As cities evolve, so does transportation. Unlike other cities, Black Rock City’s survival depends on participants rejecting the prevailing car culture of the default world and embracing alternative transportation.

Public safety concerns are reason enough for Burning Man to be a pedestrian/bicycle city when the event first moved out to the playa in 1990, there were no rules about vehicles. By 1996 with just 6,000 participants, the dust problems and hazards of casual and recreational driving had become extreme. In 1997, casual driving was designed out of Black Rock City transportation.

According to Harley K. Dubois, Director of Community Services and Playa Safety Team, 1997 was critical in the evolution of the event not only because it was “the first year that you could bike around without worrying about getting hit by a car,” but also because it was then that bike culture truly emerged. It was also the year that saw the formation of a regulatory body to grant driving privileges to vehicles that are truly participatory in the autonomous plan. Harley Dubois, Director of Community Services, explains, “Bike Camp existed for emergencies; not for routine maintenance, which is the responsibility of each of us before coming to the playa. Too often participants will leave their broken bicycle in storage all year until they are packing their vehicle for the playa. Instead of fixing it beforehand, they’ll immediately go to Bike Camp. This is against the principles of Burning Man and would be akin to someone failing to pack food and water and instead demanding free food and water from the Café.”

It’s hard to imagine a municipality more “bike-friendly” than Black Rock City. In fact, Black Rock City is probably the closest thing a Bike Utopia that the world has ever produced. But there is room for improvement. For example, last year the volunteer mechanics at Bike Camp were flooded with masses of people with simple bike problems that could have easily been remedied before coming to the playa. The overabundance of people needing minor repairs coupled with a scarcity of bicycle mechanics led to unpleasantries for both the people with broken bikes and the bike mechanics. Sometimes it takes an unpleasant situation like this to make the Burning Man community adopt necessary changes. It was the 1996 congestion of cars on the playa that led to the creation of the Department of Mutant Vehicles and a path for bikes in 1997. Now, the bike repair calamity of 2003 has led to bike repair changes for 2004.

Bike maintenance and repair is ultimately the responsibility of each participant. The original plan for Bike Camp was to provide a place where participants could borrow tools, get expert advice and fix their own bikes. Unfortunately, too many participants had misconceptions about this autonomous plan. Harley Dubois, Director of Community Services, explained, “Bike Camp existed for emergencies; not for routine maintenance, which is the responsibility of each of us before coming to the playa. Too often participants will leave their broken bicycle in storage all year until they are packing their vehicle for the playa. Instead of fixing it beforehand, they’ll immediately go to Bike Camp. This is against the principles of Burning Man and would be akin to someone failing to pack food and water and instead demanding free food and water from the Cafe.”

“Burning Man also wants people to get into the habit of bringing extra bike parts and supplies,” continued Harley. “Bike mechanics are not expected to be a bike store and it’s impossible to get parts for the bike that we are in the Rock Desert. We are encouraging everyone to bring at least two spare inner tubes for emergencies or as a gift for someone who needs it. Gifts giving is one of Burning Man’s principles and should also include necessary supplies like bike parts.”

Viker Veysey of the Bike Hut in San Francisco has proposed a solution for providing emergency bike repairs without overburdening bike mechanics. Veysey envisions a Bike Trail where anyone with expertise on bike repair is auto-tapped as a part of an informal network. Emergency bike repairs should occur at the local level between people who are already connected through existing relationships. This eliminates the need to delegate duties such as art car driver, cook, clean-up crew, etc. Camps should get in the habit of desegregating their resident mechanic. Veysey also has proposed creating a Bike Guild registration system so that participants can more easily find their friendly neighborhood bike mechanic.

The car was intimidating because it had the potential to turn a good camping trip and a great party into a huge hassle. People had to be very careful about where we were going. Photos and videos can be viewed at http://www.kildall.com/installations/pyrocycles.

The survival of Burning Man relies on its participants embracing the pedestrian/bicycle nature of the event and leaving the car culture in the default world. Similar to the petty crisis of recent years, the survival of Burning Man relies on community ownership of this public safety issue.

After all the careful packing and the long trip out the playa, this burnar can’t wait to park her car, unload her bike, fill a Nalgene bottle with water, and cruise around at a relaxed pace. This will make it easier to connect with other people and relax in your environment.

Don’t forget to bring your bike light, lock and extra keys to the event. Bike Camp—those guys are always there and available to fix your bike.

