

## Rescheduled Third Annual NW Cape Coral CHRISTMAS BOAT PARADE

Friday, DECEMBER 22, 2023 -STAGING at 6:15 PM - PARADE at 6:45 PM

Ahoy, Mate's! I hope 2023 has been a year of peace for you. We live in some crazy times, but hopefully most of us have recovered from last year's hurricane disaster. We need to enjoy the little calm we have before we break into 2024. It is guaranteed to be an interesting year filled with surprises. But what can we always count on? Through thick and thin we need to make our holidays joyous. It seems that our town is looking forward to the Annual Christmas Parade and SO ARE WE! Most of you already know the course, but I will repeat for the newcomers ...

Please decorate and light up your boats and meet us again on Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, in the Main Spreader Canal just South of the Bonefish Canal at 6:15 pm for staging. Once we have a good number of boats there (about 6:45 pm), we will begin our procession heading East down the Bonefish Canal and circle around back out to the Spreader. We will then head North to Wazee Lake, then East down Hermosa Canal and back out to Spreader, and finally follow the Spreader North to Horseshoe Canal and back out to the Spreader to end the parade.

Kindly keep a comfortable distance between you and the boat in front of you both for safety reasons as well as to allow the viewers to listen to YOUR music and enjoy YOUR boat as you pass by. Our viewers would like the boats to slow down a little because they did not have enough time to fully enjoy each boat. 3-4 mph should be a good pace, but don't lag too far from the boat ahead of you. One-half of a Cape Coral lot should be a good distance, but any more than that can cause a jam-up under the bridges like the past 2 years. Remember to make certain that your decorated boat will still fit under the 3 bridges. Our boat is a 27-foot deck with a flashing yellow light on top; we will begin the procession and pace the parade. If your boat has any problems during the parade, please drop out, allow others to pass you, and head back in at the end of the procession if you can -- the viewers do not want the parade to end! Don't forget the essentials for your crew – food, beverage, toilet needs, emergency needs, flashlight, etc.

We circulated flyers to many neighborhoods before the 2021 parade; however, this year we've gathered additional email addresses. You can help get the word out about the Parade by passing out the attached Parade Map and Notice. If you live on one of these 3 canals or the Spreader, think about inviting people over to watch the Parade on your dock and encourage people to decorate and light up their docks! The lights help us navigate as it can be very dark passing some of the vacant lots and through the Spreader. If you are viewing in a very dark area, try to wear a Lumi-Stick or fluorescent glow stick necklace so that we can see you in the dark. People use them for Halloween so you can typically find them in stores now. Hopefully everyone will know that construction sites are dangerous and are not places to view the Parade. The attached Map has red dots identifying some possible viewing areas. Let us know if you have any questions by contacting Dean at [scarabfox@aol.com](mailto:scarabfox@aol.com).

Hope to see you all on Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>! ~ Dean and Jan