



Do you *REALLY* want to drive at Burning Man?

TEXT ALI HAWKHURST

As cities evolve, so does transportation. Unlike most 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 still only 8,000 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 nature... the art car or "Mutant Vehicle."

Mutant Vehicles are "sublimely beautiful movable works of art that appear to float along the playa like objects in a Miro painting," says Larry Harvey, Founder and Director of the Burning Man project. The Department of Mutant Vehicles (DMV) was created in 1997 so that these vehicles can be integrated safely into our community.

"Driving is a privilege at Burning Man, not a right," says Jewelz Cody, aka Grits, Head of the DMV. With the survival of the event at stake, 2004 will see an enforcement team and impound lots for unauthorized or unsafely operated vehicles.



PHOTO Steven Fritz
THE PYROCYCLES SHOW THEIR STUFF

At last year's Volunteer Town Hall Meeting this reporter was recruited by the DMV, and got to work on the 2003 DMV pre-registration process, and signed up for a few playa shifts. As an on-playa DMV Hottie I got to check out the whole spectrum of vehicles as they came in for inspection. Some vehicles showcased the creativity and hard work neces-

sary to create the whimsically beautiful mutant vehicles. Other vehicles, shallowly-disguised convenience vehicles, evidenced the persistence of car culture in our society.

The difference between convenience vehicles and true Mutant Vehicles is sometimes subtle and most clearly lies in the intention behind it. Will that golf cart with a bit of fuzzy fabric zip-tied to it really add to the community's experience or is it really so you can make ice runs and have your own playa cruiser?

However, digging deeper, perhaps an even more important consideration is: Why do you really want to drive at Burning Man?

One artist, Scott Kildall, moved away from using a motorized vehicle altogether. His "Pyrocycles"

were 6 bicycles that towed oil derricks that projected musical propane-fueled flames. Kildall compares this bike-based project to his 2002 car-based Octopus project. "With the car, we were removed from the crowds of people and felt like we were delivering a show, delineating spectator and participant. On the bikes, we were more approachable, people could talk to us and there was no perception of danger.

The car was intimidating because it had the potential to cause damage, was dark and we had to be very careful about where we were going." Photos and video can be viewed at <http://www.kildall.com/installations/pyrocycles.html>

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 potty 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 burner can't wait to park her car, unload her bike, fill a Nalgene bottle with sake and cruise around at a relaxed pace. This will make it easier to connect/flirt/interact/whatever with my neighbors and really be "in" the experience instead of rushing through it.

Won't you join me? Better yet, become a DMV Hottie and help us before and during this year's event!

Remember Mutant Vehicle people: Pre-registration is MANDATORY this year! Stay tuned to www.burningman.com for more information from the DMV. To keep up to date, subscribe to the DMV Announce list: dmv-announce-subscribe@burningman.com and check us out at: http://www.burningman.com/on_the_playa/playa_vehicles/

Burning Man's Bike Culture

TEXT RAY ALLEN

TAKE THIS SHORT BIKE QUIZ

1. When is the best time to blow the playa dust off your bike, make necessary repairs, decorate your bike and purchase an extra inner tube for emergency or gift use?

- When I get to the playa.
- A couple of days before the event—after I finish everything else on my to-do list.
- I'm not going to bring a bike to Burning Man 2004.
- Today—immediately after I read this article!

2. Whose responsibility is it to maintain my bike for Burning Man?

- Bike Camp—those guys are always there and available to fix my bike 24/7.
- Any one of the plentiful low-priced friendly overstaffed bike shops conveniently located in beautiful downtown Gerlach.
- I don't know—I never really thought about it.
- I am. As a dedicated citizen of Black Rock City I'm going to do everything to alleviate the unnecessary workload of the bike mechanics so they can enjoy the event without having to pick up my slack!