For more information on Bike Camp visit: http://www.burningman.com/on_the_playa/playa_vehicles/

Burning Man’s Bike Culture

Harley Allen

Do you REALLY want to drive at Burning Man?

As cities evolve, so does transportation. Unlike other cities, Black Rock City’s survival depends on participants rejecting the prevailing car culture of the default world and embracing alternative transportation.

Public safety concerns are reason enough for Burning Man to be a pedestrian/bicycle city when the event first moved out to the playa in 1990, there were no rules about vehicles. By 1996 with just 6,000 participants, the dust problems and hazards of casual and recreational driving had become extreme. In 1997, casual driving was designed out of Black Rock City transportation.

According to Harley K. Dubois, Director of Community Services and Playa Safety Team, 1997 was critical in the evolution of the event not only because it was “the first year that you could bike around without worrying about getting hit by a car,” but also because it was then that bike culture truly emerged. It was also the year that saw the formation of a regulatory body to grant driving privileges to vehicles that are truly participatory in the autonomous plan. Harley Dubois, Director of Community Services, explains, “Bike Camp existed for emergencies; not for routine maintenance, which is the responsibility of each of us before coming to the playa. Too often participants will leave their broken bicycle in storage all year until they are packing their vehicle for the playa. Instead of fixing it beforehand, they’ll immediately go to Bike Camp. This is against the principles of Burning Man and would be akin to someone failing to pack food and water and instead demanding free food and water from the Cafe.”

“Burning Man also wants people to get into the habit of bringing extra bike parts and supplies,” continued Harley. “Bike mechanics are not expected to be a bike store and it’s impossible to get parts for the bike that we are in the Rock Desert. We are encouraging everyone to bring at least two spare inner tubes for emergencies or as a gift for someone who needs it. Gifts giving is one of Burning Man’s principles and should also include necessary supplies like bike parts.”

Viker Veysey of the Bike Hut in San Francisco has proposed a solution for providing emergency bike repairs without overburdening bike mechanics. Veysey envisions a Bike Trail where anyone with expertise on bike repair is auto-tapped as a part of an informal network. Emergency bike repairs should occur at the local level between people who are already connected through existing relationships. This eliminates the need to delegate duties such as art car driver, cook, clean-up crew, etc. Camps should get in the habit of desegregating their resident mechanic. Veysey also has proposed creating a Bike Guild registration system so that participants can more easily find their friendly neighborhood bike mechanic.

The car was intimidating because it had the potential to turn a good camping trip and a great party into a huge hassle. People had to be very careful about where we were going. Photos and videos can be viewed at http://www.kildall.com/installations/pyrocycles.

The survival of Burning Man relies on its participants embracing the pedestrian/bicycle nature of the event and leaving the car culture in the default world. Similar to the petty crisis of recent years, the survival of Burning Man relies on community ownership of this public safety issue.

After all the careful packing and the long trip out the playa, this burnar can’t wait to park her car, unload her bike, fill a Nalgene bottle with water, and cruise around at a relaxed pace. This will make it easier to connect with other people and relax in your environment.

Don’t forget to bring your bike light, lock and extra keys to the event. Bike Camp—those guys are always there and available to fix your bike.

For more information on Bike Camp visit: http://www.burningman.com/on_the_playa/playa_vehicles/
This year of the Vault of Heaven we are called on again to participate in our temporary community, and the Black Rock Rangers decide to participate every year by volunteering, and this year is no exception. In 2004, Volunteer Recruitment has been brist, but opportunities to participate are available, and the services performed, necessary. What follows are some volunteer opportunities, and many of the Burning Man Project’s largest plays are represented here. Whether you live in San Francisco, home of Burning Man World Headquarters, or elsewhere, you can virtually link up with the departments that interest you the most. To fill out a general Volunteer questionnaire, visit www.burningman.com and follow the “Volunteer” link under “Participate.”

Airports
The BRC Airport needs Customs Agents to run the Airport Gate. The job is a combination of greeter, airplane parking, gate control and information management. Also needed experienced persons to provide Unicom advisories for pilots. Contact airport@burningman.com for these and other miscellaneous airport opportunities.

Art Team/Arty
We’re looking for help registering and placing artwork on the playa. You’ll need to attend regular meetings in San Francisco. Contact <car1@burningman.com>.

For curatorial and archive work, please contact ladybeer@burningman.com.

Black Rock Gazette
At the BRC, we don’t always just report the news, sometimes we’re in the middle of it! We are the longest running newspaper on the playa, founded in 1992 by Michael Schacht and maintained, upgraded and expanded for your pleasure. Not only do we have lush design features, but we often have knack! We will need volunteers for all phases of design and production from the City Desk to Distribution, and everything in between. If you want a place to volunteer to get your toehold in Black Rock City, join us! For more information email lizard@burningman.com.

