

# Black Rock Beacon



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## T-shirt Prints Among Camps

BY THE FRIDGE

Bruce Miles first came to Black Rock City in 1998, and he has returned every year since. Like most of us, he was blown away by the experience. Because of the principle forbidding commercial sales on the Playa, he realized that there was no way to buy a souvenir of the event. People making trinkets with Playa-related logos and art on them to give away is commonplace now, but it was not that way in the past. Inspired by the idea of participation, Bruce came up with a concept for a T-shirt printing station: a stand with a wooden stencil hinged to a backing so that a garment could be inserted, and the contraption become a quick spray-painted logo printing station for someone to create a wearable souvenir.

While the idea is simple, Bruce pointed out that it combines three things that make it worthwhile and popular. First it is interactive craft art, a form that Bruce likes and sees as increasingly hard to find at BRC. Many Burners now bring items that they have previously crafted to the Playa and gift them, or they create art installations that are interactive but perhaps momentarily so, and don't involve the creativity of crafting that he values. Second, it allows the person at the crafting station to create an item that is useful, personalized, and memorable. Finally the process is rapid - it can be as little as a minute to create a simple stencilled shirt and so it remains appealing to those with limited attention spans. The nascent form of Bruce's theme camp, the interactive craft station he set up at the entrance to Center Camp,



was at BRC regularly, every year, for 10 years. Bruce also had a second version of the station at his own camp. In 2012 Bruce decided to apply for a full-fledged theme camp and was accepted by Bmorg. A friend of Bruce's, Stephan Douris, was inspired to come camp with him and create an elaboration of the original hinged jig to create the steampunk-themed station with rows of pegged stencils and easels that stands outside the camp today. A picture of Stephan (who passed away in 2014) and one of the original one-shot stencil jigs and the laminated four step instruction sheet complete the setup.

The Factory is immensely popular. There's always a small huddle of Burners waiting to get their T-shirts, skirts, backpacks, hats, or body parts stencilled at the t-shirt factory. In addition to the logos of the man, the camp has added catchy phrases such as "Property of BRC," "Flammable," and the ever popular "F\*ck Yeah" to their offerings. A favorite of Bruce's, the Kanji symbol for "fire" is particularly elegant. Some Burners are very inspired by the camp. Chenzo said he had been coming for the last three years and had stencilled more than 20 items of clothing. Bruce related the tale of one Burner who brought in every single piece of apparel in his possession and had it stencilled after discovering the Factory.

Open 24 hours a day during Burning Man, the camp has approachable curb appeal and a laid-back vibe. Bruce said that since the creation is all DIY and participants bring their own clothing, that once the stencils and easels and spray paint canisters are out, there is little for the camp members to do but to encourage and sometimes instruct the crafty T-shirt makers.



Photo spread by Taymar and Francis



## A Week to Remember



## El Monte's New Owner Shrinking RV Fleet

BY INDIE

Thought it was difficult to get a reasonably-priced RV for this year's Burn? Well, hang onto your goggles, because the market's about to get even tighter.

El Monte, the second-biggest RV renter in the U.S., was purchased in December by Tourism Holdings Ltd. - a New Zealand company that already owns two smaller U.S. rental businesses, Road Bear and Britz.

With this purchase comes inevitable cost-cutting - and unfortunately for those looking for a Playa home, that means "fleet rationalization."

An investor presentation published on the company's website revealed plans to slash 500 vehicles from the fleet, taking available units to just 1,100 from approximately 1,600 in June 2016.

El Monte will be operated separately from THL for at least 12 months after the purchase, while the company focuses on fleet and operating efficiencies.

But THL CEO Grant Webster told investors the company was "looking forward to combining fleet procurement, operating different rental brands and maximizing RV sales through both our traditional wholesale channels and

the El Monte retail sites; a model we know."

El Monte was well aware of the commercial benefits in renting to Burners - in 2013, Joe Laing, the company's marketing director, described it to the Contra Costa Times as the company's "busiest time of the year." He said a "small army of drivers" took every El Monte RV based west of the Mississippi to Black Rock City, with the company renting 750 to 900 vehicles to Burners at prices up to \$500 a day.

It is unclear whether THL has the same recognition of the Burner market

- it did not respond to several requests for comment from the Beacon.

With the reduced El Monte fleet, Burners will be facing fewer options and higher prices unless Cruise America, the only other player of size, decides to increase its RV numbers. Cruise America did not reply to emailed questions about its plans.

