



B SECTION

Sailing season wraps up with two races

For the News-Leader

It was a beautiful day for Amelia Island Sailing Club's final club race of the 2024 season, with just four boats coming to the starting line for the 7.3-nautical mile race around Cumberland Sound.

Travels and boat repairs kept several other boats from participating, but the 18 sailors enjoyed close racing under sunny, clear skies with winds from the north at 10-15 mph.

Bill Kavanaugh and crew on Tiger Tale maintained their season-long winning streak with a final win, beating Justin Pelham-Webb's Valkyrie with John Laudenslager on the helm by a little over five minutes on corrected time.

Steve Boice returned to racing, after a long summer away, on Miss Marsha, securing third place, followed by Gary Sanders on Salty Sally.

Results and pictures are posted on the AISC website at <https://ameliaislandsailingclub.wildapricot.org/>.

There were nine AISC races this year with 11 boats participating in one or more of the races. Tiger Tale and Salty Sally raced in all nine events, followed by Valkyrie with eight races and Wilby Whitt's Misty in seven races.

The season results are based on the top six scores for each boat, which allows for boats to throw out their three worst scores. Tiger Tale placed first for the season with six points, resulting from an amazing seven first-place finishes and two second place finishes.

Misty was second overall with 12 points, with Valkyrie in third place with 15 points. Fourth place was secured by Salty Sally with 22 points, and Norm Wentworth's Morning Glory rounded out the top five places with 37 points.

After being postponed from Oct. 12 because of Hurricane Milton, the annual 26-nautical mile Ocean Challenge Race from St. Simons Island, Ga., to Amelia Island was finally held on Saturday, Nov. 23. While 12 boats had registered for the original date, the rescheduled race had just five boats racing, four



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Tiger Tale and Valkyrie close racing, above. Contente with spinnaker and genoa, below left. Valkyrie on way to start at sunrise, below right.



from AISC and one from Golden Isles Sailing Club with three in the spinnaker class and two in the non-spinnaker class.

An early morning start at 8 a.m. meant getting underway from the marinas shortly after 6 a.m. in the cold, 38-degree weather. A

beautiful sunrise greeted the boats on the way to the start line, with 10- to 12-knot west/northwest winds at the start.

Four of the boats, Contente (AISC, Dave Heine), Fin (AISC, Graeme Nichol), Blown Away (AISC, David Euhus) and Salty Sally

(AISC, Gary Sanders), chose to sail the rhumb line down the coast of Cumberland

SAIL Continued on 2B



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Fleet at the start, including Salty Sally, Tiger Tale, Miss Marsha and Valkyrie, above. Winners with pennants and trophy include Dave Heine, David Euhus and Gary Sanders, below.



SAIL From 1B

Island to the first mark to enter the St. Marys River inlet.

Valkyrie (AISC, John Laudenslager at the helm) took a different tactic, popping her spinnaker and choosing to follow the wind on a more offshore route, accepting additional distance for the increased speed with the spinnaker.

As Valkyrie disappeared over the horizon from the rest of the fleet, the success of this strategy would not

be known until the boats came back together at the St. Marys River inlet.

Contente and Fin were locked in a close match five miles from the first mark when the wind shifted more from the north and Contente hoisted her spinnaker. The added sail area from the spinnaker allowed Contente to quickly pull away from Blown Aweigh and Fin, which continued in a tight battle followed by Salty Sally.

As the fleet approached the first mark, Valkyrie rounded first and headed for the finish line 3.5 miles

up the St. Marys River inlet, where she crossed the finish line first, gaining line honors, followed by Contente, Blown Aweigh, Fin and Salty Sally.

After applying PHRF time adjustments, the spinnaker class winner was Contente, followed by Valkyrie and Fin. In the non-spinnaker class, Blown Aweigh was first, followed by Salty Sally. AISC won the team event with a second place in the spinnaker class and first place in non-spinnaker.

Detailed results and more photos are available on the AISC website.