



Sailing club holds Ice Bucket Challenge

The Amelia Island Sailing Club held its first race of the 2024 racing season on Saturday, Jan. 20. It was a gorgeous sailing day. The mid-40s cold temperature and variable northwest winds of 10-15 knots under clear sunny skies was suitable for this annual race, the Ice Bucket Challenge. The club's perpetual "Ice Bucket" trophy has been awarded to the winner of this race since 1985.

Seven sailboats with 24 bundled-up sailors competed for the trophy on the six-nautical mile course, with the start time of 1 p.m. The race committee boat, under the command of Russ Ridley and his crew, monitored one of the closest starts in recent memory and then motored alongside the fleet to provide many great pictures.

Six boats on port tack raced for the pin end of the start line, with one boat, Lola, racing along the line on her right-of-way starboard tack, hoping to block the port-tackers, but she was just a little late to stop the first boats from starting.

All boats remained close heading towards Cumberland Island after the start before a required tack to the west for the long windward leg to the first mark. Sailing with the current into freshening winds, the naturally faster sailboats separated from the slower boats.

Valkyrie and Misty battled to be the first boat

around the windward mark, which was not far from the shallows off the west end of Cumberland Island. Unfortunately, Valkyrie suffered a soft grounding and had to retire from the race after being assisted by the race committee boat. Fortunately, there was no damage or injuries, just bruised egos.

Favorable winds helped with the downwind legs into the current, and all boats finished the race without further incident. Bill Kavanaugh's "Tiger Tale" took line honors for being the first boat to finish with an elapsed time of one hour and nine minutes, followed very closely just two minutes later by Wilby Whitt's Misty, with Fred Eichmann at the helm. The next two boats also finished closely together with Gary Sanders on Salty Sally finishing 12 minutes later and beating Jos Wolke on Lola by just one minute. Norm Wentworth and crew on Morning Glory finished next, followed by Jason and Colleen Gerke on Juliana.

After applying PHRF Racing handicaps, the corrected finish order was Misty winning the race, then Tiger Tale, "Salty Sally, Lola, Morning Glory and Juliana.

Hearty congratulations to Misty for winning the 2024 Ice Bucket Challenge. She was raced hard and fast by her owner, Whitt, helmsman Eichmann and crew mem-

SAIL Continued on 2B



Misty and Julianna before the race, top left. Colleen Gerke bundled up on Julianna, top right. Valkyrie, Morning Glory, Tiger Tale, Salty Sally and Misty beat towards Cumberland Island, above.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Ice Bucket winners John Hodge, Wilby Whitt, Fred Eichmann and Dave Ahlers on Misty.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

SAIL From 1B

bers Dave Ahlers and John Hodge.

Back at the dock, Wolke, last year's winner on Lola, graciously presented the Ice Bucket Trophy to the winning team on Misty.

Complete results and more race photos along with 2024 racing schedule are available on the AISC website at ameliaisland-sailingclub.wildapricot.org.

The next race is on Saturday, Feb. 17. All are welcome to race with AISC requiring a club membership at \$100 per year. Visit the club's website to learn more, 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.



Morning Glory leads Valkyrie and Salty Sally right after start.