



# GaUCHO Stuff

July 2014

[Gauchos.parade.info@gmail.com](mailto:Gauchos.parade.info@gmail.com)

F.A.R.T Storage Yard Location: 6508 North Habana Ave, Tampa, FL 33614

## Comment:

Time passes, and it has been a very quiet time since the Chasco Parade which terminated the end of the 2014 parade season. Not a great deal has happen except that the Directors met at the end of June to discuss the past parade season, our financial situation and the maintenance of the floats during the summer months.

With regards to the financial situation, it was felt that at this time that the current membership fees should be increased as it was some 6 or 7 years since that last increase took place. So, your directors discussed and agreed that the fee should be increased slightly and together with another increase sometime in the future. You will note that the invoices that you receive will reflect this increase so the yearly membership has now increased to \$250.00 per year from \$225.00 and it was felt that this slight increase would be more acceptable to the membership.

## Comments on the 2014 Parade Season

This parade season saw the Gaucho Association winning the "Grand Prize" for the 2014 Gasparilla Parade. This came as a bit of a surprise and we received the award at a luncheon held in early March. The award was in the form of a plaque which states *"2014 Gasparilla Parade of Pirates, Grand Prize, Gaucho Association of Tampa"*. This plaque will be hung in the main float unit at a location still to be determined. A picture of this plaque can be seen on the Gauchos Association Facebook page

We were also advised at the time of accepting the award that at the 2015 Gasparilla Parade we will be located in the head of the parade and banners will be issue to us indicating that the Gaucho Association was the 2014 Gasparilla Grand Prize winner.

## Attendance for the 2014 Parade Season

During the last couple of years Gauchos have come to myself at the parades and asked a question on my estimate of how many Gauchos attended the current parade, have therefore tried to keep a record on the number of Gauchos who have attended the parades over the last couple of years.



Below is a breakdown of parade attendees for the last couple of years.

	2012	2013	2014
Gasparilla Parade	64	64	66
Krewe of Knights of Sant' Yago Illuminate Parade	54	51	43
Dunedin Mardi Gras Parade	28	26	30
Rough Riders St.Patrick's Parade	39	43	37
Chasco Street Parade	22	22	17
Veteran's Parade	9	11**	-

(\*\*included two Gauchos who were acting as parade monitors)

## Membership

Would also like to welcome the following new Gauchos to the association

GaUCHO Juan J Malvarez (also known as JJ) was sponsored by GaUCHO Mark Ossian. JJ lives in St. Petersburg and is a Physical Conditioning Specialist.

GaUCHO Tyrone Tony Alonso was sponsored by GaUCHO Joe Teston. Tony lives in Seffner and is an Auto Warranty Manager

Both these new Gauchos were introduced at the GaUCHO Picnic that was held on January 18, 2014

*We would like to bring to all Gauchos attention that this is the time of the year to think about getting friends to join the association. This is more so in this coming year when we shall have more exposure at the Gasparilla Parade than we have done in the past due to the association being the Grand Prize Winner of the 2014 Gasparilla Parade of Pirates. In this respect we will be part of the front section of the parade with banners (issued to us by the YMKG) to highlight the fact that we were the 2014 Gasparilla Parade Winner*

Now is the ideal time to recruit or sound out your friends on their interest in joining the GaUCHO Association. By joining in this period would mean that they would have ample time to get a costume made and be ready for the 2015 parade season. **It should be noted that we rely on you, the membership, to get the word out about the GaUCHO Association.** Thinking about next year's Gasparilla parade this would be good time, as stated



above, to have interested parties join the Gauchos. We should have maximum exposure at the parade including the TV coverage

At the last directors meeting in December 2013 the matter of deferment was discussed and it was outlined to the directors the procedure that had been set up. Therefore the following was agreed and hopefully members wishing deferment would follow these procedures.

- a) Members could request deferment of their membership for a number reasons, however they would not be able to participate in any of the parades but would continue to receive e-mails and information on the Gauchos Association.
- b) Members should request their deferment at the time of the membership renewal period (July to October)
- c) After one year on the deferment list, there should be a further confirmation that they wish to extend this deferment for a further year.
- d) It was agreed that deferment should be for two years max. however, if after this two year period, there is no further correspondence from the deferred member, then he will be deemed to have resigned.

### **Parade Season 2015 Dates:**

Have now been able to establish the dates for the 2015 parade season as listed below. Please note that Ash Wednesday is on February 18, hence the Dunedin Mardi Gras parade will be held on the day before. It means that we will have two parades between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> February. All other parade dates have been obtained from their respective websites.