3. What can I do to help prevent bike theft at Burning Man?

- Hope that nothing happens to my bike.
- Nothing because some law enforcement agency at the event is probably keeping an eye on bikes.
- I don't care if my bike gets stolen because it's a piece of junk and I'm planning to abandon it at the event anyway.
- Bring a low-value, highly decorated distinct bike with a light to the playa, get to know my neighbors, establish an informal neighborhood watch and lock my bike everywhere I go.

The correct answers (all d) should jump out to you. After all, part of the ethos of Black Rock City is our radical self-reliance. However, since there will not be a centralized Bike Camp this year, please read on.

You may be wondering, "If there's no central Bike Camp, what happens if my bike breaks on the playa?" Relax, you can still get your bike fixed, but the process will be structured a bit differently in order to alleviate unnecessary pressures on bike mechanics.

Vehicles and a push 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

It's hard to imagine a municipality more "bike-friendly" than Black Rock City. In fact, Black Rock City is probably the closest thing to 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 bike mechanics led to an unpleasant situation 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 led to the creation of the Department of Mutant

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 the day 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 sustenance from the Café."

"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 bike parts in the Black Rock Desert. We are encouraging everyone to bring at least two spare inner tubes for emergency use or as a gift for someone who needs it. Gift giving is one of Burning Man's principles and should also include necessary supplies like bike parts."

Vikter 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 Guild where anyone with expertise on bike repair is automatically a part of an informal network. Emergency bike repairs should occur at the local level between people who are already connected through existing relationships. Large camps often delegate duties such as art car driver, cook, clean-up crew, etc. Camps should get in the habit of designating their resident bike mechanic. Veysey also has proposed creating a Bike Guild registration system so that participants can more easily find their friendly neighborhood bike mechanic.

Providing such a system on the playa would require some considerable resources. Anyone interested in helping create such a system should contact Veysey at vikterv@sociologist.com.

Now that you have a working bike, and have made friends with your bike repairperson we all have a responsibility to prevent bike theft. No one likes to think that theft happens in our magical city, but unfortunately it does. The easiest ways to prevent theft on the playa are to bring a low-value, highly decorated distinct bike with a light, get to know your neighbors, establish an informal neighborhood watch, and lock your bike everywhere you go.

"Another step toward creating a motorless heaven," says Larry Harvey, Founder and Director of Burning Man, "is to offer honorariums for mobile art that is entirely human powered." Anyone interested in applying for an honorarium should subscribe to and read the Jack Rabbit Speaks internet announcement newsletter for more information. Point your browser to http://www.burningman.com/blackrockcity_yearound/contacts/jrs_lists.html to subscribe.

Remember that Burning Man is a community of participants; and not a consumer experience. Treat each other with mutual respect. This includes truly appreciating the services provided by volunteer bike mechanics in our wonderful Black Rock City. "Wouldn't it be lovely if the community elevated bike mechanics to the level of Bike Gods like Vikter imagines?" asks Harley. Gifts and backrubs are nice too.

So, what should you do to move us closer to a Bike Utopia in 2004? Pull your bike out of storage, dust it off, take it in for a tune up and buy a couple of extra inner tubes. Tell everyone in your camp to do the same. Determine who in your camp has bike repair expertise, and share those resources. Bring your bike light, lock and extra keys to the playa. Also, remember to honor and worship the Bike Gods!



PHOTO Brad Templeton
ALL SORTS OF BIKES ARE FOUND IN BRC

VOLUNTEER FOR THE MAN!

This year of the Vault of Heaven we are called on again to participate in our temporary community at Black Rock City. Thousands decide to participate every year by volunteering, and this year is no exception. In 2004, Volunteer Recruitment has been brisk, 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 on-playa recruiters of volunteers 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."

Airport

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

Art Team/Artery

We're looking for help registering and placing artwork on the playa. You'll need to attend regular meetings in San Francisco. Contact art@burningman.com.

