



The Pennant

10 July, 2018

Newsletter of the Cayuga Lake Cruising Fleet!

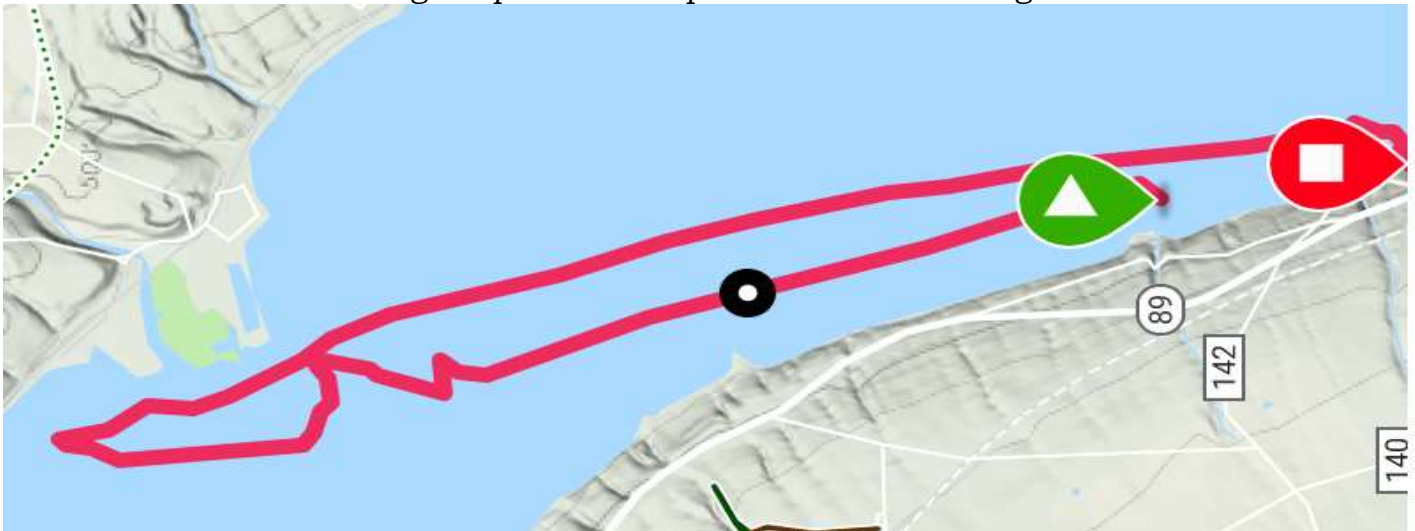
The newsletter is later than usual this week...

And there's a good reason for that – it's because we've just now finished Sunday's race. Well, ok, maybe that's not the reason, but there were times on Sunday where it sure felt it would be the case.

For, you see, while Sunday's weather was perfect for sailing – brilliantly sunny, low 80s and winds that popped up from nowhere (erm, well, somewhere South) and felt like they'd go on forever – it also wasn't. It's Summer; the winds were fickle and all that the word conjures in your mind... They were high (well, they might have hit 8 once. For a second!) and they were low (how low could they go?)! They were from the South (as at the start) and they were from the North (as at the end).

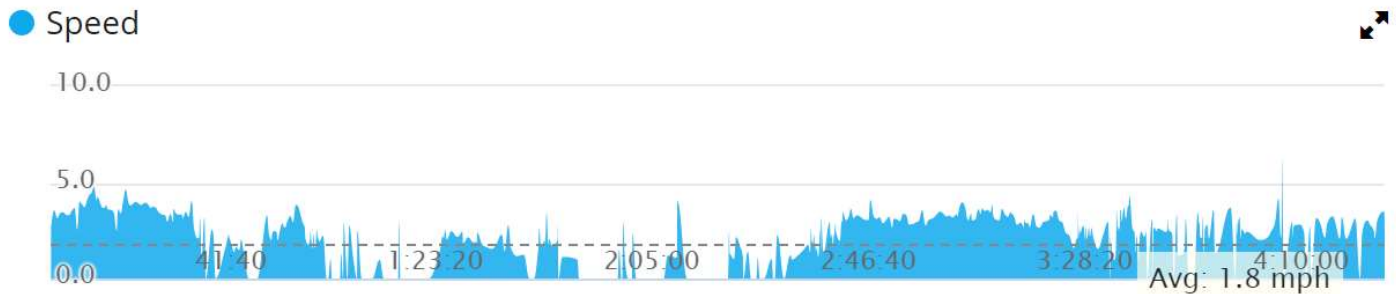
And the winds were also from nowhere for quite some time in between being from the South and being from the North. Also while they were supposedly from the South as well as while they were supposedly from the North.