Black Rock Arts Foundation
Incorporated in May 2001, The Black Rock Arts Foundation is a non-profit arts organization furnishing artists with monetary and non-monetary aid for the production and display of interactive artwork around the globe. We are devoted to promoting a revival of art’s cultural-hear and connective function, and removing artists from its context and reintegrating it into communal settings. Now in our third cycle of funding, we are looking for volunteers to help develop, clerical work and marketing on a regular basis. We are also looking for kind donations and people who help us share with others for the purpose of creating art and cultivating creative environments. If you would like to help, contact info@blackrockarts.org.

Burning Man Information Radio
We are looking for help to assist Black Rock Citizens in recording their public service announcements and theme camp updates from 12-2:30 PM each day of the Man. Training will be provided, and no radio experience is necessary. We are also in need of DJ’s to host Exodus Sunday and Monday. So if you’re willing to welcome Black Rock citizens into the dust-free, air-conditioned confines of our headquarters behind Playa Info while sipping a cool lemonade and at the same time helping build more BRC community cohesi on, please contact Carmen at brcinfo@burningman.com.

Camp Artica
The ice must flow, and as the “soul” outlet for this essential element, Camp Artica is as vital to the life of our community. Help us distribute this sacred resource to playa folk in a fun, friendly environment as we create our own frozen oasis on the desert floor. E-mail <icequeen@burningman.com>.

Center Camp Café
A community of over 60 volunteers, artists, musicians and builders come together every year to create the Center Camp Café. Located in the middle of Center Camp, the Café has a full-service coffee shop operates twenty-four hours a day for the entire event. Performance and Spoken Word stages call on Burning Man participants to take part in their talents. We hire artists, entertainers, decorators, builders, electricians, lighting designers, baristas, counter staff, pole, pole, pole, bar (time-honored phrase), to share our passion for recycling help to bring to life this array of color and beauty. The Center Camp Café invites everyone passionate about participation and conversation in our busy hub. If you have some administrative skills and a little free time and email us at <cafe-volunteer@burningman.com>.

Department of Mutant Vehicles
DMV Hotties Wanted – The BRC DMV seeks seasoned Playa participants to train in the process of licensing Mutant Vehicles. See General information in this paper or contact dmv@burningman.com.

Department of Public Works (DPW)
If you would like to volunteer your time to help build Black Rock City, and have carpentry, plumbing, electrical or building skills, or just a burning desire to volunteer in a meaningful way, you may have what it takes to be a DPW volunteer. DPW has weekend work throughout the year starting in late April, with a push to build BRC starting in mid-August. For those who want to help and stay clean up post-weekend, for a weekend, or a week or up to a month you can help to ensure the survival of the year for events to come by joining us. For more information contact dpw-volunteer@burningman.com.

Earth Guardians
The Earth Guardians inform, inspire and encourage the citizens of BRC to apply Leave No Trace principles to life in our community to help share in this truly amazing endeavor. If interested, please email <cafe-volunteer@burningman.com>.

Emergency Services Department (ESD)
ESD provides BRC with Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Fire Fighting, Crisis Intervention and Emergency Public Information Servic es. We are currently looking for professionals from all areas of serv ices. If you have specific questions or want to volunteer please email <ems@burningman.com>.

Exodus
People of Black Rock City! You are invited to pitch in and help make Exodus a true participant event. The Exodus team is responsible for ensuring a safe and timely trip out of BRC as well as giving all our beloved participants their final farewell for the year. It’s truly a special feeling to see every smiling face leaving the city and screaming from the windows of their vehicles! “See you next Burn!” is a well used expression among BRC community members. Sign me, line up, sign up and re-enlist today! We need more volunteers for a better Exodus for Burning Man 2004! Volunteer at http://exodus.burningman.com or send email to <exodus@burningman.com>.

Fire Conclave
We are looking for Fire Performers, Musicians, Fire Tenders and anyone who would like to help with fire activities and be part of the Fire Conclave throughout Burning Man. No matter where you may live in the world you can still participate in Fire Activities. Email Crimson Rose, Naked Fire Goddess, crimson@burningman.com.

Gate and Perimeter
At BRC’s initial portal, the primary role of Gate staff is to ensure that all those entering Burning Man are entitled to be there. Perimeter staff finds lost vehicles outside the City and directs them to the Gate. For more information email gate@burningman.com, or Spiderman, Co-Manager, spiderman@burningman.com.

