



The Pennant

25 August 2020

Newsletter of the Cayuga Lake Cruising Fleet

Fall is upon us!

I know that you read these to find out what has happened but this time we're going to talk about the wonderful future before us first. And that wonderful future is Fall! Right now it's close to 70 and blowing 20... The water is still plenty warm and it's light enough out to still be sailing until 9PM... It's wonderful! It's Fall! So we'll begin the Fall series on Sunday. Skippers' meeting at the South pavilion at the Ithaca Yacht Club at 12:45 and first race at 1:30. There is room on the pier at the pavilion to park your boat during the meeting as well as some space on the southern side of the C dock. 4 boats can easily dock for a bit and chat about what racing for the day should look like.

The sailing instructions (rules) for the Fall series are included as an attachment. They're pretty much the same as always viz:

- You're strongly encouraged to have a VHF capable of receiving/sending on VHF 80A so that you can hear course changes (and start times especially for the second race!)
- We generally follow the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) with little changes here and there like the "one turn" penalty (instead of two) and scoring on the series is always specific to whatever series we are in.
- We've had multiple boats with questions this year so it is worth pointing out, again, that the most general rule for "right of way" in sailing (and racing) is that the boat on starboard tack (with the wind coming over the starboard side and pushing the sails off of the port side of the boat) has rights over a boat on port tack!

History

(This section is just bla bla. Feel free to skip ahead to the next one!)

History! The story of our races and our racing! That's what I'm here for! You've, of course, heard that history is written by the victors. It isn't. History is written by those who write. Some may be forced, some may be paid. And some might do it for the joy that a story well-written can bring. And that story may or may not be what actually transpired. I do warn you, quite often, that I'm not any kind of arbiter of anything – I don't determine handicaps, courses, finishing positions or standings. I write stories! Last week, as it happens, my story included *Fantasy* as a participant but somehow they got left out of the results and by extension were a bit short in the final standings.

But things do get corrected and updated and the online scores are, verily and indeed, the scores of record. Anything that shows up elsewhere (like here) is just as likely to have been invented by a victor or someone under duress, or was just part of a nice story. Regardless, the final MMSVMS results have been updated and corrected and are visible here, online:

<http://www.cruisingfleet.org/Results/2020Latitude.html>

The Red Jacket Regatta that almost wasn't was

Saturday five boats came out to compete in the third long distance race in that series of four. We had wonderful weather at the start with the Newfield Drift providing a pleasantly warm and lively southern breeze for the start of the race.

Although, to be fair, the forecasts were generally rotten and calling for a hot, cloudless day devoid of wind. As such the race was actually shortened, in an unusual twist, the day before it happened. Most were fine with this as Red Jacket was unable to accommodate us in any way owing to the current global public health crisis. This lack of accommodations and the miserable forecast contributed to a lower boat participation level than in a typical year.

But we shot off the line – one after the other – and on up the lake. Yes, of course, the forecasters do get their say in things and there was around an hour with very little wind (quite near the GIANT BLUE CONCRETE VORTEX OF DOOM (vortex), oddly enough. I mean, we were all so surprised to be stuck in the swirling miasma that engulfs everything within a few miles of it and from which many a boat appears not to have escaped) but then it swirled in circles for 15 minutes before finally deciding to become a steady breeze of ~8kts from the NNW.

Quetzal III, with the highest handicap, was able to leave the dock first – during the height of the Newfield Drift – and was only briefly heard from, again, as she crossed Long Point on her way to 51A. It seems she didn't get the memo that the course had been shortened! Regardless, her chimeric nature on the course (as a myth – something dreadfully feared and yet not seen) kept the others in check, I'm sure.

Next in the handicap scale we had *Arcadia*. She'd managed to grab some crew for the course and yet couldn't, alas, make the shreds of her chute back into a full and proper spinnaker. She, thus, sailed wing-on-wing for the downwind legs.

Mehitabel was next to leave. She had a full and fully female crew and flew her chute downwind. After the vortex it appeared that they did one of the usual (on our lake) J/24 tricks of sailing close to a shore. In this case with the SSW wind of the start they were hugging the East of the lake. And... In this particular case and from afar it appeared to work less well than other times. To be fair, however, they were hugging that shore as the winds were dying – sucking them back into the vortex's eye, as it were, I suppose. Drat the vortex of doom! Drat it all to heck!

Galaxy was our penultimate starter with *Mojito* pulling up the rear. These two large J boats had quite the interesting back and forth duel for a goodly portion of the race. IIRC *Mojito* passed *Galaxy* for the first time quite early – perhaps even near Myers. And yet *Galaxy* certainly held her own and passed right back before the vortex. In the case of these two boats the West side of the lake worked much more to their advantages than the East side did. Perhaps the winds were lighter East or were just pointed in a slightly better direction West for them with their large asymmetrical spinnakers flying. Although they, as with all of the others, were still nearly becalmed as the winds went from South to whatever-the-heck to North. They both put up code zeroes and then, fairly quickly, jibs during the wind's switch.

And so we had *Quetzal III* pass Sheldrake Point first. As hinted at, above, the course was changed from finishing at Red Jacket to finishing at 51A and then, the night before the race,

to Sheldrake Point. *Mojito* crossed the finish line a bit before 12:30. Not too long afterwards *Galaxy* crossed and, again, not much later *Mehitabel*. Why, *Arcadia* could not have been that far behind *Mehitabel*, either, as they also joined *Mojito* and *Mehitabel* at O'Malley's for lunch. I do say joined in a somewhat figurative sense as there is still that global health thing going around and as such we were quite unable (and rightly so!) to all eat at the same table!

All four of the boats that had turned had quite lovely downwind sails back to the yacht club and the one that didn't is lost to history, it would seem. At least, she's lost to the official online scoring. She will, still, live on in the story – and that's sometimes the most important thing (as long as you're not waiting on a trophy).

As near as I can tell that leaves us with the following standings in the Distance series:

Boat	Night 50	Sheldrake	RJ	Total
Mojito	4	5	1	10
Galaxy	3	6	2	11
Mehitabel	10	4	3	17
Arcadia	10	3	4	17
Bacchae	7	2	10	19
Keith's Weta	10	1	10	21
Trevelyan	1	10	10	21
Invictus	2	10	10	22
ABHNN	5	10	10	25

Looks like a tight race between *Mojito* and *Galaxy* for the series – especially if they both compete in the Day 50! Given that there are no throwouts in the series these boats are almost certain to take first and second if they compete in the final race – and either could take it in a few different scenarios.

The official scores aren't updated quite yet but will be and will be found in the location of reference – online! That will be here:

<http://www.cruisingfleet.org/Results/2020LongDistance.html>

Upcoming

Sunday 30 August: Fall 1&2

Sunday 6 September: Fall 3&4

Saturday 12 September (oops! Wrong in the official calendar!): Day 50 Mile race

Fall racing every Sunday thereafter until the Frostbite Regatta on 18 October.

The online calendar is the official one (and will be updated!) and that's here:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=cayugalakecruisingfleet%40gmail.com>

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