

Mardi Gras 2015 in Portland: Parties, a parade and Fat Tuesday dinner



A masked Portlander attends the 2014 Mardi Gras Ball at the Wonder Ballroom. (*YouTube/Portland Mardi Gras*)

[Print](#)



By [Jamie Hale | The Oregonian/OregonLive](#)

Email the author | [Follow on Twitter](#)

on February 04, 2015 at 9:30 AM, updated February 16, 2015 at 8:49 AM

Portland is not New Orleans. We might be weird, we might be nude, but when it comes to celebrating Mardi Gras, we can't hold a candle to The Big Easy.

Still, that's no reason not to celebrate at all. Thanks to a few Cajun chefs and one particular group of NOLA ex-pats, Portland has a surprisingly robust schedule of Mardi Gras events. Grab your beads and get ready to [find the baby in the King Cake](#) - Fat Tuesday is coming to town.

Mardi Gras Ball

Portland actually has a group of New Orleans transplants in town, appropriately dubbed the Mysti Krewe of Nimbus. The self-described "social and pleasure club" is hosting its 5th annual [Mardi Gras Ball](#) on Feb. 14, bringing that Louisiana spirit to the Pacific Northwest.

Legendary New Orleans singer [Charmaine Neville](#), related to the famous Neville Brothers, will perform at the event, joined by Reggie Houston's Crescent City Connection and the Too Loose Zydeco Band.

Organizers promise an authentic New Orleans-style celebration, with Louisiana cuisine, a presentation by the [Northside Skull and Bones Gang](#), the crowning of a king and queen of the ball and plenty of traditional [Louisiana King Cake](#).

Saturday, Feb. 14, at 7:30 p.m. @ Wonder Ballroom; \$30 to \$52.40, [buy online](#)

Carnaval Mystique

Every other day of the year Acadia is a simple New Orleans bistro in Portland. But on Sunday, Feb. 15, the restaurant will transform into a "Zulu playground" for [Carnaval Mystique](#), "complete with voodoo oils, charm spells and mystifying magic." A four-course dinner will treat guests to a tour of creole cuisine, from Louisiana BBQ shrimp to something called a "PORK-Etta."

The restaurant will follow up the special event with a [Fat Tuesday a la carte dinner](#), with nearly two-dozen dishes and a whole bunch of King Cake.

Sunday, Feb. 15 @ Acadia; \$45 per person

Tuesday, Feb. 17 @ Acadia, dishes range from \$3 to \$33

Lundi Gras Beer Dinner

Lundi Gras (French for "Fat Monday") is a relatively new celebration of Shrove Monday, the day before Mardi Gras proper on Fat Tuesday. Tapalaya and Breakside Brewing is celebrating with a [Lundi Gras Beer Dinner](#), which will pair ten traditional Cajun and creole specialties with "generous pours" of five Breakside brews. Steve Cheseborough will provide live music for the evening. Costumes are encouraged.

Monday, Feb. 16, from 6 to 9 p.m. @ Tapalaya ~~Breakside Brewing~~; \$55 (gratuity included)

Fat Tuesday Parade

The Mysti Krewe of Nimbus follows up its Saturday ball with [a parade on Fat Tuesday itself](#). The procession starts at Ecliptic Brewing in north Portland, and winds its way up and back down N. Mississippi Ave. Members of the community, who are encouraged to wear masks, costumes and beads, are invited to join in the parade - even kids and pets are welcome.

After the procession winds down, there will be two Fat Tuesday parties in the Mississippi neighborhood - a performance by the [Transcendental Brass Band](#) at Bar Bar and the [Too Loose Cajun Band](#) at Mississippi Pizza.

Tuesday, Feb. 17, from 6:30 to 7 p.m. @ Ecliptic Brewing, up N. Mississippi; free

Zydeco Show

[Duff's Garage](#) is hosting a solid showcase of local zydeco music, with a show featuring Bon Ton Roulet and the New Iberians - a \$10 cover charge even comes with a free bowl of gumbo. Organizers encourage beads and festivity, but if you're looking for a down-home, no-frills zydeco celebration, you'll find it at Duff's.

Tuesday, Feb. 17, at 8 p.m. @ Duff's Garage; \$10

--Jamie Hale

jhale@oregonian.com

503.294.4077

[@HaleJamesB](#)