



The Pennant

13 July 2020

Newsletter of the Cayuga Lake Cruising Fleet

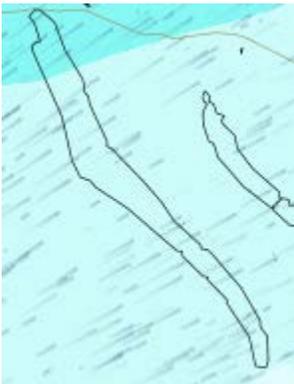
We had a really big race

We had a fantastic showing of boats for a fifty miler – seven boats signed up to race! That's a great improvement in turnout when looking over the years. 9 or 10 years ago Tim Bonniwell, as Fleet Captain, brought these distance races back into being. We had many races in the early years of holding them again with only two boats starting and one finishing! Well, we're back in business and there was real all-night racing going on this weekend!

John Ford's J/100, *Galaxy*, battled tack for tack the entire race with Tim Bonniwell's J/112e *Mojito*. Why, for some time into the race, up to perhaps Taughannock Point, four of the boats were within ½ mile of each other. That includes the two boats already mentioned plus Richard Stephens' Corsair 28, *Trevelyan* and Bruce Caward's Catalina 30, *Invictus*, helmed by Witherups - with the former boat at the front of the group and the latter at the back, as one might expect.

Rounding out our weekend's racing fleet we had Jurriaan Gerretsen and Maaïke Oldemans with their Rival22 *Bacchae* and Leo Vazenios with the Lloyd/Vazenios Cape Dory 25 – *A Boat Has No Name*. We ended up with only six boats racing as one didn't show at the starting line for personal reasons. I hope those worked out in a reasonable way and that we'll see you out for the next distance race!

Now... Winds... What did we have for winds? Well, uh, everything imaginable from every direction possible! Sometime when you have a little free time check out SailFlow's website and look at their flow map. Generally what you'll find there is like it is right now -> lots of little lines about the same length and going in roughly the same direction. Something like the image on the left.



Now... Friday into Saturday we had a tropical storm coming in from the southeast. This gave a nice strong and even flow early on – lots of longer arrows all coming from the bottom right and going to the top left. But as the system came through we had the whirling gyre of it to deal with and so at the top of the lake there was a strong west wind while 10 miles south there was nothing and 10 more miles south there was south and 10 more miles south there was east. And any of those could be at any velocity and all changed very rapidly.

That may have sounded long-winded but it is actually quite relevant to the results in this race – once the boats got spread out a little their wind conditions were radically different! So, while *Mojito* rounded 51A a full three hours before *Invictus*, *Mojito* only finished the race an hour fifteen ahead in elapsed. And that would be because *Invictus* rounded and was hit

with that strong west wind and had almost two hours of a nice, fast reach during which time *Mojito* was in something slower from some less favorable direction.

Similarly, *Trevelyan* managed to find different enough whispers of just enough wind to keep her off the front and, indeed, to get her back to IYC in time for a nice breakfast of oatmeal and Stella – before 6AM. Now, they rounded about an hour before *Mojito* and finished around three hours before her. These two tales of where the winds were and where they weren't say that at least for this race you did not want to be where *Mojito* was after rounding because that was where things weren't moving! Sorry about that, Tim! Better luck next time!

Bacchae was looking good out there, as always for such a sleek boat, and got her chute up and sorted pretty quickly. They sailed some distance up the lake until they were becalmed one time too many during yet another of the rain showers that came along with that tropical storm. They abandoned the race at around 1AM. Thanks for coming out and challenging yourselves – we hope to see you doing more of these long races with us!

ABHNN (A Boat Has No Name)... Well, they sailed on through the night and all of the next day to boot... Leo and Lauren wanted to see what it's like to do a distance race where you decide what happens and where you rely on you to get things done. Well, hey, they made it happen and they got it done. The word I have back from the boat is that there aren't any tales to tell and that it went perfectly! I mean, sure, they, "basically were hit with squalls and heavy wind on and off from around 12:30 from all sides. We only had a reefed main at some point and were still overpowered for quite awhile. We rode a beam reach in from very strong westerly wind around Taughannock and Crowbar as it was the only way not to be blown over. As we were 200 yards from the finish line the torrential downpour came in; in an ironic, somewhat magical and very apropos way."

Here's what the radar looked like as they were coming in (the lake is entirely under the orange blob):



In the interest of safety and of not losing the boat they motored for five minutes in there – something that would normally disqualify them. Richard pored over the RRS (Racing Rules of Sailing) and found that it appears it may be allowable provided that motoring does not provide a significant advantage in the race. He suggested that we make this explicit in future racing rules. And, as it happens we, as a fleet, do have a nuclear option that allows the skippers in a race to agree, together, to rules changes on the fly for a specific race. The skippers in this race agreed to apply this future rule and to allow *ABHNN*'s finish to count in the race and in the Distance Series standings.

So the last boat to cross in the race was *ABHNN* with an epic elapsed time – longest I recall in the past ten years of our fifty milers – of 1 day, 2 hours, 20 minutes and 3 seconds! Way to go Lauren and Leo! Not “way to go” on having the longest time but way to go in finishing!

Results (and standings in the Distance series):

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Boat</u>	<u>Finish</u>	<u>Elapsed</u>	<u>Corrected</u>	<u>Points</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>Trevelyan</u>	<u>7/11/20@05:35:33</u>	<u>11:35:33</u>	<u>13:03:33</u>	<u>1.0</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>Invictus</u>	<u>7/11/20@09:46:07</u>	<u>15:46:07</u>	<u>14:09:25</u>	<u>2.0</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>Galaxy</u>	<u>7/11/20@08:47:50</u>	<u>14:47:50</u>	<u>15:01:42</u>	<u>3.0</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>Mojito</u>	<u>7/11/20@08:32:57</u>	<u>14:32:57</u>	<u>15:16:40</u>	<u>4.0</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>No Name</u>	<u>7/11/20@20:20:03</u>	<u>1:2:20:03</u>	<u>20:12:33</u>	<u>5.0</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>Bacchae</u>	-	<u>RET</u>	-	<u>7.0</u>

The Memory-Map Summer Virtual Mark Series Continues!

Sunday we'll hold the last Virtual Mark race in the MMSVMS. Skippers' Meeting at the South Pavilion at 12:45 and race at 1:30.

Then the following weekend the series shifts over to buoy racing. Liz has indicated that she'd like to ease boats into buoy racing so I understand that the first few races will be “easier” – likely having longer legs and fewer rounding.

The next month of events

19 July: MMSVMS Virtual Mark race

26 July: MMSVMS buoy races

2 August: Sheldrake Cup – Distance race 2. A short and easy one!

9 August: MMSVMS buoy races

16 August: MMSVMS buoy races and end of season BBQ if that's allowed!

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