The population of Black Rock City has doubled since 2004, with more than a third of virgins choosing to stay in RVs according to census data. This adds up to a whole lot of pressure on a shrinking market.

Even before the number of RVs was limited by the El Monte sale, Burners have reported soaring prices as suppliers caught on to demand - the inclusion of special "festival" and "Burning Man" fees have helped hike costs to almost double the regular price for many rental companies.

Cruise America has "flex rates" for Burning Man which means that as vehicles are booked, the prices increase - and the company is notoriously stiff about cleaning if you don't want to lose your deposit.

Other operators require premium payments and/or non-refundable special cleaning fees - this includes Escape Campervans, Lost Campers, and Apollo RVs.

In short, the idea of an "affordable RV" might soon become as fanciful as that almost-mythical "gifted ticket." Now, who's packed the tent pegs?

## Jung-GO or Jung-NO: Road to Ruin?

BY JESS

Jungo Road, also known as the High Road, is 100 mostly unpaved miles that runs between Winnemucca and Gerlach. Looking at the map, it seems like it would be a great idea to save some time heading out from the Burn by taking it, but, let's keep it simple: Can you drive Jungo? Maybe... Should you drive Jungo? Probably not...

If you have a good vehicle with at least six-ply (preferably 10-ply) tires and go a reasonable speed, you'll probably be fine, but, you could still get a flat, or even completely bust up a tire... or two. Unless you are familiar with Jungo, have driven it before, know how your vehicle handles on that road and are not loaded down, stay on pavement. Even in the best of conditions,

the road is full of unmarked obstacles, blind turns, steep dips, and sharp rocks that can wreak havoc on your vehicle and trip.

Especially this time of year, due to in-



Photo by Kristen Page

### Exodus Rituals

Nevada is a largely empty, largely unspoiled state that contains some of the last vestiges of the Old West. It would be a shame to leave the Playa without enjoying some of its enchanting places and spaces.

Or you could pull up to Reno and join the desert gateway's after party, an immediate Decompression or an extension of Burning Man with plumbing. Either way, it's a ritual many of us repeat.

If you crave water after a week in the dust, a ritual dip in Pyramid Lake may be just the thing. Fees are required, but it's worth it to bathe off that Playa. You can pay online (tinyurl.com/brb-pyramid) if you have Internet service or go a little south to the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Museum and Visitor Center in Nixon, where you can buy a permit and learn a little about the history and culture of the local people.

Elsewhere, the Silver State is home to many hot springs. Watching the sun set in tub of warm undusty water may be the best ritual of all.



Sunday, Sept. 2, 2007 Exodus

Back in the days when they would just tell you the theme, the Burning Man website announced the 2008 theme would be the American Dream, third in a three-year cycle that included 2007's Green Man and The Future: Hope and Fear the year before.

The Saturday noon population came in at 47,097, a 21% increase over the previous year.

### Corrections

The photograph in the Wednesday issue that was on top of the Celestial Field article was in fact a picture of Desert Eyes. The correct photo for Celestial Field is above left, and Desert Eyes is to the right.

Desert Eyes is the work of Pooya Kamranjam, an Iranian attending Detmold University of Applied Sciences, and 18 fellow students. The dome with protruding pipes allows Burners inside to regard Black Rock City from 130 differently framed views. Mirroring makes it appear the work is melting into its surroundings. There also are acoustic effects.

In the same issue, the Fill in the Blanks puzzle had too many missing letters. The first clue should have read Civic Responsi\_ility and the final clue should have been Dec\_\_modification\_.

POPULATION: No change listed from 4p.m. Thursday's 67,567.

The Black Rock Beacon will return to BRC in 2018! Join us in producing near-daily independent Burnalism. We have a high demand for InDesigners, Editors, & Burners to meet the public and hand out papers.

# BLACK ROCK BEACON

Join us online at [www.blackrockbeacon.org](http://www.blackrockbeacon.org), email us questions@blackrockbeacon.org, and join us at <https://groups.yahoo.com/groups/blackrockbeacon/>

## Biggest Little Meets Black Rock

BY HYDRO

As Reno journeys along a path of deliberate cultural evolution, its art scene is evolving as well. Being that Reno serves as a commuter community for Burning Man residents, it is



has grown past being simply "the world's most dangerous festival" and has inspired regional events worldwide, spun off Black Rock Solar, and cultivated Burners without Borders in response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina.

no surprise that little bits of magical Playa Dust have been sprinkled around the Biggest Little City in the form of murals, sculptures, hotels, and events. It was only a matter of time before the Nevada Museum of Art hosted an exhibit on the history and culture of Burning Man. Titled City of Dust: The Evolution of Burning Man, the exhibit is open now and runs through Jan. 7. It is one part counter-culture history lesson, one part biographical spotlight on key characters who helped make Burning Man what it is today, and one part introduction to the ethics and do-goodery that spring from Black Rock City.

