



The Lighthouse

Remember the reason . . .

Editor's note: Longtime editor Keith Emmons penned this piece December 2012 and it still holds true. Happy holidays from everyone at South Shore Harbour Marina.

by Keith Emmons

Yes, it's Christmas. And it's going to stay that way, at least for me. Let's keep Christmas as the holiday it's supposed to be. Too much political correctness lately.

The holiday party season is upon us, and I'm sure there will be lots of great parties in the marina and the hotel. I had a great time one year when I was on pier 1 at Christmas, watching all the parties walking down the pier to the big party boats and stumbling back after their cruise. You can see much of the same up at the lobby bar since lots of companies have their Christmas parties in the hotel. Don't underestimate the entertainment value of hanging out there during the holiday weekends!

Here's another idea I received in an email recently. Instead of buying lots of toys and expensive gifts made overseas, why not buy gift certificates for haircuts, house cleanings, auto detailing or other services that people would love to have. Who wouldn't like the gift of having their lawn cut for a month or two? Visit local restaurants. Think about this as you go about your Christmas purchasing this year. Try to keep as much of our money in the local economy as possible!

Remember, this is the season for caring and giving. If you're able, anything you can donate to local charities will be much appreciated, especially in these hard economic times. If you can't afford to donate money, maybe donate clothing, blankets, or food. Or give a neighbor a helping hand.

Try to do something extra nice for someone this Christmas season. You'll be surprised at how good it will make you feel, and will come back to you in ways you never imagined.



Holiday Events



Boat Parade, December 10

The fifty-fifth annual League City Christmas Boat Lane Parade presented by the City of Kemah is Saturday, December 10, starting at 6 p.m.

Ring in the holidays with this Clear Lake tradition. More than 100,000 people traditionally enjoy this event from land and from hundreds of boats anchored throughout the Lake. The parade features more than 100 brightly decorated power and sailboats that will traverse the Clear Lake channel from the South Shore Harbour Marina and the Nassau Bay Lagoon to Galveston Bay.

Breakfast with Santa, December 8

Join Santa for pancakes and tell Santa what you want for Christmas. Seabrook is hosting this free community event Saturday, December 8 from 9-11 a.m. at the Seabrook Community House, 1210 Anders Lane.



Magical Winter Lights, November 18-January 8

People Generation, the producing company of Magical Winter Lights, has selected Gulf Greyhound Park as the new home for the 2016 Magical Winter Lights. The event will take place from November 18 through January 8 including Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

As festival goers explore the winding pathways and travel from set to set, a new story is told at every stop. Let your imagination come alive and explore Magical Winter Lights.

Start your journey in a world of wonder as magical lanterns glimmer throughout the night. The Holiday

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Explore
Dinosaur Land
or Landmarks of
the World at
Magical Winter
Lights at Gulf
Greyhound Park
in La Marque.



Events

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Market Square features landmarks from North to South America to Houston. You can explore famous prehistoric animals in Dinosaur Land. Come see all Asia has to offer in *Mystery of the East* vibrant cultures and unforgettable landscapes. Marvel at the modern expressionist design of Australia's famous Opera House at *Man and Nature*. From colosseums to cathedrals, let these landmarks inspire you to plan a Europe trip when you tour *Landmarks of the World*.

All this is available, plus carnival rides, games, Chinese arts and crafts, cultural performances and live entertainment. Complete details and ticket

information at www.magicalwinterlights.com.

Jingle on the Boardwalk, December 2-24

Welcome the season with holiday music, a toy drive, parade, Starbucks Cheer Party and more every weekend in December. Visit www.kemahboardwalk.com for complete details.

Dickinson Festival of Lights, November 26-December 30

Walk through the magic of Christmas at Paul Hopkins Park in Dickinson from 6-8:30 p.m. Admission, parking and shuttle service is free.

Offerings include a cookie factory, pictures with Santa, a blinky hut and concession stands while you walk the magic of the lights.

