



Perris News

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Holiday Cheer Lights Up Lake Perris

Christmas arrived early at the Lake Perris State Recreation Area.

A small flotilla of brightly decorated boats took to the water Dec. 6 decked out in holiday lights and sporting inflatable Santa Clauses, Rudolfs, Grinches and other characters who make annual appearances this time of the year.

The event was the 10th Annual "Lights on the Lake" boat parade and it featured pontoons, powerboats and people who said there was no place they would rather be than on Lake Perris.

"I love this place," said R.D. Campbell, 65, of Nuevo.

"When you're here, you're in a different world. No freeways. No highways. It's like I left the city and went to the country."

Campbell came to Lake Perris with a 28-foot Eliminator, a craft manufactured in Perris. He decked his boat out with 2,000 white Christmas lights.

Lake Perris also drew Eric Wilson, 36, from Ontario.

He spent several hours decorating his boat with girlfriend Barbie Merida, putting up a menagerie of decorations that included Homer Simpson, Snoopy and Sponge Bob along with more traditional characters like Rudolph. Their boat also carried poinsettias and a Christmas tree.

"This is definitely a very nice spot," said Merida, 36. "We really enjoy coming to this lake. I like to fish. I like the water."

Steve and Debra Salley, both 47 and residents of Moreno Valley, said they came out to Lake Perris to spread a little holiday cheer during tough economic times. Their boat was decorated with Santa Claus and lots of rope lights, icicles and snowflakes.

"It's a lot of work but we enjoy it for the kids," Debra Salley said.

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Eric Wilson and Barbie Merida show off their menagerie of holiday characters.



Reindeer came to Lake Perris as part of the 10th annual "Lights on the Lake" pageant.



Frosty and friends get ready to hit the water.