



## All is really awesome at the Bmorg

### SMASH

Smash's notes from Thursday's official Burning Man Organization press conference.

Bmorg has an awesome relationship with the Bureau of Land Management. Most recent environmental assessment says we can go up to 70,000 population. Later we might be able to get up to 100,000. There is nothing to worry about. THERE IS NO SCARCITY. But we are too event-centric. We need to grow the regionals. There will be enough BM for everyone, here or at home. Exciting news coming soon about capacity of BM. (Dramatic pause. No one asks what it is.)

So many newbies: Good or bad? This year's newbies are the most awesome ever. And everyone did an awesome job of embracing them.

You know what? It was not a ticket fiasco. It was a ticket kerfuffle. It turned out to be a good thing. As Bmorg predicted, everyone who needed or really wanted a ticket got one. Newcomers learned they are expected to participate. And now we have the facts about scalpers! (Dramatic pause. No one asks what they are.) Only 0.04-0.06% of tickets were bought from scalpers. There's no evidence that professional scalpers were involved, and amateur scalpers learned you can't make money off Burning Man. It all worked out perfectly! But we probably won't use the word "lottery" next year.

Plus the ticket kerfuffle ended up growing the regional burns. Bmorg rushed in to help. It all worked out great.

Larry Harvey quote: "I have strong reservations about supreme beings but I do think being is supreme." (Note: Make into fridge magnet for 2013 gifting.)

Stats: Population as of yesterday 40,000; 500 staff including temporary event staff; over 300 art projects; over 800 theme camps. Awesome. 🐘



## Anarchists attack 'Wall Street' protest

On Wednesday night a group of anarchists took action in Black Rock City targeting the Burn Wall Street art installation. The anarchists, using "black bloc" tactics to obscure their identities, painted slogans on the exterior of the installation. The slogans pertained to anarchist ideology and various revolutionary movements.

"The installation was targeted for its iconization of banking and government buildings and the hypocrisy inherent in creating art opposing corporate globalization" said an anarchist.

# Fat cats in cash-for-camps controversy

### NRDYGIRL

Plug & Play Camps, or what the Bmorg calls "turnkey" camps, have been in the news a lot lately among the more notorious of many cottage industries mushrooming around Burning Man. On Playa, they're a study in warring principals: Radical Inclusion vs. Radical Self-Reliance, Immediacy and Participation vs. the dread Spectator.

These are concierge camps: Sponsors arrange lodging, air or ground transportation, VIP grub and grog in return for money – lots of it. They might hire an artist to build a structure or an art car. They set everything up for participants to cruise in without getting their nails dirty.

It's only been the past year or two that bad experiences and poor impressions have roused ire and brought BMorg into the fray. Walled cities of stretch RVs are arrayed in sterile formation around dust- and wind-free courtyards. They smack of wealthy enclaves practicing radical exclusivity.

In the hierarchy of Burner nobility, tent campers are Brahmins: they tend not to trash their Home, they tend not to dump their cooler water, and they will body-dive to catch fluttering moop. At one with strangers and random action, immediacy is their middle name, juggling a peach for an egg or bringing a neighbor anything needed for the moment, like a hand or a spanking.

The rest of us are on a slippery slope toward Plug&Playdom: What if you come in with an RV? Rigs can be fancy; still, you might have to drive that rig, level it, figure out the damned propane and grey water situation. People spend all kinds of money getting here (and RV agencies make loads of cash); folks commonly pool resources to make a camp happen. So what's one more step to pay for someone who will do it all for you?

Megan Miller, Bmorg's PR manager, says "Like any city there are various levels of income and we don't want to exclude anybody."

Will Chase, in a blog post in March, wrote "these camps provide an opportunity for would-be Burners who wouldn't otherwise have the ability to survive and thrive in Black Rock Desert." He added, in a glimpse of Bmorg policy, that "a number of these campers bring or support big projects to add to the fabric of Black Rock City in other ways."

