BlackRockGazette

BLACK ROCK DESERT, NEVADA

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1994



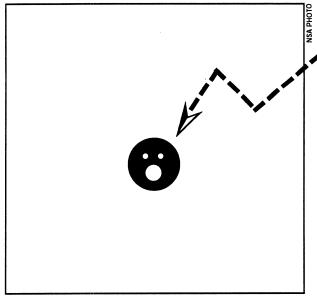
Playa Factoids

- he word "playa" means beach in Spanish, but its English definition derives from an alternate use of the term: "a tract of hard clayey land which frequently becomes covered with water during heavy rains, and finally becomes dry again; a dried-up lake basin."
- 60,000 years ago this was the bottom of a lake Lake Lahontan. The silt that now makes up the Playa's surface lies nearly two miles deep in some spots.
- An estimated 50 percent of all gold-seeking immigrants in 1849 crossed the Playa on the Applegate trail.
- During the 1940s and 50s, the desert was used as a bombing range. Unexploded shells and live ammunition can still occasionally be found. Stay clear! They can still explode.
- In 1983, a British racing team set a world land speed record on the playa: 633.468 miles per hour.
- If you've ever seen the movie Buckaroo Banzai Across the Eighth Dimension, you may recognize the playa as the site where Buckaroo first achieved crossover in the jet car.

RADIO FREE BURNING MAN



99.5 FM



Satellite Map of Black Rock Desert

Travel Tips for Playa Explorers

√ Always let your neighbors in camp know where you're going and how long you plan to be gone.

√ Avoid the outer edges of the Playa, particularly the southernmost patch near Gerlach and the area southeast of Black Rock. These regions, though they may look dry, are impassable most of the

√ There are abandoned mine shafts throughout the surrounding hills. Stay clear unless you have a hopeless fascination with loose rock, rotten timbers, bad air and rattlesnakes.

√When you leave the Playa, watch out for animals, especially at night. The entire area is open rangeland and there may be livestock or wild horses on the roads.

√Be advised that many of the nearby "towns" listed on the map are in fact deserted ghost towns. Hardin City, Trego, Sulfur and Leadville are all uninhabited. Ranches listed on some maps are inhabited only part of the year.

√ Any time you drive out of camp, carry survival gear and supplies for at least 24 hours, including highway flares, jack, spare tire, compass, water and blankets. Consult your registration packet or a Black Rock Ranger for details.

√ If private land is posted, respect the signs. Private ranches can usually be identified by the clusters of buildings, fenced pastures, and, if you come too close unannounced, the muzzle flash of shotguns.

√ The BLM advises that the most dangerous roads in the area are the graded, graveled, all-weather roads. People tend to travel much faster than the 45-mph limit.

√ The road through High Rock Canyon is an axle-buster. Locals suggest you avoid it, even in a highclearance 4-wheel drive.

√ If you get stuck or break down, your best bet is probably to stick with your vehicle. Black Rock Rangers will be monitoring CB Channel 23. At night, use a highway flare to signal for help. If you feel you must leave your vehicle, leave a note saying when you left and which way you went. Avoid walking in peak sun hours (Noon - 4pm). Keep in mind that any food you eat will require extra water to digest, and that you can go for weeks without food but only a day or two without water.

You Are Here

Reset your watch for dreamtime. Recalibrate your reality meter, or better yet leave it in the car. You are here now, and here is like nowhere else in the world: off the scope, under the horizon, over the edge. Welcome to Black Rock Desert. Welcome to Burning Man.

Over the past week, our advance crew has transported and assembled many of the key elements of this festival, including the Man itself. Now an even more vital component has arrived: you.

Think about it. The Burning Man is the focus of our celebration, but in the final analysis it's just a stack of lumber and bolts and sweat; every person here, yourself included, is infinitely more valuable than that. Our community benefits from your every contribution, and is in fact nothing more than the sum of all those contributions. Look around you. There is nothing here but us and what we have brought. Three days from now this place will revert to its native emptiness, but today we have the power to make it into anything we want it to be. Your imagination, humor and talent are an inseparable part of that process. And, by the same logic, if you have a lousy time it will probably be your own

Keep in mind that the wide variety of participants here will create an extraordinarily diverse mix, and that some of what you encounter may seem weird, inexplicable, even disconcerting. Hang onto your sense of humor. Out here in the desert, one of the last places on earth where eccentricity is still prized as a virtue, the locals have learned that tolerance is the key to successful coexistence — indeed, to survival. Let's follow their lead.

- Lloyd DeVoyd, pub.

QUOTE-O-THE-DAY

"Lead me not into temptation; I can find the way myself."

—RITA MAE BROWN

Desert of Da ANDERSON 8







DANGER RANGER'S SURVIVAL CORNER

1993 Donner Award Results

 $m W_{
m ell}$, y'all have been waiting nearly a year for it, so here it is: the award no one wants to win because being a winner means you're really a loser: the Donner Award. Every year, the Black Rock Rangers sit down and elect the person or persons who stretched their resources to the limit through poor planning, bad luck, ignorance, pigheadedness, or just plain stupidity. It's named, of course, for those unhappy campers who ran out of food back in the winter of 1846 and ended up eating each other.