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

Black Rock Gazette

At the BRG, 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 Michael and maintained, upgraded and expanded for your pleasure. Not only do we have lush design trailers, but we often have snacks! 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 brgazette@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 culture-bearing and connective function by removing art from its context in the marketplace and reintegrating it into communal settings. Now in our third cycle of funding, we are looking for volunteers to help us with development, clerical work and marketing on a regular basis. We are also looking for in kind donations and people who have resources to 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 need volunteers to assist Black Rock Citizens in recording their public service announcements and theme camp updates from 12-5PM each day of Burning Man. Training will be provided, and no radio experience is necessary. We are also in need of DJ's to host Exodus both Sunday and Monday. So if you're willing to welcome weary 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 connection, please contact Carmen at bmir@burningman.com.

CampArctica

The ice must flow, and as the "soul" outlet for this essential element, CampArctica is 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 600 volunteers, artists, musicians and builders come together every year to create the Center Camp Café. Located in the middle of Center Camp, the playa's largest coffee shop operates twentyfour hours a day for the entire event. Performance and Spoken Word stages call on Burning Man participants to showcase their talents. We need artists, entertainers, decorators, builders, electricians, lighting designers, baristas, counter people, sound technicians, stage managers and recycling help to bring to life this array of color and beauty. The Center Camp Café invites everyone passionate about participation and community to help share in this truly amazing endeavor. If interested, please email cafe-volunteers@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 article 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 DPW. We'll have work weekends throughout the year starting in late April, with a push to build BRC starting in mid August. For those who want to stay and help clean up post-event, for a weekend, a week or up to a month you can help to ensure the survival of the event for years to come by joining us. For more information contact dpw-volunteers@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 temporary desert home and beyond. We also visit the desert on weekends throughout the year to assist the Federal Bureau of Land Management and other desert users with restoration and conservation efforts. Email earthguardians@burningman.com.

Emergency Services Department (ESD)

ESD provides BRC with Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Fire Fighting, Crisis Intervention and Emergency Dispatch services. We are currently looking for professionals from all areas of service. If you have specific questions or want to volunteer please email 911@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 year!" Exodus volunteers are looked up to and well taken care of—so c'mon kids, 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, consider the opportunity of being a 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 4 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 collated materials. We provide camera tags for video capable cameras. We offer BRC virgins 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 charged with the happy energy of newly arrived BRC citizens. We are also looking for Burning Man veterans to act as Leads to be the ears and voice of the station, keeping things running smoothly. If this sounds fun and exciting to you contact: Noodleknows@yahoo.com

Lamplighters

Illumination! Navigation! Celebration! Don a robe, grab a lifting pole, and jump on Lucy(fer), the Lamplighter Mutant Vehicle, as we're off to light BRC! Whiteout or shine, we light evr'y night! Lamplighter Chapel - Center Camp @ 5:00 pm everyday. Email: lamplighters@burningman.com

Legal Team

Burning Man has a stellar team of legal help. If you have legal experience and would like to work pro bono let us know, email your skills to legal-volunteers@burningman.com.

Media Mecca

The Media Mecca Team manages media policy on 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 filing, copying, data entry, bulk mailing, video logging, you never know who will need help with what in our busy hub. If you have some administrative skills and a little free time email us at officevolunteers@burningman.com

Playa Info

In Center Camp, under the blue "i" 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? Lost something? Need a camera tag? Need to find a friend's camp? The Playa Info Oracles are a veritable fountain of factual and frivolous information about workings and activities of BRC. If you're someone who loves to meet all kinds of new people, be empowered with information, communicate, and be helpful, this is a great volunteer 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 providers of information, devoted to public safety and the quality of participant experience. Rangers also serve as a buffer or 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 recycle@burningman.com.

