

INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION – CAJUN RV FESTIVAL 2024

Sandie, Kari and I are excited to meet all of you. We hope to have an event that will represent the Cajun Culture and be a lot of fun. The following pages should answer most of your questions, but, as always, talk with us. We have been enjoying the area for many years and have our favorites!

Directions to the park are attached. Call Don directly if you run into any issues (972-774-1414).

- Be aware that the park has full-time residents and weekend visitors who may venture into the pool and clubhouse area periodically.
- The pool will be open to all starting April 1st.

Should you arrive before Thursday, note that nothing specific is scheduled to occur. We will be around the park and clubhouse getting everything ready and our rigs will be in sites 6-7-8. Stop by and say Hi! Don is always available to provide you with dinner suggestions as well as other highlights around the area to explore.

Pickup your Rally packet and items on Thursday at the Clubhouse between 1:00 and 3:00 pm.

- Park Registration and Rally Disclaimer forms must be turned in to receive your name tag, goodie bag and t-shirts.
- Sign up sheets will be available for each night's Alternative Meals.
 - What you told us on the registration forms was preliminary only.
 - **Alternative meals must be selected during Thursday's check-in so that we can know how many meals to plan for.**
 - A list of all meals will be available at the time of sign up.
 - **You will be given a ticket to present for each chosen meal.**
- We'll start announcements Thursday night with potluck dinner and entertainment.
 - Marty Lown from Coachlight RV will supply Cane's chicken fingers for everyone.
 - Arrive at the clubhouse between 5:15 & 5:30 pm.
 - Bring with you:
 - A side or dessert to share (be sure to include a serving spoon/fork and mark it as yours).
 - Your own plate and utensils.
 - Your own cup/mug is recommended each night.
 - Dinner buffet line will start at 5:30.
- Kevin Naquin, our Saturday night entertainment, will be here to play a little and give us the 4-1-1 on our charity fundraiser. This year we are raising funds to benefit the Jessie Naquin Pancreatic Cancer Endowment Fund at Ochsner Lafayette General.
 - Kevin started this fund in conjunction with Ochsner Lafayette General to provide resources locally instead of having to travel to MD Anderson in Houston for treatment following his father's battle with the disease.
- General Announcements will start after Kevin.
- Following announcements we will be gifted with the comedy of Kent Gonsoulin, the Cajun Humorist.
<https://www.youtube.com/user/CajunKentGonsoulin>

The Clubhouse will be open starting at 2:00 pm every day of the rally.

- Ice, Lemonade, Iced Tea and Coffee will be available in the clubhouse while it is open.
- We ask that you help us become more sustainably earth friendly and commit to bringing your own drink container for the beverage of your choice. Some cups will be made available if you forget.
- Table games and cards will be available for your use.
- Please be mindful of the space and everyone's placemat decorations.
- When you don't have an event with us, we encourage you to explore the area. There are any number of places to visit surrounding New Iberia and Lafayette. Several great restaurants are around as well. Don will give you suggestions – just ask! A few places are listed on the last 2 pages of this handout.

Evening Events Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday

- Announcements and door prizes will begin 5:30 pm with dinner immediately following.
- Meals will be served on disposable containers with plastic silverware.
- Alternative meal recipients should make sure they have their identifying ticket.
- Entertainment will be in the bandstand area from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.
 - Bring your folding chair and blankets to set up your spot early!

Daily events:

- Friday

- Martin Accordion Experience
 - Due to events out of our control we won't be able to visit the workshop this year.
 - In its place we will have Joel Martin and a few others on site to discuss and play the different music styles of the area (Cajun, Zydeco, Swamp Pop, etc.).
 - We are working on getting someone with knowledge of Cajun culture to visit and give us an overview of its history.
 - Doors will be open at 9:00 am with event starting at 9:30 am.
- Card Bingo from 4:00 to 5:00 pm
 - Training will be provided!
 - Bring 12+ quarters to play plus any snacks/drinks.
- Joel Martin and his band of Degenerates will kick off the evening after dinner.
 - Grandson of JR Martin, patriarch of the family that makes Martin Accordions, Joel and his buddies kick off the weekend with a high energy set.
 - <https://www.martinaccordions.com/>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eVkMS5p7tyY>
 - <https://open.spotify.com/artist/2ODzMPHOBkkS4h3mwFVFit>

