



No. 7: A slow race on a beautiful day



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Valkyrie and Tiger Tale close hauled during the Amelia Island Sailing Club race held on Saturday.

The Amelia Island Sailing Club's seventh race of the year was held Saturday, Aug. 10, in conditions that could not be farther from what the area experienced just days before with Hurricane Debby.

Winds were light and variable from the south/southwest, and dead calm at times. Given a strong incoming tide for the entire race, the five boats and 16 participating sailors were challenged to find the fastest way around the 7.2-nautical mile course in the Amelia River and Cumberland Sound.

Wilby Whitt's Misty, with Fred Eichmann on the helm, hit the start line at 10 a.m. ahead of the fleet. Justin-Pelham-Webb's Valkyrie, with John Laudenslager steering, and Bill Kavanaugh on Tiger Tale were in hot pursuit.

They were followed by Gary Sanders on Salty Sally and Tom MacArthur on Rebecca's Reach.

Sailing with the cur-

rent, the windward first leg saw a position change with Valkyrie rounding the first mark near the Fort Clinch public boat ramp first, followed by Tiger Tale, Misty, Salty Sally and Rebecca's Reach.

The favorable current of leg one turned into a significant challenge as the boats made their way downwind across Cumberland Sound against a strong current to mark two near the southern shore of Cumberland Island, a distance nearly double that of leg one.

The skippers and crews used all their downwind skills, sailing with and without whisker poles, jibing for both starboard and port pole sets and sailing by the lee, while cautiously guarding against accidental jibes. Tiger Tale figured it out first, passing Valkyrie before rounding mark two.

The remainder of the race continued to challenge the fleet on the up-current legs

SAIL Continued on 2B



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Salty Sally, above, during Saturday's Amelia Island Sailing Club race. Misty behind Valkyrie and Tiger Tale, below.



SAIL From 1B

and changing wind conditions. Winds remained light and variable at 3-6 mph for most of the race, only picking up to 10 mph for the post-race ride from the finish line back to the marina.

The order of finish was Tiger Tale in first place, followed by Valkyrie, Misty, Salty Sally and Rebecca's Reach. Complete results and more race photos of the Aug. 10 race, along with

the 2024 AISC racing schedule, are available on the AISC website at ameliasailingsclub.wildapricot.org.

The remaining two 2024 AISC races are on Sept. 14 and Nov. 16. In addition, there is the annual 26-nautical mile Ocean Challenge Race from St. Simons Island to Amelia Island on Oct. 12. This race is open to all seaworthy and insured monohull sailboats, and club membership is not required.

Registration is required for the Ocean Challenge Race, which can be

done online by clicking on the race listed on the October calendar on the events page of the AISC website.

All are welcome to race with AISC, requiring only 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.