



The 118th
—NEWPORT BEACH—
**CHRISTMAS
BOAT PARADE®**

HOSTED BY THE COMMODORES CLUB
OF THE NEWPORT BEACH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Participating Boater Packet

December 16-20, 2026 • 6:30 p.m. nightly
Newport Harbor • Newport Beach, CA

Presenting Sponsors



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For information, call (949) 729-4400
www.christmasboatparade.com



Participant Safety Rules

Route and Logistics

- The Parade will take place December 16-20, 2026.
- The Parade will follow the route indicated on the attached map. The parade will form off the North-East corner of Lido Isle each evening. The Parade will begin at 6:30 pm.
- The first boat of the parade is the Harbor Patrol Boat (who will dictate the pace and progress of the parade) followed by the Official Lead Boat (featuring the “Frosty the Snowman” inflatable). Please wait for them to get into position.
- Registered boats will be positioned between the Lead Boat and the End Boat. Unregistered boats will be allowed to follow the parade in an orderly fashion, however, are not part of the official parade.
- Boats are to leave plenty of space between each other while merging into parade line. Please be courteous as placement in the parade is not important but safety is. Be aware that some boats may attempt to move in to line suddenly.
- The parade runs for 5 nights beginning at 6:30 pm and finishing at 9:00 pm. Please run the entire Parade route and do not cut off portions of the route. Those entrants who drop out early will be disqualified from judging for that evening.
- There will be lighted tetrahedron markers at key turning points (See map). Turn Markers are white, lighted sailing markers (similar to Christmas Trees), approximately 2-3 meters high.
- If you need to leave the parade, turn your holiday lights off and exit decisively and safely from the Parade Route.
- Use of spotlights is prohibited. This is a matter of safety and courtesy.
- Please watch out for spectator boats who may not be aware of these rules.
- Ensure there are sufficient life jackets for all onboard. Do not overcrowd your boat.
- Fireworks on Wednesday night will kick off the parade at approximately 6:15 pm from the Newport Pier. Drone Shows will take place throughout all nights.

Vessel Speed

- Parade speed will be 4.5 mph. A good distance to travel is 100 ft. off docks.
- Keep the Parade dressed, allowing enough distance between vessels to make an emergency stop (able to come to a complete stop within one-half of a safe distance between vessels).
- Please try to close gaps. Be advised that sometimes the parade line gets bunched up and you will need to adjust accordingly. **DO NOT PASS ANOTHER VESSEL WHILE IN THE PARADE LINE.**
- Caution when transiting the ferry crossing; a marshal boat will be stopping the active parade for ferries to make their landings on Balboa Island and Balboa Peninsula each night during the parade. **BE ALERT! BE PREPARED TO STOP!**

More on Safety - Design and Decoration

SAFETY IS VITAL, MORE IMPORTANT THAN AWARDS OR COMFORT.

- Utilize safe design with good visibility.
- Consider your sight lines and view through railings.
- Decorations should be well secured.
- Access around the boat should be open.
- Ensure your decorations, lights, etc. do not interfere with safe operation by you and others on the harbor.
- Do not launch or throw items from your craft, at other boats, or at onshore spectators, or use pyrotechnics that could create smoke hazards, etc.
- Follow normal laws and regulations regarding safe boating practices.
- PCO (Parade Control Officer) **MAY ASK UNSAFE VESSELS TO EXIT THE PARADE.**
- PCO **MAY DISQUALIFY ANY VESSEL AT ANY TIME.**
- Bring your life jacket but leave the alcohol at home. The boating environment can magnify alcohol's side effects, such as impaired judgment, reduced balance and poor coordination. California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways reminds you “if it's your boat, it's your responsibility”.

