



The Pennant

26 July 2021

Newsletter of the Cayuga Lake Cruising Fleet

I mean, who really care about the results anyway? Am I right?

I am most certainly right in getting the results wrong – and, as they always say, if you don't get your finish time/place to the scoring committee in an expeditious manner then the newsletter committee will just make stuff up and you may not like what they write. So neener! Get your finish places and times to Lauren after you finish racing, please. That way you might get your newsletters earlier and more correcter [sic].

Speaking of results...

The newsletter committee isn't even going to ask the scoring committee for correct scores today! No, indeed, we're just going to go ahead and make stuff up! But first, let's see where we are, already, in the distance series... Oh, yes, we've had one scored race with 5 boats. Well, hey, now we've held another race with 4 boats – one of which is new to the series. That means that DNC scores just got bumped up by one point, to begin with. Hmm. Well, that might be the only change, really. So, before we get too far into this Pennant, I'll go ahead and give those unofficial results to you.

The Official 2021 50 Mile Night Race!

Of course, “before we get too far” will be after some other bits.

Like the bit about the race. We had five boats come to the starting line – a Turnbull J/24, *Wild Guinea Pig*, a Ford J/100, *Grey Owl*, a Witherup Columbia Sport 30, *Viento*, a Bonniwell J/112e, *Mojito* and Ken and Jeff on their tugboat (I believe that's what they call her – she's not a sailboat but was around for the race taking pictures and providing assistance with the start).

It was warm (not hot) and didn't rain so there was that for comfort. Oh, and we also had wind. This wind, however, was, truly, well, insane. It was all really quite local and really quite unpredicted. We began the evening (the race starts at 6PM) with a lively 10kt breeze from somewhere North. That was great and all but the predictions (pretty much all wind models) had been for 6 max falling to 0 rather quickly. But, hey, I'll take 10 over 6 or 0! And I did and we did and that got the four sailboats to and beyond Taughannock in very good time – under two hours by my count.

I believe the Turnbulls turned back at about this time. Perhaps they weren't intending on sailing the whole way? Or they ran out of drinking water? Maybe there were no more cookies on board and they had to do a cookie run! Or maybe they'll let me know for the next newsletter and I can incorrectly relay it on to you one of these days.

Viento still had plenty of cookies on board (thanks Ted!) and so we sailed on. *Grey Owl* had plenty of meatballs (thanks Gwen!) and I imagine, easily enough, that *Mojito* had plenty of rum (thanks Tim!) so they sailed on, too.

Still, things did happen pretty soon. At 2h10m into the race *Viento* made it up to THE BLUE CONCRETE VORTEX OF DOOM and her wind died completely. She was able to sail 1 NM, made good, over the next 2 ½ hours. Now, just because this (the actual forecast winds!) happened to *Viento* does not mean that it was what happened to *Grey Owl*, for example. No, in fact, from what I hear *Grey Owl* had wind and was moving along quite nicely. It is funny and interesting and crazy, too, because at the point where *Viento*'s wind died entirely *Grey Owl* was less than ½ NM up the lake!

The pattern of wind speeds being radically different on different parts of the lake and of having the speeds have no bearing or relationship on the forecast would continue through the night and course. A few hours after *Viento* rounded 51A, for example, we went through a few hours of winds that were 20-25kts from the SSE. As that's the direction, from that point, of the Myers wind station we checked this to see if we might expect still more wind anytime soon. And yet... And yet Myers was showing that they were experiencing perhaps 3 or 4 kts and had been seeing that quite steadily for at least 6 hours. Our wind was not the wind coming from the direction it was coming from!

Of course that doesn't make any sense without looking at bigger and broader weather systems and patterns but it does certainly tie in with the experiences of the boats that were on the water -> the weather and wind at any one location on the lake could not be used to determine anything about the weather and wind at any other location on the lake.

Anyway, *Grey Owl* kept their place in the wind and rounded at least a few miles ahead of *Mojito* and *Mojito* rounded a few miles ahead of *Viento*. But... Miles are a measure of distance and not a measure of time and even less of wind.

Mojito got mired in the weeds (literally) for a bit near the mark and managed to clear herself and get on with the race. *Viento* got mired in the weeds (literally) near the mark and took over 2 ½ hours to make less than 1 NM. "Mired in the weeds" in this case meant carrying around a mass of weeds that, at times, was as wide as the boat. And, many times, even after clearing away all that could be seen nearby in addition to vigorous application of the kelp cutter, the boat would still slide sideways through the water despite the tiller being hard over and there being 6-8 kts of breeze. It was, truly, plenty awful.

Still, as *Mojito* clearly rid herself of her weeds *Viento* gradually lost more and more of hers. Each loss of additional weedage came with a corresponding bump in speed – jumping from .8 to 1.5 kts, 2.3 to 3.5 kts, 4 to 4.5 kts... The speeds we were able to make with the 20-25 kts breeze and the small waves we were going through surely helped in disengaging weeds. These were "small waves" despite the strong winds because the winds were crazy and magic and not coming from down the lake as already mentioned with regard to Myers and boat speeds. I won't know where the winds were coming from but I think that 25 kts wind should come with some pretty big waves even on our small lake when there were miles of fetch!

So Night 50 Results and Long Distance Standings

Clearly this is totally unofficial but I give *Grey Owl* the race, *Mojito* a 2 and *Viento* a 3. *WGP* DNFd this one.

In the series, by my tally that gives *Grey Owl* 3, *Viento* 4, *Mojito* 5, *Adelante* around 9, *WGP* something a little higher perhaps and *Mehitabel* one more than that. You'll get official results at some point on this race and series and perhaps even corrected scoring on last week's racing.

Is it in the rule book?

I actually believe that it's written in the rules that you have 1 (one) day to get your finish time/position to the scoring committee and 1 (one) week in which to protest any score you don't agree with. SO GIVE LAUREN YOUR FINISH TIMES AND PLACES AFTER RACES, please. Not having those is stressful!

Upcoming!

As per the calendar (<https://ithacayc.org/IYC-Sailing-Calendar> - we're CLCF events!):

- August 1, 8 and 15: Vavoom (Latitude) races! Skippers' meetings 1:15, races 2 PM!
- August 15 (after the race) -> end of season fetch/BBQ! The Fleet brings grillables and beverages and you all bring a dish to pass and it's totally awesome!
- August 21 Red Jacket Regatta! Race to Red Jacket Yacht Club followed by a big old party! All (not just those sailing up) are invited to the party but you do have to RSVP (and maybe pay?) by August 5. Details will follow next week! We racers usually sleep on our boats or camp on the lawn up there and sail back the next day! It is pretty awesome and we encourage you to race, sail, motor, drive, bike, whatever, up to join us and the Red Jacket Yacht Club in celebrating another fine summer on the water!
- August 29 - the Fall Series begins!

Good enough? Cool! See you on the water!

Lots of racing pictures went up

There are many (many) new pictures up on the FaceBook group. It's a private group so you will have to ask to join but we're good about letting folks in - if you are already friends with some of us, live locally and actually answer the questions you get automatically accepted into the group!

That's here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CayugaLakeCF>

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