



# The Pennant

17 September 2016

## Newsletter of the IYC Cayuga Lake Cruising Fleet

### Fifty Mile Day Race, Saturday, September 17 (Race Report by Charles Witherup)

What a beautiful day for sailing! It started off sunny with a good south breeze, a touch chilly. Things clouded over and warmed up - winds stayed south. Winds... During the day we had a lull or two where they dropped all the way to 6kts - enough to make you want to put the #1 back up. Luckily the lulls were few and far between (and, as luckily, we didn't change back to a bigger sail!). The forecasters had Ithaca spot on - pretty steady around 11kts with gusting in the high 20s. The Canoga weather station says that up at the top of the lake it was pretty steady just above 18kts with gusting in the mid 20s.

5 boats showed up to compete: Clare Fewtrell's J/24, *Mehitabel*, Richard Stephen's Corsair 28, *Trevelyan*, Tim Bonniwell's Catalina 30, *Invictus*, John Ford's Catalina 27, *Shawondasee* and the Witherup's Cape Dory 28, *Quetzal III*. 4 of the boats started with spinnakers up and all had a heck of a fast jaunt up the lake. And I do mean fast - *QIII* cleared Sheldrake in 1h52 and 51A in 3h15. *Trevelyan* finished altogether in 6h33!

The kinds of winds listed above do come with consequences. Approaching Sheldrake it was blowing pretty hard and *Invictus* sure looked like they weren't having any fun until they finally dropped their chute and went to what appeared to be double headsails. On *QIII* we were rocking and rolling enough that we partially socked our own chute a few times. Once 51A was rounded we had the long slog home. At the top of the lake we had that steadier, stronger breeze. Couple this with the fetch and there were plenty of waves coming over the bow. Here the five skippers' comments on the race:

#### *Invictus*

I don't have much to say other than provide a list of our drinks: 2 bottles of champagne. Bottle of OJ. 10 beers. 1/2 a bottle of Pussers. Leftovers of Sailor Jerry (Jamie). 1 water.

*Quetzal III*: A downwind sleigh ride is a lot more interesting than an upwind slog. This was interesting as far as our long races go in that at every point we could see at least one other boat!

*Trevelyan*: Our time was half an hour faster than in the 2014 race, and we didn't break anything this time.

*Mehitabel*: It was a pretty exciting run up to 51A but we kept the spinnaker up the whole way - that's why I like having a fractional rig. All in all a fantastic sail, but I'm hurting today!

*Shawondasee*: The race was tremendous fun. It sure was windy out there. I am jealous of all the spinnakers.

So who won? Race results and final long distance series standing are attached.

### Third Race Day of the Fall Series, Sunday, September 25

The skippers' meeting is at 12:45 at the South Docks of the Ithaca Yacht Club. The plan is to sail two races. The start of the first race is scheduled for 1:30 p.m.

Won't see you at the South Docks because I'll be away, but my crew will be sailing FANTASY.

Eberhard Alsen  
CLCF Secretary