

“At A Glanz” December ... My Favorite Month



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I love December.
Specifically, I love
December in New York

City. New York City is always great, but in December, there's an energy and sense of excitement that just isn't there any other time of year.

I always laugh and secretly mock the people that say New York is too crazy on New Years Eve. What?!?!? It's *too* crazy??

Now you need to understand a few things here. My batting average in picking up ladies isn't going to scare Derek Jeter. Normally I'll go up to a girl, she'll look at me with scorn, pity, and then a little more scorn. Finally she'll walk away in disgust and mutter to her friend loud enough for me to hear, "I told you we should have went to that other place." I then pretend I didn't hear her, put my head down in shame, and slowly walk away, back to my guy friends who toast my failure.

But on New Years Eve its different. Last July, I tried explaining to my coed hockey team, the Happy Little Elves why NYE in NYC is so great. I told them of the lines I used, and some of my tactics. One of the girls looked at me, rolled her eyes and shook her head. I said to her, "Exactly!! This would never work on July 17, but on

December 31 or the early morning of January 1, it works! I can't prove it, but if you come with me on NYE, you will see what I mean."

It actually makes sense if you think about it. The people are joyous and ready to party. They are believers too, and we scorn the Heathens together. We hug, we dance, and on most NYE, we even kiss. I thought nothing could ever top New Years Eve in New York City. But I think I may have been wrong.

Last year, I was introduced to this event called Santa Con by my friend Owen. It would be a disservice to call Santa Con a bar crawl, though there are plenty of bar stops. It starts at 10 a.m. somewhere in NYC. Guys dress as Santa, and girls dress as elves, reindeers, or other Christmas related outfits. You can't just wear a Santa hat. You have to come in a holiday related costume.

I arrived at around 11 a.m. and saw a group of around 50 Santa's walking by Madison Square Garden. We all went to a bar in the 30's for about half an hour. When I came out of the bar I couldn't believe my eyes. The whole block was covered with Santas.

It was an amazing sight. One side of the street chanted, "Ho! Ho! Ho!" and then waited for the other side to chant the same. We would all get on the subway and chant, "Santa takes the N! Santa takes the N!" People would randomly start singing, "You better watch out, you better watch out, you better watch out, you better watch out..."

Basically, you could sing, dance, and be merry, and it was totally normal.

But there are rules. There are no disorderly Santas. You encounter a lot of kids along the way and you have to be respectful and cheerful to all of them. There is no fighting allowed. Santa is happy, not mean.

Unfortunately, I am breaking one of the key rules. Santa is not a media hound. But I can't help it. I feel everyone should know about this amazing event.

This year I'm going all out. I'm forming my RHA - Richie Hero Army. I've gotten several friends to come along with me this year, and we are going to be the happiest fun Santa's and Elves in all of NYC.

This year's event is December 12. I don't know where it starts; Santa doesn't release that information until the night of December 11. And I can't provide a link, because the link I know of is not rated PG. But if you google Santa Con, it will come up.

So I implore you my friends, *embrace* the crazy!! Sing, dance, party, take the train, and most of all, have the time of your life this December. We live so close to the best City in the world, lets all take advantage of it.