



Light winds for sailing club's sixth race of season

Winds were light and variable from the northwest, 3-5 knots, it was sunny and hot and the incoming current was strong for the sixth race of the Amelia Island Sailing Club's 2024 race season held on Saturday, July 13, in Cumberland Sound.

Original plans called for three short 2.4-nautical mile races, but the unfavorable sailing conditions resulted in cancellation of the second and third races.

Five boats signed up to race, but, with the dismal wind forecast, one of the

boats decided not to race.

The triangular course began at the start-finish line in the sound south of Cumberland Island, with the windward first leg along the island's beach and shoreline.

The fleet split sides of the course at the start, with Lola and Salty Sally choosing a starboard tack course and Tiger Tale and Misty choosing a port tack course. All four boats hit the start line on time. Tiger Tale and Misty were fast enough to

RACE Continued on 3B



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The Tiger Tale crew before the start of the recent race, left, and Lola and Salty Sally start on port tack, right.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Misty heads to the first mark during the Amelia Island Sailing Club race July 13.

SAIL From 1B

avoid having to duck the two starboard tack right-of-way boats, and they sailed right up to the beach to get a close look at the horses before tacking to starboard.

The port tack starts proved to be the correct tactic, with Tiger Tale ahead at the first mark with Misty in close pursuit. The course toward the second mark at the head of the Amelia River was a broad reach in light winds and a strong adverse current. Crews tried everything to catch a brief light wind, without much success with most boats choosing to pole-out their genoas and sail wing on wing.

Heading back to the finish line proved to be an up-current slog in the light

winds. Bill Kavanaugh and his crew on Tiger Tale crossed first, followed shortly by Wilby Whitt's Misty with Fred Eichmann on the helm, and a little while later by Gary Sanders on Salty Sally and finally Jos Wolke on Lola.

The final handicap adjusted finish times did not change the finish places. Utilizing an unusual tactic, Salty Sally crossed the finish line backwards after "crabbing" her way against the current to reach the line. She was stalled with her bow into the current, which ultimately pushed her across the line stern first.

After drifting backwards, Salty Sally finally completed the race when her bow crossed the line, complying with the race rule regarding

the finish.

The next two AISC races, the seventh and eighth of the 2024 season, will be on Aug. 10 and Sept. 14. Complete results and more race photos of the July 13 race along with the 2024 AISC racing schedule are available on the AISC website at ameliaislandsailingclub.wildapricot.org.

All are welcome to race with AISC, requiring just 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.

OUTDOORS

Snapper, kings and tarpon

Southeast Atlantic Ocean fishermen were allowed one day of red snapper fishing on Friday, July 12. Fishermen were allowed to harvest one red snapper of any size.

If you did participate in the one day of red snapper fishing after running past the three-mile state of Florida coastal waters, you were soon surrounded by a fleet of recreational fishing boats targeting hard-fighting, excellent-eating red snapper.

I fished with my son-in-law, Ben Forehand, Omar Collazo and Amy and Bryan Bush. The seas were very calm, allowing us to run further offshore to a very productive fish haven called Haddock's Hideaway, which is approximately 30 miles offshore of the St. Marys inlet. There were also several fishing boats in the area, as well.

After locating a fishy looking hard bottom, the electric trolling motor was deployed, anchoring our boat right over the ledge. Cigar minnows were then barbed and sent down to the bottom with their tails cut off. Tossing the tails into the water, creating a chumming effect, soon had the red snapper fired up. After just an hour of fishing, we had caught our one fish per angler limit, approximately weighing 15 pounds.

Hopefully the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council will recognize the fact that South Atlantic red snapper are over taking our offshore waters. They are eating forage foods that typically are shared by other species of reef fish, including grouper, cobia, black sea bass and triggerfish.

During our half-day offshore red snapper experience, the only other species of fish we caught was a small remora, which is a good indication that our offshore fishery is unbalanced because of poor fishing regulations.

One fishery that is doing excellent is our local tarpon fishery. Large schools of tarpon are now making their home in our local inlet and nearby tidal waters. Some of the best fishing is coming during the last of the falling tide at the very tip of the St. Marys north jetties. Tarpon



Omar Collazo, Ben Forehand, Bryan and Amy Bush, from left, caught this big limit of red snapper during the one day of fishing proclaimed by NOAA. Weather conditions and fishing were outstanding.

