



The Pennant

4 September, 2019

Newsletter of the Cayuga Lake Cruising Fleet

And Another Season Begins!

You knew that the Fall was nearly upon us when a mere two days after the Red Jacket Regatta the nighttime temperatures fell to the 40s. There were more signs of the impending arrival when you looked around... There was the Yacht Club Labor Day picnic with a good enough turnout and yet most seeking refuge from the elements inside the club as far as you could tell, for example.

So, yes, we had some weather for the first races in the Fall Series. Fall weather. I'm fairly sure that it didn't rain but it was still largely overcast and not one of those warm and quiet Summer days that draw so many families to the water's edge.

Ah! But we, with or without our families, are sailors! We seek not the quiet and calm of the Summer but rather the feistiness and (perhaps) intemperate nature of the Spring and Fall!

We were largely rewarded with said weather this past Sunday. The forecasts (from "those darned weather liars") called for 9ish from the South with the gusts building to perhaps 15 or so and tapering off before the end of our races. The temperatures predictions, in contrast, were actually pretty spot on – as they hovered in the low 70s for most of the day.

But, of course, and as you've already divined (and experienced) the winds were perhaps a bit stronger and a bit punchier than predicted. It's difficult, often, to judge the proper sail to fly from the relative quiet that the harbor of the Yacht Club affords, and this day was typical of that scenario. We couldn't see white caps in the middle – things had to be under control out there.

Ricky gave us a shorter first course of WNWN (**W**est Shore, **N**ear Maplewood twice around) for the first race. The winds for this one were 12ish gusting maybe 18 – pretty much from the South. The last boat to cross (*Shawondasee* in this case) had an average VMG (Velocity Made Good) of about 5 kts despite a few tactical and strategic errors (things like, oh, ahem, sorry John! Yes! I know! It was downwind so we're not doing as much but we should still be looking for the next mark!) leading to, among other things, broaching and rounding up directly into the line of *Little Wing*. Still, hey, it couldn't have been that bad, right? I mean, they didn't protest!

We had a second course of SFS (**S**ycamore, **F**ar Maplewood, **S**ycamore). We still had South winds but they'd built to closer to 15 on average with gusting in the mid 20s. Here's where the sail choices made in the lee of the harbor came a bit more in play!

Fantasy played all of it conservatively, with a crew of only two. Things looked pretty calm and cool on *Little Wing* (our crew said they looked like they were lounging about!) and we

don't recall seeing their spinnaker out. *Trevelyan* looked like she always does – either a spec on the horizon or a specter silently blowing past at speeds unattainable by your own vessel except in free fall. *Snitch* and *Mehitabel*? Oh, they were racing, too. Somewhere in that mix! It felt, from the position of *Shawondasee*, that *Snitch* played it a bit riskier with the chute up much closer to the windward mark and yet my memory seems to say that *Mehitabel* must have flown hers as well.

Well, regardless, boats raced. Boats finished. Scores are up! As always, the copy of reference can be found online on the Fleet's website – <http://cruisingFleet.org>. Follow the link to Results, eh?

Race 1:

Rank	Boat	Finish	Elapsed	Corrected	Points
1	Trevelyan		32:35	0:36:42	1
2	Snitch	14:11:58	0:41:58	0:38:00	2
3	Mehitabel		44:10	0:39:59	3
4	Little Wing	14:16:38	0:46:38	0:41:21	4
5	Fantasy	14:18:30	0:48:30	0:42:29	5
6	Shawondasee	14:21:18	0:51:18	0:43:32	6

Race 2:

Rank	Boat	Finish	Elapsed	Corrected
1	Trevelyan		49:22	0:55:37
2	Snitch	15:47:25	1:07:25	1:01:02
3	Mehitabel		69:50	1:03:13
4	Little Wing	15:56:39	1:16:39	1:07:58
5	Shawondasee	16:03:04	1:23:04	1:10:29
6	Fantasy	16:07:40	1:27:40	1:16:48

Standings:

Rank	Boat	PHRFTOT	<u>R1</u>	<u>R2</u>
1st	Trevelyan	27	1	1
2nd	Snitch	168	2	2
3rd	Mehitabel	168	3	3
4th	Little Wing	183	4	4
5th	Shawondasee	216	6	5
6th	Fantasy	192	5	6

There are upcoming events

Fall 3 & 4 will be next weekend, for example! Then the following Saturday (September 14) it's the last of the races in the Distance Series – the Day 50 Miler. The rules are posted at the South Pavilion and I will share them again with you next week but the gist is that you sail up the lake, around 51A (a channel marker – up by Farley's) and back. It's an epic adventure of, um, I suppose that the proportions are epic, too. At least, sometimes. And other times the excitement of the weather pales in comparison to the intense inner (and outer) human emotions and experiences (when, say, becalmed for 5 hours).

Let's start that over! The 14th we've got the Day 50 Miler! It's going to be AWESOME! You should come out for it! Seeing how the winds have been since Red Jacket I'm going to go out on a limb and say that it's going to be lively!

The next installment of the Whitesail Regattas is coming up September 28th! If you bring a member of the Red Jacket Yacht Club on board, you will be granted a 12pt PHRF bonus per Red Jacket Member (not to exceed a total point bonus of 60).

We are scheduled to take the marks out the weekends of October 26/27 and if needed November 2/3. Where we really need help is cleaning the marks, and lines on shore. If people are available to help out, please contact Ricky!

Club Business

As noted in the attached Sailing Instructions, skippers' meetings have reverted to 45 minutes before races in the general case. That means that for the Fall Series you should attend the meetings at 12:45 for racing beginning at 1:30.

If you have gear that can use a Navionics HD Marine Chart then your gear is pretty recent and awesome! And you should contact us to receive some free charts that Ricky won as part of Sailstice! Susan won stuff, too but you can't have hers :) Regardless, contact us in the first case and remember this next year at Sailstice time – signing up gives really high odds of winning something! That totally makes it all worth it!

Contact Ricky. Tell him how much you want to help out with cleaning up marks! Tell him you have recent-enough equipment to handle Navionics HD charts. Tell him you want to volunteer to be on the board. Tell him what a great job he's doing.
CayugaLakeCruisingFleet@gmail.com.

Charles Witherup
CLCF Secretary
CLCFCrew@Gmail.com
<http://www.CruisingFleet.org>