



The Pennant

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Newsletter of the Cayuga Lake Cruising Fleet

Big Race Last Weekend

Big race. Lots of wind. Lots of boats. Very far. Very, very big race. The best boats came out. All of them. Only the best boats. They came out and they raced. Very far. In very good winds. Raced and raced and they all won because they were all so very good at racing.

Sorry about that

Indeed. But, well, I do hope to keep these interesting for you, too. I mean, because, well, it's kind of fun to write them. Sometimes! But I also see why they no longer go out with the IYC newsletters. Ahem.

So, yes, the 50 mile race

We had a race this past weekend. And it was windy early. And it went far. And we had five boats out which is a pretty big number for a race of this length. And we were, totally, all racing rock stars!

So, five boats. *Invictus*, *Mehitabel*, *Quetzal iii*, *Shawandasee* and *Fantasy* – in alphabetical order. Those are, respectively but in reverse order, the boats of Eberhard Alsen, John Ford, the Durkees (helmed by Witherups), Clare Fewtrell and Tim Bonniwell. The boats are, respectively and back in actual alphabetical order of boat names as opposed to the disorder above, a Tanzer 25, a Catalina 30, a J/24, a Cape Dory 28 and a Catalina 27. And if you're confused by this paragraph, uh, well, uh. Just tell me – I'll be happy to further muddy the waters for you!

We awoke to a stunning sunrise and some brisk winds. “Brisk” referring to the top two definitions of the word – lively and chilly. The race began promptly at 8 AM with some boats shooting off the line (*Shawandasee*, *Fantasy* and *Invictus*?) with others taking a little longer (*Qiii*) and something longer still (*Mehitabel*) to cross the line. We beat North with boats aligned across the lake according to how well they were able to establish lines with the wind (NNW at this point. Blowing maybe 12 kts but gusting 18 at this point). This time it was, from left to right, *Mehitabel*, *Invictus*, *Qiii*, *Shawandasee* and *Fantasy*, I think. And we beat in a fairly tight race and close formation until Meyer's Park. At that point *Shawandasee* broke some hardware (a sheave or block?) and dropped back and eventually out of the race and *Mehitabel* and *Invictus* took off the front. The two of them stayed very close together (on opposite sides of the lake) duking things out until some point past the GBCVD (Giant Blue Concrete Vortex of Doom) at which point *Mehitabel* pulled out front. From that point (maybe 3-4 hours into the race) onward the positions of the boats (and, spoiler alert, the final rankings) stayed the same.

Imagine, if you will, a breeze (a lively and cool one, I hear) from the NNW. Picture the boats still in the race. Tell me, please, what you think the relative positions of the boats were...

We raced on – charging up the lake. Meyer’s, Taughannock, the GBCVD, Sheldrake, Long Point, Aurora, Levanna and, at long last, Farley’s and 51A!

I hear that *Mehitabel* rounded in wind and then it died. *Invictus* watched *Mehitabel* round and then was becalmed. *Qiii* beat the whole way to the mark on a NNW then as soon as she rounded and was ready to pop her chute was surprised to see that while she made her turn from beating to running the winds went from being NNW to being ENE! The pole and chute were all ready to deploy on a moment’s notice but on the wrong tack. We held the chute (once properly reconfigured and then deployed) all of the way back to Long Point on a beam reach (pole on the headstay) but when, after Long Point, things shifted to being a close reach we just couldn’t hold it up any longer and went back to our genoa.

And when we passed the GBCVD things got weird... Like, of course they did – hello! They don’t call it that for nothing!

Anyway, we got into a funny weather pattern where the wind was off to the front but would shift 45 to 90 degrees every minute and a half or so. So we’d be going South on a port tack and the sail would suddenly backwind. We’d bring it over to the other side but often be heading in roughly the same direction. Well, this funny weather pattern lasted for the rest of the race for us (the next 5 hours). It was pretty frustrating, not helpful for getting home and, well, cold, too.

Shawandasee fixed her block and went for a (presumably!) nice sail then returned home, the rest of us (eventually) finished the race.

Results of the Day 50

Rank	Boat	PHRFTOT	Finish	Elapsed	Corrected	Points
1	Mehitabel	168	9/22/2018@20:16:35	12:16:35	11:06:49	1.0
2	Invictus	174	9/22/2018@21:17:20	13:17:20	11:55:50	2.0
3	Fantasy	192	9/22/2018@23:34:30	15:34:30	13:38:38	3.0
4	Quetzal III	237	9/23/2018@03:58:00	19:58:00	16:29:27	4.0
5	Shawandasee	216		RET		6.0

Upcoming fun!

September 30: Fall Races!

October 7: Last Fall Races and BBQ!

October 14: Frostbite Regatta! Madness on the water and a potluck on shore!

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