



Track Santa Live

# NEWSLETTER



Sept 1st 2017

Dear Santa Trackers,

I would like to welcome you to our first edition of our brand new TrackingSantaLive Newsletter. This newsletter will be a way for you to keep up on all of the current and future events going on while we prepare for our 9th Annual Live show on December 24th. The next couple months, you will be seeing multiple changes to the newsletter as we learn what works and doesn't work. We want to make sure that you all get the best experience out of reading our new newsletters.

We have also been very busy getting prepared for December 24th. This month we are working hard on getting our 2017 Santa Cams ready for the big day. Our Board of Director member Liam Warden is the mastermind behind the creation of our Santa Cams which we have been doing for 2 years now. We will be exploring the creation of the Santa Cams later in this newsletter. We are also preparing for our Annual Tracking Santa Live Pre-Show which broadcasts on December 23rd at 6:00p.m EST. We hope you all make it for the pre-show as there will be some sneak peeks of what to expect during our main show the next day. We would like to also announce that we will be having a Secret Special Guest Host during the 8a.m EST block of our main show. You won't want to miss it!

We would like to say thanks to all our returning fans and say welcome to anybody who is new. If you would like more info on what we do, please check us out at [www.santatracking.net](http://www.santatracking.net). We hope to see you all in 5 months!

Happy Holidays,  
Jason Strait,  
Newsletter Editor

See inside the **NORTH POLE**

**CHECK OUT THE PODCAST ON ITUNES!**

**NORAD TRACKS SANTA**

**MyMerryChristmas**

**LEGACY COUNTDOWN VILLAGES**

Track with us on **INSTAGRAM**

Track with us on **FACEBOOK**

Track with us on **TWITTER**

# FESTIVE STORIES

On this Section of the newsletter, we will have stories written by our very own members. They will range from multiple different topics but will always be festive! I hope you enjoy!

## Story #1 - Submitted by Luke Dillon (Team Member since 2009)



Did you ever know some people around the world don't celebrate Christmas on the 25th of December, some celebrate later, and some celebrate well before? Did you know that your traditions might seem odd to others, and vice versa? This newsletter we will take a look at the interesting traditions around the world. Enjoy!

In Mexico, every Christmas, stores and markets are full of piñatas. On Christmas morning, kids race to where the piñata is hung which is most often a ceiling in their house. Piñata are paper mache sculptures filled with candy, coins, and small gifts. The children take turns hitting the piñata until it finally bursts open all of the treats fall to the floor. The children run to them and gather as much of treats as they can get.

In Australia, December 25th lands right in the middle of their summer! Therefore the temperatures are high, often above 100 degrees Fahrenheit, and family's race to the beach side and their local pools for cook outs and family gatherings where they exchange gifts. Sometimes instead of a hot turkey or ham for their Christmas dinner, they often have seafood!

In Spain, instead of having a formal dinner on Christmas, they often have it the night before, on Christmas Eve with their families. After their dinner they head to a midnight mass, also known as "La Misa Del Gallo". After the midnight mass they go into the streets and have large festivals/parades and play guitars, drums, etc.

In Japan, Christmas Eve is often more celebrated than Christmas day! Their Christmas Eve resembles Valentine's Day in the U.K. and USA more than anything. Couples exchange gifts and often take walks and look at the Christmas lights. On Christmas day, their most eaten food is fried chicken! People place orders from fast food restaurants in Japan months before since the food is so popular!

I bet you didn't know all of these other traditions! I sure didn't. Next time I celebrate Christmas in my own traditions, I'll be sure to stop and think about what other people may be doing around the world, because it sure is interesting!

## Story #2: Submitted by Jason Strait (Team Member since 2013)



Tracking Santa with Norad would not be the same without their famous Santa Cams! Norad's Santa Cams have mesmerized children and even adults for years. In 2015, our group decided to try our own Santa Cams. The brains of this operation is Liam Warden. He has animated and programmed the cams all by himself for the past 3 years. I interviewed him about his work on the cams and why he decided to start this new tradition. "I think what made me start creating Santa Cams was the whole fascination that I've had with them since the beginning of when I started tracking Santa and when I saw my first Santa Cam in 2009 and I like how they work and how engaging they are" he said when asked why he started working on them. He also included the fact that Norad use to have North Pole updates with 3D models during the time when the countdown ended and before Santa takes off. "One of my main motivations is that in the morning of tracking, since I'm in the UK, I wake up at the very start and I watch the clock run down every Christmas eve and since it's only text updates now, it gets very boring and I wanted to change that" he added. I then decided to move the conversation to how the Santa Cams were originally created. He told me that during the first year, there was a bit of discussion on how to create Santa Cams without interfering with Norad's set of cams. "We wanted to coincide with them, not compete with Norad and that was the message we wanted to send early on". When asked about the financial side of creating Santa Cams, he said "The first year, I didn't pay a penny but because of its success the first year, I invested a considerable sum of money into the models of the cams during the second year to help grow them." Santa Cams will again be back this year and Liam has been working hard to make them the best for all of you guys at home. We hope that you check them out this Christmas Eve at [santatracking.net](http://santatracking.net)!



