

Black Rock Beacon



CARAVANSARY • GATE EDITION • SUNDAY AUGUST 24, 2014 • VOLUME X, NUMBER I

1:15 @ CENTER CAMP • BLACKROCKBEACON.ORG

WELCOME TO NOWHERE

BY SMASH

Each year Black Rock City arises anew on the playa, like an oasis glimpsed through the haze by a bedraggled and dehydrated caravansary. What better way to discover a new city than by scavenger hunt? Put down your rebar, go for a stroll, and see if you can find the following:

- A middle-aged naked man riding a Segway.
- Something wrapped in bacon.
- Someone falling off art.
- A mewling kitten hiding in the engine compartment of a rental truck. (True story. It was rescued by a kindly Ranger, a veterinarian in the default world, who protected it in her tent from the prying and petsick eyes of a certain

Beacon reporter.)

- A woman who invites you to suck booze from a tube attached to her tit.
- Cosmiquarium Village (“where the mysteries of the deep intermingle with the wonder of the stars.”).
- Camp Magic Pancakes.
- A young man wearing a flower pot on his head. (We met him last year when we offered a prize to the first burner bringing a Devo-related item to Camp Beacon. When he appeared, we asked if he was excited to win the contest. “What contest?” he replied.)
- Grover Norquist.
- A pirate ship, or someone dressed as a pirate.
- Alien Siege Machine (where “crews are enslaved and driven by a mysterious

rancor to pilot the machine into battle”).

- Someone dispensing advice. (Last year I talked to God in a phone booth on the Esplanade. I told him I was thinking about giving up bacon because I love animals. But I was torn, as eating bacon makes me feel at one with the universe. God said, “You have answered your own question.”)
- A caravan of giant teapots.
- Genital Portrait Studio. (“Your session may include a number of props and positions, and you can walk away with



Can you find Zero, a member of the Gate, Perimeter, and Exodus Department?

your very own Genital ID card.”)

- Camp Russian Roulette. (“We will turn people into Russians and Russians into people.”)
- A 24-foot tall genie bottle.
- A shirtcocker. (Urban Dictionary: “A guy at the Burning Man Festival who walks around with a shirt on and no pants, with genitalia exposed.”)

- Someone taking a photo of someone taking a photo.
- Your soul.

Proceed to Beacon HQ (1:30 @ Center Camp, near Playa Info) and tell us what you found. Prize: A copy of Tuesday’s issue, and a big dusty hug. (Camp and art descriptions are from the Burning Man website.) 🐘

Mysteries of the Bmorg budget

BY MITCH

Once upon a time, when many Black Rock City legends were still true, the Burning Man Organization decided to come clean about where your ticket money went. So it placed a financial table on the website that showed annual expenses—not telling you where the cash came from—but then, back when the millennium was young, it could only have come from ticket sales

and the odd t-shirt.

As Burning Man has grown, so has its budget. But while Black Rock City’s expansion has been mostly symmetrical, its spending seems to have bled into other dimensions.

Ups and downs

This year’s budget shows astronomical rises in two categories. Usage fees paid to the Bureau of Land Management rose 142 percent to \$4.5 million, while

tax and licenses increased more than sixfold to \$1.0 million. For the severalth year in a row, the Bmorg hasn’t had time to explain its accounts, though the Beacon asked on July 23.

There are no reductions large enough to counterbalance the mystery increases, though you may be happy to learn that water for dust abatement fell by almost half, to \$262,693, which compares nicely with \$100,000 in 2001 when you consider population growth. Some

of the numbers may show one-time effects of costs shouldered while Bmorg and Pershing County battled over the event’s future in court, a case that has now been settled. Details were vague.

Profit or not?

The base fee paid to the BLM for use of government land is 3 percent of

- adjusted gross income, which includes tickets and whatever else the Bmorg charges for, possibly including fees for media projects like fashion-magazine shoots and joint-venture films.
- Given what the Bmorg

- has told us about 2013 ticket sales, the \$26.8 million of expenditures would have resulted in a \$3.6 million loss and that would have been at least the seventh straight unprofitable year, which indicates that there are other revenue streams aside from tickets.

Larry’s retirement fund

- For several years, Burning Man has been moving toward nonprofit status, a process too convoluted and opaque to discuss in a newspaper this thin. Strictly as a matter of speculation, what might be buried in the numbers is a syphoning of money to an entity called Decommodification LLC, which controls the Burning Man trademark and is owned by six long-serving Black Rock City overlords.
- The not-for-profit event essentially pays the former directors of the for-profit company for the privilege of putting on the event. In the reader’s comments section of a March 3d Burning Blog post (tinyurl.com/brbdecommod), Founder Larry Harvey said it would take at least

three more years before the intellectual property is contributed to the Burning Man Project, making Black Rock City not for anyone’s profit.

