



**We're delighted you'll be joining us for the 39th annual Murphysboro Barbecue Cook-off!**

**Restaurant: 32 N. 17th Street**  
**The Warehouse 214 N. 17th Street**  
**Office phone: 618-684-8902**

As you come down Walnut Street {the main street in town} the side streets are all numbered. It's very easy to find. Pull up in front of The Warehouse and you will be greeted and directed to your space.

Please note that our front lot has been completely renovated. Kindly enter/exit your space from the correct vantage point -- either 17th/18th Street. **Please DO NOT DRIVE OVER concrete midway.** When you arrive, we'll give you a parking tag for your vehicle.

We will be AT CAPACITY with well-defined boundaries for your spot and the number of teams means that we will all have to be courteous and very good neighbors with regards to space and noise. We want everyone to have a great time Friday night and we trust your team's party will **end or be very quiet by midnight** so everyone will be well-rested for Saturday's competition.

**Kindly do not have or use any type of golf cart or off-road vehicle on the premises.**

### **Spaces**

Cook-off spaces are approximately 30" x 30'. **If your vehicle completely fits on your space, you may park there. It cannot be on the street by your space.** There is ample parking nearby for your vehicle.

### **Electricity**

So many people now bring RVs and we do not have enough electricity to accommodate them along with the other electricity needed at each cook site. Kindly do NOT hook up an RV to the site electricity. In the past we have blown several breakers, inconveniencing many teams at crucial times. Please do not plug in roasters, refrigerators, or air conditioners as they use too many amps. Kindly use your generator. Disregarding this rule will take down the power for you and your neighbors and when it happens in the night, we won't be able to fix it quickly.

Ice can be purchased at the concession stand near the restaurant or near our retail shop in front of The Warehouse.

Don't forget extension cords and a hose. Water will run down the west end of the midway. We'll show you when you arrive.

### **MBN and KCBS rules**

Contest rules may be downloaded from the KCBS, SCA, and MBN websites.

## **Ancillary Contests**

### **Fish Contest 6:30 p.m. Thursday**

Each participating team will be given 5 pounds of 5-7 oz. pollack filets. You'll need to feed 6 judges... about 1.5 pounds will fill a hinged styrofoam container. There are NO rules as far as garnish or extras in the box. You can put anything in there... garnish, hush puppies or other sides, sauces, etc. Remember that we're judging FISH... it's all about the FINAL PRODUCT.

### **Wing Contest 7:30 p.m. Thursday**

Each team will be given 5 pounds of wings. The turn-in container is a typical styrofoam hinged box and you'll be feeding 6 judges. There are NO rules as far as garnish or extras in the box. You can put anything in the box... garnish, sauces, etc. Remember that we're judging WINGS... it's all about the FINAL PRODUCT.

**Criteria on FISH & WING judging is appearance, tenderness, flavor, and overall impression. Scored on a basis of 5 to 10; each line item weighted according to importance; FLAVOR being most important.**

### **Doubleheader Steak Cook-off – Fri/Sat**

We'll provide the steaks and a 10 x 10 cooking space; barbecue teams will cook in their own area. You'll need a grill, charcoal, cooking supplies, and seasonings. Mandatory SCA Cook's Meeting immediately after the cook-off team meeting, approx 4:30 p.m. with steak selection. Turn-in time is 7:30 p.m. Awards announced from the stage at 9:00 p.m.

Additional ancillaries are in conjunction with the Steak Cook-off

### **Please join us at these events!**

#### **Fish & Fixin's and Grand Champion Meal**

We have TWO events open to the teams, public, and sponsors. These events require tickets {available at the door} and they are our way of incorporating our sponsors and the general public into the event.

**There is LIVE MUSIC on stage Friday night. Music no charge; open to the public.**

#### **Fish & Fixin's – THURSDAY night**

Our annual Fish & Fixin's meal for sponsors, judges, and general public. You are welcome to join us; tickets are \$24 each. Fish, fixins, + draft beers from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

**The Fish & Wing awards will be presented at 9:00 p.m. in The Warehouse.**

#### **Grand Champion meal – FRIDAY night**

Our annual Grand Champion celebration for sponsors, judges, and general public. Again, we'd love to see you. Tickets are \$32 each. Barbecue, sides, + free draft beers from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. There will be live music on the stage from 5:00 p.m. to 11:45 p.m..

### **Concessions & Merchandise**

We will have a concession stand, merchandise stand, beer tent, and full bar open Thursday and Friday nights. ALL proceeds go to the cook-off operating budget.

Each team will receive one t-shirt, coozie, and commemorative poster in the hospitality basket. Additional shirts, posters, and coozies will be available for purchase in the merchandise booth. Please shop early as we have sold out quickly in previous years.

