

Dear New Member,

Welcome to the Mystic Krewe of Aquarius. My name is Johnny Lidstone, I am a Charter Member, President and Captain of The Krewe. Our Krewe recently celebrated our 20th anniversary making Aquarius the second oldest Mardi Gras Krewe celebrating Mardi Gras on Galveston Island.

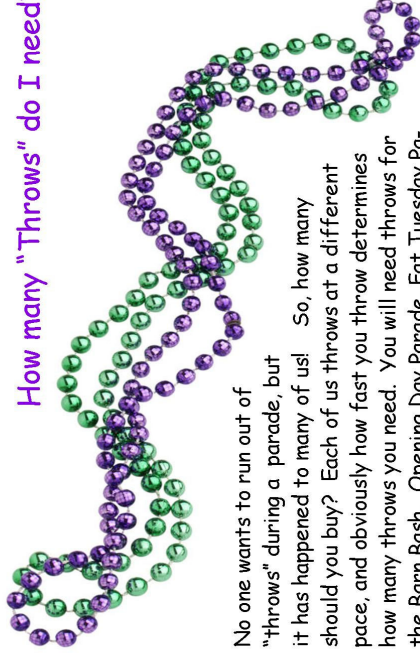
In March of 1985 My Father, Merlin Lidstone, and I attended a meeting of some 25 Island residents interested in forming a Krewe to celebrate Mardi Gras which had been revived on the island a month earlier with a big parade staged by the Knights of Momus who had just re-formed in 1984.

This small but anxious group met several times at local restaurants around town before going forward with our plans of chartering a new Krewe. We elected our first President, Officers and Board members in April of 1985 and called ourselves the Krewe of Neptune. This name was short lived when we were informed that there was a men's social club in Houston called Neptune. In a few short weeks the Mystic Krewe of Aquarius was born. Today when someone thinks about the Galveston Mardi Gras one of the first things that come to mind will be Krewe of Aquarius.

In 1986 Aquarius celebrated it's first year in existence by placing a float in the Momus Parade and staging a Mardi Gras Ball in the Music Hall of the Hotel Galvez. Our debut in Mardi Gras was a success and we were anxious for bigger things. We moved our Ball and then called "King and Queen" Coronation to the new Hope Arena which is now part of Moody Gardens.

The Moody Foundation underwrote our first ball at the arena and 500 guests attended the formal affair while our small six member Royal Court and their Families were presented. The same year the Krewe staged what was called the Grand Truck Parade. It was grand alright! All 26 units made their way down seawall Blvd. as some 50,000 onlookers, curious about Mardi Gras, cheered us on.

How many "Throws" do I need?



No one wants to run out of "throws" during a parade, but it has happened to many of us! So, how many should you buy? Each of us throws at a different pace, and obviously how fast you throw determines how many throws you need. You will need throws for the Barrn Bash, Opening Day Parade, Fat Tuesday Parade and the Trolley Party. It's good to have some extras for other events throughout the year.

Approximately 140 dozen should be enough. Most of us buy an inexpensive bead for the majority of our throws. (Nothing shorter than a 33 inch bead.) Then we fill in with a variety of "special throws" like Specialty beads, stuffed animals, candy, moon pies, and koozies, just to name a few. Remember, most throws don't go bad, so better to have too many than not enough!

Sources for throws

Sam's Club: Texas City location only. Throws available one or two months before Mardi Gras

Catalogs:

Carnival Mart: 800.229.6054

Oriental Trading: 800.535.7335

Ballon and Novelty (On Shepherd near Hwy 59)

Online search with keywords Mardi Gras beads

www.beadsbythedozen.com

www.imardigrasbeads.com

www.mardigrasimports.com

Krewe website for links www.krewe-of-aquarius.org