

The Virgin Islands Consortium

St. Croix Christmas Boat Parade Set To Dazzle This Saturday As Festival Season Kicks Off In Earnest

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ST. CROIX -- The St. Croix Christmas Boat Parade Committee on Wednesday announced its annual, free and heavily patronized event, the St. Croix Boat Parade, which sees lighted boats putting on a show of music and lights for event-goers, as they glide on the waters of the Christiansted Harbor.

The show is traditionally followed by an amazing fireworks display, and this year promises not to disappoint.

At about noon, King Street closes to traffic and fills with local vendors. Entertainment starts with the Ebenezer Methodist Children's Steel Band, and continues with Willard

Johnt and other acts, including Moko Jumbies and Christmas carolers all afternoon, according to the committee.

This year's highlights include Lazo, who will be performing at the Comanche Mill at 4:00 p.m. Lazo is one of the original Wailers who played with Bob Marley's band and now travels the world playing Bob Marley's well-known hits.

Just before sunset, a hang glider will soar 1,200 feet above the harbor. Then, a team of stand up paddleboarders, dressed as Rudolph and eight tiny reindeer, will lead Santa Claus to start the parade.

Twenty-three lighted boats have signed up this year, ranging in size from 16 to 68 feet in length. The boat owners have each beautifully decorated their boats at their own expense, out of love and respect for the Christmas season, according to the release.

While the event is free, VIP tickets will be available for \$50/person, permitting entry to an exclusive viewing area between the Caravelle Hotel and the Holger Dansk with catering, a cash bar and port-a-potties. Tickets may be purchased from Mary Sluss, (340) 513-4286.

The St. Croix Christmas Boat Parade is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and solicits donations from local Crucian and family businesses. There is no entry fee for the boaters and no charge to view the parade or enjoy the entertainment. After all parade and fireworks expenses are paid, any remaining monies are used to help fund local children's charities and orphanages on the island.