



## BACKGROUND INFORMATION



### 51st Annual 2024 Stephen C. Smith Memorial Regatta

This year marks the 51st Anniversary of the Stephen C. Smith Memorial Regatta, held for each of the past 50 years at Shell Point Beach on the Gulf of Mexico in southern Wakulla County. This year's event is scheduled for April 26th through 28th. The regatta is for the benefit of the American Cancer Society in memory of Stephen Smith, a local sailor who died from a rare form of leukemia at the age of 29. The 2024 event organizers are the Shell Point Sailboard Club, the American Cancer Society, Apalachee Bay Yacht Club, and numerous businesses and individuals.

The Regatta has drawn as many as 200 registered participants and hundreds more spectators from all over the southeast. The event includes: races for yachts rated under the PHRF handicapping system, catamarans such as Hobie Cats, smaller day sailors (Portsmouth & One Design), and windsurfers, the most numerous and arguably the most colorful participants in the Regatta. Races are held Friday (Sunfish, Hobie and WETA), Saturday and Sunday (Windsurfers Only), with other events for sponsors, spectators, and participants on Saturday night.

The public is invited to view the races on Saturday and Sunday, and to participate in the auction of thousands of dollars worth of donated items on Sunday afternoon, beginning after the trophy presentations (about 2:00 pm). Everyone can have a great time and pick up some great deals while making a contribution to help us all fight cancer.

In addition to the many patient services provided to children and adults, the American Cancer Society funds research and public education, which is vital in the effort against this silent killer. The American Cancer Society receives no government funding and relies exclusively on the generous support of private donations. Last year alone, this local event, through the Stephen C. Smith Memorial Regatta Foundation, Inc. was able to contribute \$60,000 to the American Cancer Society. The majority of these funds have remained in the Big Bend area (Wakulla, Leon, Jefferson, Gadsden, Madison, Taylor and other Big Bend Counties), providing educational programs and patient services to area residents.

Businesses or individuals wishing to participate as sponsors will receive a receipt for their donation to a 501c3 foundation and other benefits appropriate to the level of support. Contributions may be made by donating items for the auction, in-kind merchandise to support the event, or negotiable funds. Sponsors will be recognized in the Regatta Program Booklet and on the event sponsor board.