



Valkyrie wins Amelia Island Sailing Club's pursuit race

The Amelia Island Sailing Club held its sixth race in the 2021 race season on Saturday. Skipper Justin Webb brought Valkyrie over the finish line of the 8-nautical-mile course in just over one hour and 35 minutes after starting.

Misty, skippered by Wilby Whitt, came in second, while Gary Sanders skippered Salty Sally to a third-place finish for the race.

It was a hot, sticky day, but the wind provided some relief from the heat and enabled the contenders to keep moving along the upwind and downwind legs of the course, at times fighting a fairly strong current.

The format for this race was a "pursuit race," and starting times for the contenders were staggered based on their handicap ratings, i.e., the slower the boat the earlier the start with the fastest boat in the fleet starting last.

For the crews on the first boats to cross the start line, this format resulted in keeping a look over their shoulders to see if the faster boats were gaining on them. There were several changes in the positions of the racers throughout the course because of the race format as well as the tactics chosen by the crews and their individual skills.

The Amelia Island Sailing Club holds races most months



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sailing vessels Wayward Wind (foreground) and Salty Sally pass Fort Clinch during a downwind leg of Saturday's Amelia Island Sailing Club's pursuit race. Salty Sally placed third in the race, following Misty and crossing the finish line in just under two hours after starting. *More photos, 2B.*

SAIL Continued on 2B



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Top, sailing vessel Valkyrie, with skipper Justin Webb at the helm, had the last start time of the pursuit race on Saturday but managed to pass the other contenders along the course and get across the finish line first, winning Amelia Island Sailing Club's sixth race in the 2021 season. Above left, Larry Murphy, skipper of sailing vessel Wayward Wind, is seen passing the mark identifying the start of Saturday's sailing club race. Wayward Wind was first to start Saturday's sailing club race, and each boat's starting time was determined by their handicap rating. Above right, sailing vessel Misty was separated from the field at this turning point along the 8-nautical-mile race course. Skipper Wilby Whitt brought Misty over the finish line approximately four minutes after Valkyrie to finish second in Saturday's race.

SAIL *Continued from 1B*

throughout the year and will present first-, second- and third-place awards for the season winners at its annual Christmas party in December. In addition to the club races, Amelia Island Sailing Club competes with the Golden Isles Sailing Club from St.

Simons Island, Ga., in two ocean races each year between the entrance channels for the St. Marys River and St. Simons Sound.

The club is starting to resume its various boating and social activities, including the races and monthly water sampling for the St. Marys Riverkeeper

program. Club meetings are usually held the first Tuesday of each month at the Kraft Athletic Club on Buccaneer Trail. Schedules for races and other events along with general club information and membership details can be found on the club's webpage, www.ameliaislandsailingclub.wildapricot.org.