



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Contente's colorful spinnaker, left. Bibi and Jos Wolke, skipper of winner Lola, right top. After the start, right.

Coastal Cup sailboat race held

Eleven sailboats from the Amelia Island Sailing Club and the Golden Isles Sailing Club raced on Saturday, May 13, from Amelia Island to St. Simons Island in the annual Coastal Cup race, hosted by GISC.

Lack of wind delayed the start by 20 minutes, until 9:20 a.m., when just a slight breeze allowed the four boats from GISC and seven boats from AISC to begin the 26-nautical mile race on calm seas, with warm temperatures and partly cloudy skies.

More sunshine helped to gradually increase the winds from a whisper to 10-12 knots toward the end of the race. The forecasters had it backwards with a prediction of southeasterly winds, which would have been perfect for the four spinnaker class boats heading to St. Simons.

The reality was northerly winds in the morning, veering to the east by mid-afternoon, which allowed the boats in the spinnaker class to finally fly their chutes down the St. Simons channel, through the finish line and past to town, as they headed home to their berths in the marina.

At the start, the fleet was separated by the outgoing tide, with five boats on the west side of the start line closer to Cumberland Island and six boats on the east side. Most of the fleet sailed as close to the wind as they could, which took them far out to sea, before tacking onto a course headed to the St. Simons channel.

Several boats chose to tack earlier in the race and head into Cumberland Island, hoping to find a building sea breeze to speed their journey around the shallows at the entry to St. Andrews Sound. Unfortunately, that hoped-for breeze did not materialize and the boats that had sailed farther out to sea fared much better at the end of the race.

Line honors for the first boat across the finish line was achieved by Delphine of the spinnaker class in 6 hours, 48 minutes, 34 seconds, followed closely Jos Wolke in Lola of the non-spinnaker class a little over two minutes later at 6:50:52, and Dave Heine in Contente just 25



The fleet heads out.

seconds later at 6:51:17.

The remainder of the sailboats finished at 10- to 20-minute intervals. After correcting the elapsed times using each boat's PHRF handicap rating, the top three finishers in the spinnaker class were all from GISC and included David London, first on Delphine, Dave Heine, second on Contente, and Dennis Mehegan third on She Said Yes.

In the non-spinnaker class, all top three finishers were from AISC and included Jos Wolke, first on Lola, John Drake, second on On Eagle's Wings, and Gary Sanders, third on Salty Sally.

The overall winner of the 2023 Coastal Cup

race was Lola, with skipper Wolke attributing his win to pre-race weather and course research and making just one tack during the entire race.

The next AISC race will be on Saturday, June 22. All are welcome to race with AISC requiring just a club membership at \$100 per year. Visit the club's website at ameliaislandsailingclub.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, monthly races, and other social events throughout the year.