



The Pennant

01 September 2021

Newsletter of the Cayuga Lake Cruising Fleet

Fall racing? Yes. We had that.

Sure, it's still Summer for another few months or so but we've actually begun the Fall racing series! And we've begun it with Fall-like weather, kind of. There was wind. And it was kind of steady and kind of strong. It wasn't too hot out, either. The kind of steady winds were mostly from the South and mostly 8 to 16 kts. And the boats that came out seemed to have just a lovely time out there.

Let's see... We had a trio of J/24s (*Adelante*, *Mehitabel* and *Snitch*), *Fantasy*, *Grey Owl*, *Mojito* and *Viento*. Things might have been a little more exciting with another few J/24s (hello *WGP* and *Squabbles*) but things happen – I understand!

Things did still happen.

Now... What happened, again?

I need to think about this and get back in the mindset, again... I mean, outside right now it's cold and raining! We didn't sail in the cold rain, did we? I don't think so... I think it was more like partly cloudy, just about 80F and with some groovy wind coming from the South. Couldn't have really been lower than 6-7kts towards the end but was more like 15-16kts during the stronger bits.

As the wind was from the South we had South wind kind of things happen. In particular, there's little enough fetch that there are never really any waves to speak of – it should be fast and flat. Still, as you get closer to the South end of the lake you also get more interference from the land mass than you do when the winds are coming from the most-typical direction – something like NNW.

In addition to having low waves, the South wind also means that it's a lot harder to gauge the wind by the surface of the water. Still, there were a great deal of small craft on the water and we were generally able to have some idea of what kind of wind would be on us by watching what was happening to these other craft.

We sailed

The first course was set to SFW and the second SNP. Those are **S**ycamore, **F**ar Maplewood, **W**est Shore and **S**ycamore, **N**ear Maplewood, **P**ile Cluster. The straight-line distances of these courses are 4.6NM and 6.2NM, respectively. Of course, you can't sail straight! My GPS shows that I sailed 25.00SM (21.7NM) or almost exactly twice the course distance!

Viento decided it was too windy to sail her giant chute for the first race but *Grey Owl* and *Mojito* disagreed and went big. *Mojito* changed her ways between courses and went smaller for the second course but *Grey Owl* stayed giant. *Grey Owl* had a bit of a genoa mishap during one of the courses (first course, second hoist?) and had to do some hasty sail repairs. The PHRF-low boats sailed their courses and did their things. I suppose the most notable, this time, was that we had a surprise visit from Ricky who skippered *Snitch* in place of any Feavearyears!

Upcoming!

5 September: Fall 3&4
12 September: Fall 5&6
18 September: Day 50 Mile Race (woot!)
26 September: Fall 7&8

We'll see you on the water soon, I hope!

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