



The Pennant

22 September 2021

Newsletter of the Cayuga Lake Cruising Fleet

Well that was a heck of a race

We had interest from as many as six boats for our Day Fifty Miler and we ended up fielding three. And the mostest awesomest part of the deal? Well, we'll get to that after we talk about some of the mundanities.

Fifty Miler play by play

Grey Owl, *Mojito* and *Viento* (in alphabetical order) showed up to contest one of the famed cups and, as happens every year, it will probably take some deciphering and guess work to figure out which of the cups thatt actually is.... But we do have a surfeit of cups and I'm reasonably sure that one of them is intended to mark this race (although any cup will do, I'm equally sure).

There were many forecasts on the day and many of them were not great or even good (or publishable). Weather Underground showed yet again that they do not have the slightest clue about wind direction or speed in that they were predicting crazy things that ended up being diametrically opposed to anything remotely like what happened. Uh. Not to call them out, or anything! The GFS .5 degree wind forecast looked a bit off to me, too. Indeed, Wind Alert's "Blend" forecast seemed to get this one pretty close (with minor adjustments for local patterns) which is to say that we began the race with 5-6 kts S (the Newfield Drift) which saw us through to a bit after 10 AM followed by a bit of a lull (half an hour?) after which the winds came back up a bit from the NNE – starting at 5 or 6 and building mostly steadily to just under 10 by 3 PM and 12 gusting 15 or 16 for most of the rest of the race.

It was pleasantly warm and humid (not too much of either) and didn't rain and wasn't overly (or underly) sunny. So, sure, we wore sunscreen and perhaps long sleeves but didn't really need to do anything extraordinary for clothing – jeans and a tshirt were fine.

Viento crossed the start line approximately 1 second after 8 AM at full speed and managed to hold a decisive lead for easily the first 3 hours of the race (reminder: blowing 5-6 on the rear followed by nothing and then a little build on the nose so up to and past Milliken Station in this time). In these winds what worked and works best for her is banging the corners. The other boats were sailing as far downwind as they could reasonably do on their giant asymms but the VMGs they were achieving weren't making it happen.

Still, *Viento* has this weenie little bulb keel and heading upwind (after those 3 hours) she was very quickly left at least a boat length or two behind the others. And then, as the winds kicked up closer to 10 (still on a beat) *Mojito* showed her superior weight, keel and upwind sail area and took her rightful place at the head of the line and rounded 51A first – leaving *Grey Owl* a little behind and *Viento* 10 or perhaps even 15 minutes back.

All three boats continued on the course with their light-wind chutes back up and with their aforementioned strategies viz. *Grey Owl* and *Mojito* sailed deep, deep, deep and *Viento* was banging corners. In real speed terms this means that *Mojito*, for example, saw a maximum speed of perhaps 9kts. *Viento*, sailing much higher angles, was regularly over 10kts and saw over 12 at least once.

Still, the strategy of sailing high and fast on a stiff downwind breeze does come with a few occasional drawbacks. Take, for example, the spectacular and inescapable broach that happened to *Viento* or the three slightly smaller and barely escapable broaches that happened after her giant chute was pulled from the water (after that first broach) and a smaller (although still quite large) chute run up.

What with these broaches, and all, the distance between the boats finally became something closer to what we're used to seeing in distance races – *Viento* fell over a mile behind the others!

And yet and yet and yet... That was very nearly at the end of the race. As I said at the top, there was something awesome about this race. And the something really the most awesome, I think, about this race is that the entire thing took place with boats well in view of each other and, indeed, nearly all of it took place with some boats within minutes of each other in terms of position on the lake. Heck, this continued from the very start of the race right through to the very finish where *Mojito* took line honors and finished the ten hour race just over a minute ahead of *Grey Owl*! Yes, yes, it took *Viento* another half hour to cross but even with that it still qualifies as among the tightest finishes and races we've had overall. (At least, having come in third I like to tell myself that we were totally awesome and that it was really close even though we were way far back. At least a few miles back, indeed. But, hey, a few out of 50 doesn't feel bad!)

Results

So, here are the finishes:

Place	Day 50					
	Boat Name	PHRF	Start time	Finish time	Time Elapsed	Corrected Time
1	<i>Grey Owl</i>	87	8:00:00	18:05:27	10:05:27	10:17:48
2	<i>Mojito</i>	69	8:00:00	18:04:03	10:04:03	10:34:18
3	<i>Viento</i>	87	8:00:00	18:31:56	10:31:56	10:44:50

Distance Series Results!

And that brings us to the final results for the distance series... We'd like you to join us in giving three cheers for *Grey Owl* in their dominance in these races – hip hip hoorah! Hip hip hoorah! Hip hip hoorah!

	Sheldrake	Night 50	Red Jacket	Day 50	Total
<i>Grey Owl</i>	2	1	1	1	5
<i>Viento</i>	1	2	2	3	8
<i>Mojito</i>	3	3	9	2	17
<i>Adelente</i>	4	9	3	9	25
<i>Invictus</i>	9	9	4	9	31
<i>Mehitabel</i>	9	9	9	9	36

Wild Guinea Pig	9	9	9	9	36
Spindrift	9	9	9	9	36

It's almost the end of the season... But stuff is still happening!

I'm quite sure that we have a few races coming up Sunday. I imagine that this will hold true for Sundays yet to come. But, how could I possibly find out for myself? Oh! I could always look on the sailing calendar! That's hosted with our host, the Ithaca Yacht Club, on their website. They are here: <http://ithacayc.org> From there you can follow the sailing calendar link (under the events menu) to the (wait for it) sailing calendar (<http://ithacayc.org/IYC-Sailing-Calendar>).

So... Like I said, club racing will happen for weeks yet!

- September 26 – 2 Fall races
- October 3 – 2 Fall races
- October 10 - 2 Fall races and an end-of-season fetch (BBQ)
- October 17 – Frostbite (end of year!) regatta and fetch (BBQ)

With six races left yet (in the series) it is quite possible that someone could overtake Snitch for the Fall Series and BOTY (boat of the year). All you have to do is to dream it! (And to sail faster on handicap than the boat who gave you your handicap.) Nothing to it! (And no offense intended, David. Honestly!)

It's truly Fall. So... Let Fall racing commence!

I had some extra space to fill up at the end of the page and didn't want to ask you (yet again) to draw something so I'm blathering about Fall sailing. Looks, according to the Blend forecast, like we'll have some wind Sunday so, hey, looks like we'll have some more good racing! I hope to see your bows (off my stern, eh?) out there!

Oh dear. Well, would you like to hear more about what we did on our boat this week? The wind forecasts were ridiculously strong (40+) from the SE so I popped out to put a few more bow lines on. We also brought our giant chute (1,100 sft) home to hang up in the living room to dry (as it was fully submerged as part of the first catastrophic broach). Now... Let's see... How many sft is your home? Ours really isn't giant – perhaps 2,500 sft. Well, having a 1,100 sft spinnaker in the living room really is about as crazy as you can imagine. The cats hid outside and under our bed! But you'll be happy to know that it all worked out – the chute is dry and packed and the cats have come in and come out again. Oof!

And, hey, uh, send Clare a kind word, please. Hi Clare! Hope you're doing well and we'll be happy to pop over for anything. Honestly. You're close by and we are ready and willing!

There's still a CM left at the bottom of the page if you feel like drawing a line or small wavy line....

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<http://www.CruisingFleet.org>