It is possible that these Bmorg grandees are funding their retirements after years of living on the once-modest income you could derive from working for the Man. For six people of a certain age, the sum that would make a financial adviser happy would be somewhere in the \$10 million range. Put another way, you can withdraw \$40,000 to \$50,000 a year from a \$1 million retirement fund and be fairly confident of not outliving your assets. So if they’re pulling an annual \$2 million out of event, that means four to six years of that level of drain.

A depressing conclusion

One last bit of numerology: The cost per person of producing Burning Man was roughly \$250 a year from 2004 to 2009 and then it jumped to about \$380 from 2010 to 2013. Since budget planners would logically work backwards from their expected revenue, you might suppose that when they started planning the not-for-profit status seriously, they decided to boost ticket prices and the size of the event to feather their nests.

This also fits with a population jump to 51,525 in 2010 from 43,558 the previous year and a subsequent march toward 70,000. It also came as the Bmorg payroll climbed to more than \$7 million from less than \$3 million.

None of this seems especially shocking or distasteful, Larry & Co. have created something unique and profound. But if you’re going to post your budget for the world to see, it ought to make sense or it looks like you are hiding something 🐘

BURNERS WE ONCE KNEW

Paul Addis

BY MRS. LUCKY

Even before he died in late 2012, it was a safe bet Paul Addis was never coming back to Burning Man. He set fire to the Man in 2007 in the wee hours of Tuesday morning, during a lunar eclipse. His conviction for felony destruction of property landed him in a Nevada prison.



The Man’s premature immolation in 2007.

Paul was studying for his bar exams when he came to Black Rock for the first time in 1996. A last minute addition to the CYBERBUSS crew, C y b e r s A M remembers him as a real trooper, a key supporter of their mission to bring images from the Playa to burners bound to their cubicles back home. With a demoed satellite phone, a borrowed laptop, and a pong-pinging dial-up modem, the team uploaded the first-ever images direct from the desert.

It changed the direction of Paul’s life. “He got in touch with his inner-village idiot,” says sAM. A short, intense, intelligent man, Paul became a passionate advocate of the prankster ethos. “Basically, if it wasn’t stupid or dangerous we weren’t interested,” says sAM. Paul enlisted sAM as lookout when he hung a pair of beach-ball cojones from the Man’s crotch. As Burning Man expanded its rules, Paul became rabid critic of what he saw as a sellout to the tourist mentality.

After his incarceration Paul’s life nosed-dived. Stripped of his license and unable to return to practicing law, he turned his attention to performing on-stage manifestos. While touring with a Hunter S. Thompson tribute he added a rap for terroristic threats when he went Gonzo on a hotel clerk.

Paul threw himself off of the Embarcadero platform in front of a BART train, ironically creating one last sad spectacle for the very tourists he distained. 🐘

GREETINGS BURNERS! The Black Rock Beacon is pleased to bring you the tenth annual installment of Black Rock City’s saltiest independent newspaper. After today’s issue, we’re aiming to publish on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Wanna help out? Drop by any morning this week for our 10:30 a.m. meetings, where we chew the fat and dole out assignments. We’re looking for writers, editors, layout folks, photographers, illustrators, schwag-happy delivery people, and people who like makin’ bacon. Find us at 1:15 on the Inner Circle of Center Camp. Lux. Veritas. Lardum.

I had rather be shut up in a very modest cottage with my books, my family, and a few old friends, dining on simple bacon, and letting the world roll on as it liked, than to occupy the most splendid post.

— Thomas Jefferson

BLACK ROCK BEACON

If you record the sound of bacon in a frying pan and play it back, it sounds like the pops and cracks on an old 33 1/3 recording. Almost exactly like that. You could substitute it for that sound.

— Tom Waits

FLAG MAYHEM MARS ARIZONA REGIONAL

BY INDIGO

Two flags are still missing after the Arizona Regional Burning Man event known as “Saguaro Man.” At the start of the event three flags flew at the gate — one representing DPW, another the Heliotropic Rangers, and the third the AZburners Gate Department. But this was not to last.

Heliotropic Ranger Lead, Corinne “Hermione” Vivers, in her Saguaro

Man AfterBurn Report, stated that the Ranger flag was created because the county requires Ranger Headquarters be clearly marked. Although it was flying at the gate, it was considered by the Rangers to be missing. Then “we received it back, defaced, seams ripped. It was quickly repaired and hung so that participants could once again know where to find Rangers and Medical.” Gate leads report they returned the flag on Friday morning to Rangers after

several warnings from them that the flag must be returned.

