

Gaucha Stuff

February 2010

Gauchos.parade.info@gmail.com

F.A.R.T. Storage Yard Location: 6508 North Habana Avenue, Tampa

COMMENTS

Another year has come and we are well into the parade season.

This year the weather has not been kind to us during our first two parades with wind and rain during the Gasparilla and a cold wind during the Illuminated Knight Parade

By the time you read this Newsletter we will have completed the Dunedin Mar Gras Parade. This also turned out to be a very cold evening.

So here are the contents for this newsletter as follows.

1. 50 Years Old
2. Parade Comments
3. Parade Awards
4. Float News
5. Float Plaque
6. 2010 Parade & Event Dates
7. New Gauchos
8. Membership
9. Upcoming Membership Renewal

1. GAUCHOS ARE 50 YEARS

OLD

This year the Gauchos celebrate their 50th year of being incorporated as a Non-Profit Organization.

From 1960 until 1987 we were part of and supported the Latin American Fiesta Association. In 1987 we became what we are today. The

Gaucha Association of Tampa. We had no float in those first days, but with the leadership from Gaucha Tom Henry and his design, a small group got together and built the "Caso de Gaucha". Over the years this became our house, bar and toilet.

At this time we were towing the unit behind Tom's pickup truck that had a canvas overcoat (!). Sometime in the middle 90's Tom obtained an old ford van and this was converted into the tow-unit complete with face. Over the years we have enhanced the units until last year we realized that we needed something bigger and better.

Not sure if I have all the facts straight but am sure you will forgive me if there is a slight error on timing. Some of you may wonder why we called the new float "The house of the Rising Sun" it was because this was the Gauchos first song. The version that is played during the parades is by "Santa Esmeralda" but the original hit in 1964 was by "The Animals"

2. PARADE COMMENTS

Gasparilla Parade. The parade was held on January 30th and this year the parade route was extended down Ashley Drive to Cass Street where it ended. As in past years we were located at the start of the parade being unit #17.

The day turned out to be overcast with prospect of wind and rain. The weather forecasters did not get it wrong and at about 12:45pm we had the first hint of rain, and then came the wind. Most of us had some form of rain gear but it was hard keeping the rain gear down over ones shoulders due to the wind. Fortunately it was not cold but a little damp.

We had about 80 gauchos turn out for the parade considering the weather forecast. We all made it to the end of the parade without getting too much of a soaking, including myself with my open rear end exposed to the world.

Illuminated Knight Parade. Again the weather forecast was not good. No rain this time but some cold wind. This year the parade route had been shorten due to some high profile events taking place in Tampa which reduced the amount of security in Ybor City.

This year we started at the front of the parade being Unit #19. The parade started at 7pm and by 8pm we had it completed and the float was on its way back to the FART yard. We had about 60 gauchos turn out and everyone seem to have a good time even though the crowds were somewhat smaller than usual.

Dunedin Mardi Gras Parade

This parade was held on February 16th and 26 gauchos turned out to parade on this very cold evening. This is a small parade but the turn out of the crowds is always large. The float

drove over there with 6 gauchos' in attendance plus the driver. The drive over was cold depending on where you were sitting but coming back it did not seem that bad.

3. PARADE AWARDS.

As you are aware we did not win any awards at the Gasparilla Parade, however, have not been able to determine if we won an award at the Illuminated Knight Parade.

As to the Dunedin Parade., as we have only just completed this parade it still too early to say one way or the other. Will keep everyone posted.

4. FLOAT NEWS

Most of you have now read Gaucho Tom Henry comments regarding the performance of the new float. He mentions that other than a few tweaks to get it perfect it's a growing entity always subject to modification.

As mention in his e-mail the old FACE tow unit is being retired to the bone yard, and by stripping off all the Gaucho detail it is hoped to have a possible club patio bar at the FART Yard. This is a possible summer project and we will need some help to strip the old unit and discard it.

As to the question of the Key West parade, the plan is to use the CASA del GAUCHO as it has all the mod-cons (Bar, head, Light Show, Music) and is tow able.

**THE NEW FLOAT IS NOW
LOCATED AT REAR OF 6508
NORTH HABANA AVENUE**

5. FLOAT PLAQUE.

During the construction of the new float or should I say the "La Casa del Sol Naciente" a group was formed that became known as F.A.R.T. "Float Assembly and Restoration Team" It was this core group that come together and worked and completed the new float.

We also realized that we had invested more in the float and shelter than the original estimates and thus we had run our bank account to situation that had raised red flags.

It was this mind that Gaucho Tom Henry came up with the idea of a Float Plaque. His plan was to recognize the specific members of the FART and also recognize those who would make an additional donation. Each donor who makes a donation will have his name on the float plaque under the following categories for a specific amount.

"Silver Category" new donation of \$150.00

"Gold Category" new donation of \$250.00

"Diamond Category" new donation of \$350.00

The Float Plaque (s) would then be on permanent display on the float and will be part of Gaucho History.

Anyone wishing to donate should make out their check to the Gaucho Association and forward to the following address:

38702 8th Avenue, Zephyrhills, FL
33542-4208

To date we have not moved forward with the plaque due to the upcoming parades and the minor workload involved with the float.

It is hoped that after the last parade and my vacation that Tom and myself will get together and work out the final details for presentation to the Directors.

**FINALLY, THE DIRECTORS OF
THE GAUCHO ASSOCIATION
WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE
FOLLOWING:**

- THE F.A.R.T. CREW WHO INVESTED THEIR TIME AND HARD WORK IN GETTING THE WHOLE PROJECT COMPLETED IN TIME FOR UPCOMING PARADE SEASON.
- TO THE GAUCHOS WHO MADE AN ADDITIONAL DONATION TO OVERCOME OUR BUDGET SHORTFALL.

**6. 2010 PARADE & EVENT
DATES**

March 13th

Rough Rider's St Patrick Parade

March 20th

- Chasco Fiesta Street Parade

March 25th

Honda Grand Prix Illuminated Night Parade and Fireworks, St.Petersburg.

7. NEW GAUCHOS

Since the last newsletter last November we have added one more Gaucho to our ranks.

Please welcome David O Butler who is sponsored by Kevin Shearouse and Joe Boromei Jr. David is an engineer and lives in Tarpon Springs.

He joined us in late November and became immediately involved with the construction of the new float.

Welcome David.

8. MEMBERSHIP

As you have see from one of my e-mails we now have a membership of one hundred seventeen (117). This means that we have opening for 33 applicants.

If you know anyone that wants to join the association, now is the time to take advange of the situation.

Just direct them to our website and to the tool bar on the left side of the screen where they will find the application form. Complete and forward.

When it is received, a confirming e-mail will be forwarded from myself indicating that we have received the application.

Please keep me informed of any changes you make to your address and telephone numbers. (Whether it is e-mail or home address) If you don't inform me then you may miss out on important parade information

9. UPCOMING MEMEBERSHIP RENEWAL.

On of my recent e-mails was to advise members, that due to our financial situation, we were willing to accept membership renewals for the 2010/2011 period and that there was no pressure on anyone and is completely voluntary.

This voluntary situation still exists and anyone wishing to submit their 2010/2011 renewal can do so. Please submit to the address mentioned above. Membership renewal is \$225.00 and checks should be made out to the Gaucho Association.

As in past years invoices for this period will be mailed out about July 1st, 2010.

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You can reach me the following numbers
(Home) 813-788-5824 (24/7) or
(Cell) 813-843-8500
Or e-mail me at:
gauchos.parade.info@gmail.com

Please **DO NOT USE** my AOL address for Gaucho related items


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