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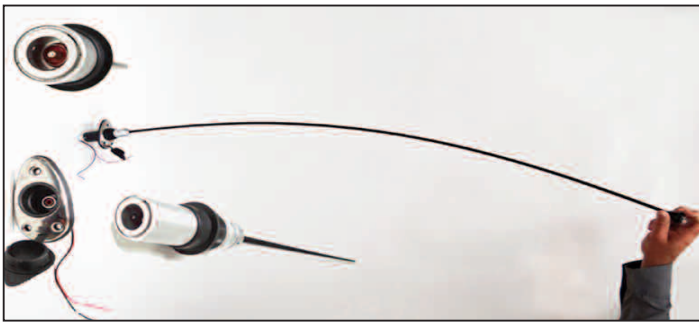
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Top five new boat accessories

*Courtesy boat.com
by Craig Ritchie*

The International Boatbuilders Exhibition and Conference (IBEX) is where parts and accessory manufacturers unveil their latest product designs. It's also where you'll see all the new gear that will be making its way to a winter boat show near you. The 2016 show, which was held at the Tampa Convention Center during October, saw more than 550 exhibitors unveil hundreds of boat accessories, including everything from electronics to engines to Bimini tops to wakeboard racks and more. The best were presented with IBEX Innovation Awards, and here are five of our favorites.



T-H Snapflex LED Stern Light

Traditional pole-style stern navigation lights have their problems — the poles inevitably become broken or dented, and the connecting pins corrode and break. A revolutionary new LED Stern Nav light design from T-H Marine supplies features a flexible fiberglass shaft that flexes and bends instead of breaking. It's rigid enough to remain fully upright even when running at high speeds, yet flexible enough to avoid damage when compromised. And the quick release snap base eliminates corrosion and pin breakage issues with its novel design.

Mercury Electronic Steering Helm

Mercury introduced a number of new products at the IBEX show, including the Electronic Steering Helm. Mercury's goal was to provide boaters with the benefits of an electronic helm, while providing the familiar feel of a mechanically or hydraulically

steered boat. By using Magneto-Resistive fluid (MR fluid) technology, the system provides free and easy turning at low boat speeds, then firms up nicely as vessel speed increases. The magnetic 'smart fluid' used in the device changes consistency from a moderately viscous fluid to a near-solid when subjected to a magnetic field, responding in milliseconds to allow for real-time control. It's a proven technology that's widely used in automotive applications and for making earthquake-resistant bridges — and now, in boat steering systems.



Roswell Triton Board Rack

Roswell's new Triton board rack accommodates almost any variety of wakeboard or surf board, holding them securely in a gravity-assisted vertical mounting position. Each board is clamped into place using a patent-pending telescopic arm system, avoiding the need for the use of rack straps.

Because the boards are held vertically, overall boat width is reduced, making it easier to enter a boat lift or a boat house. Even better, the vertical position ensures wet boards will drip outside the boat instead of all over the occupants.



Garmin GMR Fantom Radar

Garmin's new GMR Fantom radar brings recently de-milita-

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Accessories

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rized Doppler technology to recreational boating in a compact and intuitive radar set. The 6-foot open-array unit is said to be

the first 40W solid-state, pulse compression marine radar that uses the Doppler effect to instantly detect and highlight moving targets in real-time. Targets coming toward the boat are displayed in red, while those moving out of the way are displayed in green for easy navigation. What's more, the Phantom 6 includes an Auto Bird Gain setting to help identify flocks of birds feeding at the water's surface, which signal the location of feeding game fish.



Volvo Penta Volvo Penta Easy Drain

Volvo Penta's Easy Drain makes it easy to completely drain raw water from a gasoline stern drive engine at the push of a button, even if the boat is still in the water. This allows boaters to greatly extend their use in the shoulder seasons. Forecast for a few cold nights before warming up again on the weekend? No problem, just push a button to drain the block and prevent freezing damage, with no need to disconnect any hoses or remove the boat from the water. Easy Drain is standard on all new Volvo Penta Gen V 4.3L and 5.3L gasoline engines, and will be offered on the new 6.2L engine when introduced in 2017. Because all new-generation Volvo Penta gasoline engines have a closed-loop fresh-water cooling system, the engine block is protected by anti-freeze, making it much easier to drain raw water from the system.

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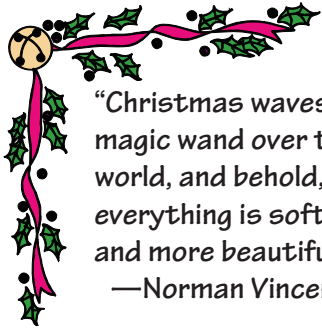
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