



# The Pennant

24 June, 2019

Newsletter of the Cayuga Lake Cruising Fleet

## The Sheldrake Cup (and Summer Sailstice)

This past Saturday we were blessed with exquisite sailing weather and enjoyed a marvelous sail up and down the lake with other bits in between.

The day began with lackluster winds (as is wont to happen Summer mornings) and yet still saw Michelle and Robert sail off straight up the lake ahead of us... I'm not sure if they were in it for the Sailstice but we didn't see them again so perhaps they just went up to Frontenac Island to enjoy the (if I must insist) exquisite sailing weather.

Racers convened on the water a bit before 8 AM to see off the first boat – *Quetzal III (Q3)* – who had a fantastic start. She crossed the line on a good angle in the first seconds of the race. Then she just kind of bobbed in a northerly direction for some time while the winds decided to fill in. It appears that most of the racers had begun sailing before Q3 had made it halfway to NM. But then, as you may have guessed from the overuse of the word exquisite, the wind did actually fill in. At first there were 3-4 kts from the East and then that clocked around and built to be more NW at 5 then 6 and on up until the last boats were finishing, near 1PM, with around 15 kts of NW.

We are lake sailors and we know this lake so we know that the winds channel along the sides and do strange things coming over the hills and we all took more (or less!) advantage of all of this as we raced up the lake. That's along the lines of what one might hear from Clare Fewtrell whose *J/24 Mehitabel* took the race. Richard Stephens with his Corsair 28 *Trevelyan* wasn't far behind then came Tim Bonniwell commanding Bruce Caward's Catalina 30 *Invictus*. And the rest? Well, we may not be on the podium for this race but there is still hope for us in the series! So, we had, continuing in the order of finish:

- Bill Russell's Catalina 320 *Little Wing*
- John Ford's Catalina 27 *Shawondasee*
- Susan Witherup's Cape Dory 28 *Q3*
- Mik Tulumello's O'Day 27 *Arcadia*
- Steve Supron's Ranger 28 *Ripple*
- David West's Catalina 27 *Killer Whale*

We rafted up in the lee for lunch and passed people and food to and fro amongst the boats for a rousing good time. There was some drama, however, as there were a fair number of motor boats moving about who didn't seem to understand that close to shore there should not be wake. Well... As luck would have it some of these wakes were quite large and caused a good deal of rocking (to and fro, again). The most dramatic seeming event in this was when *Ripple's* spreader was struck by *Killer Whale's* spreader and appeared to break off altogether! However, apparently *Ripple's* spreaders are intentionally designed to scare the heck out of mere landlubbers and the one in question was merely hanging out and having a good time.

That said, the boat was certainly unsailable in this condition and thus we sent Mik up the mast to put the tip back in the boot – which task she accomplished with admirable aplomb (not to mention an atomic wedgie).

However... I did mention that this event merely seemed dramatic. There was, during the same wave event, real drama occurring elsewhere in the raft... One of those gigantic boat wakes bashed a certain Catalina 27's rubrail into the hull of the Catalina 320 – leaving a noticeable dent in the clearcoat. Thus far in the year it seems this is the strongest contender for the bent stanchion in that even if it is not a stanchion it is clearly bent and otherwise (lightly) damaged.

So... A reminder to all boaters out there – please pay attention! If you're rafting do what you can to prevent damage, if you're motoring please try to keep wakes away from those who might suffer from them, if you're rafting sailboats offset them so that masts can not hit each other in wavy conditions, etc.

I know. I say that and still, I was in the raft and I didn't see anything that looked like it would be a problem but I also didn't look up at masts while other boats were rafting up...

Anyway, we finished eating and peeled off to head home. And now it got even more exquisite... The winds built a bit more cresting around 20 kts near 3PM with a few gusts to 27 kts or more. The return leg we saw the different boats dealing with the downwind leg in their own ways. *Invictus* sailed with double headsails, Q3 flew her light air chute, *Trevelyan* flew her heavy air chute and many of the others sailed back wing and wing.

