

Boat Parade of Lights 'Best in Show' awarded to 'Tiny Toot'

By JAYNE HANSON
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Event officials announced Sunday that parade entry number 20 Team Thompson's "Tiny Toot" toy-tugboat won Best in Show during the London Bridge Yacht Club's Parade of Lights event. The event was Dec. 4-5 in Bridgewater Channel.

Christine Lowe, event chairwoman, said 26 parade entries showed up Friday. And 24 participated Saturday. In all, 29

signed up for the event.

Winners were announced Sunday during the show's captain's breakfast at London Bridge Resort.

The toy tugboat was a returning entry after making its debut in 2010 Parade of Lights event during its "Toys on Parade" theme. Despite this year's theme, "Christmas in Paradise," Bob Thompson said Sunday he thinks the tugboat should be a mainstay in the parade every year.

"When you are coming through the

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Channel and people are applauding - that's the magic right there," Thompson said.

Team Thompson con-

sists of Bob and Kathy Thompson.

Last year was the tugboat's first, and rather rushed, appearance.

"I had this concept (in 2010)," Thompson said. "And we were putting lights on it on the way to the launch ramp. It took much longer than I thought it would."

Thompson would recommend a month to pull a float together because a person doesn't work on it every night. And it doesn't have to be fancy, large-scale, or labor intensive.

"Last year, I didn't know there were cash prizes," Thompson said. "This is a Havasu tradition. People get caught up in huge, grandiose themes. But you can just wrap some lights around your boat ... just being in the parade is the reward, to see the bonfires,

and because there's a reaction."

Thompson described his float's charm as smoke from the smokestack, a large turning key, and giant eyes. The contraption sits on a 23-foot open-bow, v-bottom boat, he said. This year, he added more lights to highlight every detail of the tugboat's outline. And the more the driver of the boat would spin, or circle, the

boat, the more the crowd would cheer.

"We want to get the community involved more," Thompson said. "There were fewer boats than last year. It's not so much about winning a prize. It's building the thing, and taking the family. There's nothing that can describe it."

You may contact the reporter at jhanson@havasunews.com.

AND THE WINNERS ARE ...

Best Business (\$100) - Boat Brokers, entry no. 29, Santa and sleigh

Best Use of Theme (\$100) - Nautical Beachfront Resort, entry no. 22, houseboat

Best Family/Individual (\$100) - View, Remy, and Ruffner families, entry no. 5, tiki hut

Grand Marshal's Choice (\$200) - View, Remy, and Ruffner families, entry no. 5, tiki hut

Best Group or Organization (\$100) - Lake Havasu Parrot Head Club, entry no. 23, dancing parrot

Best in Show (\$300) - Team Thompson, entry no. 20, toy tugboat