The other two flags remained at the gate until early Saturday morning when they went missing. The Gate Department and DPW flags were not seen flying anywhere else at the event after being reported missing and are still unaccounted for.

Although speculation as to who actually stole the flags has been rampant, few leads exist as to the whereabouts of the flags or who may have taken them. Saguaro Man 2014 Gate Lead Matthew “Cosmic Sea” Hinman reported hearing rumors the Gate Department flag may have found its way to Colorado where “some fire guy has it.” This flag was hand painted by a member of the crew and is considered, by some, irreplaceable.

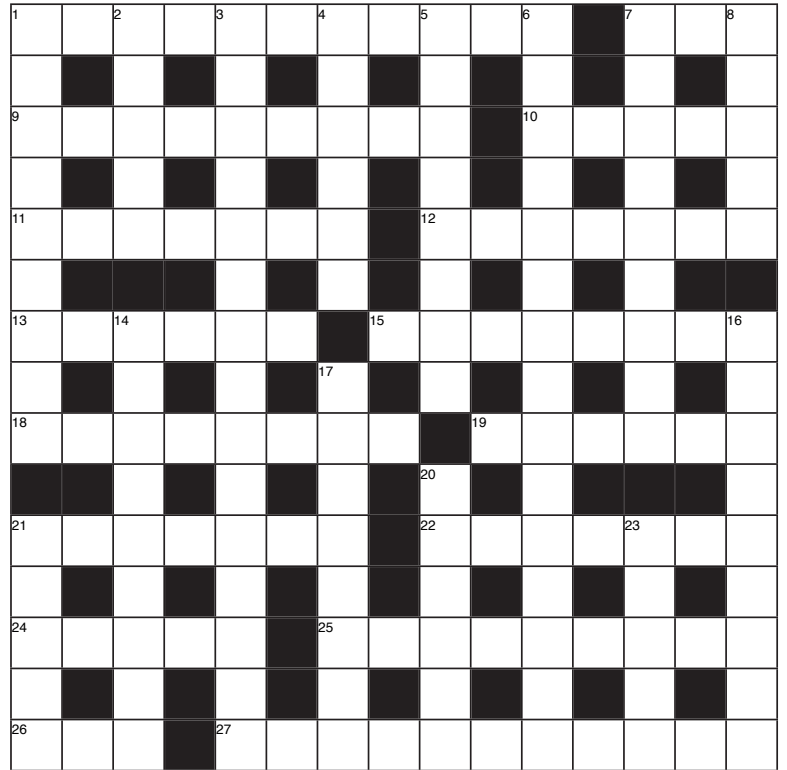
“The flag I put up was made out of one of my first DPW hoodies from 2006. It was a very personal thing and to have someone just grab it and never return it just sorta sucks and currently I’m reviewing if I will be attending the regional next year because of this. Sad... very sad.”

No mention of the missing flags was made in the Saguaro Man AfterBurn Report. 🐷



Saguaro Man’s missing and irreplaceable Gate Department flag.

BRAINTEASERS BY DURGY



ACROSS

- As a van ran amok inside, carry the exchange oasis (11)
- Vessel on the cusp without a point (3)
- One iron gate swings to create something (9)
- Lit 1001 inside at the end (5)
- Messed up Ted’s ink most tender (7)
- The streetcar did roll, yet unconventionally (7)
- Primarily one fateful fight is causing ennui at the workplace (6)
- The glaze of frozen dew (8)
- Murders for profits (8)
- The victim to sue Abe wrongly (6)
- I ran the diversion on the Iranian capital resident (7)
- Former operative gets complicated gene tax (2-5)
- Hindu worship ritual where aria performed around Texas capital (5)
- An inmate I reckon is lifeless (9)
- Joint with endless chips (3)
- He sent Les on walkabout anyway (11)

DOWN

- The inner workings of the timer’s machinery (9)
- Sounds like the rule in a downpour (5)
- I covet vacation I misinterpreted by oral initiation (5,10)
- Ornate fashion close by (4,2)
- Boundless departures confused at small opening (8)
- Beatles all lived in this primary colored U-boat (6,9)
- Gripes about the icon’s lamp mishap (9)
- Ms. Cline was a dupe (5)
- Order to top the gas tank or feed the lady? (4,3,2)
- Range sets apart high quality (9)
- Vehicle starter causing a fire to commence (8)
- Tent around an occupant (6)
- Dirty cheat to instruct (5)
- In part Pamela tends to cause joy (5)

ALMANAC

Hope you brought your flashlights, the Moon will be of little assistance in illuminating Black Rock City this year. Monday finds Luna at her new phase, waxing toward a first quarter on Tuesday after Labor Day, and she’ll sets before midnight every day before then.

