

Saturday's race hot, challenging and fun

The Amelia Island Sailing Club held its seventh sailboat race of the season on Saturday. The weather forecast was correct, with virtually no wind in the morning, a light wind from east at midday of 6 mph, building relatively quickly to a nice breeze of 12-15 mph with some higher gusts over the next couple of hours.

It was hot, sunny and the tide turned outgoing just before the start of the race at noon in the middle of Cumberland Sound.

The seven racing sailboats all had a good start into the wind, with some on starboard tack heading toward Cumberland Island and several on port tack heading toward Amelia Island.

It took several long tacks across the St. Marys River in the light air to reach the first mark near the jetties east of Fort Clinch. The beginning of the ebb tide had little effect at this point in the race, but the faster sailboats quickly built a lead over the slower boats.

Getting ahead of the steadily increasing outgoing current was an important factor in the end results of the race. The two long legs from the vicinity of Fort Clinch to the marks at the western end of the sound were directly downwind, with all sails set wing-on-wing (mainsail on one side of the boat, the genoa set on the other side) to maximize sail area to capture the wind from direct astern. The wind was increasing, which helped, but so was the outgoing current, which did not.

The 9.7-nautical mile race was a long and hot race because of the cloudless, sunny sky, temperature in the high 80s, lighter winds and strong currents. The first boat crossed the finish line a little after 2:32 p.m., more than two and a half hours after the start. The last boat did not finish until an hour later. Regardless, it was a beautiful day to be on the water.

First place was taken by Bill Kavanaugh on Tiger Tale, with success highly attributed by Kavanaugh to his very capable crew, including Justin Whatley and Hardee Kavanaugh, sail trimmers, and Anne Kavanaugh as navigator.

Almost seven minutes later, second place was secured by Wilby Whitt's Misty, with Fred Eichmann at the helm. About a minute later, Graeme Nichol's Fin placed third, followed very closely 38 seconds later in fourth place by Justin



Participants in Saturday's Amelia Island Sailing Club race. The next race is scheduled for Sept. 23, and the Florida-Georgia Ocean Challenge is Oct. 7.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Pelham-Webb on Valkyrie.

The slower last three boats suffered more from the increasing outgoing current — Gary Sanders on Salty Sally, John Drake on On Eagle's Wings and Norm

Wentworth on Morning Glory.

Complete results and more race photos are available on the AISC website at www.ameliaislandsailingclub.wildapricot.org.

The next AISC race will be on Saturday, Sept. 23, followed by the annual Florida-Georgia Ocean Challenge race from St. Simons Island to Amelia Island on Saturday, Oct. 7

(registration required).

All are welcome to race with AISC, requiring just a club membership at \$100 per year. AISC is a social club with a boating interest and anyone with a boating

interest is invited to join. Members have sailboats, power boats, pontoon boats, and many have no boats. The club holds monthly dinner meetings and races throughout the year.