



# The Pennant

25 June, 2018

Newsletter of the Cayuga Lake Cruising Fleet

## Sheldrake Cup Regatta! Summer Sailstice Rally!

There we were, quietly nestled in our bed... When all of a sudden the door to our deck flew open and slammed into the wall of our bedroom. It was at this point in the morning (3:30 or so) that I guessed that it might be a little windier than forecast for the day's race.

Still, 'round about 7:30 as I was changing the headsail on our boat it was pretty darned quiet at the Yacht Club. In the end the weather turned out to be somewhere between the two extremes of doors blowing open and being able to change sails solo.

Winds ended up in the 10-15 kt range (although they felt higher!) for much of the race and a little on the lower side for most of the return. It was overcast, a very pleasant 65F and, bonus, the rains held off on us. We zipped right up to Sheldrake Point to the finish and that wine tasting that the fleet secretary had promised us! Ahem. That's me. Sorry about that promise... As it happens, yes, there are docks at the winery but, no, they're not exactly appropriate for 8 sailboats on a windy day!

So, right, 8 boats came out and raced up the lake with us. We had, from earliest start to latest, the Caward Bayfield 29, *Serenity*, the Witherup Cape Dory 28, *Quetzal iii*, the Ford Catalina 27, *Shawandasee*, the Gioumouis Sabre 28, *Antares*, Laurie and Bill's Niagara 35, *Sans Souci*, the Bonniwell Catalina 30, *Invictus*, the Feavearyear J/24, *Snitch*, and, the Stephens Corsair 28, *Trevelyan*. The earliest boat left the Yacht Club shortly after 9AM and the latest boat arrived at Sheldrake Point around 11:30. What happened in between is, I suppose, the crux of the story!

Well, let me tell you about it, then... Bruce and Lauren didn't feel up to flying their cruising spinnaker so they got to start *Serenity* a few minutes early and head off up the lake. Charles and Ted hadn't yet even rigged *Quetzal iii* and crossed the starting line a minute late - chute still in the bag. The other boats crossed, too, and we were all out there (I didn't really see what was going on behind us - I was busy!). On *Quetzal iii* we eventually got our chicken chute raised and then passed *Serenity* in the first half of the race. The other boats didn't really look like they were getting too awfully much closer but then *Quetzal iii* lost a spinnaker sheet during a gybe. The 2 kt hit on boat speed during the 15 minute mishap allowed *Invictus* to easily pass us. We finally got the chute back under control and rerigged but *Snitch* was closing quickly. And, well, of course there was *Trevelyan*... Sure, they had started 45 minutes after us and it took them nearly an hour of sailing to pass us by but pass us (and everyone else) they did - to take the race and retain the Sheldrake Cup! Good job, guys!

The podium was *Trevelyan*, *Invictus*, and *Snitch*. Poor *Sans Souci* finished 20 minutes after the other boats but we quickly learned that this was due to the loss of her mainsail early in

the race! After 25 years of sailing it was probably just time for the sail to fail, alas, but it still isn't great when it happens. I hear that they still had fun!

At least three cars also drove up to the winery to meet us but, as mentioned earlier, we were unable to dock there so we ended up rafting up in the lee of the point. *Snitch* ferried people and sandwiches back and forth from shore to raft and we did end up enjoying our catered lunches on the water but most of us missed out on the wine tasting for the day. Maybe we can work that out better next year and have the wine delivered, too!

There are great photos on the IYC Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/260892304671>) and the CLCF one as well (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CayugaLakeCF/>) although in both cases you will probably need to join the group to see the pictures.

## Distance Series Standings

Here's the sort-of-official points and standings for the Long Distance Series thus far (after this one race):

*Trevelyan* 1, *Invictus* 2, *Snitch* 3, *Quetzal iii* 4, *Shawandasee* 5, *Antares* 6, *Serenity* 7, *Sans Souci* 8.

## Latitude Series starts next Sunday!

The Latitude Series of races begins Sunday at 2PM. Be at the South Pavilion at IYC at 1PM for the skippers' meeting! These races are open to any sailboat and we've set the rules up to make it easier for those who do not usually race to participate without having to be in the crush of the competitive boats!

Check out the rules in the documents section of the Fleet website – [www.CruisingFleet.org](http://www.CruisingFleet.org). Yes, yes, the dates in the rules might be from last year but the principles remain the same! The Race Committee decides if we're going to latitude A, B, C, D or E – each being one mile further up the lake than the last. There are adjustments for the exact latitude you will sail to based on your boat's handicap. You start anywhere on the line from the flagpole through the A mark and across the lake, you sail to your latitude, you sail back through the slot between the flagpole and A mark and there you have it! Because the distances are handicapped your place in the race is determined by the finish order across the line. Easy! You just need to get your starting time right (there's a horn 5 minutes ahead of time) and to turn around at the right latitude!

## Upcoming

Latitude Race 1: July 1!

Fireworks at Stewart Park: July 3!

More Latitudes July 8 and 15!

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