Greeters
As you prepare for our spiritual journey into the desert this year, we must consider the offer of Greeter. It’s a great way to meet new people and express your love to your playa brothers and sisters. Greeters take on a shift of hours of meeting and greeting and welcoming home a lot of weary and excited travelers. We search for registered theme camps and hook up folks with a Lead Greeter who points them in the right direction. We hand out fun filled packages of collatera l materials. We provide camera tags for video capable cameras. We offer BRC’s vision of the opportunity to ring in the beginning of an experience that will forever change their lives. We smile and laugh and walk away from our shifts with the charged energy of newly arrived BRC citizens. We are also looking for Burning Man veterans to act as Leads to the ears and voice of the station, keeping things running smoothly. If this sounds fun and exciting to you contact: Noodlickmoos@yahoo.com.

Lampstructors
Illumination! Navigation! Celebration! Don a robe, grab a lifting pole, and jump on Lucy fryer’s, the Lampstructor Mutant Vehicle, as we’re off to light BRC! Whitestore or shine, we light ev’ry night! Lampstructor Chapel – Center Camp @ 3:00pm everyday. Email: lampstructor@burningman.com.

Legal Team
Burning Man has a stellar team of legal help. If you have legal experience and would like to work for the Man, email <legal@volunteers@burningman.com>.

Media Mecca
The Media Mecca Team manages media policy and off the playa year round. We need people willing to connect and create relationships with the media. Email your skills to <media-volunteers@burningman.com>.

Office Squad San Francisco
We can always use dedicated souls to help throughout the year at Burning Man HQ SF on a regular or irregular basis. Projects vary from file copying, data entry, bulk mailing, video logging, you never know who will need help with what in our busy bus. If you have some administrative skills and a little free time please email us at <officevolunteers@burningman.com>.

Playa Info
In Center Camp, under the blue “s” in the sky, you’ll find the central point for getting and distributing the hot information. Want to know about the times for a particular event, how to have your RV pumped, or how far the Sun is from planet Earth and need something? Need a camera a ref? Need to find a friend’s camp? The Playa Info Oracles are a very important function of fact and fiction, a great place for information about workings and activities of BRC. If you’re someone who loves to meet all kinds of new people, he empowered with both the ability to communicate, stage management and video logging, this is your opportunity, in a very lively and fun environment. We need people with all levels of experience to volunteer in our service areas. Contact us via <playainfo@burningman.com>.

Rangers
The Black Rock Rangers ride the edge of chaos. The Rangers are non-confrontational mediators and moderators of information, devoted to public safety and the quality of participant experience. Rangers also serve as a buffer interface between participants, the Burning Man organization, and outside agencies. If you have specific questions about the Black Rock Rangers or would like to volunteer to be a Ranger, please email <rangers@burningman.com>.

Recycle Camp
Dedicated volunteers are needed to promote recycling to the citizens of BRC. Spread the word, collect aluminum cans for the Gerlach School, have fun and Leave No Trace. Email <recycle8@burningman.com>.

Technology and Web Team
The Tech Team develops, manages and maintains the burnandinfra structure and the Burning Man Project’s burnandinfra technology tools which include the website (www.burningman.com) extranet, databases, office-based desk top support and system administration. The web site projects brings together technical, ux, content and other web-re lated volunteers dedicated to supporting and expanding a strong online community, which provides information, resources, contacts, and a way to celebrate Burning Man throughout the year. Working at the Burn and Infra eligible individuals, the Tech Team works on the team’s web structure, content, information, programming, development and operation. If you’re interested in helping, please fill out the volunteer questionnaire at: http://burningman.com/participate/questionnaire.html.

Video Documentation Team
The Video Documentation Team is looking for general volunteers with knowledge of video production, a team volunteer coordinator and videographers with their own equipment. Email hells@burningman.com.

EXODUS
Kids at Burning Man

We’ve all seen kids out on the playa, often in adorable being-sung-in-wonder at our gigantic playground while strolling down the Esplanade. Children are a growing population in Black Rock City, but the sight of a child at Burning Man still may produce mixed emotions of delight and concern.

