Kitchen Inspector Puts Safety First

OMA

Cindy Ulch is on the Playa for her twelfth burn, representing the State of Nevada Department of Public & Behavioral Health. She can be found at Playa Info daily between 1:00 and 2:30 PM, issuing health certificates to camps that serve food to the general public or groups larger than 125 at any meal. Bars serving alcohol and camps serving only commercial packaged foods like wrapped granola bars are exempt.

The rest of the day, Cindy oversees the kitchen inspectors, polices the sewage pumping services, distributes condemn and makes sure those hand sanitizer dispensers stays filled. Ten kitchen inspectors ride bicycles in pairs all over the Playa, each covering eight to ten miles a day. Cindy's last year riding a bicycle, she rode 68 miles over three and a half days.

Cindy says BRC's kitchens are "doing an amazing job. It gets better and better each year."

The state issued 164 permits for BRC food service this year. While there have been some compliance issues, none have been serious enough to shut down a kitchen permanently. If a permitted kitchen fails inspection, they can be ordered to stop serving until they remedy any violations.

If a camp is found serving the general public without a permit, they are ordered to stop and given a notification (not a citation) telling them how to get a permit for next year. No new permit applications are accepted on the Playa.

Cindy says her department can help Burners plan for next year on the Playa in several ways. First, visit health.nv.gov. Information about Burning Man is marked with a flame icon. Burners considering joining a large camp can call Cindy's office in Winnemucca at 775-623-6591 to make sure their camp has proper permits and learn about any past violations.

Cindy says after she retires in a few years, she'd love to come to Burning Man as a regular participant.

Beyond the Back of the Ticket

INSURANCE AS RADICAL SELF PROTECTION

CURIOUS

When you hand your ticket over at Gate, you assume "all risk of property loss or damage, personal or bodily injury, serious injury or death, which may occur by attending Burning Man 2013."

Megan Miller, Burning Man Public Relations Manager, quoted risk-management consultant Joseph Prez, Chief of BRC’s Emergency Services Department: "We believe in your right to hurt yourself."

"And take responsibility for yourself,” she added. “It’s an important part of who we are as an event. We believe it’s an important experience for people to have to learn where their own edge is.”

There’s not enough of that in the United States."

But what if something unluckily and unpredictable happens? Should artists lose sleep worrying about being personally liable if someone gets hurt on their equipment?

"It’s an important experience for people ... to learn where their own edge is.”

Ben and Amy, Burners who work for a Bay Area insurance broker, have for three years been quietly supplying liability policies to friends and family who run art cars, big sound camps and art installations. No one has ever sued, but for a few hundred bucks (depending on the level of risk), about three dozen of their fellow Burners can protect their kids’ college funds and still bring on the fun.

Miller said, “We don’t want people to be in fear. We want them to bring their amazing art and their projects and their art cars out and not to worry about being on the hook if some one got hurt... We do encourage [them] to seek out what they need to do to feel like they’re covered.”

DeathGluD’s Thunderdome, a theme camp since 1999, has no liability insurance. If you’ve seen the harnessed, hormone-hopped combatants flying at each other with pummeling instruments, you know there’s got to be reckoning — but to date they have never been sued.

Sid Vicious, Thunderdome’s Art Director, rattled off some injuries: “I’ve broken my finger and I’ve broken both ribs. We generally have ribs, noses, fingers, a clavicle or two... The combatants get beat up. It’s a full contact sport.”

Thunderdome worker Tanja Satin added, “If somebody’s going to be stupid and climb to the top of the dome, even though we have caution tape there and flash lights in their face and tell them not to... they know what they’re going into... The [Burning Man] ticket protects the work and, to a certain extent, us.”

Though Thunderdome does not have liability insurance, most of the staff (like many performers elsewhere on playa, such as fire spinners) carry their own travel insurance, especially those who don’t have medical insurance at home. They’re practicing radical self-reliance by purchasing major protection (medevac, rescue, $50K hospital of choice) for a mere $45 bucks.

What about art projects? "At this stage we do not require artists to have insurance," said Bettieune, Associate Director of Art Management with The Artery, but added “It is something we are moving towards.”

Bettieune stated she could “count on half a hand” the number of lawsuits she could recall in the past ten years. She said, “The last big one, a gentleman fell into fire. The judge ruled that ‘fire intrinsically is dangerous, so by... engaging with it, you’re making decision and risking yourself’.”

“As of noon Saturday, the burn area was larger than Dallas, West of Yosemite, this Rim Fire was tied for the fourth largest in California history. Closures and warnings were in effect along parts of highways 120 and 108."

Yosemite Fire Impacts Exodus

FRANCIS AND ALEXANDRA

Burners, keep those respirator masks handy for the ride home. As of Thursday, the massive Yosemite fires have scorched an area almost as large as NYC: 193,000 acres in two days and 22 hours. A military drone has been drafted to tackle the fire but it is expected to burn for months. As of noon Saturday, the burn area was larger than Dallas, West of Yosemite, this Rim Fire was tied for the fourth largest in California history. Closures and warnings were in effect along parts of highways 120 and 108.

