



Perris News

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Annual Boat Parade Lights Up Lake Perris

More than 30 canoes, kayaks, jetskis, sailboats and power craft took to the waters of Lake Perris Saturday, decked out in lights, ornaments, trees and wreaths to take part in the annual Lake Perris Holiday Boat Parade.

The City of Perris teamed up with the Perris Police Department to adorn the law enforcement evidence-collection vessel for the parade. Perris City Councilman Mark Yarbrough gave a special shout-out to Perris Police Chief James McElvain for making the trip to the lake possible.

Yarbrough and volunteers from the Perris Citizens Patrol decorated the boat before taking it onto the water, with Officer Dayle Long piloting the craft.

"I cannot thank the police department for coming through on this great way to outreach to our community," Yarbrough said. "This is another great example of the cooperation between the City and law enforcement with the goal of taking part in important community events. This is a chance to wave our flag and I am glad we got the support to make it happen. We could not have done it without police cooperation. They came through in the clutch."

Yarbrough was joined by Michael McAleavey, his wife, Pat, both long-time members of the Citizens Patrol. Also joining the Perris contingent were Jami and Corey Allison and their children, Spencer, 10, and Hailey, 3. All worked Saturday afternoon to decorate the boat with red, white and green lights, garland, stockings and Christmas wreaths.

"This is something different to do," said Michael McAleavey. "You can drive around your neighborhood and see Christmas lights but this is a little more unique. The City of Perris sponsors a lot of good things and I am glad they are involved in this effort as well."

All the boats circled around a cove at the lake, giving spectators a good chance to give them a good inspection.



Jami Allison with her children, Hailey, 3, and Spencer, 10.



Dayle Long pilots the City of Perris' entry in the annual Holiday Boat Parade at Lake Perris.



Jami Allison attaches a wreath to the City entry.

Some entries came with just a string of lights; others were decked out big-time, with lights, reindeer, cartoon characters, candy canes, trees and stars. Prizes were awarded to the best entries.

Kyle Miller, of Riverside, constructed a design that resembled Santa Claus launching his reindeer from a rooftop.

"I like constructing things," he said. "Christmas is coming. I like being out on the lake with other people sharing goodwill."