Communication

- Monitor Channel 68 (official Parade frequency.) Non-emergency parade instructions will be transmitted on this frequency.
- Do NOT use Channel 16 unless an emergency exists (F.C.C. will be monitoring and violators will be cited).
- eMail and Phone: Please make sure we have your eMail address that you check frequently since we send out parade updates each morning of the parade. Also, if the phone number we have on file is not one where you can be reached easily, please call the Chamber at (949) 729-4400 to update.
- The Parade Marshal Boats can be hailed on Channel 69 VHF and by letter –ALPHA, BRAVO, CHARLIE, DELTA, ECHO, FOXTROT, and XRAY.
- Do you see a problem? Contact Parade Control on Channel 68 VHF or a Marshal boat on Channel 69. The PCO or Marshal can handle vessel problems, traffic jams, etc. Non-emergency situations, out of fuel, tangled prop, etc. call Sea Tow on Channel 16 VHF.

Charters

- A local permit is required for charter operations. Contact the Newport Beach City License Department at (949) 644-3141.

Judging

- In order to be judged and eligible for awards, your numbers must be displayed and visible.
- Parade Registration Numbers should be displayed...
1) starboard side, toward the stern, 2) port side, towards the stern, and 3) on the stern.

Weather/Cancellation

- The Parade runs in nearly all weather - exceptions – fog and high winds. If the Parade is cancelled on any given night, an announcement will be made on Channel 68 VHF by 6:30 pm.
- In the event of inclement weather, the Parade may be canceled for the evening (rare). Entrants can visit www.christmasboatparade.com for status after 5:00 pm. Announcement of cancellation will also be made on Channel 68 at 5:30 pm, 6:00 pm, and 6:30 pm.
- In the event of a sudden, dense fog, reduce speed and proceed with caution at a speed at which you feel comfortable.

Parade Control

- There will be Parade Marshals and Coast Guard Auxillary boats along the Parade route. If hailed, please conform with their instructions.
- Parade Control Boats will be designated by displaying Parade Marshal Banners or flashing lights.

Sea Tow Service (Participants Only)

Registered parade participants with visible numbers are offered the following complimentary services during event hours and within the Newport Harbor if necessary:

- Jumpstarts
- Assistance towing
- Fuel drops (must pay for the cost of fuel)
- Soft ungroundings
- Prop disentanglements (If Sea Tow has to put a diver in the water, a fee for this service will be charged.)

RESOURCES FOR BOATING SAFETY

The Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW)

https://dbw.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=29416

COMMUNICATION | COOPERATION | COURTESY | SEAMANSHIP | PATIENCE

HELP US CREATE A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE PARADE FOR ALL INVOLVED.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION AND HELPING MAKE THE PARADE A HUGE SUCCESS!

Mandatory Christmas Boat Parade Skipper's Meetings

Join us at one of these meetings to review parade logistics and receive your registration numbers.

Monday, Dec. 7, 2026 OR Monday, Dec. 14, 2026 • 6:00 pm

Bay View Room

(1131 Back Bay Dr., Newport Beach • At Newport Dunes Resort)

FREE for attendees!

**simple
green**

V.I.P. Cleaning Kit
Supply of Simple Green
Non-Toxic Cleaners

60-day membership

SEA TOW
"Your Road Service at Sea"®

Commemorative Plaque



HOSTED BY THE COMMODORES CLUB
OF THE NEWPORT BEACH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

DECEMBER 16-20, 2026

Parade begins at approximately 6:30pm each night.
Arrive early for best viewing and parking.

