



The Pennant

18 September, 2018

Newsletter of the Cayuga Lake Cruising Fleet

The first important bit

First in the newsletter, that is! I mean, after all, I do have plenty of things to share and I'd love it if you all read all of them, took them to heart and, hey! It would be cool if you acted on them, too!

So... One of the important bits that I have to share, today, is that there will be a **Frostbite Regatta** held at the Ithaca Yacht Club on **October 14!** The calendar says it will happen at 8 AM but I'm not falling for that! I imagine it will be in the afternoon. Stay tuned for more info – as it becomes available! Plan on coming out (anyone, eh? Open to sailboats!)! I imagine that because I'm writing that it's going to happen we'll have an associated fetch (a potluck/BBQ) as part of this, too! I just bet! Oooh! And if I write that a bunch of you will bring deviled eggs that will happen, as well! (Here's to hoping!)

This coming weekend...

Yes! This coming weekend the hurricane will finally come through! Thank goodness it will all be over by Sunday! And hopefully we'll all be back from our Saturday **Fifty Mile Day Race** by Sunday, too! Indeed, we're holding our fourth long distance race of the year this coming Saturday – **September 22!** Racers should be present at the Ithaca Yacht Club at 7:30 AM for a (super duper brief!) skippers' meeting and then the race will begin at 8 AM sharp! The last forecast I saw called for the last gentle bits of hurricane – 15-25 kts. I'm kind of hoping that the forecast will slip another 12 hours into the future so that we can have downwind legs both ways! ZOOM! Don't forget to tell Ricky if you're sailing a boat (as noted at the end of the attached Sailing Instructions)! Or tell me or Ricky if you need a boat to sail on or crew for your boat! We'll try to hook you up!

Ah, but, this past weekend...

This past weekend we did not have hurricane-force winds. Heck, we were lucky to have any kind of race at all! Which isn't to say that there wasn't a forecast of wind because there was one. And it was a good forecast, at that! Who wouldn't be happy, after the other three Fall Series weekends, to see 8ish kts from the South?

Who wouldn't, indeed. Well, yeah. Right. Dream on! (Come on, sing it with me! "Dream on! Dream on!") So, no. There wasn't much wind. Ricky started the skippers' meeting by promptly calling a delay of game. Then we waited (and swam). Then there was this whisper of a zephyr of a hint of something maybe building... And we saw it at IYC and we could still see it on RUSS and we were hoping, oh! Hoping with all of our might! Hoping that it might be real and it might last!

So Ricky called WAS as a course with a start in 10 minutes and we waited (and hoped!) and we were off! Zoom! 1h15 after our regularly scheduled first start, but off! And away we went – screaming to the first mark! Sort of.

Let me just say that it's a lot better to have light and variable winds from the North or South than from the East or West for a lot of different reasons. Principal among those I hold that you can actually see the wind coming (from a long way off). These winds also generally fill across the lake better. Still, they are light and variable and wow are they ever not my favorites for racing. Heck, this season our boat has been getting creamed on light wind days. That's not the reason they're not my favorites but it is nice when you can have some kind of not-unrealistic expectation (hope?) that you could do kind of OK in a race, isn't it?

This race we (*Ayla's Ride* – the Bonniwell J/70 helmed by Susan) did not have that expectation or even hope. Light winds have been unkind to us this season... Still, amazingly, we took off from the line a boat length ahead of the other boats and, somehow, were never anywhere but in front for the entirety of the race.

Miserably low (and don't forget variable!) but (almost) always from some kind of southerly direction winds were afoot... Miserably low (and variable!) and falling... Enough so that Ricky shortened the course to simply W (West Shore) and even with that (a course of 1 mile total length) it took *Fantasy* (the Eberhard Alsen Tanzer 25 prototype) over 1h9 to finish. And Bill Russell and crew on his Catalina 320, *Little Wing*? They motored back to the dock rather than bob around out there any longer! And no one's blaming them – it was plenty hot and things were really not going anywhere!

Other than the J/24s, that is. *Mehitabel* (Clare Fewtrell's boat) crossed the line a bit after *Ayla's Ride* then *Snitch* (the Feavearyears' boat) crossed ten or so minutes later. But after Ricky cancelled the second race altogether (because, hey, no wind is no wind) both of them (these J/24s, that is) went back to the dock reasonably quickly using kinetic motion. That is to say that they spent a lot of time rocking back and forth until they made it all of the way back to the hoist. And, hey, like, it worked. People roll tack for a reason! They made good speed – better than during much of the day's sailing at least! (This brings us back to *Little Wing* and thinking about how interesting it would be to try to get that back to the dock just roll tacking... I'm not sure they'd ever have made it!)

Results

Race 7:

Rank	Boat	PHRFTOT	Finish	Elapsed	Corrected	Points
1	Ayla's Ride	117	15:23:01	0:38:01	0:37:03	1.0
2	Mehitabel	168		41:30	0:37:34	2.0
3	Snitch	168	15:39:50	0:54:50	0:49:38	3.0
4	Fantasy	192	15:54:48	1:09:48	1:01:09	4.0
5	Little Wing	183		RET		6.0

Overall:

Rank	Boat	PHRFTOT	<u>R1</u>	<u>R2</u>	<u>R3</u>	<u>R4</u>	<u>R5</u>	<u>R6</u>	<u>R7</u>	Total	Nett
1st	Snitch	168	1.0	(3.0)	1.0	1.0	(3.0)	1.0	3.0	13.0	7.0
2nd	Mehitabel	168	3.0	(7.0 DNF)	3.0	2.0	1.0	(4.0)	2.0	22.0	11.0
3rd	Ayla's Ride	117	(4.0)	4.0	4.0	(5.0)	2.0	3.0	1.0	23.0	14.0
4th	Trevelyan	33	2.0	1.0	6.0	(7.0 RET)	4.0	2.0	(7.0 DNC)	29.0	15.0
5th	Fantasy	192	(5.0)	2.0	2.0	4.0	(5.0)	5.0	4.0	27.0	17.0
6th	Little Wing	183	(6.0)	5.0	5.0	3.0	(6.0)	6.0	6.0 RET	37.0	25.0

Still to come this year!

50 Mile Day Race! Saturday September 22!

Fall Series 9-10 on September 30.

Fall Series 11-12 and BBQ on October 7.

Frostbite White Sail Regatta (no spinnakers! I might have forgotten to mention that bit!)
October 14!

Pulling marks, cleaning, putting stuff away maybe October 20/21/27/28?

End of the year banquet! (Date, time and modalities tbd! Wait for a survey next week, maybe?)

See you on the water!

Charles Witherup

CLCF Secretary

CLCFCrew@Gmail.com

<http://www.CruisingFleet.org>