Save our Streets

By Dorgy
Do not drive or walk on any roads in the Black Rock desert during the event. 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 hike on, but we will get more dust if we treat our roads poorly. This goes for roads made wet by nature or by traffic.

The water trucks are actually watering the streets to keep the roads hard packed to allow 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 2:50am, Coyote had already made the call out to the Gate that the City was shut down. Grover was on perimeter out near route 467 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 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 your camp and the water trucks come 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 this way when the wind blows through or harbor folks until the roads become passable again. And when the dust settles, we will do the hard work to get the roads passable again. So if you find yourself stuck on a gravel road, don't get angry. We're all in this together.

Hostel Environment

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

Totaling just ten hours of sleep between the playa and home, he did all that to you. Fred "Happy" Hagney sighed that since Thursday, more than 400 Burners had passed through his home in Sparks on a northerly wind that 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 back-yard tents. Neighbors were sometimes helpful in transporting hostel guests to local shops. Neighbors were sometimes unhelpful summoning police when fugitives cars blocked the street as burners' 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 jut head for the plays and not go miles out of their way to pick people up from here. It's very touching." Hagney said the hostel and rideshare projects have morphed into a full-time job from May to August, between hours on the internet and communication 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 port-a-potty, which was projected to last four days, filled in two.

"Overwhelmed," Hagney 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," Hagney said. "In a nutshell, last weekend 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 port-a-potty, which was projected to last four days, filled in two.

"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," Hagney said. "In a nutshell, last weekend 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 port-a-potty, which was projected to last four days, filled in two.

"Omg! It's 400 burners, plus 5 cords of firewood

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 a 18' high-tech propeller with lights and a governor that controls the speed by having the drive shaft hang into hoops that make music like a giant chime.

All 3000 pounds of its lumber, plus 30-40 cords of firewood loaded into it (including hot burning Madrone hardwood) is going to burn after the Pagoda Burn Processional at 10:50-11:30pm 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.
**BRC ACTIVE**

By: Lord Foulypants

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

Yoga wrangler Rohin at Hooves-between-Healers camp (6:30 & Earth) has hatha, kundalini and vinyasa yoga classes starting 10am for up to 100 people. It’s yoga for the masses and more relaxing than dodging art cars. In Erica’s Groove Dance Studio (6:30 & Mercury) are dance classes in belly, Waltz, salsas, 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 part-amorous cardio strip class, at 2pm, (8:30 till late.

Erica’s Groove Dance Studio (4:30 & Esplanade) raises everyone’s heartbeat whilst over in Ayumil’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 Bartlepool” from 5 till 6. Hooper Sprites says, “Hula Hooping tones my abs for BRC beautification.” Later at Whirligig, aerialist Cypher Zero teaches high wire magic on the Ayumil stage. Unbelievable high wire action! In Center Camp at 6pm from Thursday onward, Drago and company teach Brazilian Capoiera Angola for an intense workout.

Lost Penguin’s hour-long amorous cardio strip class, at 2pm, (8:30 till late.

Khalu 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.

**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 Plays 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 Andyan.

**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, never leave home make sure it’s from an official source – There are counterfeiters out there.

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

---

**Kostume Cult: Kostume Konsultant**

By EdrixAbb

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 won’t be invited to.

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

Beginning today, you’re invited to stop in and swap a wall of fabric or those hot pink sunglasses that just won’t stay on 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 pic- ture. Leave a garment, take a garment, nothing clashes. Well, you get the picture.

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

**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. It’s hours are noon-

**For the first time in a number of years, Burning Man sponsors no bicycle repair at Center Camp.**

---

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