And the winners are (drum roll please): the yellow-bellied, lily-livered HBO video crew who jumped into their RV and high-tailed it across the Playa when it started to rain. These greenhorns started a stampede which scattered a fair portion of camp to the four winds, and it took the Rangers all night to round 'em up. Amazingly no one was hurt, but with zero visibility and a wet Playa surface, we were really lucky.

If it starts to rain, keep your head screwed on. Storms are normal out here, and what little rain ends up hitting the Playa dries out mighty fast. The rain will stop in a while, and if it doesn't, well, maybe we'll have to dig out a few cars but at least we'll still be around to do it. Driving across the Playa in a storm is dumber than kissing a rattlesnake, so batten down your hatches and stick it out in camp instead. You'll be glad you did.

If you've got any questions about desert survival, or if you want to submit a nomination for the '94 Donner Award, just flag down any Black Rock Ranger.

The Fourth Estate Meets the Playa

by Utterly Alex, Fourth Estate Tent

Well, campers, the playa's long been known as the place where the real and the surreal worlds tend to merge and intermingle, to the point at which it becomes tricky to figure out which is which. Adding fuel to this already existing fire, there will be various film crews around and among you this year.

Here's the lineup so far:

- 1) Australian Broadcasting Company.
- The Canadian Broadcasting Com-2) pany, and its show called Zero Avenue.
 - 3) Monk Magazine (video crew).
- Belo Productions, filming for a latenight syndicated TV show.
- 5) Scott Pauly, a New York freelance video producer and crew.
- 6) TV Channel 4 from London (Saturday and Sunday only).

7) Unsubstantiated rumors still abound about a Japanese station as well; and CBS News.

Also, expect a host of freelance print and photo journalists, representing publications like the Nose, the Nevada Courier (?) and German news magazines.

Get to know the press! You'll recognize them by the snappy press badges they're sporting. They've already been informed about basic courtesies on the playa, and have been indoctrinated with our primary (and only) dogma — not to interfere with anyone's immediate experience. If press people happen to get in your way, just let them know about it (they may be blissfully unaware of any transgression) — if it continues, let us

know about it. (This way, it beanyone's vehicle.)

We do welpromoting an usthem situation, goals out here: the Burning Man experience.

comes superfluous to spray-paint "No Spectators" across

come members of the media into our community as part of the spectrum of ritual fun, without since we more or less have the same participation in

Announcements

- Potluck Luau, tonight at Tiki Camp. Bring ice, rum, etc. Go Hawaiian! Follow the sound of many blenders.
- Desert Siteworks. a collaborative troupe of sculptors, musicians and performers, will stage an interactive performance at Bordello Springs tonight. Ask at Central Camp for directions to the site.
- Go to Hell! Helltown needs souls. Writhe in agony with us. South side of camp.
- Photo Exchange Network. If you have a camera, you're one of us. Sign up at Gazette office and receive a list of all other photographers at this event.
- Crushfest '94. The band Sharkbait is procuring sticks and crushing instruments for Crushfest, a participatory rhythm frenzy that will happen in tandem with the Sunday burning. Sharkbait is also looking for volunteers to assist with handling the "Sandworm," a Chinese dragon thang. Inquire with Sharkbait members.
- Calling all kids! Join the Black Rock Jr. Rangers! Learn survival skills, meet Danger Ranger, get free stuff. 2 be 1, ask any Ranger!
- Twisted Times.

Realty-based infotainment quarterly. Free issue to Burning Man participants. Send S.A.S.E. to Box 271222, Concord, CA 94527 with 75¢ postage.

• The Box. Worthless rant-'zine devoted to lives of unknown West Coast folk. Send S.A.S.E. to 1207 S. Van Ness Ave. San Francisco, CA 94110 with 52¢ postage.

Do vou have an announcement? Let us know. Or don't. Whatever.

1993 CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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Gazette staff, leave a message on the bulletin board in Central Camp. Submissions, including letters to the editor, group profiles, cartoons, and camera-ready photographs are gladly accepted; inquire about details cepted; i about details. Publisher: Lloyd DeVoyd.

Editor: Stew®

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Of SATURDAY SCHEDULE:

