



Krewe's News

January 2008

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Meeting Schedule

The Krewe of Aquarius will have one more general meeting before Mardi Gras 2008, and it is scheduled for **January 10**. This is a very important meeting, and all members are urged to make every effort to attend. Meetings are held at the KC Hall (1912 Winnie) and begin promptly at 7:30 p.m. Our regular meeting schedule will resume on Thursday, **February 14**.

Mardi Gras Ball & Pageant

Chairperson, Pat Collier, reports everything is running smoothly in preparation for our annual ball and pageant that will be held on Saturday, **January 12**, at the Galveston Island Convention Center (5600 Seawall Boulevard). Once again, the Krewe will put on a big show filled with more Mardi Gras glitz than any other Krewe ball. The merriment begins at 7 p.m. with a happy hour followed by the pageant and coronation of the 2008 King and Queen at 8:15 p.m. A buffet will be served at 10 p.m., and there will be dancing to the tunes of "Green Onions" until 1 a.m. All members and guests will receive two drink tickets. Ball guest tickets are available for \$65/person; member tickets are included in annual dues.

Mardi Gras Poster Unveiling

The official unveiling of 2008 Mardi Gras posters for all Krewes will be held on Wednesday, **January 9**, at 6 p.m. in the lobby of the Tremont Hotel. The Krewe has alot to be proud of this year with its fantastic poster, and we cannot wait to show it off to the public and media. Members are encouraged to attend.

From the Krewe President...*Johnny Lidstone*

Krewe Members and Friends,

Reminiscing back 22 years ago as I write this newsletter...

The Krewe of Aquarius had its first ball and the ticket price was \$15 per person. There were only three Krewes with balls at that time: Momus, Regina—now defunct, and Aquarius. KOA members worried that people would not pay that price for an evening out; however, to our surprise, 600 people crowded the floor at Hope Arena. That pageant featured six Krewe members in a 10-minute king and queen coronation. A few years later, the Krewe raised our ticket price to \$21. Some people got upset and did not attend. Oh how, times have changed.

Our early parades were called the "Truck Parade" and included several flat beds and more pick-ups than you could count. Some of the trucks had a DJ or small band in the back of the truck. Lord knows, in 1988, we could not afford to pay marching bands. It took about three years for us to drop the "Truck Parade" title and become a bona fide parade with floats and three marching bands and extending 6-blocks. The Krewe knew then that we were going places. Early members, like my Dad, Merle; Patt Whalon; and myself, though never dreamed what the Mystic Krewe of Aquarius has grown to today. We really have come a long way, baby.

I wish to thank everyone for this most successful year, and I hope you all enjoy the upcoming 2008 Mardi Gras season — all its ball, parades and parties.



Mardi Gras Kick-off Parade and Fat Tuesday Parade



The **Kick-off Seawall Parade** is a done deal with all participants and marching groups lined up. The spectacular show will progress down Seawall on January 26 precisely at high noon. When all is said and done, the Krewe will present about an 80 unit parade that will include 20 marching groups or about 1,800 people on foot. All members (especially new members), please note. If you plan to ride the float to the parade staging area on Saturday (1/26), you must have all throws loaded and be ready to depart by 7 a.m. The Krewe will begin removing the floats from the barn floats at 7 a.m. for an 8 a.m. trip to the staging area at 14th and Seawall. Please do not arrive and expect to load your throws after 7 a.m. Your cooperation is appreciated. The Krewe is in the final planning stages for the **Fat Tuesday Parade (February 5)**. We have seven Krewes signed up with paid entry fees, and Stella Bennett and Johnny Lidstone are currently lining up marching bands and drill teams for the Tuesday parade. The parade will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Railroad Museum and follow the same downtown—Strand route as previous years. On Fat Tuesday, the Krewe will begin removing floats at 4 p.m. for a 5 p.m. departure to the staging area at 25th and Santa Fe Place. Most Krewe members park their cars at the barn and ride the floats. Once again, we ask that you load your throws by 4 p.m. There will be a **meeting for float captains, drivers, and other parade support members** at the float barn on Tuesday, January 22, at 7 p.m. It is very important that these people attend for final instructions for both parades and any last minute changes in plans. If a float captain is unable to attend, please have someone attend on your behalf.



Mystic Krewe of Aquarius
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We're on the web: www.Krewe-of-Aquarius.org

Countdown to Mardi Gras 2008

- Mardi Gras Poster Unveiled Jan 9
- Krewe Meeting—January Jan 10
- KOA 2008 Ball & Pageant Jan 12
- Float Captain/Driver Meeting Jan 22
- KOA Barn Bash Jan 25
- KOA Seawall Parade Jan 26
- Momus Day Party Feb 2
- Fat Tuesday Parade Feb 5

2008 Barn Bash

Our biggest party of the year and a Galveston Island Mardi Gras tradition — the annual KOA Barn Bash — will take center stage on Friday, January 25, at the float barn (31st and Avenue N-1/2). Terrie and Aldan Kahla, Barn Bash chairs, report that a Mexican food buffet will be served from 7-8:30 p.m. Pat and John will man the popular bead booth, and Rhonda, Mike and Johnny will handle the front door and ticket sales. Please remember that no tables will be allowed in front of the floats, and no smoking will be allowed in the building. It is everyone's job to see that this rule and safety concern is followed. Keep in mind that this party is for persons 21 years or older. Krewe member tickets are available for \$10, and the general public ticket is \$15. As always, volunteers to work in the food and beer area are welcome and needed.



More Parties...

Momus Day Party—February 2. The Krewe has once again secured the property at 25th and Post office Streets for its all day Momus Day party. The party will begin around noon and end after the Krewe of Momus night parade. In keeping with tradition, the Krewe will stage its mini-bead throwing procession around 5 p.m. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish or dessert, and Johnny

Lidstone will inquire with Dienst Distributors about donating some keg beer again. The party is open to family and friends of Krewe of Aquarius members.

Fat Tuesday Party—February 5. Our annual Fat Tuesday party will be held at Undercurrent on Market Street following the parade. Festivities should begin around 8:30 p.m. Pat Saenz reports there will be plenty of food and entertainment for members and their guests. Undercurrent owners have welcomed our Krewe and guests with open arms at their night spot for both last year's Fat Tuesday party and this year's pub krawl, and we all greatly appreciate their support.

Last but not least—

A Note from the Publishers

A special thank you to Johnny Lidstone, our Krewe President, for his commitment and untiring efforts on behalf of our Mystic Krewe of Aquarius. Thank you's also go out to our royalty, officers, board of directors, committee and parade chairs, float captains, and members for making this year a success and so much fun.

In the News

The Mystic Krewe of Aquarius annual newspaper announcement was featured in the Sunday (December 30, 2007) edition of the Galveston County Daily News.