PRESENTING SPONSORS

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The Chamber NEWPORT BEACH

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SEA TOW

FUN ZONE

city cruises

MARK	TIME	DESTINATION
1	6:30	START Tip of Lido Isle (control A)
2	6:35	Lido Isle Yacht Club
3	6:39	Lido Isle Bend (Lido West Channel Entrance) (control A)
4	6:45	Lido Isle Bridge (control C)
5	6:49	Tip of Lido Peninsula / Rhine Channel (control D)
6	6:51	Woody's Wharf
7	6:52	Peninsula Village / Buena Forchietta / CassaDami / Shorebird (control E)
8	6:54	Marina Park
9	6:55	Lighthouse Café
10	6:56	American Legion Yacht Club
11	6:57	15th Street Beach
12	7:02	10th Street Beach
13	7:05	Newport Harbor Yacht Club
14	7:08	Bay Island Bridge
15	7:10	Bay Island Channel (control F)
16	7:14	Newport Landing Restaurant
17	7:14	Balboa Boat Rentals
18	7:14	Newport Landing Sportfishing
19	7:15	Balboa Peninsula Ferry Landing
20	7:15	Balboa Fun Zone
21	7:15	Harborside Restaurant / Balboa Pavilion
22	7:16	Catalina Passenger Service
23	7:16	Davey's Locker
24	7:25	Peninsula Point Beach (control G)
25	7:32	Pirate's Cove (control H)
26	7:33	Channel Reef / China Cove
27	7:37	U.S. Coast Guard (control I)
28	7:38	Balboa Yacht Club
29	7:41	Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club
30	7:45	Balboa Island Bridge (control J)
31	7:48	Little Island Beach
32	7:51	Little Island Point
33	7:54	Balboa Island (South Bayfront / Grand Canal)
34	8:01	Balboa Island Ferry Landing
35	8:03	Collins Island (control K)
36	8:07	Balboa Island (North Bayfront)
37	8:11	Balboa Island Bridge
38	8:11	Newport Beach Yacht Club
39	8:18	Harbor Island
40	8:26	Tavern House Kitchen + Bar / PCH Bridge (control L)
41	8:26	SOL Mexican Cocina
42	8:30	Bay Shores Community Beach
43	8:35	Balboa Bay Resort (control M)
44	8:38	Orange Coast College (crew base)
45	8:39	Newport Sea Base
46	8:42	City Cruises / Mariner's Mile
47	8:43	Rusty Pelican Restaurant
48	8:44	Billy's at the Beach
49	8:44	Louie's by the Bay
50	8:45	The Winery Restaurant & Wine Bar (control N)
51	8:46	Lido Marina Village
52	8:47	Malibu Farm
53	8:47	Lido Bottle Works
54	8:48	HanaHaus
55	8:50	Lido Park / Lido Bridge
56	8:53	Via Lido North Genoa Beach
57	9:00	FINISH Tip of Lido Isle

949.729.4400 | ChristmasBoatParade.com | twitter.com/nboatparade | facebook.com/christmasboatparade | instagram.com/christmasboatparade



All participants are invited to attend...
Award winners will receive two complimentary tickets.

Newport Beach Christmas Boat Parade Awards Reception

Friday, January 22, 2027 at VEA Newport Beach - A Marriott Resort & Spa
Come enjoy delicious tastes and cocktails with the winners of the Parade and Ring of Lights.

INFO and TICKETS will be available at www.christmasboatparade.com

2026 AWARDS CATEGORIES

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- | | | |
|---|---|----------------------------------|
| • Sweepstakes Winner – The Bill Lusk Award | • Best Animation/Special Effects (1 st - 3 rd) | • Best Boat under 30 ft. |
| • Sweepstakes Winner - Non Commercial | • Best Music | • Best New Entry |
| • Battle of the Harbor Winners | • Best Display of Theme | • Best Yacht Club Entry |
| • Best Humor & Originality (1 st - 3 rd) | • Best Sail Boat | • Most Entries from a Yacht Club |
| • Best Use of Lights (1 st - 3 rd) | • Best Power Boat | |
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JUDGING

Judging and awards will be predicated on parade participation. Points will be given for each night the boat is viewed by the judging check points. Bonus points will be given for completing the entire parade route each evening. Judging will take place on random nights of the parade at various points throughout the Harbor.

NUMBERS

Parade Registration Numbers must be displayed in VISIBLE LOCATIONS

1) Starboard side, toward the stern, 2) Port side, towards the stern, and 3) On the stern.

You may pick up your entry numbers (for display on your boat) at the Skipper's Meetings at 6:00 pm on Monday, December 7, 2026 or Monday, December 14, 2026 at the Bay View Room (1131 Back Bay Drive at the Newport Dunes Resort, Newport Beach).

After this meeting, vessel numbers will be available at the Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce office (4343 Von Karman Ave., Ste. 150-W) up until the day of the parade on December 16, 2026.)

WINNERS

Winners will be contacted via phone and announced on the official web site at www.christmasboatparade.com.

Winners should pick up their banners at the Island Marine Fuel dock to display on their boat during the remainder of the parade. Please return banners after the parade to the fuel dock or the Chamber of Commerce offices.