TRASH FENCE FLOTSAM

BLACK ROCK CITY POPULATION • SATURDAY, AUGUST 31: STILL FULL
Tuesday, August 26

Goat Edition

Chippacabra Police Take to the Streets to Demand Improved Treatment of Goats. In a possibly related development, Larry Harvey is accused of having a goat pimped up with a six-foot goat meat of burlap and chicken wire. And Audacity Camp, unbeknownst, rates potter uses on Entries, Sounds, TP Usage, and Disemounting, we learn, have been around since our Great Dakota!

Wednesday, August 27

Cab Edition

“The Temple Is Coming” but slow. David Best’s fourth effort, the Temple of Honor was hung down after Korean workers at a Pinata Factory in California near Tijuana wrote instructions in Ko- reish, a cross between their native language and Spanish, confounding the Playa construction crew.

Thursday, August 28

Radical Self-Reliance Edition

Whirled windshoring, a Jane Fonda-ish bout windshoring, and laser tag on bikes were just some of the activities in which active Burners participated, according to “Sports Beat” at the Extremer” by Lord Foufypants.

“You People have no respect! You People are a disgrace,” were some of the comments overheard at Burning Man.

Fouffypanns.

Friday, August 29

Party Line Edition

About 650 computers had access to the Internet by Wednesday, we learned in “Webcast Burns.” Citizens were using the newfangled Interwebs to send messages and instructions to their children in Black Rock City to reunite with parents. Law enforcement officials report that a pregnant woman in labor was transported from Black Rock City to Reno Saturday morning. BLM and the Pershing County Sheriff’s Department handled many missing children cases on Friday. All children were eventually reunited with their parents or guardians. Law enforcement officials implore Burners with children in Black Rock City to keep a close eye on them. Law enforcement also reports that several Burners were ejected from the event on Friday for issues that took place earlier in the week.

Sunday, August 31

Earth Edition

Katherine Lampman, a 21-year-old Burner from Belmpton, Calif., who was traveling in Canada by an art car she was exiting. She was killed in a skiing incident.

Police & Medical Beat

REDNIK

As of Saturday morning, there have been no deaths in Black Rock City. Law enforcement officials report no arrests between Friday at noon and Saturday morning.

Rumors at the event reported an extremely busy Friday, primarily due to injuries and bad drug reactions. Four Burners were transported off-Playa on Friday for further medical treatment, two for broken bones and two for burns.

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What the Trash Fence Saw

WeeGee, Baconers.

Carla, Tanya, Ray, Bridger, Crisal, Woody, Evanise, Woody, Mike, Marta, John, Blake, Christia, Branka, Peter, Art, Igor, Tatyan, twice.

OOGs were a popular theme this year.

Kiss A Mexican

BUENA CHICA

“I hear it every year: There are no minorities at Burning Man. All I have to say is Kiss My Ass Motherfuckers!!? You wouldn’t know what to do with a Mexican if she or he was standing in front of you wearing a silver spining cone bra, a hot pink wig and no panties.

The bottom line is if you want to see more minorities on playa — Do It Yourself. Surround yourself with more colorful people in your daily life and see if your Burner spirit rubs off on them. Not everyone makes it to Burning Man, only the brave and the funkiest! So I don’t expect all my Latino friends to come to Playa, nor everyone else — people come here when they come, period. But I will tell you what I enjoy. I love seeing Burners with sombreros. It is awesome to see a facet of my culture that symbolizes so much joy: fiesta, cervecitas, loud music, burritos & tacos, señoritas — It makes me feel so radically included! So this year I took it a step further and it came up with the Eleventh Principle: If you wear a sombrero on playa, you gotta kiss a Mexican!

And oh boy, have I had a great burn. Consider this: there are more sombreros than Mexicans at Burning Man. Ha! So fellow Burners, wear your sombrero loud and proud, then find us few funky Mexican here and share in our Burner spirit!”

渔船生到什么

Thursday, September 5

The moon will be in the sky at dawn.

First light • 5:57 a.m.

Sunrise • 6:25 a.m.

Sunset • 7:20 p.m.

Twilight ends • 7:57 p.m.

Moonrise • 4:45 a.m. (Tues)

Tuesday, September 3

The moon will be in the sky at dawn.

First light • 5:58 a.m.

Sunrise • 6:28 a.m.

Happy Trails!

Brain Teasers by DURGY

2013 Answers

Rhyme Puzzle: Participate

Bacon

“There is an electric fire in human nature tending to purify — so that among these human creatures there is continually some birth of new heroism. The pity is that we must wonder at it, as we should at finding a pearl in rubbish.”

—John Keats

Happy Trails!

www.SurpriseSummit.com

The Flame Thrower Shooting Gallery is eight...