

SOUTHWINDS

CRUISING & SAILING FLORIDA, THE SOUTHEAST & THE BAHAMAS



May 2019
Free...It's Priceless

The Florida Women's Sailing Association's 46th Annual Rainbow Regatta, Clearwater, FL, March 18

By Lynn B Paul

Eight Clubs spanning the west coast of Florida from Dunedin to Venice, FL, raced in this regatta, held at the Clearwater Sailing Center. The Bowchasers of Clearwater Yacht Club and the Windlasses of Dunedin hosted the event. They planned and executed a smooth running ship from the crack of dawn to the late afternoon awards.

A new system was introduced whereby the racecourses were set first, then the race committee captains radioed in to land to blast the horn to launch the 79 boats.

Sailing under cloudy skies and winds of 15-17 knots, 43 Sunfish, 20 Optis and 16 Prams sailed three races in three hours. It was the luck of the Irish that the front bringing in strong rainstorms held off for one day.

First place in Sunfish was won by Amanda Hus of Davis Island Yacht Club. The Opti first-place winner was Mary Ellen Fiore of Dunedin, and first in the Prams was Lori Leadbetter of St. Petersburg Yacht Club.

The two computer sailors on shore took and scored the final results perfectly. The race committee boats were pro-



Sailors ranging in age from 50 to 79 sailed in the 46th Rainbow Regatta in Clearwater, FL, in March. Photo by Lynn Paul.

fessional with horns, flags, timers and phoning-in race results. Thanks to all of the committees.

These sailors range in age from 50 to 79. They are tenacious and will be back next year.