



# The Pennant

27 August, 2018

Newsletter of the Cayuga Lake Cruising Fleet

## Errata and all of that

I premise to try my very best this week not to have any unintentional spelling, grammar or other errors. Especially not in the first sentence of the newsletter. Sheesh! Who edits these things, anyway?

Also, this week in racing, *Fantasy's* First Mate protested last week's Pennant. All I have to say is that the words are right there on paper (metaphorically speaking) and you can't deny it. 'Nugh said.

## This week in racing!

Yes, but, there was that! Racing, that is! This week! Yesterday, in fact! And, WOW was that ever a series of races! It was really quite warm and gosh darned humid for the day, that's for sure. Oh, and there was a fair amount of sun and you should have seen all of the flesh showing on *Snitch* (although I also hear that they had sandwiches - nice sandwiches - groovy tunes and a good time to boot). They probably had the right idea, there (although sandwiches... They're allowed to get crumbs on their boat? Wow. Just wow.).

So, yes, 2018 Fall Series. Races 1 and 2. First race was SAW with a 1:30 start. Only at 1:25:30 we went into delay owing to the complete lack of wind. Which is funny because 10 minutes before we'd had a decent enough breeze. But at 1:30 it was quiet. And hot. And muggy. Heck, as soon as a delay was called I jumped in the water and swam over to *Fantasy* to splash them with water. As I left Mik jumped in to attack *Ayla's Ride* and then *Snitch* with a water cannon. Why, it was almost like a Summer regatta!

The winds came back, some, from the West and a bit South and off we went. What with the weather being hot and the winds being mostly West they were also mostly flaky, so we did an awful lot of waiting and wishing for steadier wind. We didn't get that but we did get to sail mostly upwind both directions and to finish the 3 mile course in around one and a half hours.

The second course was called NWNW - a course that would make it a bit easier to shorten in case of no wind at all. Well, there wasn't "no" wind, really, at any point, but there was never a time where there was wind for everyone at the same time.

Still, the uneven winds from every direction gave for some pretty crazy situations. Take, for example, the first mark in the second race. We had *Snitch* and *Mehitabel* close in on the mark (with clear overlap) followed by *Ayla's Ride* 2 boat lengths back and further out on the lake. *Trevelyan* was coming on from back more and still further out when *Fantasy* came

roaring up the lake on some wind line that missed the rest of us altogether – splitting the J/24s from the J/70 and also handily taking the Corsair 28 around the mark.

Ah. Right! I'd forgotten! I should mention boats and skippers, shouldn't I? So, in order of mention from the top of this document, we had Eberhard Alsen's Tanzer 25, *Fantasy*. There was the Feavearyear J/24 *Snitch*. There was Tim Bonniwell's J/70 *Ayla's Ride* (helmed by Susan Witherup). There's Clare Fewtrell's J/24 *Mehitabel*, Richard Stephen's Corsair 28 *Trevelyan* and Bill Russell's Catalina 320 *Little Wing* (helmed by Mike Newman and with crew sporting stylish, new, matching embroidered polos!). Pretty much the usual suspects for this racing series over the past few years!

Anyway, back to that first mark... It was pretty amazing having that many of us at a rounding and I know that at least our boat had to concentrate reasonably hard on relative boat positions and implications in the rules. Sure, dinghy sailors are used to situations where five boats are within three boat lengths of the mark but it doesn't happen that often in our small fleet of keelboats and the consequences can be a lot larger!

And we raced and raced (slowly and quickly). A few times we were moving along at respectable rate of speed – 5 and almost 6 kts – but never for very long. And the winds just wouldn't stay blowing from any direction although they certainly came from every direction – despite the generally West wind *Ayla's Ride* managed to pop her chute at least 10 times. And, heck, *Little Wing* looked awesome with her chute up – out in the middle of the lake and not entirely sailing in the right direction. Of course, 10 chute sets also means 10 chute douses, if you know what I mean. None of those spinnaker sets lasted for long – chute up, shoot forward, backwinded! Chute down!

Halfway through the race something funny happened and *Mehitabel* went through the line and stopped. Oops? Indeed – it looks like they forgot to do the second loop around the course! Well, if more boats show up in the series you'll outscore them! And I'm sure you'll do better next week! Sorry! Happens to us all every now and then!

## Results

I don't have them yet! Look for them on the Fleet website or wait until next week and Liz will tell you! (Results will go up here: <http://www.cruisingfleet.org/results.html>)

## Upcoming

Fall races will happen the next 3 Sundays so September 2, 9 and 16! They'll continue on later in the month, too!

Later as in after we hold the Day 50 Mile Race on Saturday, September 22 – starting in the AM and going until we're done! Start thinking about recruiting crew for your boat or asking skippers if they're going and need crew! The race is always an epic adventure!

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