



Wheeler Yacht Club The Tell Tale



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Commodore's Corner

I hope everyone has had a wonderfully Merry Christmas and looking forward to a happy new year. I know our family has. 2013 has been a great year filled with lots of memories to be cherished.

The boats in the parade this year were outstanding and I am thankful I was not task with picking the winners. I heard that someone on the 300 dock videoed the parade and would love to see it. When you participate in the event, you don't get to see how your boat looks on the water. So, whoever you are, please share with us.

The winners this year were:

Class A under 30' Tropical Itch
Class B 30'-47' Ruff Life
Class C over 47' Carolee

Marge Brown Award Best
Overall Sweet Pea Too



Our Christmas party was a huge success with over 100 participants. Big Joe and his Catfish Junkies were fantastic. I love a good sax. Many thanks to Critter for hooking us up.

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Amy Gonzalez will be assuming responsibility for the newsletter effective January. Watch for it and I am sure she would appreciate it if you continued to send her your contributions.

We now have two Web Masters on board, so check out our site often. Jerry Petritsch of Shrimp 'n Grits and Amy are working together on this project. I am positive you will see great things from them.

Being Commodore is an awesome responsibility and one I took very seriously. I have made a lot of friends, worked very hard and together we did some nice things. A big thank you to everyone for your help and support during the past two years !!!

I hope to see you at the Commodore's Ball and help me welcome in the new board.

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome:

Connie and Gary Barnes. Their boat is on the end of the 700 dock.

Tim and Lainie Thomas from the 400 dock.



Courtesy of www.americanboating.org

"I bought myself a boat for Christmas. But, it's in several thousand pieces. It's funner to open that way."

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This 'n That

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Why Do We Southerners Just Eat Black Eyed Peas on New Year's Day?

I grew up with this belief but did not know why. My mother always served black eyed peas on New Year's Day; she said it would bring good luck in the New Year. I've carried this tradition forward but never knew the reasons behind it.

"The real story is much more interesting and has gone untold in fear that feelings would be hurt. It's a story of war, the most brutal and bloody was this nation has ever seen, military might and power unleashed upon civilians, women, children and the elderly. Never seen as a war crime, this was the policy of the North forcing back together "the union" at all costs. An unhealed wound remains in the hearts of some people of the Southern states even today.

The story of THE BLACK EYED PEA being considered good luck relates directly back to Sherman's Bloody March to the Sea in late 1864. It was called The Savannah Campaign and was lead by Major General William Tecumseh Sherman. The Civil War campaign began on 11/15/1864 when Sherman's troops marched from the captured city of Atlanta, Georgia, and ended at the port of Savannah on 12/22/1864.

When the smoke cleared, the Southerners who had survived the onslaught came out of hiding. They found that the blue belly aggressors had looted and stolen everything of value and everything that could be eaten, including all livestock. Death and destruction were everywhere. While in hiding, few had enough to eat, and starvation was now upon the survivors.

There was no international aid, no Red Cross meal trucks, no disaster relief, no FEMA. The Northern army had taken everything they could carry, eaten everything they could eat and destroyed what they couldn't. But, they couldn't

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take it all. The devastated people of the South found for some unknown reason that Sherman's bloodthirsty troops had left silos full of black eyed peas.

At the time in the North, this lowly black eyed pea was only used to feed stock. The Northern troops saw it as the thing of least value. Taking grain for their horses and livestock and other crops to feed themselves, they just couldn't take everything. So they left the black eyed peas in great quantities assuming it would be of no use to the survivors, since all the livestock it could feed had either been taken or eaten.

Southerners awoke to face a new year in this devastation and were facing massive starvation if not for the good luck of having the black eyed peas to eat. From New Year's Day 1866 forward, the tradition grew to eat black eyed peas on New Year's Day for good luck."