Technology and Web Team

The Tech Team develops, manages and maintains the back-end infrastructure and public-facing elements of the Burning Man technology tools which include the website (www.burningman.com), extranet, databases, office-based desk top support and system administration. The web site projects bring together technical, Ux, content and other web-related 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. A fun and diverse group of talented individuals, the Tech Team welcomes network engineers, system administrators, python programmers, Zope/Plone developers, HTML coders, CSS wizards, database jockeys, web scripters, graphic designers, information architects, project managers, writers, image jockeys and photographers. If you're interested in helping, please fill out the volunteer questionnaire at: <http://www.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 hellga@burningman.com



INSIDE THE BRG TRAILER



FENCE TEAMS LINK UP TO COMPLETE A SIDE OF THE PERIMETER



TECHIES, WEBBIES, DOGS AND A MEOW

Kids at Burning Man

TEXT JACKIE CARPENTER



PHOTO SIERRARON HALBERT

SOFT BUNNIES ARE GOOD FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES

We've all seen kids out on the playa, often in adorable costumes, gazing 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.

KidsVille has been in Black Rock City since 1998. KidsVille hosts face painting,

bubble blowing, book coloring and all kinds of other interactive art that child participants may spontaneously invent. KidsVille 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.

Aside from the obvious fun of camping, it has been observed that Burning Man provides children with unique benefits that they would not receive from camping alone. According to an evaluation written by Dr. Tom Ettinger, psychologist/burner, Black Rock City offers children an example of a true community that is "remarkably interconnected, supportive, friendly, open and peaceful." In this space, children become immersed in family life, uninterrupted, while interacting with the community at large through the medium of creative play. "Children thrive on the kind of living fantasy that characterizes this festival." Since children are already adept at creating worlds of make-believe, being at Burning Man affords them the rare and beautiful opportunity to extend and share these worlds with their parents and other adults. Far from being scared or overwhelmed, children become visibly "outgoing and cheerful" after just a few days at the event.

Black Rock City also teaches children invaluable lessons about self-reliance, personal responsibility and respect for the environment. Children help their parents maintain a self-sufficient camp in the harsh desert, and learn how to rely on and assist others around them with a spirit of community. Also, the final communal cleanup and the Burning Man philosophy of "Leave No Trace" demonstrate a degree of concern for the environment that many children have not witnessed in their neighborhoods and cities, where trash routinely litters streets.

Black Rock City's ban on commercialism is also good for kids. According to Dr. Ettinger, "the ban on advertisement represents a meaningful reprieve from the onslaught of commercials that constantly seeks to manipulate the thoughts and feelings of children in the everyday world." In other words, Burning Man lacks the relentless beat of consumerism that rings in our ears and in the ears of our children. Black Rock City replaces the television with interpersonal interactions and artistic experiences. Instead of passively absorbing what advertisers spit out, children actively participate in expressing the artistic vision of a community. In addition, Burning Man's ban on monetary commerce promotes trading and gift-giving, which helps teach children to share.

When you consider the precepts on which Black Rock City was founded - community, sharing, environmental awareness, a ban on monetary commerce and advertising - you don't have to be a psychologist to conclude that Black Rock City is a healthy place for families. It may be healthier in many respects than the world outside of it.

KidsVille is Burning Man's version of a family-oriented arts exhibition hall. It offers all the benefits of the community experience, while providing parents with a neutral starting point. From there, parents can decide how much of Black Rock City is age-appropriate for their children. As for the rest of us, KidsVille 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 Burning Man and KidsVille weren't around when we were kids.

In Black Rock City one can find a wonderful range of sound art, from the acoustic charms of a solo musician or singer to large scale sound systems. We love our musical diversity; however, sound is the one form of self-expression on the playa that cannot be contained. Sound travels everywhere including to places where it's not always welcome. In the face of ever-increasing concerns, we try to manage the presence and levels of sound better each year. This year will bring a few changes to our sound policy.

SOUNDING OFF IN 2004

TEXT LADY BEE

As always we place loud sound camps on the upper edges of our city, at 10:00 and 2:00, with speakers facing out, away from the city. A wonderful community has evolved here, with large art objects, light installations and interesting theme camps. We encourage all sound camps to seek placement here. Last year the edges were not filled to capacity as some camps failed to tell us what their sound levels were, and ended up being placed in the city within non-sound areas, causing problems to their neighbors. In addition, some sound camps didn't register at all, and set up in the city on arrival, grabbing available space - a big no-no. PLEASE GO TO THE LARGE SCALE SOUND ART AREA. The sound edges are wonderful environments, and you will be able to play your music there without complaints or interference.

