



The Pennant

5 August 2012

Newsletter of the Cayuga Lake Cruising Fleet

50 Mile Night Race, Friday-Saturday, August 3-4

I recently promised to print race reports from different participating skippers. So I'm here offering two reports on the night race, the first from Fleet Captain Tim Bonniwell and the second from Charlie Mueller. Here's Tim's report:

It was a beautiful night for a race! Despite accommodations for previous requests last year and this spring, from our very own fleet skippers, to hold the race near a full moon and in the summer when the water is warmer, the only two worthy boats that showed included Charlie Mueller's GYPSY MOTH & Tim Bonniwell's INVICTUS. Sure, the weather forecast was pathetic, but we all know you can't trust those lying weather people! Gypsy Moth had only two crew and elected to sail non-spin. The skipper's meeting was quick and we had a successful start at the scheduled time with a crowd of onlookers from the point.

The race started off fairly light with flat water and 5-7kt patches of wind out of the north. The two boats were neck and neck for the early evening and remained so until the wind faded away just as the nearly full moon rose over the east shore. We slowly drifted north past Taughannock, within a stone's throw of each other's boat. It was a gorgeous, warm, cloudless and bright night. It was so nice that flashlights were only occasionally used. The faint air spurred discussions and predictions regarding how many days the race might take, but no worries.... As usual, Invictus was well provisioned and prepared to not step off the boat hungry or thirsty, no matter how long the race may be! Before midnight and the crest of the moon, the wind flitted from all directions and then gently settled down from the east. We enjoyed the offshore breeze and advanced up the lake making anywhere from 2-5 kts. Near Milliken station, the wind began to clock south and we were finally able to set the chute and begin to separate from our relentless competitor. The wind remained a little iffy, but we were able to fly the chute, propelling us at speeds near 5kts, all the way to 51A. We made a spectacular dousing, rounding of the mark and hardened up in the freshening breeze. Too bad it was at 0324 hours and no one was around to see it. The wind continued to build as we had a nice beat back to the southern end of the lake. We saw consistent winds and as high as 15kts w/ occasional stronger gusts and made better progress with a single reefed mainsail and #1 genoa.

This year's race was not as fast as last year's, still we finished in a reasonable amount of time and crossed the line at 09:25:27hrs. It was as much fun as we hoped for and the weather was wonderful! Lesson learned: do not buy stock in the weatherman

And here is what Charlie Mueller has to say about the night race:

It started at 6:30pm with variable NW- N winds up Taughannock with *Invictus* and *Gipsy Moth* close together, then the wind shifted from the south.....

There was 6-9 MPH winds all the way to G51A with *Gipsy Moth* rounding at 4:55 am (We spotted *Invictus* coming back around 4am).

We had a good rounding and fast sail for about 1 hour before having to reef the main and then (with dread) rolling in much of the genoa, winds in the upper teens. We slogged on until 10:15 with the wind blowing hard and passed the power plant. We did some calculations and determined we wouldn't finish before 3pm. It was decided to retire from the race. We motored behind Taughannock Point anchored, swam, and rested.

Conclusion: *Gipsy Moth* could use a new and smaller head sail to become more competitive on windier days. Rolling up the headsail is not a good competitive option.

Sixth Latitude Race, Sunday, August 5

The weather on this race day underscored Tim Bonniwell's advice not to trust the weatherman. The forecast called for scattered showers and thunderstorms and southerly winds between 12 and 20 mph with gusts to 34. The showers happened before and after the race, there were no thunderstorms, and the wind was a moderate breeze of around 10 knots.

Three boats showed up for this race: In addition to Tim Bonniwell's Catalina 30, *Invictus* and Eberhard Alsen's Tanzer 25, *Fantasy*, there was a new boat, Woody McKenzie's Shamrock 30, *Shamrock USA*. Welcome to the fleet, Woody!

The race shaped up as a match race between *Invictus* and *Fantasy*. Both had declared non-spinnaker status and instead sailed downwind with double headsails. *Invictus* got the better start and led until *Fantasy* reached her earlier turn around latitude. But at Myers Point, *Invictus* re-passed *Fantasy*. On the home stretch, along the west shore, *Fantasy* short tacked a couple of times to get back into striking distance. Her chance came between Near Maplewood and the Yacht Cub when *Invictus* sailed too close to the west shore where there was not much wind while *Fantasy* sailed closer to the windy middle of the lake. Thus *Fantasy* was able to cross the finish line with a couple of minutes to spare.

So today's finishing order was as follows:

1. *Fantasy*
2. *Invictus*
3. *Shamrock* (DNF)

The current Latitude Series Standings are on the next page.

Seventh Latitude Race, Sunday, August 12

The skippers' meeting is at 1:15 at the South Pavilion of the Ithaca Yacht Club. The race starts at 2:00.

See you at the South Pavilion.

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Latitude Series Standings as of August 5

<u>Boat</u>	<u>Race #1</u>	<u>#2</u>	<u>#3</u>	<u>#4</u>	<u>#5</u>	<u>#6</u>	<u>Total</u>
<i>Invictus</i>	[3]	0.75	0.75	2	0.75	2	6.5
<i>Fantasy</i>	[6]	2	5	4	2	0.75	13.75
<i>Snitch</i>	2	[7]	4	0.75	3	5	14.75
<i>Gypsy Moth</i>	4	3	3	3	4	[5]	17
<i>Trevelyan</i>	0.75	5	[7]	6	6	5	22.75
<i>Lorelei</i>	6	[7]	2	6	6	5	25
<i>Smiling Bulldog</i>	6	4	[7]	6	6	5	27
<i>Shamrock</i>	6	7	{7}	6	6	3	28

Note: After six races, competitors get to drop their lowest score. After seven races, they get to drop their two lowest scores.