

# Boat Parade...continued from Page 1A



community members gather together to watch the boats float on by, enjoying a day of celebration and patriotism.

This year, boats and spectators were in full force, filling the marina and surrounding areas, with some cars even parked down Highway 129, before the festivities began at 11 p.m.

"This year, actually, the weather was way better," said Moriah Doucette. "The weather was fantastic this year for the boat parade."

"I would say that people were more excited about it this year. We had about the same turnout as last year but everyone enjoyed themselves much more because we didn't have any rain this year. "It was warm, it was sunny and I believe that this year was far better than last year because of the weather, if nothing else."

For those who participated in the boat parade, while patriotic red, white and blue decorations were more than welcome, there was no overarching theme. Having fun and enjoying the marina was the only real requirement, and it was obvious that all those in attendance fit the bill.

Thinking outside the box was important with this year's parade, remembering to not only woo the crowd but also impress the line of

judges, who ultimately decide who went above and beyond each year, winning the ever-coveted top prize.

"We had nine winners, really," said Doucette. "The number one overall winner was our two-year champ and it was the Ghostbuster Boat. They killed it. They won it."

"They did a very good job. They go all out each year. Larry Smith is the one who coordinates that boat, his boat, for the boat parade every year."

"Him and his family, they deck it out, everybody gets on the boat and everyone gets involved. They do a great job each year."

While the Ghostbuster Boat caught the top prize – decked out with all the ghost-catching necessities, slime monster and all – it was a tight race for the top.

The eight runners-up, though still winners in the eyes of the marina, surely gave the Ghostbusters Boat a run for its money: Grillin' in America, serving up freshly grilled treats; Nothing but a Good Time, dishing out oldies hits for the crowd; Noah's Ark, counting everything in pairs; Rio' 2016; Olympics cruiser, suited up with tennis rackets; Splish-Splash Bubble bath, complete with the rubber ducky and plenty of white

balloon bubbles; a Donald Trump boat; and finally an all-American classic.

Two Blairsville locals, Dianne and Ernie Cantrell, saw the beginning of the parade from the highway on their way home from the Farmers Market. Dianne said they rushed home, threw the fresh flowers in a vase and headed back to the Marina as quickly as they could.

"I just love any of the

boats with American flags on it," said Dianne. "It's a great day to celebrate America and we're so happy to be here."

And looking out across the lake, it was clear to see that the Cantrells were not the only ones happy to gather together

in support of the red, white and blue at the Nottely Marina for one of the best Fourth of July Boat Parades yet.



## Public forum: Safety On and Around the Lake July 16th

"Safety On and Around the Lake" a public forum open to all, will be held on Saturday, July 16, 2016 at 7 p.m., Haralson Civic Center Conference Room, 165 Wellborn Street.

Representatives of TVA, GA DNR, USFS, Union County will address issues affecting our community in a Q&A session. Topics for consideration are: shoal water markers, boat

ing safety and enforcement, lake lot and part-time residents' issues, debris containment, muddy water run-off from construction. A second presentation by county and city development leaders to address plans including managing growth.

Hosted by the Lake Nottely Improvement Association (lniablast@outlook.com), www.lakenottely.org.