We are counting on the sound camps to be honest with us and to comply with our community standards. Since 1997, sound camps within the city have not been allowed to play music at loud volumes and at all hours. In 2004 this policy will be enforced.

SeaDog, our Black Rock Rangers director, issued the following statement:

"In the past the sound levels were controlled

by peer pressure, but this no longer works. With the increased population and denser camping area we have to take aggressive action to ensure sound levels are within the acceptable levels within our community. This year the Rangers will enforce the 100 decibel 300 watt rule for sound systems and will disable those systems that infringe on the positive experience of others. Art cars with sound systems will be held to the same standard OSHA rules for sound regulation."

Setting up your sound system properly takes some effort, but it will keep things cordial with your neighbors and out of trouble with the Rangers. Take a few minutes and set your system up in a manner that ensures good listening and a positive experience for all. To aid in sound compliance:

- 1) Speakers should be raised off the playa.
- 2) Use only directional speakers and keep the volume below the 100 decibels at 25 feet level.
- 3) Back your speakers with a truck, RV or other object large enough to prevent sound from travelling backward.
- 4) BENICE TO YOUR NEIGHBORS!

And there you have it! We are a community 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 be a responsible member of our community and respect the needs of your neighbors. Turning down your volume is not the same as turning your music off. It's better to turn it down than to be shut down.

Please watch www.burningman.com for updates on our new sound policy as they occur.

The Art of Playing Participatory Spiritual Art and Sport

TEXT LORD FOUFFYPANZ

Black Rock City sports offer not just participatory spiritual opportunities with ourselves and others but also the means to play, reflect and connect more profoundly with our world. When asked the secret to his music Bob Marley, an avid soccer player said, "Reggae is soccer." He meant that when we pass the ball, the music like soccer, was created. We depend upon each other to successfully create sport or music. They are both partner arts of similar persuasions.

Black Rock City arts and sports, like reggae, invite us to interact in new and often spontaneous ways. These activities offer us another connection to community expression of an art theme and thereby life, growth and change. For me, some art offers a distant and incoherent dialogue quickly forgotten; but with interactive participation in art and sport an easy familiarity is included. Art with sport is easily accessible and may become a comfy spiritual dialogue that is individually really fun, useful and meaningful to those struggling for an easy entry to the Burning Man experience.

All sports offer little journeys taken to connect with our bodies, mind, spirit & others. How that connection occurs, is by invitation to participate and leave our all important daily selves for something bigger than us, playing with others, ourselves and in our lives.

Many artists or sportspersons can describe the moment when they and the art or sport become one, transforming the world into a different and wonderful place with an amused "wow" and a relaxed oneness. Similar to being in love when time stands still, that "wave" or "hole in one" creates a miraculous flash where the world clicked, connected and "that was it." The simplicity of doing and reacting in art and sports is profound by being utterly uncomplicated, indescribable and present. As you live vitally by moving forward in the moment and blending art and sports, it brings about exceptional amusement, dialectic and participation.

Black Rock sports 2003 from Seven Deadly Sins mini-golf to simple bicycling, offered regular to bizarre, exercise, entertainment and participation blended on many subtle levels. Solo playa sports included land windsurfing, kiting, boomerang, cycling, ski-jump bowling, bike

trick jumping. Some partner player sports were Frisbee, dawn jogging, bocce, plaid hopscotch, horseshoes, croquet, flaming paddleball, badminton, roller disco, mythical critter rodeo, Astro-glide wrestling, basketball, mountain

board carving behind vehicles, genital tug-of-war, turnip tossing. Teams also competed in naked volleyball, cycle laser-tag, mushball, snarling winged pig rodeo, human foosball, bus push, and Dome lifting calisthenics. We even had pugilistic sports like trampoline knock off and Thunderdome. In all sports we are able to find, connect and be

with ourselves and others.