Visitors first get a bit of Burning Man pre-history descriptions of the Communitary, the Suicide Club, and the Cacophony Society. To the neophyte, this sounds suspiciously like less-violent versions of Palahniuk's Project Mayhem. These cauldrons of counterculture creativity brought together outcasts and creative minds, the likes of which were to one day build a vaguely humanoid structure out of scrap wood on Baker Beach in California.

Details include the very first time the Man was brought to the Playa, during a trip organized by the Cacophony Society that was titled "Zone Trip #4: A Bad Day at Black Rock." The era of the modern Burning Man event includes biographical portraits of legends like Larry Harvey, Will Roger Peterson, Crimson Rose, and Harley Du-bois. Also included are bits of the Man's ashes from a number of years, a Golden Spike and the decades-old sledge hammer used to drive this marker of Black Rock City's geometric center, a walk down memory lane in the form of posters illustrating the various event themes over the years, a brief insight into the design of the Temple, and a pocket-sized crash course in the 10 principles of Burning Man for the un-or under-initiated. Lastly, an overview shows how Burning Man

All of this is accompanied by modern day artifacts, photos, sketches, maps, Moop, and Playa jewelry to keep the eyes moving from one dust-covered shiny object to the next.

Those with limited knowledge of the event will find that this exhibit delivers a solid basic understanding of where Burning Man came from. Visitors in the jaded "Burning Man was better next year" crowd may find themselves cursing the ignorance of the bewildered tourists, but those crusty old-timers will also appreciate seeing the evidence of the event's fabled history. Salacious spectators expecting to see walls full of photos showcasing the drug use and rampant nudity so often attributed to the event will be sorely disappointed. The exhibit is almost entirely family friendly. A few photos with genitals or female breasts can be found, but anyone spending time searching out every last beaver or trouser snake will have a hard time obfuscating their intent.

Burners heading from or to the Default World via Reno should definitely make time to visit the museum to see this exhibit after testing the dust-handling capacity of their hotel's plumbing, gorging on all-you-can-eat sushi, and probably enjoying a sand-free massage or yoga session.

A description of the exhibition, including a 21-minute video and information about a series of related lectures that runs through December, is posted at <http://www.nevadaart.org/exhibition/city-of-dust-the-evolution-of-burning-man>

The Nevada Museum of Art is at 160 West Liberty Street in Reno. It is open Wednesday to Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. except Thursday, when it stays open until 8 p.m. More information can be found at [www.nevadaart.org](http://www.nevadaart.org).

BURNING MAN SPECIAL: The museum will be open on Tuesday, Sept. 5, from 10 to 6, in honor of Burning Man. Admission will be free. 🐾

## Reno's Morris Burner Hostel Struggles With Permits and Road Work

BY JIMMY OLSEN

A spectral finger from the Ghost Ship in Oakland has reached out to Reno to threaten the existence of the Morris Burner Hostel, a whimsical outpost of Burner culture in the world's biggest little city.

A fire in the combined artist collective/performance space/residential building claimed 36 lives in December. The tragedy set fire marshals and city inspectors all over the country to scrutinizing buildings and enforcing codes. When they turned up at the 43-room hostel at 400 East 4th Street in downtown Reno, they found the sprinkler system in the Steampunk Saloon and Ballroom was lacking, according to owner Jim Gibson.