- Saturday

- Painting with a Twist Event from 1-4pm in the Clubhouse.
 - Cost is \$45.00
 - Registration should be completed by April 1st.
 - Spots are still available!
 - Link for Saturday, April 6:
<https://www.paintingwithatwist.com/studio/lafayette/event/3581890>
 - Link for Saturday, April 13:
<https://www.paintingwithatwist.com/studio/lafayette/event/3581889>
 - When you need it use password LETSHAVEFUN.
 - Any questions send a message to Laurie Johnson.
 - laurierjohnson1955@gmail.com or call 704 616-4225
 - Please bring an apron or wear clothing appropriate for painting as well as a beverage and snacks of your choice.
- Following dinner we will be hearing the highly entertaining Kevin Naquin and Cajun Preservation
 - <https://kevinnaquinandcajunpreservation.com/>
 - <https://open.spotify.com/artist/2ZHC08JFaz72MhfsTEorhv>
 - Kevin Naquin & Cajun Preservation are dedicated to keeping the classic sound of Cajun music alive. From two steps to soulful waltzes, they specialize in a unique blend of Louisiana's traditional music that is full of joy, warmth, and nostalgia. Every performance includes a range of instruments like fiddle, triangle, guitar and accordion along with Kevin's soulful vocals, blending seamlessly together for an engaging listening experience.

Sunday

- Beignets, Coffee & Bloody Mary's
 - 9 to 11 am inside the Clubhouse
 - Bring any items that pair well with Bloody Mary's such as pickled onions or olives. As you travel we are sure you come across many unique jars of homemade regional items. Buy and share them with us so we can all get a taste!
 - One ticket is required to get either an order of beignets or a bloody mary.
 - Each person will be given 2 tickets, use them at your discretion.
 - Additional tickets can be purchased for \$5 each.
 - Mix and Rum will be supplied by Wildcat Brothers Distillery
 - <https://www.supportava.org/news/valorum>
 - Wildcat Brothers Distillery will be available for purchase.
 - Look in the Places To Go section for tour opportunities of their distillery.
 - Cochon de Lait will be cooking all day in the Cajun Microwave outside the Clubhouse.
 - Stop by to see and talk with Rene while the Roast Pig cooks.
 - Card Bingo from 4:00 to 5:00 pm
 - Training will be provided!
 - Bring 12+ quarters to play plus any snacks/drinks.
 - The Zydeco sounds of Grammy Nominee Corey Ledet will entertain us tonight starting at 7pm.
 - <http://coreyledet.com/web/>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/corey.ledet.39/>
 - <https://open.spotify.com/artist/5fOBJYdlwH0bXvmguPxrkY>

Corey Ledet is a Zydeco artist from Parks, Louisiana. The family tradition of Creole music and the Kouri-Veni language runs in his blood. Corey was born and raised in Houston, Texas, where at the age of 10, he started picking up shows as drummer for Houston's Wilbert Thibodeaux and the Zydeco Rascals and slowly learned his way around the main instrument of the style – accordion.