As I observed people climbing on giant slabs of granite, an art frame or group hula-hooping at dusk on two RV's, people had fun and played with each other. When I started participating, continuous meaningful experiences resulted from a journey process of being and playing with others at Black Rock City. Focusing so hard on end results or "something over there" causes us to miss the journey's view. I realize I'm not in my own unique game or path or really even present. John Cage when stuck said "Begin anywhere." Fat Boy Slim's words "I just laid back and let the big beat lead me" work, too.

Letting go in sports without expectation is necessary for play to occur. Similarly, viewing an art piece openly without preconception creates greater personal experience. As I have fun, experience life's paradigms on the playa, and connect with self and others, I find that I need others as much as I need myself to create my life. Similarly elegant, sport & art are interwoven and individually meaningful spiritual engagements. Perhaps most importantly they are accessible, smooth fun for all on the playa.

Games end is journey over, and then we begin again, like life in microcosm. So start, play and smell your personal soccer ball daily, because you may playfully create with yourself and others more than you imagine. The incredible blend of sports and art at Black Rock City offer this for everyone and so much more.

So, I'm passing the ball confident of its return because I suspect there might be some more artful, fun, and meaningful sportiness afoot at Black Rock City 2004. Anybody want to come out to play?



PHOTO MONICA
TEAMWORK AND LARGE SCALE PARLOR GAMES COMBINE IN HUMAN FOOSBALL

ANNOUNCEMENTS



PHOTO LAUREL MCRENZ

Left:
The next generation of burners!
Paul Robert DuBois II and Harley K. DuBois proudly announce the birth of their beautiful daughter, Ava Jones DuBois, born December 19th, 2003, 8 lbs., 4 oz, 21 inches long. She is their pride and joy!



PHOTO ZAC BOLAN

Right:
Cypher and Dirtwitch to be married May 29, 2004 at Burning Flipside



Left:
Ada and Durgy to be married April 4, 2004 in San Francisco

Lowdown on the Temple of Gravity



PHOTO GABE KIRCHHEIMER
BIG ART CAN BE BIG TOYS ON PLAYA

TEXT LIANIMAL

Maybe you recall whizzing by the massive open-air steel dome, 24 feet high and 50 feet across, on your way from Bollywood to Bianca's in the wee morning hours. Or perhaps you cherish the memory of Captain Jim's strong arms hoisting you up onto one of the 17,000-pound granite slabs angled to hang between 6 and 12 feet above the ground. Or maybe you watched a magnificent desert sun set while sitting below the 80 ton structure, thinking weighty thoughts and telling tales of heavy deeds. At any rate, few who attended Burning Man 2003 can forget the impressive Temple of Gravity, designed by Zachary Coffin to pay tribute to "one of the few constants in our ever-changing lives."

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. From the center of the temple hangs a large wood-burning steel cauldron, and the temple is crowned by a beacon of blue light that charts the acceleration of gravity and is visible for miles.

The Temple of Gravity now resides at We Care Spa, 18000 Long Canyon Road, Desert Hot Springs, where it will be on exhibit for the next three years. If you missed it on playa in 2003, or feel the need to rekindle your connection with this most basic physical force, go and visit. And don't forget: gravity will always let you down.

Black Rock Station Update

TEXT CALEB "SHOOTER" SCHABER

About a year ago, I put on my gray suit and walked into the Washoe County Complex in Reno on behalf of Burning Man. Over time, hundreds of other Burning Man supporters emailed, called and personally showed up to testify for the positive influence that Burning Man has on Washoe County.

We were not fighting for the permits to have the event. Our struggle, concerned Black Rock City's staging area, Black Rock Station (the Ranch). On this site, most of the materials for Burning Man are stored, including the Man which is fabricated and stored on the premises prior to his incineration.

