

Six sailboats and a submarine



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Boats round the first mark, left, during the Amelia Island Sailing Club's fourth race of the season on Saturday. Misty close-hauled, right. More photos, page 13.

The Amelia Island Sailing Club held its fourth race of the 2023 season on Saturday, April 22, with six boats on the line at the mouth of the Amelia River for the 10 a.m. start of the 10.1-nautical mile race. A beautiful day, warm and sunny with light southern and westerly winds and an incoming tide, bode well for what could have been a delightful light-air race.

Steve Boice on McGeeves crossed the start line first, though Wilby Whitt's Misty, skippered by Fred Eichmann, was overtaking McGeeves at the start line and was in the lead at the first mark. McGeeves was followed by Gary Sanders on Salty Sally, Jos Wolke on Lola, Norm Wentworth on Morning Glory and Jason Gerke on Juliana.

Shortly after the first turn to head across Cumberland Sound, the Coast Guard announced the pending arrival of a naval warship, warning that all boats must stay clear. Club members discussed options for shortening or changing the course, but the warship was still a good distance away. They decided that all boats could continue racing, clear the channel and be safely out of the way when the warship arrived. As the group headed south and back toward the Amelia River, it was treated to the arrival of

SAIL Continued on page 13

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023 SPORTS News-Leader

13

SAIL From page 14

a submarine and her escorts headed to Kings Bay.

With the wind dying, and the tide starting to turn against them, Misty and McGeeves were well ahead. Both boats had benefitted from excellent helmsmanship and crew teamwork, keeping their boats moving in the diminishing winds ahead of the impact of the tidal change. In the end, Misty finished in first place with an elapsed time of 2 hours 31 minutes, and McGeeves finished in 2 hours 55 minutes. After applying handicaps, they still finished in 1-2 order, with McGeeves finishing 13 minutes behind on corrected time.

They looked back to see Salty Sally halfway down the leg to the finish line but completely stalled due to lack of wind and the tide. The other three boats were struggling to get around the mark at Cumberland Island with no wind and the outgoing tide pushing all out past Fort Clinch. With no prospect of any more wind, the final four boats all retired from the race, accepting a "did not finish" score and motored home. Of course, a beautiful afternoon sea breeze kicked in, but the race was over.

The next AISC race is the annual Coastal Cup Race hosted by the Golden Isles Sailing Club on Saturday, May 13. Sailboats from St. Simons Island come to Amelia Island on Friday, boats race the 35-mile ocean course from Amelia Island to St. Simons Island on Saturday, and the Amelia Island participants return home on Sunday.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Pictured, clockwise from top left, McGeeves; Fred Eichmann, aboard Misty, concentrating on the start; Lola crossing Morning Glory; and a sub on the race course.

Registration and a \$25 entry fee are required for this race.

All are welcome to race

with AISC, requiring a club membership at \$100 per year. Visit the club's website at ameliaislandsailingclub.com.

wildapricot.org to learn more. AISC is a social club with a boating interest, and anyone with a boating

interest is invited to join. Members have sailboats, power boats and pontoon boats, and many have

no boats. The club holds monthly dinner meetings and races and other social events throughout the year.