



GaUCHO Stuff

January 2015

Gauchos.parade.info@gmail.com

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

Comments:

And so another new year is upon us and we are now weeks away from marching down Bayshore Blvd once again.

The past six months has been a sad one with the death of two ex-Gauchos, first Bobby Vondrak (Jim Vondrak's brother) and then ex-GaUCHO Jack McAlias and also the death of two current members, Vice-president David Matchus and GaUCHO Mark Whitney.

Membership:

We have now completed the membership renewals for the year 2014/15 and the total membership now stands at eighty six (86#) total and eight (8#) defer members.

Would like to remind all Gauchos that we are always looking to increase the membership and if you know someone that is interested in joining then please get them to review our website where they can find the registration form

At this time would like to welcome the following new Gauchos to the Association

GaUCHO Steven Ambrosio is a returning GaUCHO who was a member of the Association from January 1996 to 2001. Steve lives in Seminole and is retired. Should also mention that his son-in-law is GaUCHO Derek Pontlitz

GaUCHO Brian Bisesto (known as "B") is sponsored by GaUCHO Tim Rutherford. Brian is Home Builder/General Contractor and lives in Lithia.

GaUCHO Troy Short is sponsored by GaUCHO Mark Ossian. Troy is in Sales and lives in Trinity

GaUCHO Brian Graham is sponsored by GaUCHO Steve Sherlip. Brian is a Business Development Manager for an Electronics Manuf. Co and lives in Dunedin.

GaUCHO Adrian LaTrace is sponsored by GaUCHO Steve Sherlip and Brian Graham. Adrian is a Bus Owner and lives in Seminole.



Deferred Membership

At the directors meeting held 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.

Your Directors.

At the 2013 Directors meeting we were notified that Director Doug Cossaboon was resigning due to family commitments. Doug had been a director for about three or four years and his input had been in helping Gaucho Tom Henry maintained the float combination. This reduced the number of directors to eight and the matter of a replacement was put on hold for a year. At the meeting in December 2013 it was decided by an overall decision that an approach should be made to Gaucho John Henry Leazer III to see if he would interested in filling that position. As of the date of this newsletter, am able to confirm that John has accepted the offer and will now be the ninth director. John has been with the Gauchos since 1996 and in the last three or four years has been the Gaucho Association representative at the Inner Krewe Council.

Comments on the 2014 Gasparilla Parade

As mention in the last Newsletter the 2014 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 is now hanging in the main body of the float.

We were also advised at the time of accepting the award that that we would be located at the head of the 2015 Gasparilla Parade. (In fact the lineup for the parade lists us as Unit #3) We have received the banners that we are the Grand Prize Winners and these have been installed at positions where the Gasparilla crowd can see them.



Attendance for the 2014 Parade Season

For your information, below is a breakdown of parade attendees for the last couple of years together with the attendance on the 2014 Veteran's Parade

	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**	21**
(**included two Gauchos who were acting as parade monitors)			

It is hoped that we can improved on the attendance at the 2015 parades.

Gaicho Picnic:

The Gaicho Picnic is to be held on Saturday January 24, 2015 from 2 to 6pm at the Temple Terrace Golf and Country Club. The address is 200 Inverness Avenue, Temple Terrace. (813-988-1791)

All Gauchos are welcome with their wives and girlfriends and friends who are interested in supporting and joining the Gauchos Association. We would also like to welcome the deferred members of the Association who we may not have seen in some time. Your well behavior children are also welcome but please be aware that the event is close to the swimming pool and children should be marshalled at all times.

Food will be available from 3 to 3:15pm and we would welcome Gauchos bringing a covered dessert. There will be free beer and also a cash bar plus there will be Gaicho mood music by Gaicho Bobby Floyd.

So please come along and meet your fellow Gauchos for conversation, and to meet and greet some of the newer Gauchos who have joined in the last six months.



2015 Gasparilla Parade

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. Time is getting short as we have only about 3 weeks to the first parade which is the Gasparilla Parade on January 31, 2015. We shall have more exposure at the 2015 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

Parade Season 2015 Dates:

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 Saturdays February 14th and the 21st. All other parade dates have been obtained from their respective websites.

Saturday January 24, 2015	Gaucha Picnic (also the Children's Gasparilla Parade)
Saturday January 31, 2015	Gasparilla Parade
Saturday February 14, 2015	Krewe of the Knights of Sant' Yago Illuminated Nite Parade
Shrove Tuesday February 17, 2015	Dunedin Mardi Gras Parade
Saturday March 14, 2015	St. Patrick's Parade (Ybor City)
Saturday March 21, 2015	Chasco Street Parade
Saturday May 30, 2015	Clearwater Centennial Parade (to be confirmed)
Saturday November 7, 2015	Veterans Day Parade

2015 GASPARILLA 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.



At this time am glad to inform all Gauchos that we have the required the necessary monitors for the 2015 Gasparilla Parade.

Gaicho 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. At stated in the parade regulations (City of Tampa Ordinance) monitors are prohibited from consuming alcohol in the staging area and along the actual parade route or throwing items into the crowds on the actual parade route.

Numbered Wrist Bands:

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 the upcoming 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 last year 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 the number of Gauchos who can ride on the roof of the float and we will be issuing a list of Gauchos who have medical problems and have requested permission to ride the top of the float. At this time the Directors have nominated a Gaucho to monitor the roof area to ensure the safety of all concerned and monitor the number of Gauchos in this area.

Enhancements to the Float:

During the past six months a number of enhancements have been made to the float interior. **First**, the sound equipment has been moved from adjacent to the driver to area behind the driver. **Second**, the bar area has been upgraded with steel bins to store the kegs and ice and a new bar top. **Third**. The area between the sound equipment and the rear wheel box has been allocated for two large white coolers for the water and soft drinks. The coolers themselves have been encased in a wooden cage. We ask and request that you do not put any bags on the top of these coolers as that will impede the access to the coolers. **Fourth**, we have now



installed a montage of photos on the underside to the roof facing inwards depicting some the Gauchos and the parades that they have attended.

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 =approx. \$8.00 plus tax plus postage.
(approx.)

New Gaucho Medallions and Caprags:

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 eliminate the whole consignment. We have therefore ordered and received a quantity of new medallions which will be available at the picnic and the parades. These new units have a different lanyard which is in white with the Gaucho logo (in color) and the words "Gaucho Association of Tampa" in black on the white background. We have also ordered and received a quantity of Caprags. These are in black with the word "Gauchos" embroidered on the front. Again these will be available at the picnic and the parades

Gaucho Stuff:

At the picnic you will be able to view the Gaucho Stuff. This is in the form of Logo shirts, tank tops etc., etc. and all items will be in bins and available during the picnic. These items have been in air conditioned storage for a number of years and are clean and some still in the wrappers. During those years we have been able to reduce the stock however, your directors feel that the time has come and that we should eliminate this stock once and for all completely.

Gaucho Donation Plaque

When the city bus was purchased 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 8th 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.

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

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

David J Smith

VP-Membership