PHOTO BY TERRY LACOSS/SPECIAL

OUTDOORS

Terry Lacoss



Olem Holmquist is pictured with a tournament-size kingfish weighing 39.13 pounds. The Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament is Friday.

PHOTO BY TERRY LACOSS/SPECIAL



Steve Silva is pictured releasing a 144-pound Amelia Island tarpon caught while fishing with Capt. Danny Flynn.

SPECIAL PHOTO



Capt. Ben Forehand is pictured releasing a 100-pound tarpon for angler Dave Ponsford.

PHOTO BY TERRY LACOSS/SPECIAL

fishing is also excellent at the tip of the south jetties during all the incoming tide.

A popular fishing method in hooking up to tarpon weighing from 50 to over 100 pounds is fishing right on the bottom with a live mullet, menhaden or small fish. Lure fishing is also

productive during the slower moving tides while casting to schooling tarpon on the surface. A 2- to 4-ounce plastic swim tail like the D.O.A. swimming mullet in bright chartreuse is an excellent tarpon plug.

To determine the weight of a catch-and-release tar-

pon, first measure the length and girth then go to the tarpon weight calculator online.

Both seasoned and skilled tarpon teams will be fishing for a \$450,000 prize Friday, July 19. The largest kingfish weighed in will take the top prize. There is also a redfish tournament to be held

on Saturday, July 20. Visit www.kingfishtournament.com.

The popular Nassau Sport Fishing Association Fishing Rodeo will run from July 26-27 at the Fernandina Harbor Marina, with lots of cash and prizes for both kingfish and several other

species of local game fish. With at least 30 entries, first-place largest kingfish will be worth \$30,000. There will also be lady angler and youth angler categories.

Backwater gamefish include redfish, flounder, sea trout and sheepshead. Visit www.nsfafish.net.



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SAIL From 1B

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SHORTS From 2B

play (all levels) on courts 1-4 and all levels (men and women) on courts 5-6. Friday 8-11 a.m. intermediate play (3.0 and 3.5) on courts 1-6. Schedule is posted at the courts along with general rules and descriptions of play. Visit www.fbfl.us/972/Pickleball, Fernandina Beach Pickleball Pirates on Facebook or email fbppirates@gmail.com.

Boules Club

The Amelia Island Boules Club holds pétanque pickup games on the pétanque courts at the west end of Central Park on Saturdays at 9 a.m. and most weekday afternoons. The club always has extra boules

for friends and guests who want to learn this game of skill, precision and a touch of strategy. Join the friendly competition. Email AmeliaPetanque@gmail.com.

Organized rides

The North Florida Bicycle Club offers several organized bicycle rides each week at various times and locations on Amelia Island and in Nassau County. Cyclists of all abilities are welcome. Helmets and a bicycle in good working condition are required.

Cyclists typically split into groups, depending on pace and skill level. Lunch is optional. Call 678-613-2074 or visit www.ameliaslandcycling.com, www.ameliaslandtrail.org or www.nfbc.us.

FERNANDINA BEACH TIDES

Tides, Sun & Moon: July 17-24, 2024

Day	Low	High	Moonset	Sunrise	Moonrise	Sunset	Full Moon
Wed. 7/17	11:43A 0.96'	5:47A 5.49'	2:39A	6:34A	8:28P	5:23P	
Thurs. 7/18	12:49A 1.30'	6:46A 5.59'	3:25A	6:35A	8:28P	6:29P	
Fri. 7/19	1:42A 0.99'	7:41A 5.76'	4:20A	6:36A	8:27P	7:27P	
Sat. 7/20	2:31A 0.65'	8:35A 5.98'	5:23A	6:36A	8:27P	8:21P	
Sun. 7/21	3:18A 0.32'	9:28A 6.23'	6:37A	6:37A	8:26P	9:09P	6:19A
Mon. 7/22	4:03A 0.04'	10:19A 6.47'	7:43A	6:37A	8:26P	9:50P	
Tues. 7/23	4:48A -0.16'	11:10A 6.70'	8:54A	6:38A	8:25P	10:26P	
Wed. 7/24	5:33A -0.26'	12:01P 6.88'	10:03A	6:39A	8:25P	10:59P	

Tide calculations are for Amelia River, Fernandina Beach. No corrections are necessary. Sun & Moon events are also calculated for Fernandina Beach, although actual times may vary because of land masses.

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