So hiring someone out to take care of your crap could seem reasonable. After



Gated communities on the Playa

NrdyGirl

all, even Bmorg's digs, propped up by all kinds of services in addition to electricity, aircon, trash service, rest rooms and coffee service with disposable cups, could qualify as Plug & Play along the slippery-slope spectrum.

Turnkey camps are here to stay. Practicing a modern version of radical inclusivity, Burning Man welcomes Plugs into the community but also says it wants to help positively acculturate these folks to become more like Burners. And BMorg wants input from Burners about their experiences with these camps.

So I went underground to investigate. I found a walled-off city on the 2:30 spoke, with half a block's worth of unadorned stretch-RVs on the x and y coordinates. With some trepidation, I breached the perimeter and found ... nobody.

I spied two guys working on an art car. "We got here Wednesday (before Gate) to lay the electricity and do the lighting," he said, clearly relishing the hard work of setting up their camp. About 20 staff support 60 campers, and those 20 on the support team, he said, used some of the RVs. The camp captain, he went on, operates out of New York, and found a fantastic artist to design the structure.

"How much do people pay to stay here?" I inquired.

"I can't disclose that," the staffer said. He had to go. The Playa was calling.

The next massive RV compound I stumbled upon, out on Geranium, actually had an orange barrier (like the trash fence) roped between rigs, either to keep their people in or other people out – and perhaps to protect some nice Segways. Again, no one in sight. Were these fine people on safari to see the wild animals at Burning Man?

BLM Incident Commander Mark Pirtle, along with his deputy Cory Roegner, talked Turnkeys with the Beacon.

Plug & Plays and any other vendor must fork over a \$100 application fee and 3% of gross revenues: these monies are spent on public lands in support of recreation activities. BLM managed to permit ten advertised camps in 2012.

Said Roegner, "We're working on educating the public, which may not be aware of these regulations. All vendors are required to have a permit if doing business or offering services on public lands."

Bmorg is also working on identifying the larger commercial enterprises. Will Chase, in a blog post last April, wrote that the BLM is not trying to capitalize on every opportunity; permits "will not apply to 'mom and pop' style operations and one-time deliveries."

So what do you think? The Beacon invites you to answer our Question of the Day: What's your opinion of Plug & Play? Turnkey or Turncoat? We want to hear from you, too. 🐘

## Tickets: Next year should be better

### MITCH

According to somebody over at the Burning Man organization whose Playa name ought to be Pollyana, ticket sales went great this year.

For the Bmorg, that's true. They sold 59,000 tickets, and there probably won't be 59,000 paying attendees, keeping costs in check while revenue bloomed to just under \$19 million, up from \$16 million-ish last year.

So, yeah, great year. Also, no organized scalpers, if you believe what you hear. Somebody, however, took a bath in the final weeks leading up to this year's event, with ticket prices on a leading ticket reselling web site falling below the top-tier face value of \$390 around August 14th. The Beacon has heard reports of tickets in the \$200 area with thousands available as Black Rock City opened for business. Oh, that prohibition about selling for above face value does not seem to extend to buying below face value.

Back in February, that web site listed sales above \$1,000, so some amateur scalpers must have done okay if they weren't bidding on their own tickets just for laughs. The visible sales on websites that show such things never reached the thousands that would account for the dark mass of tickets that disappeared from the initial auction-cum-lottery disaster, though perhaps that just means the overconfident scalpers held out for too long.

The big drop in price from the \$500 area at the start of August necessarily indicates an increase in supply, a drop in demand, or a combination of both. One sensible scenario is that real Burners who decided not to come at the last minute put their tickets on the market, pushing prices down \$100 or so and leading to panic selling. While this may mean scalpers got burned, it also shows the natural demand for Burning Man tickets, absent the risk of a sellout, ends at a price somewhat below the top tier.

What demand will look like next year depends in large part on how the ticketing system is redesigned. Or maybe the Bmorg will leave it alone, since it worked so well for them. It seems unlikely that people will be willing to pay \$390 in the winter for something with a resale value that might be little more than half that. 🐘

## Tricycle is back

The Mayan Tricycle is still closed for repairs to make it safer. It will reopen on Friday between 2:00 pm. and 5:00 pm.

