

# SPORTS



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2023  
NEWS-LEADER / FERNANDINA BEACH, FLORIDA

## Misty captures title in second sail race

The Amelia Island Sailing Club held the second race of its 2023 season on Saturday. It was a beautiful sunny day, but cold and blustery, with temperatures in the mid 50s and winds averaging 18 mph with gusts into the low 20s.

Six boats came out to the start/finish on the Amelia River in front of the Dee Dee Bartels Boat Ramp, but just five sailed the race.

Lola, which won last month's Ice Bucket Challenge race, suffered a mechanical failure prior to the start, which precluded her from racing.

A strong outgoing tide during the entirety of the race pushed Misty across the start line early, so she had to circle back behind the line and start behind the fleet. Unabashed, Misty powered her way around the 7.3-mile course and crossed the finish line in third place, but won the race on corrected time.

With each leg of the triangular course in Cumberland Sound being about a half-mile long, the four laps of the triangle kept the boats close and the crews busy tacking and beating to the windward mark, reaching on the second leg and jibing onto the third leg of the triangle.

The strong outgoing tide challenged the navigational skills of the skippers to sail into the current and use it to get their boats to the next mark as quickly as possible.

All five boats finished



SUBMITTED PHOTO

### Competitors in second sailing race of the season.

the course within eight and half minutes of each other, with Justin Pelham-Webb's Valkyrie taking line honors, crossing the finish line in one hour and 22 minutes. After applying PHRF handicap time allowances, all boats finished the race with just under three minutes separating the winning boat from the last place boat.

Wilby Whitt's Misty, with Fred Eichmann at the helm,

captured first place, and Norm Wentworth on Morning Glory was just 33 seconds behind for second place. Gary Sanders on Salty Sally placed third, just one second ahead of Graeme Nichol on Fin in fourth place, with Valkyrie finishing last on corrected time.

It was an exciting day of very close, competitive racing. They'll do it again on March 18.

AISC holds a PHRF race

every month of the year, except December. The club also has monthly member meetings and a planned activity most months. If you have a sailboat and want to race with AISC, the annual dues for a joint membership is \$100.

Visit [ameliaislandsailing-club.wildapricot.org](http://ameliaislandsailing-club.wildapricot.org) for more information about the club, sailboat racing and other activities and pictures of this month's race.