



AISC holds eighth race of season

Five sailboats from the Amelia Island Sailing Club raced on Saturday in Cumberland Sound. Two other boats had to withdraw because of last-minute issues and conflicts.

It was a beautiful sunny day, with temperatures in the mid 80s. The northwest winds were variable, consistently oscillating between 5-15 mph. Combined with a strong incoming tide, this provided for challenging race conditions for the teams, and the course was ultimately shortened during the race from 9.9 to 7.5 nautical miles.

The race started and finished in the Amelia River, with most of the race around a couple of long triangles in Cumberland Sound. Sailing across the incoming current resulted in slow "crabbing" into the tide just to get around the marks at the east end of the course.

The westward legs were pleasant and fast, as the boats raced into the wind while riding with the swift flood tide, only to be followed by long and slow downwind legs into the tide.

As the race wore on and time elapsed, it was agreed by all boats the final triangle of the course would be eliminated, thereby shortening the length of the race.

The boats switched positions several times during the race, with the larger boats sailing fast and well in the heavier winds with the current, but then losing position in the lighter downwind legs sailing into the current.

Wilby Whitt on his Baltic 35 Misty, with Fred Eichmann at the helm and John Hodge as third crewmember, finished in first place with a PHRF-adjusted time of two hours, one minute and two seconds.

Justin Pelham-Webb's J/105 Valkyrie took line honors by crossing the finish line three minutes ahead of Misty, but on adjusted time, she finished two minutes behind.

Norm Wentworth finished 13 minutes later in third place on his Catalina 355 Morning Glory, followed 18 minutes later by Graeme Nichol on his J/40 Fin.

Hampered by the conditions, Tom MacArthur decided not to finish the race on his Catalina 27 Rebecca's Reach.

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

The next race of the season is the annual Florida-Georgia Ocean Challenge Race from St. Simons Island to Amelia Island on Saturday, Oct. 7. Registration is required.

The final race of the season will be on Saturday, Nov. 18. All are welcome to race with AISC requiring just a club membership at \$100 per



year.

The Amelia Island Sailing Club meets the first Tuesday of the month at the Kraft Athletic Club at Ten Acres,

located off Buccaneer Trail. Social hour starts at 6:30 p.m., followed by a potluck dinner, business meeting and guest speaker presenta-

tion. Guests are welcome. Boat ownership or sailing skills are not required.

Club activities throughout the year may include day

or overnight excursions by water and/or land, sailboat racing, social activities and assisting with local conservation and environmental

efforts in waters surrounding Amelia Island. For information on the AISC, visit www.ameliaislandsailingclub.wildapricot.org.