- Monday

- Crawfish Farm & Sorter Visit
 - Three different start times to limit wear and tear on the access to the Crawfish beds.
 - Sign-up sheets will be made available in the Clubhouse for the different start times.
 - The farmer has been very gracious to allow a group our size to come to his farm.
 - Please note that parking there is tight, but manageable, so carpooling is recommended.
 - The bed is right next to the road. This is a farm with wet grounds so wear appropriate footwear and if you have walking difficulties consider just viewing from the side of your vehicle instead of walking up close.
 - Just hearing the farmer talk is fascinating!
 - A container for tips will be available at the farm if you wish to contribute. All funds received will be given to the farmer.
 - Our starting point will be Cajun Claws Restaurant in Rayne, LA (subject to change)
 - 175 Frontage Road, Rayne, LA 70578
 - Take the Dusan exit off I10 just east of Rayne
 - It is about 45 minutes from New Iberia and then an additional 30 minutes to the farm.
 - <https://cajunclawsseafoodboilers.com/>
 - Visit the sorter and have lunch at the starting place - they are also our caterer tonight!
 - Sorter is held in a building just behind the restaurant.
 - It will be running short batches from 10 to 11 am.
 - You are encouraged to stop by and view the process.
- The Crawfish truck will arrive around 4pm and park outside the outdoor stage area.
 - Usually this is the product that was bagged earlier in the day at Cajun Claws in Rayne.
 - Potatoes and corn are cooked after the water is brought to a boil.
 - Crawfish will start being dropped about 5ish.
 - Door prizes and announcements will start around 5:30 and we'll eat at 6pm.
- Mardi Gras Party night with Grammy Award Winner Chubby Carrier will start at 7pm.
 - Wear your beads and party attire!
 - <https://chubbycarrier.com/>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/chubbycarrierzydeco/>
 - <https://open.spotify.com/artist/6NNx1kkLD9QdBgrNma1DTI>
 - Joseph R. Carrier, Jr., known to everyone as Chubby Carrier, is a member of a Zydeco dynasty. The son of Roy Carrier, he is a part of the extended family of Creole musicians like Bébé, Eraste, and Calvin Carrière who lived near Lawtell. Chubby Carrier began playing drums in his father's band when he was 12.
 - Chubby Carrier and the Bayou Swamp Band serve up the zydeco gumbo. Mixing the traditional accordion and washboard farmhouse porch boogie of the Cajun prairie with dashes of 70s funk, the spices of classic R&B, and refreshing, swampy twists on classic songs as only authentic Louisiana ambassadors can do.
 - The master zydeco chef and Louisiana's favorite emcee, Chubby, will say "there ain't no party like a Chubby party" several times on your stage. That's Grammy award-winning zydeco speak for "y'all better hope you wore your dancing shoes."
 - In addition to earning the Grammy for "Best Cajun or Zydeco Album" in 2011, Chubby and the band have recorded 10 albums; played prestigious music festivals across North America and Europe; and shared the stage with musicians ranging in diversity from Carlos Santana and Travis Tritt to "Weird" Al Yankovic.

DIRECTIONS to New Iberia RV Resort
911 NW Bypass (Hwy 3212) New Iberia, LA 70560
[Google Map Link](#)

Going south through Lafayette is the most direct route to the park, but please note that the city is old and in rough shape during some sections.

Therefore, to avoid Hwy 90 through Lafayette (also known as NW Evangeline Throughway), we recommend:

- However you are coming into Lafayette, make your way to Interstate Hwy 10 and take Exit 100, turning left (south) on Ambassador Caffery.
- This route will take you through some business and high-end residential areas, but it is still two or three lanes in either direction.
- Continue south on Ambassador Caffery for 17 miles.
- You will see signage fairly quickly that directs you to Hwy 90. **DO NOT TAKE IT.** This will direct you into the older section of town and we recommend you avoid it at all costs.
- The road will split just after Cameron St. Stay to the right.
- Eventually you will pass a Target, Costco and a few other good shopping centers.
- DO NOT TURN OFF AMBASSADOR CAFFERY until it ends at Hwy 90 E
- Turn right on Hwy 90 E, continuing south about 8 miles, then take Exit #126 for Jefferson Island Road.
- From here it gets tricky so stay alert!
- Turn left to go under the highway, then take the SECOND left onto the northbound two-way service road.
- At the first road, LA Hwy 3212, turn right.
- Keep going through the roundabout!
- Don't turn off it or you will go awry.
- We will have arrow signs set at strategic locations to help guide you.
- The park entrance will be about a mile ahead on your right.
- Gate code is **2024**.
- You should have been sent the parking list with your specified site.
- Check with your group leader for any adjustments that may have been made.

Upon your arrival, Bill Sutton should come by to check in with you. If you don't see him, we may be in the clubhouse getting things together, or you could find us in our rigs at sites 6, 7 & 8.

If you have any questions or issues during your drive/arrival, please contact Don at 972-774-1414.

