

First Tybee Christmas parade of boats held

By James Mack Adams

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It may not yet compete with the shows put on by some other coastal communities, but the organizers of the "1st Ever Tybee Island Christmas Boat Parade" expect their very successful effort to become an annual holiday affair.

If the enthusiasm of the participant and observers is any indication, ever bigger and better Tybee holiday boat parades can be predicted for the future.

The nine gaily decorated and brightly lit boats, each loaded with exuberant passengers and crew, set sail at 6 p.m. on Saturday, December 14 from the Marlin Marina. The parade course covered Tybee's Back River and Chimney Creek.

The event was sponsored by the Marlin Marina, Crab Shack, Café Loco, and the Tybee Island Bar Pilots.

For awhile it looked like Tybee's first boat parade might not make too much of a wave. Organizers admitted the decision to hold the event was "spur of the moment."

"We had only three boats committed just four days before the parade," said Mike Scarbrough, owner of the Lazaretto Creek Marina. "We spread flyers all over town, and by parade day we had nine boats signed up."

WSAV-TV news anchor and Tybee resident, Peter Bannon, judged the winning entries and picked the three top winners.



Winning the first place trophy, a gold-painted life ring, was the SS Dolphin, captained by Mike Scarbrough. This was the boat Santa Claus chose to ride. Capt. Frank Schumann's vessel, named simply Frank's boat, won the Silver Paddle Award for its second place finish. The Bronze Buoy Award for third place went to the boat Dunit Again, skippered by Ken Rule.

Following the awards ceremony on the Marlin Marina deck, parade participants and guests were invited to stay and dance to the taped music of "The Breeze" 99.7 FM.

The boat owners, whether they won or lost, enjoyed the evening and talked about the possibility that future Tybee Christmas Boat Parades just might steal some of the thunder from Thunderbolt.