Festival France-Louisiana

Calendar of events

July 13 - Bastille Day Cajun Golf Tournament - Bayou Barriere Country Club, Belle Chase.
July 13 - Bastille Day Ceremonies - Place de France - 5:30 p.m.
July 13 - 4 p.m. opening ceremonies.
July 14 - 11 a.m. U.S. Navy Steel Band; 1:30 p.m. Cajun Music; 3 p.m. French Folk singers and dancers; 4-6 p.m. Jazz.
July 15 - 1-3 p.m. - Jazz, Gospel and Popular Music; 3-4 p.m. French Folk singers and dancers; 4-6 p.m. Jazz.
July 14 - Bastille Day Ball - Acadia Room Marriott Hotel - 8 p.m. $4 per person.
July 15 - France-Louisiana Art Exhibit - Vincent Mann Galleries Open to public.
July 19 - Uptown Square Salute to France - Louisiana - open to public.

July 21 - Jazz Street Parade - From St. Louis Cathedral to the Rivergate following the Mass. The parade will be met by a Cajun Band and street dancing at Place de France.
July 21-22 - France-Louisiana Festival extravaganza featuring "Famous Foods From Famous Restaurants", continuous entertainment, arts and crafts, genealogical information exchange, Children's Art Exhibit - Rivergate 11 a.m.- 5 p.m. admission.
July 22 - Grand Prix Bicycle Race - Place de France - 10 a.m. - open to public.
July 21 - Fais-Do-Do, Cajun Music - Rivergate, 8 a.m. - 9 p.m. admission.
July 28 - France-Louisiana "Bastille Day Sailing Regatta" on Lake Ponchartrain, open to public.
July 29 - France-Louisiana Festival Committee Membership Wine and Cheese Reception - Chateau Golf and Country Club. Members only.
July 29 - Drawing for "Trip to Paris" Raffle - Chateau Estates, winner need not be present.

Bastille Day opens
New Orleans festivities

The France-Louisiana Festival, Inc. a non-profit organization, will stage its sixth annual France-Louisiana Festival beginning with a Bastille Day, Saturday and ending on the weekend of July 29 with the main events scheduled July 21 and 22.

The Rivergate, New Orleans' convention facility, will again be the center of the festival's activities. Highlight of the celebration will be the "famous foods from famous restaurants". More than 25 of the most famous New Orleans and Louisiana restaurants will offer sample tastings of the cuisine that made them famous. This unique part of the festival is in a sit-down restaurant atmosphere. Continuous entertainment is presented throughout the festival.

The festival will also include an arts and crafts exhibition, a Grand Prix bicycle race, children's entertainment including puppets, clowns and movies, French films and television, ballet, cancan, concerts featuring everything from classical to Jazz Cajun and Fais Do-do dancing.

Veronique Fagot, Miss France, 1978 will participate in the many events scheduled for the Rivergate and Place de France. Reigned with Miss France will be the festival's Miss Bastille '79.

Opening ceremonies for the festival's Rivergate activities will be held Saturday and will feature a special Mass celebrated and sung in French at the St. Louis Cathedral followed by a street parade to the Rivergate where it will be met by Cajun Music and dancing.

The French Market Corporation will sponsor the Bastille Weekend Bash again this year in conjunction with the Bastille Day celebrations. The event will be Saturday and Sunday in the French Market.

The France-Louisiana Festival weekend will begin with an early morning Mass at St. Louis Cathedral and a jazz parade from Jackson Square with Fais Do-do Dancing. Dignitaries and guests will officially open the festival at the Rivergate Convention Center at noon, Saturday.

The France-Louisiana Festival was founded in 1975 as a Bicentennial celebration commemorating the state of Louisiana's French heritage and the vital role France played in the American Revolution. The first festival featured city-wide participation by many local cultural organizations and the period of July 4, our national holiday, through the French national celebration, July 14, was chosen as the traditional dates.