Places to Visit and Experience

Tabasco Company Store Avery Island & Jungle Gardens - 329 Avery Island Rd, Avery Island, LA 70513
\$4 off ticket price with your badge to both attractions

A salt dome best known as the source of Tabasco sauce. Walking around the area is available without paying, but if you want to do any tours you need to stop at the Avery Island ticket office.

<https://www.tabasco.com/visit-avery-island/>

<https://www.junglegardens.org/>

Experience the history and production of world-famous hot sauce on Avery Island, Louisiana. The Avery Island Fan Experience includes a self-guided tour of the TABASCO® Museum, Pepper Greenhouse, Barrel Warehouse, Avery Island Conservation, Salt Mine diorama, TABASCO Country Store®, TABASCO® Restaurant 1868! and the 170-acre natural beauty of Jungle Gardens. Grounds are open 9am-4pm Monday through Saturday.

Van Winkle Gardens - 5505 Rip Van Winkle Rd, New Iberia, LA 70560

<https://ripvanwinklegardens.com/>

Guided tours are available of the Joseph Jefferson Home (ca. 1870), a grand architectural masterpiece built as a hunting lodge and painting studio for famous 19th century actor, Joseph Jefferson, who portrayed Rip Van Winkle. There is also Rip's Rookery and semi-tropical garden surrounding beautiful Lake Peigneur. Per the website, the grounds are currently open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with delicious treats available from Café Jefferson 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Tours of the gardens and mansion begin on the hour from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. seven days a week. There are no reservations needed for their house tours, but recommend you arrive early to have enough time to wander everything.

Konriko Rice Mill - 309 Ann St., New Iberia LA 70560

<https://www.conradrice.com/home/>

As America's oldest operating rice mill, founded in 1912, the Conrad Rice Mill and KONRIKO® Company Store in New Iberia has a reputation as unique as its products, and owners Mike and Sandy Davis plan to keep it that way. Store is open from 9am-5pm Monday through Saturday. According to their website, tours are at 10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm and 3pm CST. There is a small admission fee for the tour which consists of a slide presentation about the area and a guided walking tour of the mill. Please show up 15 minutes or so early to get parked and purchase your ticket.

Vermillionville Historic Village - <https://bayouvermiliondistrict.org/vermilionville/>

Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve - <https://www.nps.gov/jela/index.htm>

Hawks - <https://www.hawkscrawfish.com/>

Crazy 'Bout Crawfish - <https://www.areyoucrazyboutcrawfish.net/>

Billy's Boudin & Cracklin - <http://billysboudincracklin.com/>

Champagnes Swamp Tours – <http://champagnesswamptours.com>

Swamp Pop Museum, 205 NW Railroad Ave, Ville Platte LA 70586

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057717210370>

Swamp pop's rich history lives again at a new museum, filled with stage costumes, photos, records, a wall of fame of autographs and more rare memorabilia. Large charts and maps outline swamp pop's stories and travels across the globe. Open Fri, Sat: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Shucks - 701 W Port St, Abbeville, LA 70510

Closed on Sundays. <https://shucksrestaurant.com/>

Established in 1995 known as The Louisiana Seafood House. Founded in 1995 SHUCKS. embodies the essence of authentic Cajun Cuisine. In addition, SHUCKS. reveals the beauty of Cajun culture. Each guest is treated like family and the primary focus of the staff is to provide each guest with exactly what they want and more.

ExploreLouisiana.com

HAPPENING IN THE AREA:

Boudin Festival, Scott LA – April 5-7 <http://www.scottboudinfestival.com/>

Books Along the Teche, New Iberia LA – April 5-7 <http://booksalongthetecheliteraryfestival.com/>

Stir the Pot, Friends of Palmetto Island, Abbeville LA – April 6 <https://friendsofpalmetto.org/stir-the-pot>

Buck & Johnny's - World famous Zydeco Breakfast every Saturday

Doors open at 8:00am | Music from 8:30-11:30am

Special breakfast menu served until 11:00am

\$10 cover charge | \$15 endless mimosas | First come, first served, no reservations

<http://buckandjohnnys.com/>

Directions: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/p164RDbCThrreMTR9>