



The Pennant

29 June 2021

Newsletter of the Cayuga Lake Cruising Fleet

Opposite day comes to Cayuga Lake!

Apparently I didn't have anything right regarding the 2021 Virtual Mark Racing Series. Heck, I even had the name wrong, a bit. But, listen... History is written by those with a laptop and some spare time, so I'm here to do just that. I will write all of the wrongs and wrong all of the Rights (don't tell them I said that – they might get upset)!

Or I'll correct the things I messed up the last time. Where to begin? OK. *We* have decided to sponsor the Summer series by providing at least a six pack of random IPAs from our "cooler" to the end-of-season fetch. Sound good? Do not ask our crew if that sounds like a good idea – they wouldn't know random IPAs if they were bitten by them.

Without further ado I present to you...

Summer 2021 *Viento* Virtual or Otherwise Made-up Marks – race 1

Indeed – *Viento* has totally decided to sponsor the series with a six pack or so of warm beer and thus we get to decide on the series name and we're calling this one... Vavoom 2021! Cool, right?

The first race in the Vavoom series was this past Sunday. And it was awesome! It was super hot and sunny but, hey, it was also windy enough to keep us pretty cool everywhere out on the water. (Being on shore or in the water were both problematic as on shore it was freaking hot and in the water it was freaking cold!) There were three or four or more mixups in the rules and I might have changed things to what I figured they were without verifying first but, hey, the RC told me that she was out of town so I didn't ask I just "corrected". And, besides, she's a great FC and RC, right? She set you all straight and we had, like, a pretty good race!

No, really, we had some of the best racing we've had this year – with generally decently strong winds from a generally acceptable direction. These winds were just a bit too strong and a bit too West for most of us to fly chutes the whole way but we certainly all tried to hold them.

Viento tried to hold one then tried to hold another then tried to hold another then just quit trying. *Mojito* tried one and tried that one for a long time and then didn't try any longer. I definitely saw *Fantasy* flying her chute as well as the three J/24s (*Adelante*, *Mehitabel* and *Snitch*). Heck, I hear that *Adelante* flew hers all of the way to her turn – as far as I could tell the only boat to do so. I don't know about the *Peter Lent*... I mean, she certainly raced and I did see her on the course. However, I do not know if she even has a chute. Maybe? I mean, she was right in the mix at the end of the racing so maybe? Or maybe not and maybe the Stephens are just awesome? Or some combination of the two?

We sailed to Virtual Mark E. For *Viento* and *Mojito* that's approximately halfway between Taughannock and Milliken so for *Viento* it presented 17NM of sailing (OG not MG!) round trip. Still, as mentioned above, there was wind so the full 17 miles were completed in under 3 hours making for a pretty good average moving speed on the day.

So, from what I could see, *Viento* turned first followed shortly...

[We interrupt your regularly scheduled newsletter for some BREAKING NEWS!]

Holy freaking cow! Our racing hosts, the Ithaca Yacht Club, have this restaurant, see? Well, this restaurant serves food through much of the racing season. And WOW are the cold, leftover truffle fries freaking awesome! I only wish that I'd been there to enjoy some of them hot! Darn it! Well, I'll get some another time and I encourage you to as well! Treat your crew or skipper to some of chef Mark's awesome grub and the view and all of that. [That's chef Mark and his whole *Luna's* crew, of course!]

[Sorry about that! We now return you to your newsletter and all.]

Um. Where was I, again? *Viento* turned after an hour and a tiny bit (close to an 8kt average speed to get there) and *Mojito* followed suit perhaps 5 minutes later. We were both on our way back down the lake in time to come close to the three J/24s who appeared to all cross in about the same minute. *Fantasy* turned 5 or 10 minutes after that – a bit lower on the lake. I'm not sure when *the Peter Lent* turned – it's not as easy a boat to pick out as all of that from far away! I say "that far away" because for an E virtual mark *Viento*, with her 87 PHRF, sails 5.6NM (theoretical) each way. The *Peter Lent* has a PHRF of at least 300 so sails at most 4.2NM each way and at roughly a mile and a half distance I am reasonably confident that I can't tell which boat you are when you have a classic sloop shape like she does.

Enough digression! Let's get back to the facts of the race!

It was windy enough for good speeds. Windalert at Myers shows pretty solid steady at 10-12 with gusting from 15 to 20 for the entire time we were out. The direction vacillated a bit over there on the East shore from SW/WSW early on to basically S later in the race. Of course, we do all know our local topography, don't we? So we know what it was West to Southwest on the West shore leading to more South later on.

The funny and interesting thing about the winds, strong and steady as they were, was that the gusts were just plain wack. They could add 10kts to apparent wind speed in an instant and if you didn't have a boat in front of you to show you the direction they'd hit from, well, you'd just guess and be wrong at least half of the time. A heavy boat with a longish keel, like *Mojito*, can power through a bit of a knock. Lighter boats with skinny keels like the J/24s and *Viento*, could be stopped in their tracks by a big puff on the wrong side of the sail.

