Playa Factoids

- The 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: 631.468 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.

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 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 fault.

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. Our 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.

“Lead me not into temptation; I can find the way myself.”
—Reta Mae Brown

99.5 FM

QUOTE-O-THE-DAY
DANGER RANGER'S SURVIVAL CORNER

1993 Donner Award Results

Well, 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, pig-headedness, 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 hatchets 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.
2. The Canadian Broadcasting Company, and its show called Zoro Avenue.
4. Bolo 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 (7) 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 becomes superfluous to spray-paint "No Spectators" across anyone's vehicle.)

We do welcome members of the media into our community as part of the spectrum of ritual fun, without promoting an us-them situation, since we more or less have the same goals out here: participation in the Burning Man experience.

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. Write 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 Shambhala is procuring sticks and crushing instruments for Crushfest, a participatory rhythm frenzy that will happen in tandem with the Sunday burning. Shambhala is also looking for volunteers to assist with handling the "Sandworm," a Chinese dragon thang. Inquire with Shambhala 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. Reality-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 you have an announcement? Let us know. Or don't. Whatever.
SCHEDULE:
4:00 - 5:00 LECTURE LOCATION - CENTER CAMP
6:00 - 8:00 Procession Location - Center Camp
10:00 - 10:30 DJ Art Age, #7 Art Age, Stage #4
11:30 - 12:00 Don Knotts
CROW EATING CONTEST ALL NITE - BYOC
SUNDAY
PRE-DOWN -> DJ BUCKINGHAM MUSIC - MAN 6:00 AM
SUNRISE: SIT COW RITUAL
I LOSE!
QUOTRE:
THE VENGE OF EXISTENCE IS SORROW BECAUSE
THE SORRY OPINION WE HOLD OF OURSELVES
WITH THE APPALLING THINGS THAT OTHER
PEOPLE THINK ABOUT US.
KELLY RULES!

THE GIFT OF FIRE FROM WALKER LAKE PAINTS A TRIBAL HISTORY
BY ROBERT ROSS
LONG AGO THE ARROW OF PEACE, THE CANDY WAS ENTIRELY COOKED WITH THE
SUDDENLY MOUNTAIN CALLED KURANGAUA BEGAN 2 EMBRACE FROM THE FIRE.
THE MOUNTAIN IS SACRED AND IS KNOWN TODAY AS MT. SNEAK. STRONG,
COLD WINDS BLEW OUT ACROSS THE SURROUNDING WATER AND TREES
TO PUT OUT THE FIRE ON KURANGAUA. LUCKILY, THE SAGE HEN
FLEW TO THE RESCUE. SHE SETTLED OVER THE FIRE AND FANNED
THE WATER AWAY FROM THE FLAMES WITH HER WINGS.
SHE NESTED SO CLOSE TO THE FIRE THAT HER FEATHERS WERE SMOKED,
AND NOW THE FEATHERS ON THE BREAST OF THE SAGE HEN
ARE STILL BLACK FROM THE FIRE ON KURANGAUA.
SHE FANNED THE WATER BACK FROM THE FIRE UNTIL THE
MOUNTAIN HAS LIFTED ITSELF HIGH THE REACH OF THE
GREY BODY OF WATER ON ITS LEFT, AGAIN PAH (TROUT LAKE)
OH WALKER LAKE AS IT IS CALLED TODAY. THEN THE PEOPLE RECEIVED
THE FIRE FROM THE RABBIT. THE RABBIT HAS LONG BEEN A MAGICAL CREATURE.
Four directions is performed by four loudspeakers which are placed at the points of the compass around, and pointing towards the Burning Man. Each speaker plays a series of long tones in a specific vocal range. The speaker to the north plays tones in a low male voice range, the speaker to the east plays tones in a high female range, south is high male, west is low male. The audience/participants tend to act in some combination of these ways: 1. They find a place where the sound mixes well and sits there and listens. 2. They wander around, changing the mix as they move. 3. They find a speaker in their vocal range and sing along with the tones.

Price is roughly $19 minutes long and will be performed at dusk, ending at first light on Saturday + Sunday. There will be open space for participants to add personal objects in front of each speaker. All objects will be burned with the Man, so participants should only put burnable, disposable objects on the floor.

