



The Pennant

7 August, 2018

Newsletter of the Cayuga Lake Cruising Fleet

Second Long Distance Race – The Night 50 Miler

After months of discussion as to dates and times we decided on last Friday night for our annual night-time 50 mile race up the lake. After months of discussion that lasted right up until 45 minutes before the race! Indeed, the forecast was looking rather grim (little wind and a chance of a tornado?) up through Thursday night and then Friday, as we showed up at the Yacht Club, there was nothing – no wind, no rain, no tornadoes. Still, Friday night's forecast looked better than Saturday night's which called for even less wind than nothing.

“We”, this time, was the Bonniwell crew on the Catalina 30, *Invictus*, my crew on the Cape Dory 28, *Quetzal iii*, Eberhard and crew on the Tanzer 25, *Fantasy* and Richard with his lot on the Corsair 28, *Trevelyan*. 4 boats for an overnight race? Forecast with little wind (and/or tornadoes)? I call that a great showing!

Given that we had no wind at 5 PM we employed the parliamentary nuclear option and declared that for the start of the race the width of the lake could be used. Well, ha! The weather proved us foolish by kicking up a notch until the winds were roaring up the lake at a brisk 5 kts or so by the start of the race. Ah well!

And we were off! *Trevelyan*, as per usual, shot off the line and left us all far, far behind! But, uh, she took off to the south. Strange but, well, hey, maybe their GPS was off, or something. The rest of us went north and seemed to be making some kind of reasonable time doing so. Of course, as usually happens in these things, *Invictus* pulled away, gradually, from the other keelboats and was lost to sight well before dark. And, of course, *Trevelyan* did eventually turn around and move right past the rest of us. Ah, but unlike many others of these races, there were boats close together and we changed places back and forth for quite some time. Indeed, *Quetzal* and *Fantasy* were within a few hundred yards of each other for over 6 hours! And then *Fantasy*'s batteries died (and lights went out) and *Quetzal* lost site of her until well into daylight.

Trevelyan managed to stay in wind, to move the entire night and to finish in twelve and a half hours. *Invictus* snuck in to finish at 9:20 AM – a bit before the winds died down. It turns out, actually, that the winds pretty much stopped at 10 AM and thus *Fantasy* wasn't able to cross until almost 1:30 PM and *Quetzal*? Right. Well, coming back from 51A, *Quetzal* was within a few miles of Milliken for well over 5 hours. And after we'd finally drifted to the far side of Taughannock we began to drift back towards Milliken... Then a storm kicked up and we did the last 4 miles of the course at hull speed and managed to finish in under 24 hours! Oof!

On corrected time, *Invictus* won this race followed by *Trevelyan*, *Fantasy* and *Quetzal iii*. Full results for the race and standings in the Long Distance Series of races can be found on the fleet website at <http://www.cruisingfleet.org/Results/2018LongDistance.html>

Party number one – August 12! End of the Latitude Series!

Next Sunday is our final Latitude race of the season. This will be followed by a fetch! That's the Ithaca Yacht Club way of saying potluck! We'll congregate at the South Pavilion to enjoy grilled things (provided by the Fleet) as well as yummy other things (that we'll all bring). The Fleet will come with beverages as well. But before we get all carried away eating we do need to have this race!

So... Skippers' meeting at 1 PM and race at 2 PM! As you will recall from last week's Pennant things could go different ways but with her 2 point advantage (after two throwouts) it feels like *Invictus* stands a good chance of taking the top spot over *Trevelyan*. Third place looks like a toss up between *Fantasy*, *Quetzal* and *Snitch*. Well, show up with your A Game, sailors! There's glory to be had out there!

Party number two – August 18! Red Jacket Regatta!

It's the 40th anniversary of the Red Jacket Regatta. We'll mark the occasion by, hey, holding a regatta! So... Hopefully you've already signed up with Trevor for food and some Red Jacket crew for your boat! (If not you really need to get on that! terbtrevor@gmail.com!) We'll surely do a Bermuda start for this race so the slowest boat will leave Ithaca at around 8AM. Other boats will leave later based on their handicaps. Because we're leaving based on handicaps our arrival order will be our finish order! And we'll get to hang out with the Red Jacket folks, eat, drink, be merry, sleep (on our boats, in tents on their lawn, whatever) and then sail home on Sunday.

You don't need to sail up – you could motor or drive. It's still a party! And there will still be sailors silly enough to sail up for you! If you need a boat or you need crew shoot me an email and I'll try to hook folks up!

Upcoming dates

It seems too soon to be thinking of Fall and it is! But the Fall race series will start at the end of the month – after the Latitudes and Red Jacket. So...

August 26, September 2, September 9, September 16 -> start of the Fall series races!
Skippers' meetings at 1:30PM!

September 22 -> 50 Mile Day Race!

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<http://www.CruisingFleet.org>