



The Pennant

1 July, 2018

Newsletter of the Cayuga Lake Cruising Fleet

The Latitude Series Has Begun!

We had a breathtaking first race in the Latitude Series today in that the heat of the day felt like it was taking your breath! I, once again, had the privilege of being Race Committee. I wielded this power with reckless abandon and declared that regardless of the lack of winds and lack of any forecast for any by anyone for the day I was going to hold a race! At 2PM we'd start! We'd sail to latitude A! And... And I didn't have a working radio so that was what it was going to be so live with it.

So, let's back up a little and work through things a little more logically. A few hearty sailors braved the heat to race! Weather was forecast in the high 90s with maybe 3-4 kts of wind from the SSW. Four boats showed up at 1PM for the skippers' meeting – Richard Stephens with his Corsair 28, *Trevelyan*, Eberhard Alsen with his Tanzer 25, *Fantasy*, Tim Bonniwell with his Catalina 30, *Invictus*, and the Witherups with their Cape Dory 28, *Quetzal iii*.

At the start of this skippers' meeting we were seeing something on the order of 0 kts from everywhere (and, of course, high 90s from straight up). But quickly, so quickly, the winds built to 3! I called the course and we headed out as soon as we could as it was quite warm on shore.

Oh, but the winds, they kept building and building and soon we were in nearly 5 kts of breeze from the SE! That gave us a lively downwind start with *Trevelyan* shooting off the front as she is wont to do... *Quetzal iii* tried to sneak in a strategic start; she's not a Fleet member so she can start anywhere on the line from the flagpole through the A mark and all of the way across the lake. Feeling like the winds would push boats in shore, *Qiii* tried to hem them in by running just to windward of the A mark on starboard tack. That would have been great if she were fast, had been at the line on time and if the winds had clocked more to the West rather than more to the East. Ah well! Some other time we'll herd them all like cattle!

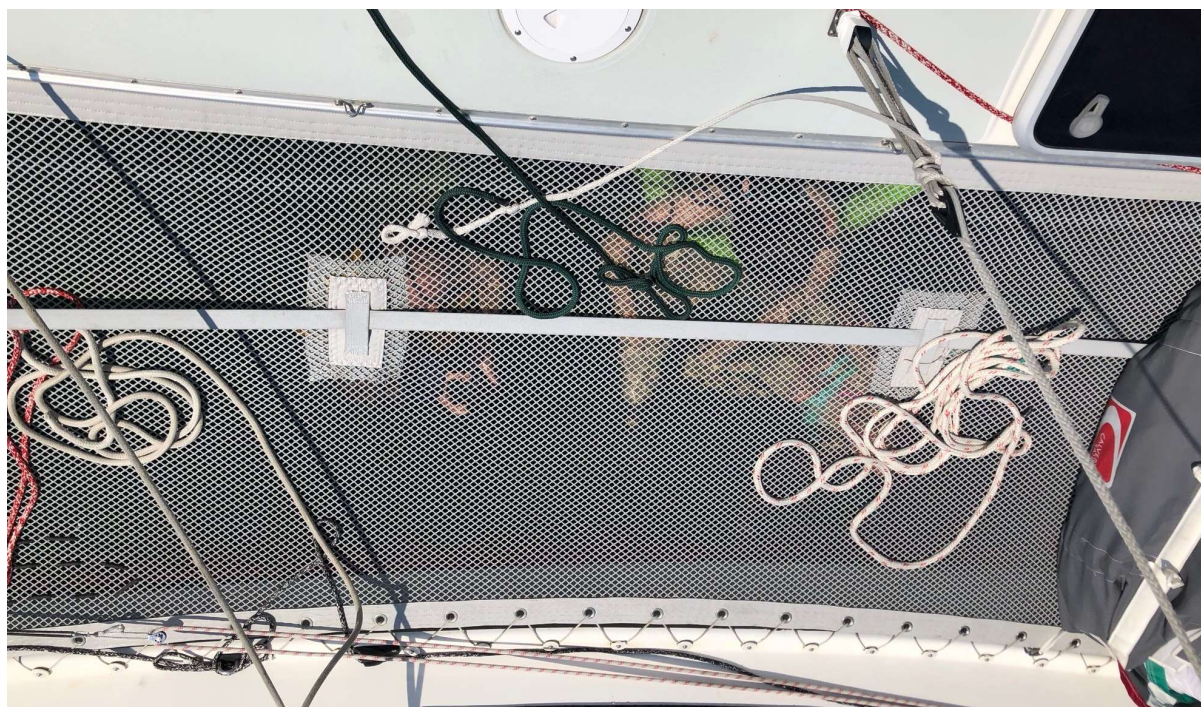
Fantasy had only 2 crew and they opted not to fly their chute. If we set this weekend and last weekend's Sheldrake Cup as our only standards then we'd have to say that the only way to get ahead in the races is to fly a chute. I know – these two weekends don't really set the standard but it sure looks like the bonus PHRF for not flying one doesn't really make up for the time lost! As your friendly local sailing coach I advise, I suppose, flying one when you can! I know, it won't happen every time. Well, it will help!

Back to the race! *Trevelyan* had shot off the front and we could watch them gybing back and forth and speeding up the lake. *Invictus* hugged the West shore of the lake and went for what appeared to be a dead down course. *Quetzal iii* tried to sail more due North which put us well out in the lake. *Fantasy* followed more on those lines as well, I believe. In the boats

we could see (*Trevelyan* gets so darned far away so quickly!) I believe *Invictus* turned first then *Quetzal iii* then *Fantasy*. Now... A funny thing about being first to turn is that, well, you're winning. And win *Invictus* did – shooting right back up the West on what looked like one tack. It wouldn't be surprising to us, on *Quetzal iii*, that this was the case as we came back on nearly one tack (we did go East far enough to go around a boat with swimmers but other than that we were on one tack the whole way back). So *Invictus* crossed first. *Quetzal iii* was looking to be in dire straights with the much-faster *Fantasy* clawing back time on the upwind leg but in the end *Quetzal iii* beat *Fantasy* by ½ a boat length at the line. *Trevelyan* eventually finished :) All of us had done so in under 40 minutes, or so! Sorry about the short course – we guess as best we can based on the data available to us at the time!

It was still incredibly hot and the winds were quite light so we rafted up in the middle of the lake, swam and drank beer. Oh, and, happy birthdays Keith and Richard!

Standings and points in the Latitude Series after one race: *Invictus* 1, *Quetzal iii* 2, *Fantasy* 3, *Trevelyan* 4.



At least 3 Fleet members hiding from the sun under *Trevelyan*'s trampolines.

Upcoming!

Sunday July 8 is Latitude Series race 2! Skippers' meeting at the IYC South Pavilion at 1PM. One race up and back – nice and easy! It's a fun way to get into racing your boat – to seeing what you can make her do! And we're fun people to raft, swim, picnic and otherwise hang out with. Oh, and we like sailing, too!

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