Our crew was confident that, if we could perform the miracle of "Leave No Trace" on the playa, we could do the same on the Ranch. Some Washoe County officials didn't believe that we could clean the "80 acres" next to the Ranch, and successfully develop the 200 acre Black Rock Station to their satisfaction. That was until they saw it with their own eyes.

Our battle is not in vain. In January 2004 two out of four necessary Special Use Permits were granted. Though we have two more, it's fairly clear we'll get them.

With a small crew of less than 10, we are bringing Black Rock Station slowly into compliance. Over one hundred dumpsters were filled through the year and at least a hundred abandoned or broken cars were removed to a scrap yard.

My personal favorite clean up with the site dubbed the "Wood Monster."

About the size of a small city block, the "Monster" consisted of all types of wood, wooden walls and abandoned projects made of wood from Black Rock City and the work ranch. First we had to sort the materials. Because of the location in the desert and fire hazards, we were unable to simply burn the pile. Much of the good material was sorted and saved. Some materials were donated to Bev's Miiners Club in Gerlach for a new roof.

At the end of 2003 we reseeded the areas of the adjacent 80-acres that had lost vegetation. By using native plants, we will cut down on the dust and begin the slow heal that the property needs.

Other changes have occurred on the Ranch as well. The workers that build the infrastructure of Black Rock City will no longer enjoy long-term residency at the Black Rock Station, as in the past. Housing and camping facilities will mostly happen in Gerlach. This move appeals to the neighbors and the county codes. 2004 will mark the biggest changes in the manner in which the crew lives and works, making everything more efficient and safe. We look forward to making Black Rock City happen again.



PHOTO MONICA
THE BLANK CANVAS WHERE WE CREATE OUR MASTERPIECE

breathe, and we die beneath this blanket of sky. We cannot escape it or defeat it. It surrounds us. Many believe that the same matter that makes up the planets and stars is in our veins, our bones, our bodies. Within these heavens lie the answers to the questions that every soul seeks; who are we, why are we here, and are we alone? These questions are constant and while the searching has lasted thousands of centuries, the answers are far from being found.

Within the heavens also lie solace and familiarity. A child looks up into the night sky and wishes on a shooting star. A sailor loses direction but the stars show him his way home. Loved ones split apart by war find comfort knowing that it is under the same sky that they sleep. Everyday our sun rises, our stars shine, our moon pulls our tides. There is order, somehow amazing unexplainable order, in a galaxy full of hurtling magma, falling stars and black holes. We have something to learn.

This year on the playa you will inextricably be drawn to the sky. As you look up into the heavens you will wonder at the age-old questions and no doubt come up with many of your own. As you look up, revel at the fact that you are looking at an uncharted expanse, unbelievable possibility, and unprecedented inspiration. Last year we asked ourselves what lay beyond belief... this year it is what we have learned from that very question that brings us to this infinite yearning to understand The Vault of Heaven.

To join us in the Vault of Heaven, get your tickets at: www.burningman.com.

Green on the Outside, Greener on the Inside

TEXT HEATHER GALLAGHER



PHOTO CAMERA GIRL
BARISTAS KEEP THINGS STEAMING ALONG IN THE CAFÉ

100% post consumer waste cups. These replace the unbleached, partially recycled material cups, and are the most eco-groovy we have ever been permitted to use.

Remember, Burning Man is a Leave No Trace event, and that includes the Center Camp Café! Your Mother's not here to clean up after you; and, even if she is, we aren't! For the past several years, we have graciously provided clearly marked receptacles for Café-related trash, aluminum recycling, burnables, and liquids for Café guests, only to find ourselves ankle deep in misplaced non-Café trash, melted crayons, abandoned art projects, and those gosh darn cigarette butts. This year, we are removing these receptacles from the Café. We will be implementing a fun and interactive system for disposing of beverage cups, stirrers, and remaining liquids. Everything else, SERIOUSLY EVERYTHING ELSE, must be packed back out with you as you leave the Café. We will be recruiting performance artists and outgoing members of our Café beautification team to help remind guests that the Café is still a part of Black Rock City where Leave No Trace is the norm.

