2015 Eastport Yacht Club Lights Parade Seminar
Topics

- Schedule
- Design Ideas
- Case Studies
• Today!: Lights Parade Seminar
• ~1 November: Last day to register to get your name in the program
• TBD: Wednesday November 12th Artists Reception @ EYC
• Thursday Dec 10th: *Skipper’s Safety Meeting*
• Saturday Dec 12th: *Lights Parade*!
• Sunday Dec 13th Brunch at EYC (Return Numbers!)
• Jan (TBD) Skipper’s Appreciation Party
Safety

• On the Water (Plan ahead):
  – Consider running the course in daylight before parade day
  – If forward visibility will be impaired, station someone on the bow, work out comms with the skipper
  – Assign someone to monitor VHF to maintain communications between skipper & fleet leader
Parade Map/Tips

Annapolis

“Ego Alley” Check in

City Dock

Naval Academy Seawall

Eastport

“Judging”

“Judging”

“Judging”

“Judging”

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“Judging”
Design-Infrastructure

- **Key considerations:**  *Weight, Windage, Watts*

  **Weight:**
  - Good support for displays
    - Vertical (keep it from falling)
    - Horizontal (keep it from wagging)
  - Light weight displays
    - Work with lightest materials and designs that can get the job done
  - With proper support, 1X2 or 1X3 “furring strips” are adequate for many applications
  - Use guys to stabilize, if needed: Try a “taut line” hitch

  **Windage:**
  - “Open” structures can ease handling, particularly on the “back side” of the course loop
    - “Chickenwire
    - Thin (1/4 inch) plywood

  **Watts:**
  - Plan location of all connections and extension cords
  - Plan connections close to deck level for access
  - Determine overall power requirements
  - Size generator at >100% of max expected draw
  - Consider LED!
Construction Ideas
Infrastructure Examples
A Basic Gallows

Notes:
- Triangular truss shape for strength
- 1X3 Strips
- Bolted (use Wing-Nuts) at corners
- Painted black

- Lashed to mast (red)
- Line attached to horizontal beam and over backstay for stability (Green)
- Guy lines attached to lifeline stantions (yellow)
Knots

The Tautline Hitch—Very useful for guy lines. Creates an adjustable loop.
Trucker’s Hitch
Thoughts on Chickenwire

- Metal is heavier than it looks. And it bites back! Plastic hardware mesh (1/2 inch) is a great (the best!) option
- Nicely bendable & Holds its shape
- Very tiewrappable. Good for ropelightig
- Need to support from the top, can let the bottom hang free (within limits)

Plywood top (Blue)
1X3 frame (Black)
Hardware Mesh Frame
Design-Aesthetics

Aesthetics

• Lights, Lights, Lights!
  – “dark” decorations don’t show up without lots of illumination (e.g. garland looks like black caterpillars)
  – “Reflective” things don’t
  – Try a “squint test” to look for holes

• You are judged from the Starboard

• Think “Big”
  – Your target audience will be at least 40 ft away, many will be further
  – Go as high as you can (safely!)
    – Light Strings along stays are a good way to raise the height

• Automation
  – Mechanical motion
  – Switched lights (simple systems available now)
  – Synchronizers and computer programs
Nifty Lights

Streamers made from plastic tubing and lights

See the ladder?
Lights along stays

• Don’t want tension on electric line
  – Tie wrap electric light strings to a small diameter line
• Don’t want too much droop in the line
  – Tie a few loose loops around the stay and the string as you hoist
  – Put tension on the line
• Don’t want light strings to accidentally unplug
  – Loop the light strings at connections
  – Mechanically secure connections
• Don’t want gaps between light strings
  – Take up dark line at the ends of strings
• Work aloft or do it from the deck? It’s up to you!
Molto-Bene’s Free-Form Christmas Tree
‘Proposal Tree’
Construction

- Do as much work as possible ahead of time
- Size components to capacity of your transportation
- Label all connections (colored elex tape is good!)
- Envision design in position and try to visualize potential problems
- Use tie-wraps to re-enforce connections
- Attach light strings to structure prior to erecting
Choo choos
Hanukkah too!
Sound is Good!
More Music
Some variations on Mr. & Mrs. Kringle?
Filling Space with Light
Pop Culture References…
Nifty use of props
Little Boats are Big Hits
Lighthouse Evolution
Animation 1
Animation 2
Choo Choo (Unmasked)
Santa’s Sleigh
Case Studies

• Kathy Downs
• Pete Chambliss
Have Fun!

Black Tie Affair

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