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And the winners are ... Boat Parade of Lights results

BY DAVID BELL

Today's News-Herald

Winners of the 24th Annual Boat Parade of Lights were announced at a special brunch Sunday, with Campbell Boats named overall winner. The Campbell entry won the Judges' Choice award with second place – the Commodore's Award – going to the Masunas Family. "I think the parade went amazingly well," said Parade Chair Tammy Kastelz. "I'm just sorry more people didn't come out Friday, the day of the 'dress rehearsal.' The weather was perfect and the parade went perfect. We'll know next year to not call the first day the rehearsal." High winds – reported between 30-40 miles per hour – forced organizers to alter the parade route Saturday. Instead of traveling from Thompson Bay northward through the Bridgewater Channel around to Crazy Horse Beach before turning around, boats made the turn after passing under the London Bridge. In addition boats traveled in groups of 10 to avoid bunching in the channel. "I have to give tremendous credit to the U.S. Coast Guard, the Mohave County Sheriff's Office, Lake Havasu City Police and Fire, vessel assist and the Coast Guard Auxiliary. They brought in more boats than ever before. Under hellacious conditions we had a parade and they brought everyone home safe," said Kastelz. "And credit has to go to John View. He was parade command." Judges included Chemehuevi Indian Tribal Chairman Charles Woods and Lake Havasu City Mayor Mark Nexsen. Bullhead City Mayor Diane Vick and Kingman Mayor Les Byram were both scheduled to judge but each canceled earlier in the week forcing event organizers to find last-minute replacements. Filling in was Lake Havasu City Councilman Dave McAtlin and Crystal Gilbert, a local resident who won a drawing to judge the parade. Mohave County Supervisor Buster Johnson was the parade grand marshal. This was the first year the London Bridge Yacht Club coordinated the event and Kastelz said the goal was to have 50 boats take part. She said the event finished with 56 boats, exceeding expectations. Next year she said she hopes to see 70-75 boats in the parade.

24th Annual Boat Parade of Lights Award Winners:

Judges' Choice Award (1st place) - Campbell Boats

Commodore's Award (2nd place) - Masunas Family

Best First-Time Entry - Havasu Classic Cars

Best Organizational Entry - Elks Yacht Club

Best Use of Lights - Nautical Resort

Best Business Entry - Ralph Howe Sales

Best Family Entry - Holloway Family

Best Use of Color - Lake Havasu Yacht Club

Best Use of Theme – Coach Net

Best Local Entry - London Bridge Yacht Club

Spirit of Havasu Awards (3) - King Family, Haines Family and Journey of Hope