## New uses for old money at Playa cash tree

### GOLD DIGGER

The economy at Black Rock City is one based on gifting. Money has no real value on the playa, except of course for essentials like coffee and ice. Hopefully the gifting culture and generosity at Burning Man leaves enough of an impression that we can return to our default lives with a different mindset concerning money and value. One thought-provoking sculpture encourages us to explore this idea further.

The Transfer Money Tree located at 12:00, near Center Camp, is an interactive sculpture designed and built by Dadara. The white tree is slowly becoming covered with legal bank notes, each uniquely decorated by fellow Burners. From the installation, one can clearly see the Occupy Wall Street buildings and, although there is no connection between the two pieces, the placement is likely no coincidence.

The artist explained that our society understands "value" in monetary terms. Money, he says, is no longer a medium for exchange and has become a way to divide people instead of unite them. Money has almost become this mythical entity that people hoard for wealth. But, if the money isn't being used does it have a real value?

Dadara further explains that asking people for money on the playa can be difficult due to the principle of decomodification. Once a bank note is decorated and glued to the tree, it loses financial value in favor of a more beautiful, thought-provoking, and artistic value. Often the simplest changes are the most effective. Dadara is particularly fond of a five euro note with the corner of a twenty euro note glued over it, which shows how truly relative money is. He also points out that a 100 euro note turned into art is still just a few centimeters of paper.

The sculpture is backed by the Exchangehibition Bank, of which Dadara is the founding CEO. The idea behind the bank is the same as the tree itself, trying to open up a discussion about our societies' preception of value, money, and wealth. Bank notes from the EB comprise the leaves of the Money Transfer Tree. Any form of decorated paper currency is being accepted for placement on the tree and all Burning Man participants are encouraged to contribute. 🐘





## Burners You Should Know Jewelz Cody

### AZALEA

"This is the year of the dragon," Jewelz Cody says, nodding at yet another motorized serpent awaiting approval in the DMV line. We cruise out onto the Playa, ensconced on the purple banquettes of the classic mutant vehicle, Mobile Living Room. Jewelz knows her mutant vehicles, and her art cars, and the way to tell the difference. As director of the DMV until 2005, she helped create the distinction.

Art cars are street legal. Mutant vehicles are more like floats, taking full advantage of the Playa's curb-less, bridge-less, overhead wire-less status. Art cars, which operate in the default world, started the altered wheels craze at Burning Man. Today DMV approval is reserved for mutant vehicles, defined as motorized transport that retains few features of the underlying car.

Members of the Houston art car community first led Jewelz here in 1996. She hasn't missed a year. She became the first official full-time employee of Burning Man in 1998, working out of an office in Gerlach during the event.

The Notre Dame fight song blasts from the speakers of the Mobile Living Room as Jewelz points out her favorite mobile creations. There's A Cavallo, with its merry-go-round horses, the giant faux-wicker Hell in a Hand Basket and of course Gon Krin - her favorite serpent in this year of the dragon.



## Ham radio: not a pork product, but a lifesaver

### HYDRO

Whatever did people do to interact with faceless individuals around the world prior to Al Gore's invention of the internet?

One option was ham radio. If the Default World were to go to hell in a hand basket, those folks with ham radio technology would be much less in the dark than the rest of us.

What is ham radio? It is a radio-frequency communication system that is available for public use with basic licensing. Jim Boswell, currently living at 6 and Iris, is a ham enthusiast and was more than happy to share his thoughts on ham. Staff of the Beacon love pork products, so we were happy to listen.

According to Jim, ham stands for Helping All Mankind. Ham operators regularly help inform and coordinate efforts of organizations like the Red Cross during large-scale emergencies when other standard forms of communication may be less than ideal. Among other things, they voluntarily act as weather spotters to keep emergency crews from getting themselves caught up in their own emergency.

