

Black Rock Gazette

Your Playa Time Source for Infotainment Since 1992

Tuesday August 31, 2004

DUST EDITION Volume 13 Issue #54

Population 11,400

Save our Streets

By Durgy

Do not drive any vehicles on wet roads. Do not even ride your bike on wet roads. You probably should not even walk on wet roads. Not only does any amount of traffic, including foot traffic, tear up the roads, making them difficult to bike on, but we will get more dust if we treat our roads poorly. This goes for roads made wet by nature or by the water trucks.

The water trucks are actually watering the streets to keep the roads hard packed to abate dust. When we drive on wet roads, it ruts up the road, making it more difficult to pass. So if the roads are wet, just stay where you are until they dry out. It'll make life easier for us during the event and for the cleanup crew after the event.

When this reporter arrived in Black Rock City at 4:30am Thursday morning, there was a light rain in Gerlach. Unfortunately, there had been a heavy rain in Black Rock City. At 2:30am, Coyote had already made the call out to the Gate that the City was shut down. Grover was on perimeter out near route 447 and shut off Gate Road at the start of the gravel. We were going to

have to wait until the roads dried out enough in order to go into BRC.

So we waited. There were about four people there at that hour. By the time we'd witnessed a beautiful sunrise, there were about a dozen

people. We started calling ourselves "Far Away Camp." By 9:00am, Stacy suggested that we start drinking some beer. And by 10:00 there were about 30 people all having a good time.

We made stencils and exchanged gifts. I met Julie, who was managing the raising of Thunderdome, and ended up being a volunteer to help build it. Quiet Girl took pictures. The folks at Far Away Camp made the conscious decision to make the best out of what could have been a bad situation.

If you find yourself away from



Photo By: QUIET GIRL

CAPTION

your camp and the water truck comes by, wait around until the street dries before moving again. Super Dave from DPW summed it up well: "Wet roads provide an opportunity to build community." So please stay where you are if a storm blows through or harbor folks until the roads become passable again. And when they do become passable, remember that the speed limit is 5 miles an hour.

The dust out here is unavoidable. However, if we stay off wet roads and keep the speed down, we can help shape the weather and keep things moving along in Black Rock City.

Hostel Environment

By Jonno

If his nickname wasn't already "Haggy," I might have called him that anyway. So haggard and saggy seemed the retired schoolteacher whose house becomes the world's home for four days before BRC opens its gates.

Totalling just ten hours of sleep between Thursday and Monday will do that to you. Fred "Haggy" Hagemester sighed that since Thursday, more than 400 Burners had passed through his home in Sparks on a normally quiet side street which had been anything but quiet in the days leading up to the event.

Some visitors were offering rides; others were seeking them. Mostly burners from east of the Mississippi or Western Europe cruised through. About one-third are from foreign nations. Lu Ming Chen had traveled farthest - from mainland China. Last year's 'long man' was a serviceman on furlough from his post in South Korea. Saturday night's guest count hit 80, sleeping on couches, floors and backyard tents. Neighbors were sometimes helpful in transporting hostel guests to local shops. Neighbors were sometimes unhelpful summoning police when luggage and cars blocked the street as burners their gear for the playa.

"The kindness of these people is amazing," said Aaron, an Internet techie from Brighton, England. "People on the last leg of their journey from Florida, it would be easy for them to just head for the playa and not go miles out of their way to pick people up from here. It's very touching."

Haggy said the hostel and rideshare projects have morphed into a fulltime job from May to August, between hours on the internet and conversations on four phone lines. In addition to his time and the wear on his house, the flood of visitors sends Fred's water bills skyrocketing, with hundreds of extra showers and dozens of burners filling water jugs. The rented porta-potty, which was projected to last four days, filled in two.

"Overwhelmed," Haggy declared. "No way can I do this again next year, not without major changes." If no one showed up except people who had contacted him in advance via the Internet, "It would be doable," Haggy said. "In a nutshell, last-minute people are the problem. Word of mouth has been so strong that everything is on overload."

For now, the best thing that this year's Black Rock Burner Hostel guests can do is to arrange their own rides back to the airport after Burning Man is over and not try to use Haggy's place as a resting spot on their way home. Said he: "I'd like to spend a few days on the playa and have some fun, and not worry about what's happening back at my house on Sunday or Monday."

Only 6 days til clean up.
Never let it hit the ground.

Good Ol' Fashioned Burn

By: Caleb Clark

Wizzard (aka Bob Marzewski) loved BM 2003, as he did all seven of his burns, but he had a sense that "something was missing," something that he said he used to experience around the old Opera Fires Pepe used to do, something to do with wood.