4:00-5:00 LECTURE LOCATION - CENTERCAMP

6:00-6:30 PROCESSION

TO MAN

6:30 - 7:00 5 PRING PANCE

ATMAN

7:00-7:15 Collapsing Silvarie Dance, BEHIND MAN

7:30 8:45 PERE LINGUMFIRE

8145-9:00 KIMERE PYRO HZ ART AVE

9:16-9:45 BURNING MAD MY AOT ALL #3 ART AUE

10:00-10:45 OPACIONA FIRE HA ART AVE

11:00-11:30 LA CACO THEATRE

45 ART AVE STAGE#4 1130-? MIME LYNGING FREE FORM- GO, GIT EM

1130-12:00 DON KNOTTS OVERDRIVE MUSIC ASARTAVE STAGE 4

MIDNIGHT - MIDNIGHT FILM FEST - CENTRAL CAMP

AFTER DARK-DAYGLOW DASIS - RAVE CAMP

MIONIGHT-RAUE-RAVE GIMP

CROW EATING CONTEST ALL NITE-BYOK

SUNDAY

PREDOWN ~> 4 Direction MUZIC - MAN 6:12 am

SUNPISE; ORVACUW RITUAL

I COU SAN

QUOT 3 2

THEVERY PURPOSE OF EXISTENCE IS 2 RECONCILE THE ELOWING OPINION WE HOLD OF OURSELVES WITH THE APPALLING THINGS THAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK ABOUT US KRELL IS THE GOD OF STEEL;

Onotes: Quentin Crisp

RADIO WARS HEAT UP



COMPETITION HAS BECOME FIETLIE FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE PLAYA RAPID LISTENERS ... NO LESS THAN FOUR RADIO STATIONS HAVE FIXATED ON THE HIGHLY-SOUGHT DEMOGRAPICKS OF THE BLACK ROCK RESINGUT "WERE GOING TO HAVE TO GO TURBO" SAID THE DOCTOR FRANKIE, M.D. A DEE JAYOF RADIO-FREE BURNING MAN. 99.51 WE'RE WORKING TO UP THE ANTE ON OUR PROGRAMMIN LESS TALK AND MORE LOTTO!"

COMPETITIVE AIRWAVES FIRST APPEARED FRIDAY AFTERNOON. SPIKE MEMORIAL RADIO, NAMED IN HONOR OF THE DOG THAT GAVE HIS LIFE AT THE HOT SPRINGS LAST YEAR, DECLARED THE "MONOPOLY OF THE DESERT BY BLACK ROCK RADIO" HAD BEEN BROKEN APART.

IT HAS BEEN FOLLOWED BY " BURNING RADIQ" AT. 90.3 FM, AND "THE VOICE OF THE DARK SIDE " AT A 97.1 FM, DUE TO SPACE PARTICLES AND HIGH ACTI-VITY OF PRONOIA, LISTENERS MAY ENCOUNTER TEMPORARY DOMINANCE BY ANY OF THESE STATIONS, AT ANY GIVEN TIME. TAKE NOTE OF THESE TIMES:

· 8 PM. ON 99.9 FM: SPIKE MEMORIAL RADIO • 1 AM ON 99.5 FM: RADIO DADA

2 AM ON 99.5 FM : FREE FORM RADIO

. 7 A.M ON 99-5 FM= MOURNING SHOW

. 2 P.M ON 99.5 FM= DANGER RANGER HOUR

THE CHOST OF FRANK ZAPPA LEFT A NOTE ... IT SAID "IT DOENT HURT WHEN I PEE NOW

THE GIFF OF FIRE (FROM WALKER RIVER PAINTES! AT TRIBAL HISTORY) EDWARD LOUG AGO BY THE ARRIVAL OF PEOPLE, THE WORLD WAS ENTIRELY CONSIDED WITH HE SUDDELY AMOUNTAIN CALLED KURANGAWA BECKAN 2 EMERGE FRUM THE WATER THE MOUNTAIN IS SACRED AND IS KNOWN TODAY AS MIT GRANT. SHOWLY LOLD WINDS BLEW OUT ACROSS THE SURROUNDING WATER AND TREATEND TO PUT OUT THE FIRE ON KUDNIGAWA. LUCKILY, THE SAGE HEN FLEW TO THE RESCUE. SHE SETTLED OUER THE FIRE AND FANNED THE WATER AWAY FROM THE FLAMES WITH HER WINGS. BUT SHE NESTED SO CLOSE TO THE FIRE THAT HER FEATHERS WERE SINGED. AND TODAY THE FEATHERS ON THE BREAST OF THE SAGEHEN ARE STILL BLACK FROM THE FIRE ON KURANGAWA.

SHE FAUNED THE WATER BACK FROM THE FIRE UNTILL THE MOUNTAIN HAD LIFTED ITSELF HIGH THE REACH OF THE GREAT BODY OF WATER ON ITS LEFT, AGAI PAH (TROUT LAKE) OR WALKER LAKE AS IT'S CALLED TODAY. THEN THE PEOPLE RECEIVED THE FIRE FROM THE RABBIT. THE RABBIT HAS LONG BEN A MAGICAL CREATURE,

eave a message in the bulletin board in central amp. Submissions iccepted; inquire.

"Wahoo! Lookit that cross burn!"

WE'RE COMPILING A CD-ROM OF THE BURNING MAN EXPERIENCE, PICTURES

Calling all kids! Join the Black Rock Jr. Rangers! Learn Survival Skills! Meet Danger Ranger! Get free Stuff 2BI-ask any ranger for details,

ANNOUCEMENTS? CONTACT BRG STAFF VIA OUR DISPLAY ON THE BULLETIN BOARD W CENTRAL CAMP, Thanks,