The Desert Gourmet
by Graham Cracker

Ta hot to cook? Too hot to think about cooking? You're not even hungry, and it's too hot to cook anyway! Well, let's pretend you are, it's still too hot to cook, and you're hungry. Well, by God, it's time to whip up some dashboard quesadillas.

Paiely's Dashboard Quesadillas
4 flour tortillas
2 cups grated jack cheese
Baked hot sauce
Aluminum foil

Sneak a cheese sandwich if bad. Insert tortillas through the warm side of the grill, wrap in tortillas, and add in hot sauce to taste. Wrap each quesadilla in a large piece of foil and seal the edges. Leave in dashboard in direct sun, about one hour, with windows rolled up. Bon appétit!

Announcements

Oatmeal is the natural healer. It heals the mind; it heals the body. Come share in the faith with an oatmeal feed. Outside of the camp, every day of the week. Food set out by the Monks, RV #6 a minute.

Need to communicate with the outside world? Radio phone service available from the Monks RV.

Don't miss the 1974 fashion show, thematically entitled "Land of the Free." On Sunday, starting at 6 in Central Camp. Either come dressed (or not dressed), or see Tracy at the Staged Fashion Van to be dressed.

Happy Birthday #25
to Dody's Johnny "Big Vom" Scandal's 25th Birthday, Terracotta, Hackney. With love from all of us.

Dreaming Burning Man: 8-page "zine, 7 Burning Man dreams.
SASE to: Adrian Roberts, 1070
Haight #45, SF 94117. (Also available until gone at Bulletin Board at Central Camp.

Lost: one-eared dog. Missing one eye and back right leg. Has range, and was recently Castelli. Answers to "Lucky.


Announcements? Contact BRG staff via our display on the Bulletin Board at Central Camp, thanks.
DOZENS FAIL TO DIE – LACK OF CARNAGE STUNS BM CAMP

A few days after Burning Man, no participants have been blown up, poisoned, imploded, or murdered for having fun. However, several injuries have been reported. At approx. 3pm yesterday, a participant was hit by a vehicle at a camp site near the desert. The accident occurred at the campsite at Borealis Springs. A 35-year-old woman was transported to a hospital in Reno with injuries to her head, shoulder, and arm. Another victim fell from a height while setting up camp. The accident resulted in an accident victim being taken to Reno with 2 broken legs.

Non-human casualties include: two days, one skull, and a single bone. One of the skulls was dropped by a hot spring, one is a broken jaw. Also, a car hit a tree. A car hit a tree. No one was injured.

Disaster Ranger reports the accident on the playa: the participant said that the accident is better than being rebuked. However, caution should be used on the playa, especially when alone.

IT IS DIFFICULT TO TRANSMUTE INTO WORDS THE GODDESS OF AN IMAGE, THE COMIC-BOOK'S QUEEN DISTORTIONS OF INNER TIME AND SPACE THE WEIRD ALGAMES OF FEELING THAT LEAVE PEOPLE PERHAPS A LITTLE MORE AWARE OF THEIR DESIRES AND RESPONSES TO LIFE AND A LITTLE MORE UNSURE OF THE ARTIFICIAL WHEN THEY SO OFTEN COVER THEMSELVES.

- DONALD TRAPITO - "THE DARKSIDE OF SCIENCE"
**Black Rock Gazette**

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**DUMP REMOVAL FROM YOUR CAMPSITE**

No dumping anywhere in Gerlach.

**Camping Rules:**

- No dumping anywhere in Gerlach.
- All trash must be removed from your campsite.
- No fires allowed.
- No pets allowed.
- No loud music allowed.
- All campers must be registered.

**Announcements:**

- There are shows in Gerlach.
- Located on the west side of town.
- Open 9am-10pm.
- The person with ticket no. 1098 reported to the main camp for a ritualistic stone cutting.
- Photo exchange network.

**Black Rock Gazette**

*Thank you, thank you very much. Next, my special dedication number to the Pope, a number I like to call, If You Don't Play the Game, Don't Make the Rules!"*