Neptune will be at opposition Friday and Saturday, the best opportunity to observe it, which means it may be just barely visible to the naked eye as a pinprick of light in the southeastern sky, inside the constellation Aquarius from about 9 P.M. to 3 A.M.

Among the other planets, Jupiter will rise about 3 hours before the Sun, about 16 degrees above the eastern horizon. Venus will begin the week also visible in the predawn sky, rising in the east about 10 degrees above the horizon and getting blasted out of sight by the sunrise.

Saturn and Mars will appear at sunset low in the south-southwest, with Saturn higher. They’ll set in the southwest about three hours later.

Sunday • August 24

Black Rock City begins • 6 P.M.
Sunset • 7:43 P.M.

Twilight ends • 8:12 P.M.
The Moon sets before the Sun.

Monday • August 25

First light • 5:48 A.M.
Sunrise • 6:16 A.M.
Sunset • 7:42 P.M.
Twilight ends • 8:10 P.M.
New Moon.

Tuesday • August 26

First light • 5:49 A.M.
Sunrise • 6:17 A.M.

Sun, Moon times courtesy of www.SunriseSunset.com
Planets courtesy of Dominic Ford’s www.in-the-sky.org



The Black Rock Gazette
10 Years Ago

Monday, August 30, 2004
Gate Edition

Howard Jones invited Burners to “Enter the Vault of Heaven,” explaining the year’s theme was a concept that stretched back to ancient times, when people thought the sky really was an inverted bowl.

Soon-to-be Beacon founders Durgy (pro) and Suzanne Zalev (con) squared off in a debate over bacon. Winning point: While Durgy agreed with Suzanne that “Pigs are cute, smart, and sweet” he zinged her with “that actually adds to the flava.” 🐷

Who’s On Playa? Yes.

BY ROD ALLEN

British burners in their camp Quixote’s Cabaret Club and Bar are mounting a Dr. Who-themed exhibit for 2014 — just as the BBC is starting to air the new season of the show starring Peter Capaldi as the latest incarnation of the venerable Lord of Time.

The Brits are making an art car in the shape of Dr. Who’s cyber-dog “K9.”

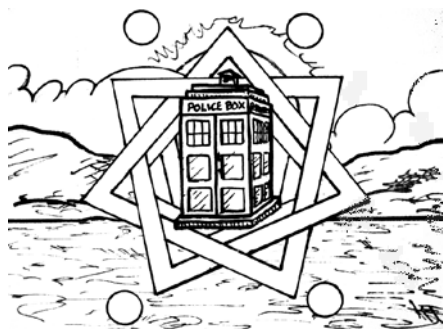
A campaign on Indiegogo was the means of funding the art car. Paul Pickup from Quixote’s says that t-shirts from the project will be the t-shirt of Burning Man

2014, over which people will be fighting in years to come.

The Euroburners’ meet’n’greet will take place on Tuesday at 2–4 p.m.; the Tea Dance will be on Wednesday at 3-5p.m.; and there will be cabaret on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings. It is not necessary to be a European to attend these events.

You can find Quixote’s Cabaret Club

this year at 7:30 & Ephesus. Look for the Tardis and giant K9. You can ask for a time trip in the Tardis, but you might not get one. 🐷



THE BRUISED HOLE by Ren

Blushy had a plan to dig a pit up on Mt. Trego and start collecting trash from BRC

Concrete would be poured into a spherical structure to contain all of the waste

and eventually the time would come to cap off and seal the cement sphere ...

to return the container of refuse back down to the people of Black Rock City



500 Burners celebrated the solstice at this year’s Freezer Burn, the regional event for Alberta, Canada.

Canadian Burners Ride Hippo on Elk Farm

BY REN

Freezer Burn, the regional event for Alberta, Canada, has been going on for seven years now and takes place at the end of June on the summer solstice.

Though it started at a modest group campsite, for the last four years the event has been held an hour from the provincial capital Edmonton, on private land — a beautiful elk farm in the rural hill country with a river running through the property.

This year’s theme was “Down The Rabbit Hole.” With 500 participants in attendance (around 200 of them volunteers), the event featured twenty theme camps, six sound stages, a Kidsville, and three mutant vehicles (you might see one of them, Hippo Love, on Playa). Of course there was also fire, a variety of art installations, a beautiful temple, and a 43-foot tall effigy “Unity Man” which included lights, an interactive element, and hidden bunny ears. 🐷

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