



The Pennant

9 September, 2019

Newsletter of the Cayuga Lake Cruising Fleet

You know you like the Fall Series

You like it because, hey, there's more wind. Reliably more wind. Not to say more reliable wind, of course! Oh, we had plenty of wind but, wow, was it unreliable as far as direction is concerned! That first race... So, get this... The wind stations that I can see show pretty steady velocities for most of this past racing period. Let's say that it was blowing 8 or 9 kts with occasional gusting that went as high as 18 (not a lot of that!). But the direction? At noon it was very plainly NW. That shifted down so that by 2:30 it was due West. But then it flipped back up so by the time 4PM came around it was due North.

And that? That's just extrapolating from data at the airport and Pile Cluster. On the lake things change even more depending on how far up or down you are, how close you are to the West shore, how sunny it is and the fall of the last bones thrown by the shaman.

What it means, practically, is that for the first part of the first race you wanted to be West of everyone else and for the first part of the second race you wanted to be East of everyone else – in racing theory, anyway. When everyone is getting lifted you want to be on the inside of that lift as all of the other boats will have to sail further than you will. The problem with predicting things on the water yesterday was that we didn't just have our normal lake weirdness to deal with – we also had those meta shifts. As the DFL finisher in both races (“did finish last”) I prefer to think that it was just luck that allowed every other boat in the Fleet to crush us like a little bug. I mean, seriously, they couldn't have predicted those wind shifts – no one could have.

Ahem. Sour grapes, I'm sure. It felt like we sailed well and yet you just left us. What the heck is up with that? We'll have to send Romain down to scrub the hull before the next race so that we can rule a dirty hull out as a cause for lastness.

Races 3 & 4

5 boats competed on the day. We picked up 1 or 2 extra crew on each of 3 of those boats so we were all flush with crew and all flew chutes each downwind leg. Ricky set the course for Race 3 as **F**ar Maplewood, **S**ycamore, **N**ear Maplewood. Liz set the course for Race 4 as **N**ear Maplewood, **W**est Shore, **N**ear Maplewood, **S**ycamore. Both races had a good deal of advantage and disadvantage conveyed based on position on the lift. But, given that the wind changed direction on a high level by 90 degrees in addition to the usual 30 degree changes expected by lake topology, well, who can really say who had the advantage on each of the tacks?

Thank you for asking! Actually, the boat at the back of the Fleet could see clearly which boat was advantaged by each shift in the wind. Somehow, alas, we were unable to take advantage

of any of those shifts to any good effect – every shift seemed to push the forward boats further forward! We did well and had a fine time sailing but arg, you know?

Race 3:

Rank	Boat	Finish	Elapsed	Corrected	Points
1	Mehitabel		1:04:04	0:58:00	1
2	Snitch	14:36:46	1:06:46	1:00:27	2
3	Little Wing		1:15:00	1:06:30	3
4	Fantasy	14:47:00	1:17:00	1:07:27	4
5	Shawondasee	14:51:55	1:21:55	1:09:31	5

Race 4:

Rank	Boat	Finish	Elapsed	Corrected
1	Snitch	16:11:59	1:01:59	0:56:07
2	Mehitabel		1:03:39	0:57:37
3	Fantasy	16:17:46	1:07:46	0:59:22
4	Little Wing		1:10:39	1:02:39
5	Shawondasee	16:24:53	1:14:53	1:03:33

(I leave, as an exercise for the reader, to come up with the corresponding number of points.)

Thus, the standings in the Fall Series are:

Rank	Boat	PHRF	<u>R1</u>	<u>R2</u>	<u>R3</u>	<u>R4</u>	Total	
1st	Snitch	168	2	2		2	1	7
2nd	Mehitabel	168	3	3		1	2	9
3rd	Little Wing	183	4	4		3	4	15
4th	Trevelyan	27	1	1	7.0 DNC	7.0 DNC		16
5th	Fantasy	192	5	6		4	3	18
6th	Shawondasee	216	6	5		5	5	21

The results are always available online in the location of reference. Which you should know by now but which is, whoa, online and accessible through the Fleet website – <http://www.CruisingFleet.org>. Follow the links for rules and other documents, results, the official calendar and some whatnot as well.

Saturday we sail for the finale of the Distance Series!

I told you last week that I'd include the Sailing Instructions for the Day 50 Miler in this newsletter. I had every intention of doing so but, as mentioned in the previous section, the rules are online. They're also posted at the South Pavilion and have been for some time. But, OK, here are the rules in short form:

- Start time is 8 AM
- Start line is from the flagpole to the I mark
- The far mark is the 51A channel marker. It's pretty close to N 42 °48.843 W 76 °43.234
- Leave that mark to port
- Sail back to the finish line which is the same as the start line
- Make a note of your finish time and send it to Richard
- All times GPS

Now... Are you planning on going? Do you need crew? Do you need a boat to sail on? I think

I have people in both cases. Right now I know of four boats that will compete and a fifth that would with enough crew. I'd like to see more boats! I'd like to see more people! I'll ask the boats sailing if they're set for crew and I'll be sure to pass contact information for boats and crew around for all of those who provide their information and ask that it be shared in this context.

Today (ha!) the forecast calls for tenish from the southish for the whole day. Sounds pretty good to me for finishing before dark for once! Sure, it might be raining and cold (or warm and dry) but, hey, as always it will be an adventure of one type or other. I, personally, am hoping for the adventure type of thing to happen. Or other. With crew (which would be awesome) or without crew (which would be awesome). Autopilot is allowed. Seriously, we'd like to see you out. And, hey, if it takes more than 12 hours and it's dark when you get back? Know what that is? It's awesome. It's adventure. I wouldn't kid you. And if you pass close by me I'd be happy to share whatever adult beverages that we might have in reserve at that point. Heck, if there's no wind (seems entirely unlikely this year) I'll swim them over to your boat. No kidding. No big deal.

Oh, there is a little drama in this race even if it isn't huge. If *Invictus* finishes the race in any way she wins the series, but the following three positions could be in play. So... If we get at least a fifth boat to race with us and *Quetzal* takes first place and *Trevelyan* takes at least fifth place then *Quetzal* finishes in the top 3! If a boat that hasn't yet sailed in a distance race competes then *Trevelyan* could take 4th and *Quetzal* would still make the podium! There are plenty of other unlikely scenarios that can see our very-safe ocean-going vessel finish on the podium. All of them involve plenty of adventure, I'm sure.

Breaking NEWS!!!

This just in (no, like, literally and seriously) – I get to be Race Committee for the Day 50! So ignore whatever it says elsewhere (in the rules already published on the wall at the South Pavilion and online in the reference version on the Fleet website. That's under Documents) – y'all have to do what I say. OK. So, competitors should be at the South Pavilion for a 7:30 AM competitor's meeting and then the race will start at, like, 8 AM.

The important bit is that boats should email me telling me that they're competing and if they can take extra crew. People wanting to sail but not yet on a boat should email me telling me and I'll try to hook the ones up with the others. Deal?

More Events

Oh, you know already because you've been looking at the online (reference) calendar, right? Well, there's a bit more to add... The end-of-year banquet might be early because the club is closing early. And, well, the Frostbite Regatta... It's unclear how many boats will still be in the water to compete as the State is not guaranteeing water in the lake late this year and Treman is closing early... More info to follow closer to those dates but, well, yeah. Sailing is probably going to end a week or two earlier this year. Sad face emoticon.

Charles Witherup
CLCF Secretary

CLCFcrew@gmail.com <- send email. Tell this guy you're sailing Saturday or want to!
<http://www.CruisingFleet.org>