"The sort of stuff that goes on around a wood fire is more intimate than 500 gallons of diesel," he continued. He remembers more gifting, drumming and sharing of the experience. He likes the crowd moving closer and father away and making sure ashes are safe as the wood heat naturally ebbs and flows while it vanishes into the very air that the trees used to blow in.

Last year Wizzard put the call out to the three-year-old Burning Silicon regional group for a design of a large art project. And the "Pagoda of Infinite Reflection," a beautiful 32-foot-high natural wooden sculpture at 8:45 on the inner playa was the result.

Further inspiration for the Pagoda came from the idea that more people should participate in art projects and would if encouraged.

The Pagoda is "a study in repetitiveness" and allows Burners to look at the different reflections. Four large mirrors at the base reflect as you use a crank to change their angle. A second mirror box is suspended mid-way up. On the top of the Pagoda is an 18'

high-tech propeller with lights and a governor that controls the speed by having the drive shaft bang into hoops that make music like a giant chime.

All 3000 pounds of its lumber, plus 5 cords of firewood loaded into it (including hot burning Madrone hardwood) is going to burn after the Pagoda Burn Processional at 10:30-11:30pm on Wednesday. According to the creator of the propeller on the top of Pagoda, Gerry Cargile, the burn will include "a surprise having to do with the vault."

The design was created by Larry Breed before a beach burn where he wanted to figure out how to stack fence boards without using any metal fasteners. He notched the wood and started building log cabin style. Others joined in and soon the stack was 9 feet high and looked, he said, like a pagoda.

The Pagoda Team is protecting the playa from burn scars by using a platform of concrete blocks with thin steel over the top that will act as a heat shield. They will take all the interactive mirrors out before the burn. After the burn, the team will carry the mirrors back into place and walk a dome over them. Wizzard wants the piece to be a community project from beginning to end.



Photo By: Bill Kazitsky

BRC ACTIVE

By: Lord Fouffypants

How burners this year are getting their workout goes from down tempo to no-speed-limit tempo.

Yoga wrangler Robin at Heebeegeebie Healers camp (4:30 & Earth) has hatha, kundalini and Iyengar yoga classes starting 10am for up to 100 people. It's yoga for the masses and way more relaxing than dodging art cars. In Erica's Groove Dance Studio (4:30 & Mercury) are dance classes in belly, waltz, salsa, African, tango and more, with 15 instructors working from noon till late. "Suck, tuck and pull it up," says Erica to bun-moving rhythms for a partnered workout.

Lost Penguin's hour-long amorous cardio strip class, at 2pm, (8:30 & Esplanade) raises everyone's heartbeat whilst over in Asylum's Whirligig (7:15 & Esplanade) you can learn to Hula Hoop every day from 3pm till 4, belly dance classes from 4 till 5 and "Bring Out Your Inner Burlesque" from 5 till 6. Hooper Sprite says, "Hula Hooping tones my abs for BRC beautification." Later at Whirligig, aerialist Cypher Zero teaches high wire on the Asylum stage. Unbelievable high wire action! In Center Camp at 6pm from Thursday onward, Drago and company teach Brazilian Capoeira Angola for an intense workout.

So much is going on at sundown! Wednesday at You are that Pig Camp (5:30 & Esplanade), "Pigs in Space" features kickball, tug-o-war, sack and three-legged races with prizes and surprises and "Pigs of the Zodiac" mini golf all day long. Pastypig remarked, "It truly helps BRC find their inner celestial pig." Squeal the pain!

At Automatic Subconscious (3:00 & Esplanade), Juliana's Topless Tapas and Limbo will stretch your back and stomach on Wednesday. And at



Photo By: Bill Kasitsky

7:30pm and Tuesday through Sunday, you can take part in the daily dusk "Case o' Beer Toss" from the high scaffold. Kadu says, "Beer motivates, but doesn't improve catching skills. Catch 'em and keep 'em! Also at dusk, a popular and entertaining leg workout is bicycle-chasing your playa sun shadow. And you could if you could travel faster than light based on this year's science theme.

Burning Man Cancelled...

This could be a reality unless porta-potties are kept cleared of debris.

There have been reports of folks not treating the porta potties properly. There has been trash found in porta potties and even entire outfits! Remember, pants are for wearing and not for leaving in the porta potties.