Saturday January 24, 2015	GaUCHO Picnic (also the Children's Gasparilla Parade)
Saturday January 31, 2015	Gasparilla Parade
Shrove Tuesday February 17, 2015	Dunedin Mardi Gras Parade
Saturday February 21, 2015	Krewe of the Knights of Sant' Yago Illuminated Nite Parade
Saturday March 14, 2015	St. Patrick's Parade (Ybor City)
Saturday March 21, 2015	Chasco Street Parade
Saturday November 7 <sup>th</sup> or 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	Veterans Day Parade



### **Parade Monitors:**

As in past years we have had to provide parade monitors on all four corners of the float combination. Recruitment of monitors seems to very difficult from time to time and we have to rely on you the members to do what you can to recruit your friends but hopefully you can now give your friends some idea of the dates of the various events. Please note the dates of the 2015 parade season above and this may help some people to make a determination.

This past parade season has been no different from the parade seasons of the past. As in years past we are going to need monitors for each of the parades we attend with the exception of the Dunedin Parade, unless we are notified otherwise. Gaucho Eric Morales will be our safety officer and again be responsible for ensuring that the monitors are in the correct location, i.e., each corner of the float. We hope you will advise your friends that they are prohibited from drinking alcohol in the staging area and along the parade route or the throwing items into the crowd on the actual parade route. At the recent directors meeting it was agreed that monitors should not use the Gaucho cups or other cups of a similar nature. This is because we had received notification that monitors were seen drinking with Krewe members and was it assumed that they were consuming alcohol. We will, as in past parades, be providing soft drinks and bottles of water and non-alcohol beer.

As in past years we are going to have to comply with regulation issued by the YMKG that all Gauchos, including the driver, bartenders and monitors all wear numbered wristbands. As originally stated each Gaucho, driver, bartender and monitor has to sign for each numbered wrist band. In next year's Gasparilla parade we are going to be located in the head of the parade which may mean that we will be located within the staging security area. This means one may not be able to enter this area, regardless of wearing a costume, unless they are wearing a numbered wristband. So it will necessary for all Gauchos, unless you are riding the float directly to the staging area, to obtain their wristband prior to going to the staging area.

### **Riding the Float:**

It was observed during one of the parades that several Gauchos, riding on the roof of the float, were seen standing on the seated area in the mid-area of the roof. This is a warning to all Gauchos that standing on this seated area is dangerous and could result in a nasty fall into the well of the roof area or off the float completely on to road below.

Further there is a limit to number of Gauchos who can ride the roof and it will be made clear prior to the parades what those limits are. Further we have a list of Gauchos who have medical problems which have requested permission to ride the top of the float. Again we will be listing those names prior to the parade season and be refining the rules on who can and cannot ride this roof area.



### **GaUCHO Name/Year Tags:**

Over the last couple of years a number of Gauchos have applied for new name tags with their joining year engraved.

This offer is still available to all Gauchos, so if any Gaucho wishes to have a new name tag complete with his joining year, they should contact me so that arrangements can be made to have new tags supplied

Replacement cost of tags:                      Engrave name tag with year = \$6.75 plus tax plus postage. (approx.)

### **New Gaucho Medallions:**

At the end of last year we purchase a quantity of Gaucho Medallions and over a short period from the Gaucho Picnic we manage to sell the whole consignment. It is the intention, therefore before the end of the year to again purchase another quantity of these medallions. The overall design will remain the same however the lanyard will be slightly different and will include on it the Gaucho name and logo.

### **Facebook Page**

Since the last newsletter the face book page has now been updated and grown with a few more people and we now have fifty-four people enrolled on the Gauchos face-book page. The page has been updated by myself with a pictures of the plaque that was awarded to the Association regarding the Grand Prize winner of the Parade of Pirates.

If you are interested in seeing the content of our Facebook page please enter in search box "Gaucho Association of Tampa" and this will immediate take you to the Gauchos Face- book page.

Look for future information on events and news of the Gaucho

### **Gaucho Donation Plaque**

When the city bus was purchase and the conversion was completed it was decided to have a plaque installed in the float to name the Gauchos who had donated additional money to have the float converted. At that time this additional money helped to finalization the conversion of the float to what you see today. Those Gauchos who donated money were honored by having their names engraved on a plaque which now hangs within the float.

Any Gaucho interested in making a donation to the float fund, then here are the categories:

"Silver Category	new donation of \$150.00
"Gold Category"	new donation of \$250.00
"Diamond Category"	new donation of \$300.00



We welcome all donations and submitting a donation will mean your name will be added to the Gaucho Donation Plaque. Please make out your check to the Gaucho Association and mark it "donation" and forward to the following address "38702 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Zephyrhills, Florida 33542-4208".

**FINAL NOTE:**

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 or other information.

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You can reach me at the following numbers

Home (813) 788-5824

Cell (813) 843-8500

Or e-mail at: [gauchos.parade.info@gmail.com](mailto:gauchos.parade.info@gmail.com)

Please DO NOT USE my "AOL" address for Gaucho related items.

*David J Smith*

*VP-Membership*

