

# Yacht club celebrates boat parade winners

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Festive, twinkling boats sailed the Intracoastal Waterway in brisk holiday weather during the Cortez Yacht Club's lighted boat parade on Saturday night.

Observers bundled up and enjoyed the display from the Seafood Shack restaurant, the Cortez Bridge and Bridge Street Pier in Bradenton Beach.

Peter Robinson, of Holmes Beach, took the grand prize for "Joy to the World," depicting a herald angel hovering over the Earth in a sea of twinkling blue lights on his 22-foot sailboat.

Three participants won \$100: Diane "Dee" Brady, of Anna Maria, won for the entertainment her 32-foot Power Cat boat and crew provided, including Santa Claus dancing atop the tiki bar. Rich Cipriano, of Sarasota, won for a creative approach to "Blue Christmas" complete with Elvis and a guitar player on his 37-foot sailboat. Colin Cunningham Graham, of Bradenton, and three of his children won for use of lights and a huge snowman on his 23-foot power boat.

Honorable Mention and \$50 went to Justin Gregory, of Bradenton, for running the parade in a decorated Craig Cat personal water craft.

The parade was sponsored by The Anna Maria Island Sun and the Cortez Yacht Club.



PHOTO/PAT MCLAUGHLIN



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Left, Diane "Dee" Brady of Anna Maria on her 32 Power Cat Voyager 1 won for the entertainment her boat and crew provided – including Santa dancing atop the tiki bar. Above, the Mystic Dolphin cruises by with all lights ablaze.



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At right, Dana Snell of Bridge Street Bazaar, far right, presents a \$500 check from the Bridge Street Merchants Association and \$300 from an anonymous donor to Cortez Yacht Club Commodore Joe Garbus, center, and Vice Commodore Peter Robinson, left. The donations were awarded as prize money to the best decorated boats in the Cortez Yacht Club lighted boat parade.



PHOTO/PROVIDED BY CORTEZ YACHT CLUB

Peter Robinson, of Holmes Beach, stands with his crew and holds the plaque for winning the grand prize for his "Joy to the World" entry aboard his 22-foot sailboat.



PHOTO/PROVIDED BY CORTEZ YACHT CLUB

Rich Cipriano and crew won a prize for their depiction of "Blue Christmas," complete with Elvis and a guitar player aboard Cipriano's 37-foot sailboat.

Left, a decorated sailboat awaits the signal to head out before the parade begins.



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