And we steamed back down the lake... *Snitch*, oddly for her, taking the far outside line. *Viento* took a middle third line. *Mojito* and *Mehitabel* took lines as close in to the West as they could... *Adelante* dropped back from the J/24 pack in this bit, *Fantasy* turned and was back in sight and then the *Peter Lent* was spied zooming towards the finish from the middle of the lake – maybe a half a mile from the finish!

The handicapping system appears to work on a windy day as it looked to me like at least five boats finished a 3+ hour race within 5 minutes of one another!

I don't do the scoring, or anything, but I think that it went something like this... *Snitch* crossed for the bullet. *Mojito* grabbed a lift inshore and tacked across the line for a 2. *Viento* tacked in from the far away lands and nabbed the last spot of the day's podium. *Mehitabel* sneaked in another lift up the shore (for 4) to edge out the *Peter Lent* with her 5. *Adelante...* Well, I believe they crossed next (for 6) followed by *Fantasy* with her 7. I was super occupied attempting foredeck cleanup (on the wrong tack, in heavy wind) at that point and am not fully aware of what transpired for those two in this moment. I did hear back that the sailing was awesome and the winds were great. So THANK YOU again to the FC/RC/Liz for the great wind and course!

VAVOOM Race 2 is July 11

The *Viento* Virtual or Otherwise Made-up Mark series will continue on July 11. You are all in for an extra special treat, that day, as well, as yours truly will once again grace the airwaves of 80A as YOUR VERY OWN RACE COMMITTEE! Yes! Ambiguity! Mumbles! Incorrect information! Crazy courses! All of this SHALL BE YOURS!!!

Cool, right?

Oh, and I got the rules wrong when I rewrote them last week. And then Liz (FC/RC extraordinaire) kind of changed a few little things, too. Soo... Here are the highlights of what is maybe going to happen on the 11th!

- Competitors' meeting under the South Pavilion at 1:15 PM
- ONE race to ONE virtual mark (*)
- NO race to begin after 3:30 PM (=> there could be up to a 1 ½ hour race delay)
- Race starts at 2 PM
- Registered Fleet boats start inside the line, folks racing with us for fun can start anywhere across the lake (90 degrees from the line).
- Everyone needs to finish inside the line

(*) Oh yeah – reminder! I get to pick the mark! And, let me tell you, I'm feeling very strongly about heading up to Z! (I guess we do need to see what the winds are like first but you can count on me to do *something*.)

Updated Sailing Instructions attached and I'll post a copy at the South Pavilion.

Want to race with us?

The VAVOOM (*Viento* virtual something something mark race series) is REALLY EASY TO "RACE". You just go up and around a point in the lake and back. It's actually kind of fun! And if you're not "an official Fleet boat" you only have to tell us ahead of time that you're racing – you don't have to be crowded in with all of the other boats at any point! And you get to hang out with us on and off the water!

Still... You should shoot an email over saying you're planning on bringing your boat or your person. We can try to hook boats up with people and people up with boats! We seem to be doing OK with that – those I know who have wanted to sail have sailed!

So, first you email. Second you show up at the South Pavilion at the Ithaca Yacht Club. Being there 30 to 45 minutes BEFORE the competitors' meeting seems to be a pretty good window. That lets you meet some of the crew, some of the skippers, some of the officials and perhaps get yourself some of that crew (best to arrange ahead!) or on a boat (typically easier to arrange on short notice!).

More upcoming

- VAVOOM race 2 July 11
- VAVOOM race 3 July 18
- Night time 50 mile race the weekend of July 23-25! Ah, yes. 50 miles. During the week of July 18-24 we will decide the exact night on which we will race based on likely participants (present yourselves ye scurvy dogs!) and the predicted weather. Grey Owl, Mojito and Viento are the most-likely participants. Invictus can be persuaded to participate as can others including ABHNN. Truly – let us know if you're thinking of doing this epic contest of man-vs-just-about-everything and we can try to set you up with a boat or crew.
- VAVOOOOM race 4 August 1

Heck, it's all right there... On our calendar! Hosted by our racing host! Here: <https://ithacayc.org/IYC-Sailing-Calendar>

Don't be too confused in looking at that calendar or in the Sailing Instructions if you see VAVOOM races referred to as Latitude races. They've been completely rebranded in the past half hour! And if I didn't get that right... You'll read about it here in a few weeks! Enjoy your 4th of July weekend and we look forward to seeing you on the water again on the 11th!!!

Social Media

We have a private group on **FaceBook** for the discussion of our races. Just ask to join and answer the (really hard) questions on why you want to do so! Pictures and other things show up there sometimes! That's here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CayugaLakeCF>

We have a public face on **Instragram**. Liz (FC FTW!) posts stuff there. You can follow us! You can post sailing pix! For realz! <https://www.instagram.com/cayugalakecruisingfleet/>

We're transitioning to hosting all of our online content on our racing host's **website**. Our info there can be found here: <https://ithacayc.org/Cayuga-Lake-Cruising-Fleet/>

cheers!
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