



AR Photos/Jen Landis

Portland's Christmas Ship Parade marks 60th year

This year marks the 60th anniversary of Portland's Christmas Ship Parade. The presentation of colorfully decorated ships plying the Willamette and Columbia Rivers kicked off December 5 and continues through December 21.

The 2014 flotilla features ships varying in length from 18 feet to 50 feet, and the combined fleets average 50 to 60 boats.

The 2014 parade season culminates on Sunday, December 21 at 5:00pm, when the Columbia and Willamette fleets assemble in front of the RiverPlace Marina, located at 1750 S.W. Harbor Way in Portland.

The final parade begins near RiverPlace and the Oregon Museum of Science & Industry, then proceeds upstream to the Old Spaghetti Factory before heading

downriver to St. Johns, arriving at about 6:30pm. The vessels remain in St. Johns for about 30 minutes, then head to the Columbia River, where each boat owner heads to their home port. Arrival times vary and are dependent on bridge openings and other occurrences during the evening.

The route of Portland's Christmas Ships can be followed on Twitter each evening at "@ChristmasShips." The progress of each group of boats can be distinguished with tweets tagged with #WillametteFleet and #ColumbiaFleet.

Christmas Ship enthusiasts are also invited to join ship skippers and their crew

for a special event on Saturday, December 20 from 3:00 to 4:30pm at the public dock in front of the RiverPlace Hotel. Santa will make an appearance and photo opportunities are featured. Keeping safety first and foremost, life jackets for attendees 12 years old and younger are available and must be worn before entering the break-water dock.

To learn more about the 2014 Christmas Ship Parade, to find viewing locations, or to make a donation to support the annual tradition, visit <www.christmasships.org>.

To view a list of other light shows in the Portland metropolitan area, see page 11.

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