It took Q3 4:47 to get to the lunch raft. That course ended up being 19 NM with an average speed of 3.9 kts. Her return trip didn't involve tacking back and forth across the lake and was only 13 NM with an average speed of 5.7 kts and an elapsed time of 2:31. (I know all of the numbers don't calculate out right but that's life and metrics and just how things work. It's close enough and gives a fine idea of what folks actually experienced on the water!)

Full results in a more contained format are always on the Fleet website:

<http://www.cruisingfleet.org/Results/2019LongDistance.html>

## Red Jacket Regatta July 27 – register as soon as we tell you how!

The Red Jacket Regatta will be held on July 27. This race will feature a Bermuda start with the slowest boat starting probably at 8 AM followed, in handicap order, by the faster boats. We'll be up to the Red Jacket Yacht Club by 4PM to enjoy lawn games, swimming and tomfoolery before dining at around 6 PM. This year I hear that we'll have a chicken BBQ at a cost of \$14 per person. There will be sides and desserts included, of course! You will need to register (and perhaps pay) in advance. We're working through final details on those bits but hope to have an update for you this week!

But that's just for the racers (the sailing/racing part!). Ithaca Yacht Club and Cayuga Lake Cruising Fleet members are welcome up as well (for the lawn games, swimming, tomfoolery, dining and all)! It's a fun environment and we'd love to have you up! Sail, motor, drive, bike, hitchhike, whatever, up to Seneca Falls to hang out. 4PM is a good time to show up but, again, dinner isn't until 6. Sailboats will tie to and raft along the long pier but there is also lawn space for crew to camp overnight on shore. They have a wonderful saltwater swimming

pool (with all of the associated and necessary infrastructure like showers!), the meal will be good, there's an inexpensive (cheap) cash bar, and Liz said that the weather would be awesome! And the people are really nice and always happy to see us!

As soon as I have more details I will pass them along!

## Latitude Races Begin

Sunday (the 30<sup>th</sup>) the Summer Latitude Series of races begins. Now... I know that you're reading "races" and that scares some of you but let me reassure you that it is not usually that intense and you'll enjoy yourself if you come out!

These races are open to any sailboat -> you do not have to be a member of the Fleet or the Yacht Club. We hold a meeting before the race to decide how far we're going to sail and then we all head out to our boats. At the appointed time (use GPS time!) we take off up the lake. The boats who are registered in the Fleet have to start between the Yacht Club's flagpole and the IYC start buoy but any other racer can start on a continuation of the line between those two points (make a line from the flagpole through the mark close to shore and all of the way across the lake. That's where you can start). We go up the lake until we hit the latitude determined at that meeting. As it happens, we do not all sail to the same latitude - latitudes have big markers like A, B and C but then they have gradations that are based on the individual handicaps of each boat. So it's helpful to let us know before you sail that you're going to so that our official handicapper can determine your rating and you can know when to turn around! It is imperative, for these races, that you carry a GPS that can give your latitude so that you can turn around at the appropriate place.

The benefit to the system is the same as that of the Bermuda start system. You know which boat finished in which place because the scoring is determined directly by order in which boats cross the finish line. There is one other little thing -> the finish line is the same for all boats and it is between the flagpole and the A (IYC) mark. Don't sail that wide and expect to be scored!

The skippers' meeting is at 1PM at the South pavilion at IYC and the race begins at 2PM GPS time. Please carry and have on a VHF radio that can receive and transmit on channel 80A so that you can receive any last-minute and in-race information.

## Upcoming!

June 30: Latitude 1

July 7: Latitude 2

July 12: Long Distance 2: Night 50 Miler - Friday start and finish whenever!

July 21: Latitude 3

July 27: Long Distance 3: Red Jacket Regatta

The definitive source of events is the online calendar:

<http://www.cruisingfleet.org/calendar.html>

## Need Crew? Need a Ride?

For normal races like the Spring, Latitude and Fall Series races the best thing to do if you're

looking to be crew may well be to show up at the skippers' meeting. For distance races things are more complicated and probably need to be worked out ahead of time.

I will do my best to hook boats up with people who are or may be free for races. I will do my best to hook crew up with boats who may need people. In both cases and for all races (long ones in particular) please let me know as early as you can so that we have the best chance of getting people together with boats!

Charles Witherup

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The rest of this page left blank so that you'd have enough space to make a drawing of what racing sailboats represents for you. Go wild!