

SPORTS



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NEWS-LEADER / FERNANDINA BEACH, FLORIDA

Beautiful day for a sailboat race

What a beautiful day to be on the water in Cumberland Sound, and even better to be racing a sailboat. The Amelia Island Sailing Club hosted its fifth race of the 2023 season on Saturday. Eight sailboats came to the starting line in front of Fort Clinch for the 10 a.m. start.

The course was interesting, covering the entire sound twice before finishing in the Amelia River. The weather was delightful — sunny with some clouds, incoming tide, winds from the southwest in the range of 10-15 mph, seas calm and the temperature in the upper 80s.

A well-timed start with no boats over the line early, the 10.1-nautical mile race began close, and finished close. There were some new boats as well as the “old-timers.” Long beats to the west were fast with the incoming tide. The runs back toward the Amelia River favored the teams that sailed to minimize the negative impact of the incoming tide. A slight decrease in wind strength toward the end of



Tiger Tale and Misty during Saturday's Amelia Island Sailing Club race, left. The fleet on a windward beat, right.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

the race impacted the slower boats the most, and this was reflected in the final finish times.

The first four boats finished the race on PHRF corrected time within four minutes of each other. Valkyrie, helmed by owner Justin Pelham-Webb, finished first with an adjusted time of

01:35:17 (one hour, 35 minutes, 17 seconds). Just one minute and 28 seconds later, Wilby Whitt's Misty, helmed by Fred Eichmann, captured second place. Third place was notched by newcomer Bill Kavanaugh in his first AISC race on Tiger Tale, just three minutes behind the leader. Fourth place was

secured by Graeme Nichol's Fin, less than one minute later.

The final four boats finished not too far behind as follows — Norm Wentworth on Morning Glory, Bibi Wolke on Lola, Gary Sanders on Salty Sally and Jason Gerke on Juliana.

Complete results and

more race photos are available on the AISC 2023 racing and photos web page.

The next AISC race will be on July 22. All are welcome to race with AISC requiring only a club membership at \$100 per year. Visit 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.