The bar was closed, pending a \$50,000 upgrade, cutting off a major revenue source for the Morris. But the bad news did not stop there. Transportation officials required that a performance stage in the building's back lot be temporarily removed while they upgraded utilities on either side of the hostel, part of a plan to improve connections between Reno and Sparks. That shut off the other major source of income for the hostel, which was compensated to the tune of \$35,000, but the

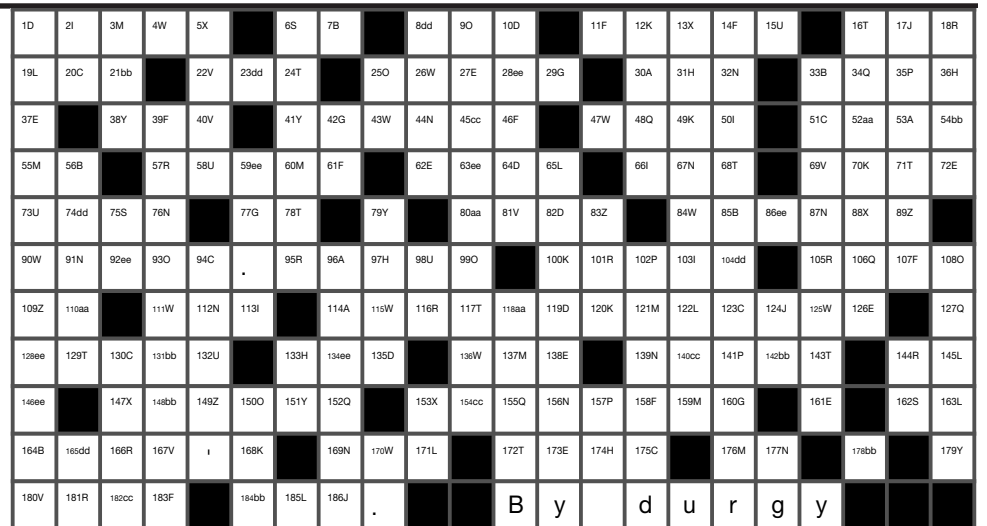
yard in the back will be torn up for at least three months and may never again be suitable for outdoor performances.

The performance spaces accounted for the bulk of the hostel's income. The 13 currently available guest rooms on the second floor are typically filled on weekends but visitors are few during the week. An additional dozen residents occupy the top third floor on a longer-term basis. The hostel is run as a private club, with room rates depending on the membership type.

The facility was originally built as the Bonney Hotel in 1931, directly on the country's first trans-continental highway. For its time, it was one of the finest hotels around. After many name changes, it was sold in 1949 to E. F. Morris, whose name still graces the establishment.

The building's transition from a hotel to a hostel dedicated to the art, the culture and the 10 principles of Burning Man, is a tale of two Gibsons. Don Gibson was leaving the 2007 Burn when he realized that his brother, Jim, would find Burning Man to be a wonderful experience.

The next year, Jim came to the Playa with his Jungle Bus art car and immediately fell in love



Q. Knife cover  
152 48 127 34 155 106

R. Clumsy (2 words)  
101 144 95 57 181 116 105 18 166

S. Possess  
6 162 75

T. Frozen treat brand \_\_\_\_\_

(2 words) \_\_\_\_\_ 129 172 117  
24 68 71 78 16 143

U. Pulsate  
15 132 73 58 98

V. Fastidious  
40 69 81 167 22 180

W. On the town \_\_\_\_\_

(3 words) \_\_\_\_\_ 125 26 47 170 4  
90 111 84 136 115 43

X. All bits exposed  
88 153 5 13 147

Y. Serious play  
179 41 38 151 79

Z. Outer limit  
83 85 109 149

aa. Speech defect  
80 118 110 52

bb. Visual symbolism  
54 184 178 131 142 53 21

cc. Let borrow  
154 140 45 182

dd. Supple, graceful  
165 74 8 23 104

ee. Standard  
134 63 146 28 128 92 59 86

A. Slightly open  
96 114 30 148

B. Soft candy  
7 164 35 56 85

C. Jab forward  
175 94 20 130 51 123

D. Trying amount  
10 119 82 64 135 1

E. Upgrade surface  
138 37 62 72 126 161 27 173

F. Guffawing  
46 14 158 11 61 107 39 183

G. You scratch it  
42 77 29 160

H. Stylish  
133 174 31 36 97

I. Characteristic spirit  
113 50 2 66 103

J. Charged molecule  
124 17 186

K. Waterway  
70 100 12 49 120 168

L. Organ lesson?  
185 145 122 19 163 65 171

M. Trimming to plant  
121 137 176 60 3 55 159

N. Rumbled playfully  
\_\_\_\_\_

(2 words) \_\_\_\_\_ 112 177 67 76  
139 156 87 44 169 91 32

O. Song of devotion  
150 108 93 9 99 25

P. Menial laborer  
141 102 157 35



with the people, the art and the principles. Gibson worked on the Temple of Transition in 2011, and started looking for ways to spread Burner culture.