So if you see somebody walking to the porta potties with a rotting watermelon, please educate your fellow Burner by telling them that there is no MOOP (Matter out of Place) in the poop. We need outreach from everyone to make sure that we keep our porta potty drivers happily sucking crap all week.

Yikes Bikes

By: Tom

Some bike mechanics say the "Gift Economy" has returned to their work, but not without a rumor or two. For the first time in a number of years, Burning Man sponsors no bicycle repair at Center Camp. Some people rumor that camp members are "on strike," but according to Playa Info, they are simply taking the year off.

Those with broken bikes need not suffer a slow burn. A new approach emphasizes "bike gods" in camps across the Playa. Happy to get you back on your way, they mostly fix flat tires and dusty chains.

These mechanics and bike guilds get support from Community Services and theme camps across the playa, including Johnny's Playa Cruisers (9:00 & Esplanade), Maximum Self Sufficiency Camp (9:15 & Jupiter), and Embassy (4:30 and Esplanade).

"I bring \$100 dollars in tubes and give them away. I think everyone should bring something," says Embassy's Andyman.

Guildmaster, formerly Lost Bike Boy, provides resources (e.g. stands, parts and tools) along with expertise to mechanics who provide direct repair service to their neighbors.

The approach compensates for

having no bike repair in Center Camp and fosters wider participation among those who can repair bikes.

The sheer volume of business was a problem, according to Guildmaster. "The gift economy was breaking down because people involved didn't have time to be gifted back. It requires time and affection to work. There was so much work, it was deteriorating into barter." He says that by localizing bicycle repair there is less emphasis on mass production, and more opportunity for the gift economy to flourish. If the bike guild works well, it could grow and become more formal.

Counterfit

By Weegee

At 10pm Saturday, the 28th of August, Black Rock City Gate Manager, Pearly Gates, discovered an individual attempting to sell counterfeit tickets in the will call parking lot. Pearly Gates tried to apprehend him, but the perpetrator disappeared into the night. It was later found that counterfeit tickets were being offered in Gerlach as well. Local law enforcement was contacted and provided with a description of the perpetrator. Danger Ranger of the BRC Rangers informs us that two Burners had purchased bad tickets. Nevada Property Manager Super Dave relates that all tickets have a serial number and are in a computerized database showing who bought each one. If you are buying tickets after you leave home make sure it's from an official source - There are counterfeits out there.

Tickets should be acquired through authorized outlets only is the moral of this story folks.

Kostume Cult: Kostume Konsultant

By EditrixAbby

Feeling underdressed? Pantless, perhaps? Regretting having packed those plaid shirts and khaki shorts now that you're in the company of all these sparkling, rainbow-clad shiny happy Burners? Well it could be that you're in need of some "flair." Or some pants. Or a costume for that theme party you were just invited to.

For those of you in search of that special something that will transform your couture from tired to terrific, the creative costumers of Kostume Kult are at your service.

Beginning today, you're invited to stop in and swap a wad of fabric or those hot pink sunglasses that clash with your flaming orange hair for an Elvis ensemble or a silly hat. Hey, wait a minute! This is Burning Man, where nothing clashes. Well, you get the picture. Leave a garment, take a garment, feel fabulous! Of course, if you've been walking around in a shirt with no pants, you may be beyond help.

Kostume Kult's hours are non-ish till sundown. Find them at 7:15 & Esplanade.



Photo By: Weegee

DUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THE 4 DUMBLES
1 LETTER TO EACH SQUARE
TO FORM 4 ORDINARY WORDS

NPGUEL

EDNIF

SRETDE

ACCKR

ANSWER; [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []



- Publisher & Editor in Chief
Michael Durgavich
- Editor
Editrix Abby
- Graphics/Operations
Francis Wendelich
- Volunteer Coordinator
Sarah Sevilla
- Webmaster
Edge
- Editor, IT
John Lam
- Writers
Weegee, Durgy, Ed Carter, Caleb, Naomi, Jonno, Worm, Babesodelicious, Tom LaPorte, Howeid, Gotalot, Abby,
- Photographers
Weegee, Quiet Girl, Bill Kasitsky, Gartho, John, Loretta Johnny Switchblade
- Utility Infielder
David Silver
- Distribution Captain
Armadillo
- Dis Reps
Paperboy, Paperboy Biff
- Photo Wrangler/IT/
PixMan
- Proofreader
Larry Breed
- Layout & Production
Angie Z., Peg Oberste,
- Special Thanks
Harry Yarvel, Marion Goodell, AG, Dayglo Bagel, Michael Michael, Raines Cohen, Justin
- www.burningman.com