**Please support our local sponsors who help make this event possible!**

#### **Breakfast**

**Faye** ~ our sister restaurant! Breakfast/lunch/coffee all day! 1616 Walnut Street, 618-684-4477

**Cindy B's** 1110 Locust Street 618-684-2776

**Delicious Southern Illinois peaches and apples to take home, plus amazing pies and cobblers at Mileur Orchards.**

**Mileur Orchards** 172 Mileur Orchard Road  
618-687-3663

**Rendleman's Orchards** 9680 IL 127, Alto Pass, IL  
618-893-2771

#### **Local grocery & convenience stores**

**Kroger** 500 E. Industrial Park Road 618-687-3481

**Farm Fresh** 1904 Walnut Street 618-687-1281

**Casey's** 2136 Walnut Street 618-687-9218

**Southern Illinois Liquor Mart** 113 N. 12th Street  
618-684-4727

**If you need a hardware store or charcoal, tables, extension cords, water hoses, etc.**

#### **Wright Do-It Center**

208 S. Williams Street 618-687-1702

#### **Rural King**

500 E. Industrial Road 618-684-3123

#### **Wal-Mart**

6495 Country Club Road 618-684-5041

## **Meetings & Turn-in times**

### **Thursday September 24, 2026**

Fish turn-in 6:30 – 6:45 p.m.

Wing turn-in 7:30 – 7:45 p.m.

Fish & Wing awards 9:00 p.m. inside The Warehouse

### **Friday September 25, 2026**

BBQ Team Meeting 4:00 p.m.

SCA Cooks' meeting 4:30 p.m. (after BBQ team meeting)

SCA Ancillary turn-in: 6:00–6:15 p.m.

SCA Steak turn-in 7:30–8:00 p.m.

SCA Steak Cook-off Awards at the Main Stage at 9:00 p.m.

### **Saturday September 26, 2026**

#### **Blind Box Turn-in:**

MBN Whole Hog 9:15 – 9:30 a.m.

MBN Pork 10:15 – 10:30 a.m.

MBN Ribs 11:15 – 11:30 p.m.

KCBS Chicken 12:00 p.m.

KCBS Ribs 12:30 p.m.

KCBS Pork 1:00 p.m.

SCA Cooks' meeting 1:30 p.m.

KCBS Brisket 1:30 p.m.

SCA Ancillary turn-in 3:00 – 3:15

SCA Steak turn-in 4:00 – 4:30

MBN On-Site Finals 1:30 p.m.

Bloody Mary contest turn-in 2:00 – 2:15 p.m. (tent by restaurant)

## Agenda

### Thursday

5:30 – 8:00 p.m. **Fish & Fixin's** at The Warehouse ...  
All welcome ... tickets are \$24 per person at the door.

6:30 p.m. **Fish Contest turn-in** in the small banquet room

7:30 p.m. **Wing Contest turn-in** in the small banquet room

9:00 p.m. **Fish & Wing Contest winners announced** in The Warehouse

### Friday

8:00 a.m. **Meat inspection upon arrival**

4:00 p.m. **Mandatory Team Meeting** in the KCBS Blind Judging Room {the door at the far north of The Warehouse}. Please send the head cook and one team member only. We are unable to accommodate the entire team.

4:30 p.m. Teams **pick up hospitality baskets** outside the MBN judging room

4:30 p.m. – **SCA Steak Cook-off Cook's Meeting** with steak selection in the MBN judging room

5:00 p.m. the **Crimson Express Marching Band** will play and parade through the midway

5:30 – 8:00 p.m. **Grand Champion Meal** at The Warehouse ... everyone is welcome ... tickets are \$32 per person and available at the door.

6:00 – 11:45 p.m. **Live Music on the Main Stage**

5:30 p.m. – **SCA Steak Cook-off Judge's Meeting** in the MBN judging room

6:00 – 6:15 **SCA Pork Steak Turn-in**

7:30 – 8:00 p.m. – **SCA Steak Turn-In** in the MBN judging room

9:00 p.m. **SCA Steak Cook-off Awards** on the main stage

### Saturday

9:15 a.m. Turn-ins begin.

10:00 a.m. **Budweiser Lucky Beer Toast** in the middle of the midway

1:00 – 5:00 p.m. **Live Music on the Stage**

3:00 – 3:15 p.m. **SCA Deviled Eggs turn-in**

4:00 – 4:30 p.m. **SCA Steak turn-in**

5:30 p.m. **SCA Steak Cook-off Awards**

6:00 p.m. **Barbecue Awards ceremony**

**After the awards ... Ole Hickory UltraQue Pit (valued at \$7500) raffle drawing.**

**Tickets available throughout the weekend; \$10 each or 12 for \$100.**