



# The Pennant

15 September 2020

Newsletter of the Cayuga Lake Cruising Fleet

## OK, well, now it's really Fall!

I know I've said it all before, but now it's real – really real. We've been in the Fall Series for weeks and maybe the first races were a bit like Fall but a week ago it was more like the dog days of Summer. Well this past weekend we held the Day 50 Miler and that was Fall sailing for real.

Real Fall sailing, you know? On the brisker side of the thermostat, maybe a bit grey and blowing good and hard. Good and hard? Wait, what? The forecast was for 10kts gusting 17. The forecast on every weather site using every different prediction model said something very much like that. Every single one of them!

And our resident astronomer said, "Oh, well, they're wrong. The weather that we'll have is going to come from the vortex in the jet stream that just gave Oregon those 80mph winds. There will be shear across layers and I think it will be blowing 20kts and we should have our small sails hoisted and furled – ready to deploy." But he's an astronomer so we did what you do when you believe the forecast.

I mentioned it in a quick posting online, what you do is put up your big chute and ride those gusts out to 51A! Four of the five boats competing set out to do this but, as far as I know, only one of them actually succeeded because, as it happens, the winds were not as forecast by any model or even as forecast by Jamie -> they were a touch higher. Sure, they started at maybe 9 or 10 but they built in the first three to four hours to 20 with some claiming to have seen gusts in the low 30s a bit later.

To Taughannock things were quite civilized but it is worth pointing out that it only took around 45 minutes to get there. On *Mojito* we'd only gybed three times. On the J/24s I'm not entirely sure that they gybed that many times the entire race.

*Trevelyan* led us off and managed to stay off the front from Taughannock to the finish. *Mojito* and *Galaxy* held a raging gybe and tack battle just behind. Once the winds hit the 20s there were broaches galore and some pretty tight spinnaker wrappings until they each dropped their big chutes and moved on to smaller downwind sails – eventually sailing with main, jib and chicken chute (the jib helps depower the spinnaker a little and brings the center of effort lower which helps keep the boat more under control). *Galaxy* handily took this downwind leg over *Mojito* - who still managed to complete it in a bit over 3 ¼ hours.

The J/24s each sailed their own races as opposed to how things generally go in buoy racing. I think that *Mehitabel* flew her chute the entire way up. From what I saw she was hugging the eastern shore of the lake – this definitely kept the waves down as well as providing some shelter from the winds. *Adelante* scraped together a crack crew from her boat and *Snitch*

and was thus able to put in a good showing. They held their chute until (somewhere up the lake. Aurora?) they didn't feel comfortable doing so.

*Bacchae* sailed and flew her chute – with a crew of two! And they finished! The distance races this year have been good and challenging for crews of two. And... They've made it! Heck, even in time for a late dinner this time (although they probably just promptly fell asleep on the boat once in the slip!).

Which brings us to race and then series results! Did I mention that it was a darned close race for the series? For my own first go around for calculating the finishes in this race (reminder: I don't score the races!) I was using the wrong coefficients and I came up with something amazing – something that might have sown upheaval across the Fleet! Or not! Who can say? Still... If the coefficients I found were used more regularly, if they were the default values, the results would have been both much closer and also much different from what they were. So even without sharing those with you, I think that you can probably agree that we could do with races where the results are closer – where the winner isn't predetermined. We can talk about it and I'm happy to share my math with you :)

#### Day 50 Miler Results!

Rank	Boat	PHRFTOT	Finish	Elapsed	Corrected	Points
1	Trevelyan	27	14:52:59	6:52:59	7:45:14	1.0
2	Mehitabel	168	16:42:40	8:42:40	7:53:10	2.0
3	Galaxy	90	15:50:22	7:50:22	7:57:43	3.0
4	Mojito	69		7:37:44	8:00:39	4.0
5	Adelante	168	17:09:57	9:09:57	8:17:52	5.0
6	Bacchae	177	19:44:00	11:44:00	10:29:26	6.0

Other than for some Sheldrake races this feels like it's about as close as we get for races! And it wasn't me who called the boat *Galaxy* this time! Ha!

Which brings us (drum roll!) to the final standings in the Distance Series:

Rank	Boat	PHRFTOT	Night 50 July 10	Sheldrake Aug 2	Red jacket Aug 22	Day 50 Sept 12	Total	Nett
1st	Mojito	69	4.0	5.0	1.0	4.0	14.0	14.0
2nd	Galaxy	90	3.0	6.0	2.0	3.0	14.0	14.0
3rd	Mehitabel	168	11.0 DNC	4.0	3.0	2.0	20.0	20.0
4th	Trevelyan	27	1.0	11.0 DNC	11.0 DNC	1.0	24.0	24.0
5th	Bacchae	177	7.0 RET	2.0	11.0 DNC	6.0	26.0	26.0
6th	Arcadia		11.0 DNC	3.0	4.0	11.0 DNC	29.0	29.0
7th	Keith's Weta		11.0 DNC	1.0	11.0 DNC	11.0 DNC	34.0	34.0
8th	Invictus	174	2.0	11.0 DNC	11.0 DNC	11.0 DNC	35.0	35.0
9th	Adelante	168	11.0 DNC	11.0 DNC	11.0 DNC	5.0	38.0	38.0

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Boat</b>	<b>PHRFTOT</b>	<b><a href="#">Night 50</a> July 10</b>	<b>Sheldrake Aug 2</b>	<b>Red jacket Aug 22</b>	<b><a href="#">Day 50</a> Sept 12</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Nett</b>
10th	A Boat Has No Name	297	5.0	11.0 DNC	11.0 DNC	11.0 DNC	38.0	38.0

All kinds of comments on this one! So.. First... Isn't it cute how Jamie's boat is on its own page? Anyway... *Mojito* took the series over *Galaxy* by tie breaker rules -> *Mojito* had more (one!) first place finishes.

Still, it was a good series and involved all kinds of good sailing. We had a few more low wind races than the norm but then that last one with (much!) higher wind than predicted sure made up for the others in having things happen!

### Upcoming!

September 20, 27; October 4, 11: Fall Series races. 2 per day. Skippers' meeting at 12:45.

Racing beginning at 1:30

October 11: end of series BBQ after the last series races!

October 18: White Sail Regatta and surely BBQ

Charles Witherup

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And... As often happens... This space left blank. So that you can draw sailboats. Although I must admit that I haven't received very many pictures of sailboats from you all. Hello. Hellllloooo! "S'il te plait – dessine moi un voilier!"