The brothers bought the Morris for \$425,000 in 2013, according to Washoe County records. As a hostel, the Morris encourages higher turnover rates that mean it can expose more people to Burner culture.

Following the Burner ethos, the hostel is mostly run by volunteers, including those to usher you in from the locked front door. On the ground floor is the remarkable Steampunk Saloon and Ballroom where artistic events were held. The 10 Principles are prominently displayed just inside the door of the bar. A small sign across the room reads "Hippies use backdoor - no exceptions".

The second floor has the guest rooms, decorated in individual themes by Black Rock City artists. It is reminiscent of walking the streets on the Playa and visiting theme camps.

To keep the business going, there is a GoFundMe campaign to raise \$10,000 as the hostel works toward getting the sprinkler issue in the bar resolved. More than \$7,300 was pledged by mid-August. Reopening the bar would bring in much needed cashflow.

The hotel is raising money at [www.gofundme.com/help-the-morris-stay-alive](http://www.gofundme.com/help-the-morris-stay-alive) and its website is [morrisburnerhostel.com/](http://morrisburnerhostel.com/) 🐾

## Hermitage Stages First Museum Show of BRC Art

What is billed as the first museum exhibition dedicated to the art of Burning Man opened at Norfolk, Virginia's Hermitage Museum & Gardens on June 3. The exhibition features outdoor and indoor artworks from seven Burner artist teams: Michael Garlington and Natalia Bertotti, Charles Gaden, James Peterson, Bree Hylkema and Sean Orlando of Five Ton Crane, Kirsten Berg, Gregg Fleishman, Christopher Schardt. Iconic photographs of Burning Man by Scott London are featured in the museum gallery. The exhibition runs until Oct. 15.

Children of the Playa Dust

The children of the playa dust  
Gathered by the peaceful riverside  
The Black Rock Desert bills  
Still imprinted in their eyes  
They came to share their dreams  
Of self-expression  
In a new milieu designed  
To reawake the mind

The Burners began their work  
In quaint secluded places  
Niches where their art  
Could stand alone  
But the interactive grounds  
Became one inclusive canvas  
Painted by a communal  
Brush of love

Magical pieces rose up high  
To silhouette the sky  
Structures built  
For meditative introspection

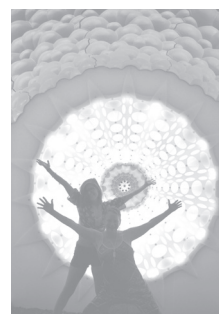
And when finely all was done  
A soiree was planned  
A real bipster affair  
Just for the occasion

The Hermitage was aglow  
With Burning Man  
A celebration of creative life  
The people wore their vestments  
Of artistic freedom  
As they shared the  
Ambience of the night  
And a breeze of bliss

Was wafting through the crowd

Burning Man had spread its wings  
And journeyed to the East  
Sculpturing transcendentalist  
Mind melding space pilot  
Apostles of Siddhartha  
Soldiers of the avant-garde  
Disciples of tolerance and truth  
Namaste

Russell F. Flynn Jr.



Photos from Hermitage exhibit, Left-Right:  
Compound Eye by Kirsten Berg  
Squared by Charles Gaden  
DreamCatcher by James Peterson  
WayStation by Gregg Fleishman  
Spire of Babel by Michael Garlington and Natalia Bertotti

Photographs by Stephanie Davenport

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### ALMANAC

●●●●●●●●●●

The moon, nearly full, will be in the sky most of the night to help guide you home.

Sunset: 7:27 p.m. Twilight ends 7:55 p.m.  
The moon is in the sky at dusk (92%)  
Temple Burn: About 9 p.m.  
Moonset: 3:44 a.m.

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**Monday, September 4**

Labor Day  
First light: 5:59 a.m. Sunrise: 6:27 a.m.  
Last day of ice sales: 9:00 a.m.-Noon  
Black Rock City ends: 6 p.m.  
Sunset: 7:26 p.m. Twilight ends 7:54 p.m.  
The moon is in the sky at dusk (97%)  
Moonset: 4:43 a.m.

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**Tuesday, September 5**

First light: 6:00 a.m. Sunrise: 6:28 a.m.  
Gate closes: Noon.  
Sunset: 7:24 p.m. Twilight ends 7:52 p.m.  
The moon is in the sky at dusk (99%)  
Moonset: 5:45 a.m.