To give you an idea of how what I've said thus far must surely be false I give you the GPS tracks of our course – straight up with a couple of tacks and straight back:



I also turned it sideways and stretched it out – all the better to distract you from the main point which is that regardless of what the tracks look like, they surely do not show all of the story. They do, still, show nicely that going out (bottom line) we had a nice South breeze (until it changed to the North). They also show (top line) that it was a nice straight spinnaker run back (other than the aimless drifting bits). These lines do not, however, show that it took over 3 ½ hours to cover the 6 miles of the race.

The time without movement might be better represented by the following graph. This one shows our boatspeed during the same timeframe:



Note the long stretches in there with near 0 speed? Well, trust me, we all noticed those! There's the hour and a half bit in there where we moved around 3,000', for example.

Starting with us for the day's race (imagine, if you will, that none of the previous words had been put to paper and begin the story with me, here) we had a few boats more than last week. Yah! Steve found some crew and brought out *Ripple* (his Ranger 29), David came back from his break with *Snitch* (his J/24), Tim came out with his Catalina 30, *Invictus*. And we had Witherups with our Cape Dory 28, *Quetzal iii*, Richard with his Corsair 28, *Trevelyan* and Eberhard with his Tanzer 25, *Fantasy*. Not to forget Bill and his Catalina 320, *Little Wing*! That makes for much more of a race than last week! Well, it could have – if there had been wind for a race. (Ahem.)

But there was a race! No matter how much I belittle or demean it, it was a race! It was a challenge of man versus man! A story of man versus himself! And, frankly, an epic tale of man versus nature! Because, if I must really insist upon this, the winds weren't good.

Still, good... Who decides what's good? *Fantasy*? *Little Wing*? *Quetzal*? Each of these boats will have a different tale to tell!

Fantasy had a special guest sailor as Hannah came back in town early just to sail with them! And then, to top to that off, they very clearly and very commandingly crushed all opponents in taking the win on the race with little room for argument (although we do have a few technical questions for you – next time we see you!).

As for *Little Wing*, they may, or may not, have been the first boat to abandon the race but there were the first to inquire about it over the radio! But we've sailed with and against them for years – we understand that it's rough just bobbing around on the water for (seemingly – I hope!) hours. And, besides, they always have plenty of beer on board and things are always more pleasant when you have some breeze against your face. As when, say, motoring back to the Yacht Club.

And *Quetzal*... Well, we had brand new crew in Aoise (happy birthday Aoise!) trimming our chute as well as that old salt Hugo - who skipped out on his usual ride to hold down our hold. And with this expert rookie assistance we were able to cross the finish line in second place thereby taking a commanding lead in our tie for first place in the series! And, actually, no, I cannot bother, since you asked, to read the rules and which boat to list first. I don't really care what they say this early in the season and I'm perfectly fine putting us in first place since the official scoring isn't up, anyway. Thanks for asking!

Results this race: Fantasy 1, Quetzal iii 2 and then the rest of the boats all got some really large (insurmountable? One can always dream!) number of points. Ah, of course. The rest of the boats scored some large number of points in this race because one by one they abandoned the race. Yes, of course, everyone understands! It was pretty darned hot and sunny out there! Well, hey, better luck with the winds next week! Although we did spy boaters out floating around and swimming as we were sailing in and trust us – we know it is and was good and we will definitely join in those activities again soon!

This brings us to the unofficial (I only write the newsletters – I don't really do the scoring!) standings in the Latitude Series with Quetzal iii in a commanding lead of 4 points! In secondish we have Fantasy with 4 points and then we have all of those other boats with lots and lots of points. Sorry other boats! Don't let our smugness deter you from racing next week – we are still sailing something of a tub and it takes some pretty particular winds for us to win races in her. I'm sure that even boats that haven't raced in the series yet stand a good chance of beating us overall! That said, we're not going to stop trying – we're in it to win it! And because it's fun and we like sailing and all that.

The pictures were great!

A big thank you to Laurie for capturing pictures of all of the boats in the race flying their spinnakers in all of their glory! I've posted those shots to the Fleet Facebook group. That is a private group so you'll have to ask to join in order to see the pictures but these shots alone must be worth it!

So browse on over and ask to be made a member!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CayugaLakeCF/>

Upcoming!

Latitude races Sundays the rest of the month! So show up at the South Pavilion at IYC at 1PM for the skippers' meetings and then join us in some friendly racing!

Also the Night 50 mile race will start August 3 or 4! And the 40th (fortieth!) Red Jacket Regatta will happen on Saturday August 18! There's also a Latitude race between those and a BBQ! Don't miss out on the fun!

Charles Witherup

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