Stay tuned for more details and eco-progress from Burning Man's largest theme camp, and don't forget to bring your own coffee mug!

Café fun fact #67: Did you know that the Café composts coffee grounds, uses recyclable chai containers, and serves sustainable, shade-grown, and conservation certified organic coffee? Since its beginning, the Café has been operated with consideration for its impact on the environment.

5 miles northeast of Black Rock City lies Frog Pond, a privately owned group of hot and cold springs. Every year Burning Man uses 500,000 gallons from these springs to control dust on BRC's streets.

The event has a growing connection to this desert oasis, and participants are coming together to leave it a better place than they found it.

This year Burning Man volunteers are launching a multidisciplinary project to enhance and beautify Frog Pond's wetlands and pools. Ecologists, landscape designers and natural-materials artists will bring together cutting-edge ecological science and installation art to heal man-made scars and improve habitat wildlife and people. Volunteer teams will restore and enhance the springs' wetland habitat by reshaping excavated ponds, restoring road and parking areas, planting native vegetation and removing weeds. Landscape artists will create installation works made of earth, brush and rock to improve the site's aesthetics while providing wildlife habitat. We will work with Frog Pond locals, other conservation groups and state and federal agencies to accomplish our goals. We need help in this project from planning and coordination, to site, biological and aerial surveys, to resource acquisi-

tion, volunteer coordination, monitoring, documentation and more!

If you like the idea of creating ecological art that transforms and inspires, join the Frog Pond Volunteer Team and make it a reality. With your help, Burning Man can focus its unparalleled creative and technical energy to leave a lasting, positive trace on the land. We are

forming a project team that will plan and organize through the spring and summer, then mobilize large numbers of volunteers before and during Burning Man.

We are looking for energetic, nature-loving volunteers of all kinds. We need: Restorationists, natural scientists, naturalists and desert experts, natural materials installation artists, landscape designers, photographers, environmental engineers, surveyors, heavy equipment operators, landscapers, contractors, educators, historians, storytellers and others to teach in the field and in BRC.

For more information go to: http://www.burningman.com/on_the_playa_environment_concerns/index.html. To volunteer, send an e-mail to restoration@burningman.com.

Frog Pond Ecological Restoration & Environmental Art 2004

TEXT ANDY BAKER

The Vault of Heaven

TEXT COURTNEY HEROLD

Look up into the shimmering evening sky. After your thoughts slow down and your day of nine-to-five-to-forever fades away, the wonder of what has been and what could be emanates forward from the background. You start to feel tiny and you begin to become humble. You ponder on existence, on what is real science and what is science fiction. You realize that nothing is simple or sure or still in this crazy reality. You may even realize that you are a small piece in this massive netting of rocks, water, air, fire and stars. Your eyes and your mind try to grasp the vastness of what lies above and beyond you; The Vault of Heaven.

In every culture, throughout every age of time, man has looked up in awe. Humankind has tried to map it, name it, study it, philosophize about it, worship it and deny it. Theories are made, laws are broken, astonishment arises. No matter what telescopes are created, what books are written, which space craft we send up, we will never know all the answers to all the questions that drive us. The heavens are a vast frontier, an entity that has yet to be grasped by human hands. The possibilities of life, of understanding, of hope for the future, all lies safely in heaven's arms.

It is from the heavens that many say we came, and to it will we return. We live, we breathe, and we die beneath this blanket of sky. We cannot escape it or defeat it. It surrounds us. Many believe that the same matter that makes up the planets and stars is in our veins, our bones, our bodies. Within these heavens lie the answers to the questions that every soul seeks; who are we, why are we here, and are we alone? These questions are constant and while the searching has lasted thousands of centuries, the answers are far from being found.

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