Our magical city is a place where barriers between people dissolve, whether they are of different backgrounds, men or women, adults or children. Burning Man is radically inclusive, which means that Burning Man is necessarily pro-family. Participants who bring their children have the opportunity to create their own niche at Burning Man. Kids–Ville has been in Black Rock City since 1998. Kids–Ville hosts face painting, bubble blowing, body coloring and all kinds of other interactive art that child participants may spontaneously invent. Kids–Ville is not alone when it comes to making the inspiring aspects of Burning Man available to families. Last year the Earth Guardians hosted a kid’s day, fire dancers have performed for children, and others have given art car tours of the Man. Undoubtedly, there will be more interactive participation for children at Burning Man 2004. Last year the edges were not filled to capacity by peer pressure, but this no longer works. With the increased population and denser camping and reduced noise levels, some children may have found that the sound levels are within the acceptable levels within in our community standards. Since 1997, sound levels in the event were not allowed to be increased so that we can all enjoy the music there without complaints or interference. We are counting on the sound camps to be made with us and the community standards. Since 1997, sound camps within the city have not been allowed to increase so that we can all enjoy the music there without complaints or interference.

The only mixed emotions that remain may be twinges of jealousy . . . because the rest of us, Kids–Ville allows us to put our concerns to rest, knowing that children we may see at the event are being looked after. The only mixed emotions that remain may be twinges of jealousy . . . because the rest of us, Kids–Ville allows us to put our concerns to rest, knowing that children we may see at the event are being looked after. The only mixed emotions that remain may be twinges of jealousy . . . because the rest of us, Kids–Ville allows us to put our concerns to rest, knowing that children we may see at the event are being looked after.

Black Rock City offers children an environment based on self-expression, sharing, and respect. If your neighbors ask you to turn down your volume, please comply. To ignore sound complaints is unacceptable behavior in Black Rock City, as is preventing your neighbors from sleeping. Please answer the bell, make your complaint, and respect the needs of your neighbors. Turning down your volume is not enough. If your music off. It’s better to turn it down than to be shut down.

Please see www.burningman.com for updates on our new sound policy as they occur.
Lowdown on the Temple of Gravity

The temple and the company created to fund it, Gravity Group LLC, began with a commission from Burning Man, and covered their remaining costs with donations from private investors. Designed by Zachary Coffin to pay tribute to “one of the few constants in our ever-changing lives.”

Deeds. At any rate, few who attended Burning Man 2003 can forget the impressive Temple of Gravity, sunset while sitting below the 80 ton structure, thinking weighty thoughts and telling tales of heavy days. The temple is a beautiful example of the structure that we could clean the “80 acres” next to the Black Rock Station, as in the past. Housing and camping facilities will mostly be temporary, and will not be permitted to have the trauma of desert camping. Tent of the Center Camp Cafe for your daily dose of caffeine, sunscreen, water, dust mask, and lip balm, so you’ll have it ready for stops at the Cafe or at BYOC theme camps.

The Vault of Heaven

From the heavens that many say we came, and to it will we return. We live, we breathe, and we have the hope of a home away from home. Loved ones know that it’s under the same sky. A sailor loses direction but the stars can guide him home. If you find yourself in Center Camp and realize that your mug is on the other side of Black Rock City we now will provide ready for stops at the Cafe or at BYOC theme camps.

The temple is a beautiful example of the structure that we could clean the “80 acres” next to the Black Rock Station, as in the past. Housing and camping facilities will mostly be temporary, and will not be permitted to have the trauma of desert camping. Tent of the Center Camp Cafe for your daily dose of caffeine, sunscreen, water, dust mask, and lip balm, so you’ll have it ready for stops at the Cafe or at BYOC theme camps.

The Vault of Heaven

From the heavens that many say we came, and to it will we return. We live, we breathe, and we have the hope of a home away from home. Loved ones know that it’s under the same sky. A sailor loses direction but the stars can guide him home. If you find yourself in Center Camp and realize that your mug is on the other side of Black Rock City we now will provide ready for stops at the Cafe or at BYOC theme camps.

The temple is a beautiful example of the structure that we could clean the “80 acres” next to the Black Rock Station, as in the past. Housing and camping facilities will mostly be temporary, and will not be permitted to have the trauma of desert camping. Tent of the Center Camp Cafe for your daily dose of caffeine, sunscreen, water, dust mask, and lip balm, so you’ll have it ready for stops at the Cafe or at BYOC theme camps.

The Vault of Heaven

From the heavens that many say we came, and to it will we return. We live, we breathe, and we have the hope of a home away from home. Loved ones know that it’s under the same sky. A sailor loses direction but the stars can guide him home. If you find yourself in Center Camp and realize that your mug is on the other side of Black Rock City we now will provide ready for stops at the Cafe or at BYOC theme camps.