 25 FANTASY, David Feavearyear's J-24 SNITCH. Clare Fewtrell's J-24 MEHITABEL, and Jed Lippert's Beneteau 235 JENNY TOO.

At the skippers' meeting, fleet Captain Charles Witherup decided we should sail to latitude D (an eight mile distance from the Yacht Club). But six minutes before the start, when all six boats were hovering near the starting line, Witherup changed his mind and made an announcement over the radio that he shorted the course to latitude C. That announcement was not heard by the crews of SNITCH and FANTASY.

SNITCH had sailed about a third of a mile past her latitude when her crew hailed TREVELYAN and found out they had sailed too far. The crew of FANTASY never got that news and was the only boat that sailed to latitude D.

Because the Latitude Sailing Instructions do not state that the race committee can change the course via radio, SNITCH and FANTASY lodged a protest seeking redress. After the redress hearing, the protest committee made the decision: "We agreed the best resolution, that would be fair to all competitors, would be to award Snitch and Fantasy a score equal to the average of their scores in all early races in the series, rounded to the nearest 1/10 of a point. Other boats are scored according to their finish order in the race, excluding Snitch and Fantasy."

With these adjustments made, two boats wound up in first place. Trevelyan actually finished first, while Snitch was given a score of one point in the redress hearing. Here is the finishing order of the rest of the boats: 2. QUETZAL, 3. MEHITABEL, 4. FANTASY (including redress points), 5. JENNY TOO. Detailed race results and final latitude standings are on the next page.

First Race Day of the Fall Series, Sunday, September 4

The skippers' meeting is at 12:45 at the South Docks of the Ithaca Yacht Club. Skippers should bring their VHF's to the meeting for a radio check. We plan to sail two races. The start of the first race is scheduled for 1:30 p.m.

See you at the South Docks.

Eberhard Alsen
CLCF Secretary