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# Boat parade has record number of entries

**BY TONY RAAP**

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One of Lake Havasu City's biggest events just got bigger. A record 62 boats will take part Saturday in the 24th annual Parade of Lights, parade chairwoman Tammy Kastelz said Wednesday. "I'm so excited," she said. "For the parade to have this kind of showing is just awesome." The Parade of Lights is an annual contest where local businesses and organizations decorate boats with Christmas lights. Cash prizes will be awarded based on best use of lights, color, theme, etc. Several thousand people are expected to attend the parade, which begins at 6:30 p.m. Organizers will hold a 6:30 p.m. dress rehearsal Friday. The parade route will differ from past years. It starts at Spectator Point, heads north under the London Bridge, circles around Crazy Horse Campgrounds, backtracks through the Bridgewater Channel and then disbands at Thompson Bay. Earlier this week, there were concerns about the lake's water level. If it is higher than 447 feet, 4 inches, the masts of some of the taller sailboats will scrape the bridge's arch, said Jim Liesen of the London Bridge Yacht Club. But the yacht club got an assurance Wednesday from the Bureau of Reclamation that Saturday's water level will not be higher than 447 feet, which "ought to be enough," Liesen said. Thirteen sailboats are scheduled to take part in the parade. But officials only are concerned about the four tallest, which are 33 feet high. If the water level goes awry, those four will stay on shore, said Wally Lowe, who will oversee all 13 sailboats. "If that did happen, we'd leave them. They wouldn't be in the parade with us," he said. "But I'm totally confident that we're going to be fine. We got a couple inches to spare." The weather also should cooperate. Saturday's forecast is mostly sunny with a high of 66 and a low of 41, according to the National Weather Service. Friday has a high of 64, mostly clear, with north winds of 10- 15 mph. For more information, log on to [www.lhcboatparadeoflights.com](http://www.lhcboatparadeoflights.com).