# SPECIAL RECIPES

Each month will include a very special recipe picked out from our team for you to enjoy. This month, we selected a very traditional recipe but with a twist!

*\*REMEMBER!!! Always have a parent with you when baking!\**

"A "Christmasy" version of chocolate chip cookies. Use crushed candy canes or the round red and white peppermint hard candies. The shortening helps make them soft."



## Ingredients

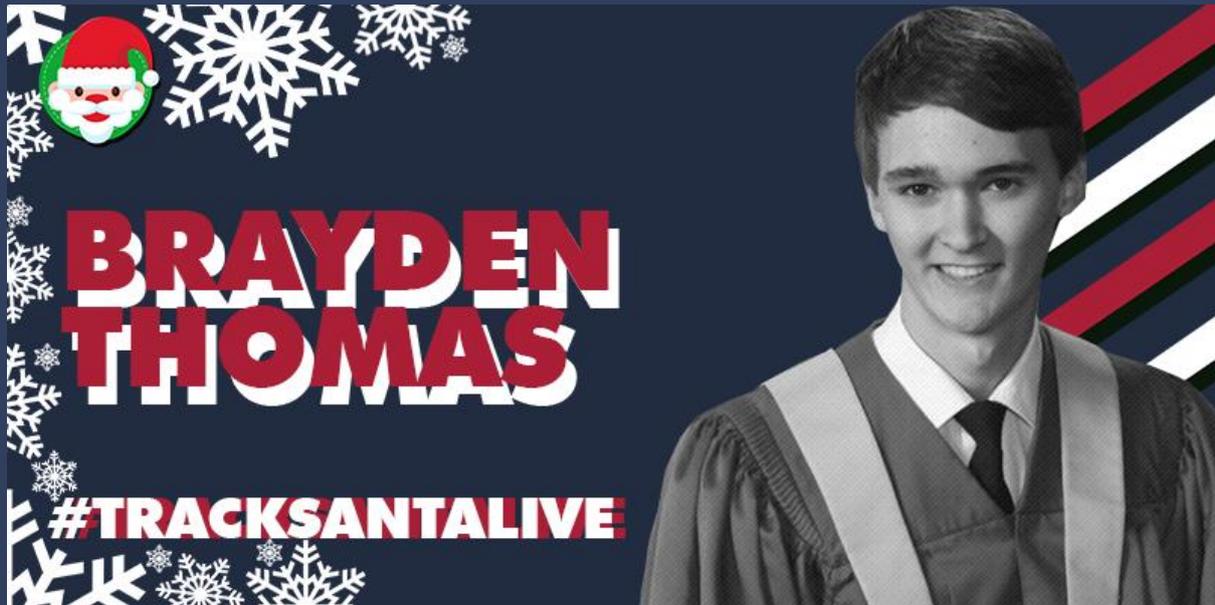
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 1/2 cup shortening, at room temp
- 3/4 cup white sugar
- 3/4 cup light brown sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 1 1/2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup crushed candy cane, measure after crushing

## Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350.
2. Beat together the butter, shortening, white sugar, and brown sugar.
3. Beat in the eggs, vanilla and almond extract.
4. Combine the baking soda, salt and flour in a small bowl. Gradually beat this mixture into the creamed mixture.
5. Beat well.
6. Stir in the chocolate chips and crushed candy canes.
7. Drop onto lightly greased cookie sheets by tsps; keeping 2" apart.
8. Bake at 350 for 11-13 minutes or until lightly golden brown around edges.

# MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Each Month, a member will be selected for Tracking Member of the Month. This means that they have shown excellent service to helping make tracking even more enjoyable! In September 2017, our Tracking Member of the Month is Brayden Thomas. He has been a member since 2009 and has always helped make tracking more enjoyable every year.



Brayden Thomas - Sept 2017 Member of the Month

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## Team YANTSU Updates -

TrackingSantaLive Summer Trailer has been released.  
You can check it out at <http://santatracking.net>



Special Guest Host confirmed for our 8a.m block.

