

The Idiot's Guide to the KdV Parade – 2016 Berl Order Edition

Instructions for a successful BERL ORDER, CRUDE 2016

Required ingredients:

1 world-class parade

17 floats

900+ crazy krewe members

Lots of creativity

Plenty of booze

A little advanced planning

A dash of common sense and courtesy

Mix these together for a BERL ORDER you will always remember. Read the outline of the night and tips below to ensure success and avoid mutations.

Here's the basic procedurals:

WHEN

The 2016 parade is on Saturday, Jan. 23, with floats to roll at 6 PM SHARP.

WHERE

Start point is the Den in the Marigny, technically 27 Architect St, New Orleans, LA 70117.

End is the Civic Theater, 510 O'Keefe Ave., in the CBD

THE ROUTE

This year's route has more twists and turns than Vitter's gubernatorial campaign. Generally, though, it begins the Marigny traveling down Royal to Frenchmen, then traverses the Quarter along Decatur, with a detour on Royal past Jackson Square, and back to Decatur to cross into the CBD and Warehouse District, ending at the Civic, just off Poydras.

See the official Krewe route map here: <http://kreweduvieux.org/Date.html>

THE CRUDE FLOAT

We are FLOAT NUMBER 14, near the end, naturally.

DAY-OF PREP

You can drop off a backpack-sized bag with a change of clothes at the CIVIC, from Noon to 2 PM Saturday. The theater will not allow big ice chests or large containers of food. Keep it to a small bag. Those are the best kind anyway. The theater will close at 2 PM sharp. While the area is generally secure, don't leave anything too valuable. CLEARLY MARK ANYTHING YOU LEAVE AT THE BALL SITE WITH YOUR NAME AND YOUR KREWE NAME.

PRE-PARTY & PLANNING YOUR ARRIVAL

The 6 PM start time is when the parade rolls from the DEN. THIS IS EARLIER THAN PAST YEARS.

There will be a pre-parade party at the Den from 4 PM To 5:45 PM. We will have food available and a Brass Band Jam from 4:30-5:30 pm. There is free beer.

Get to the den no later than 5 PM to prepare. Before you do anything else, get your wristband. You need this to enter the ball. Do this FIRST! Then check out the other costumes, have a drink and eat some pre-parade food.

Don't leave anything at the Den, it will all be thrown away the next day.

PLANNING YOUR BALL - OUTSIDE THE CIVIC

Doors to the Civic open at 9 p.m.

We will likely get there considerably later, since we are bringing up the rear as float No. 14. Floats will disperse outside the Civic and will set up in the parking lot across O'Keefe Avenue. We expect an impromptu performance from our Queen, Big Freedia herself!

PLANNING YOUR BALL - INSIDE THE CIVIC

Krewe members enter the Civic through the box office door (to the left). Two balconies are krewe only. CRUDE will stake out some space in the balcony, look for all the other people in costumes like yours!

Krewe beer upstairs until it runs out. Bring some cash, tip your bartenders. Brass bands paid at box office. Floats will be parked across the street where you will have easy access to them. Music begins at 10 PM or so with Brass Bands, then George Porter and Runnin' Pardners, WWW, Cyril Neville and Bonerama Horns with Mystic Ponies entertainment.

The ball ends at 2 AM. The Civic does not allow go-cups, per its operating agreement. Respect this rule and do not bring drinks with you when you leave.

THROWS

Anybody can chuck beads. We're not just anybody. And, also, well, we don't have a huge float to stash bushels of beads. We are a marching krewe, so do not bring more than you can physically carry. We are different from the big bead-tastic parades - we are funnier, smarter and

more one-on-one with our fans in the crowd. So consider alternative throws to beads. Flower canes, garters, and other light trinkets are good and are fun for crowd interaction. The Farmacia at the Den sells coasters, bandanas, and other things that make good throws. Please plan to pack out your trash. There is not brigade of city sanitation services following behind us. Be kind to our neighbors that welcome us to their neighborhood.

THROWS STORAGE (TRICK QUESTION?)

There is none. Do not attempt to store any throws or gear on the float. There is no room. We have devoted all space on the float to the essentials — beer (on tap at the stern), bathroom (or piss pot behind a curtain) and beauty (the awesome, rotating art that shows our theme to the world). Don't bring what you can't carry for the duration of the parade.

And don't even think about bringing some cart, wagon or wheeled baggage to haul some mountain of your own crap. Every method has been tried before, and they all fail miserably and end up slowing everyone around you down. GET CREATIVE with throws, and keep them small, light and fun.

WRISTBANDS, AND WHY YOU WANT THEM

The wristband is your ticket for the Ball. It also admits you into the reserved Krewe area and gives you access to the FREE BEER . The wristband is your golden ticket. if you lose your wristband or fail to get one, you are shit out of luck.

PARKING

Do not assume that you can park near the Den or the Civic. These area get very crowded. If you plan on driving, car pool with friends or leave a car downtown near the Civic earlier in the day. Better yet, take a cab or get other friends to drop you off. Do NOT park along the parade route. Cars here WILL BE TOWED.

MULES

CRUDE does not use mules. We have found it much more entertaining and economical to use 20-somethings to pull our beer, bathroom and beauty (see above under THROWS). Alas, despite our example, the other sub krewes persist in using mules, which can be testy. Always ask the handler before approaching a mule, and DO NOT EVER WALK BEHIND THE MULES. Mules have been known to kick and can potentially kill you with a well-placed kick to the noggin. As for our 20-somethings, they can speak for themselves.

REVELRY, AND THE LONG RUN

Let the spirit of revelry guide you, but don't let it lead you down the rabbit hole before you even get to enjoy the night. The parade is only half of the fun. Pace yourself so that you make it to the

end and can enjoy the ball with your krewe. Overenthusiastic pre-gaming has led some people to miss the parade altogether, which is sad for them and also a huge pain in the ass for those who end up looking after them instead of enjoying the evening. Let the good times roll, but don't let this happen to you. Drink plenty of water and make sure you have something to eat.

INVITING FRIENDS

Additional tickets are available in advance for sale to krewe members at La Farmacia, Den of Muses Architect Place, The public can buy tickets at Up in Smoke 2101 Magazine St. and Louisiana Music Factory on Frenchmen Street. NOTE that non-Krewe guests are not permitted in the krewe-only areas at that ball (balcony, free beer area).

CLEAN UP

You've seen the massive clean-up effort marshaled by the city after the bigger parades. You have not seen this at Krewe du Vieux because it doesn't happen. The city doesn't clean up after us in the neighborhoods we parade through. Please be mindful we are passing in front of peoples' homes and dispose of your trash in an environmentally respectful manner.

To keep costs affordable, Krewe du Vieux also traditionally cleans up our own ball site the day after the parade. Volunteers are invited to join the restorative fun, picking up around the Civic floor, lobby and stairs, on Sunday, from 10 AM-noon. This effort is critical to guaranteeing the future goodwill of our hosts. Bloody Marys will be provided to improve your attitude.