You may think, "Well, hell. That's probably too complicated for a simpleton like me to get into." Wrong. With a few basic lessons on Ohm's Law and a quick read of the

# BLACK ROCK HEALTH AIR BASE MOVES TO GERLACH

### NRDYGIRL

Try not to need an emergency helicopter ride out of Black Rock City. Not only will it set you back \$25,000 if you're uninsured, it might be a long, bumpy ambulance ride to the takeoff pad. After a hard helicopter landing on the Playa last year, Care Flight, which operates out of Reno, switched its default transport area to Gerlach.

Reported as an "incident," not a "crash," the pilot landed in a brown-out. The hard landing cracked the helicopter's frame and it had to be driven away on a flatbed truck as a complete loss.

"He tried a landing technique that is different from what is normal for the Playa," said Joseph Pred, Chief of Black Rock City's Emergency Services. In dusty landings, rotors create their own dust clouds, making a dust storm and causing a brown-out.

"It was the pilot's first time trying to land on the Playa," Pred noted, and also the first time this has happened.

Care Flight wants to avoid that hap-

pening again. "We're still going to have a landing zone on the Playa," Pred said. "But our default landing location will be Gerlach. Landing locations can shift from time to time."

Out in the wide open Playa, Black Rock City Airport, 88NV, runs pretty smoothly for all the airplanes, helicopters, skydivers, gliders, ultralights, and hot air balloons dropping in—so long as weather conditions aren't treacherous. The landing



An aircraft damaged at 88NV in 2008

## Open Water

by Hydro

Her grip momentarily tightened on my collar. Her motions lingered just long enough for me to realize she had dropped the sponge. At that moment, a searing, electrifying pain was delivered to my bare ass with her free hand. The intoxicating burn was quickly cooled with suds and a gentle massage. My arousal was apparent as she moved the sponge toward the front, but I know this bath was as much for her stimulation as it was for mine. As the soapy water and Playa dust performed a teasing dance down my inner thigh, I couldn't help but wonder what was to become of this grey water.

Grey water, generally, is any water that has been used for things like bathing or washing dishes. This is contrasted with black water, which is pretty much sewage. Assuming you've read the 2012 survival guide (every good Burner has, right?), you will know that grey water is

*"If the grey in your water doesn't photo-degrade, it's likely that it will be waiting around to greet you if you get tickets next year."*

not to be dumped on the Playa or in the big blue butt huts. You're probably thinking, "Hey, those big trucks are dumping water on the Playa every day. Why can't I?" Firstly, the BLM is keeping an eye out for it and may give you a stern talking to or worse if they catch you. Secondly, the Playa really doesn't have any method by which to break down or disperse the soaps, oils, food particles, etc. that end up in grey water.

Unlike many other environments, which have the luxury of abundant water

surface is, however, unpaved playa and there are no guarantees.

Last year, even in peachy weather, a Piper PA-28 (a small single-engined plane), cartwheeled on the Playa after its landing gear dug into 8-inch deep soft tufa, as reported by the National Transportation and Safety Board. Pilot and passenger sustained minor injuries but the bird bit the dust.

As BRC's Airport spokesman cautions: "Flying in mountainous desert regions is dangerous. Don't do it. Stay at home with a cold drink and watch the event on television."

Five Burners with critical conditions took Care Flight helicopter rides out last year in their unexpected Rite of Passage. 🐷

## No dogs on the Playa?

### ROD ALLEN



Taymar

There will be no dogs allowed on the Playa, says one of the Bmorg's many rules. Except, of course, when they are allowed on the Playa. This is Sunshine, who belongs to Peacemaker, who says he is the first legal dog on the Playa. "He works the DMV and the coffee-shop with me," says Peacemaker. Sunshine can be seen at Camp Gallivant when not at work. Staff are sometimes given special permission to keep animals on the Playa; for participants, the restriction stands so don't bring Fido next year.

In other animal news, Jasper, the cat which was lost from the DPW, has been found; but the mother of two new-born kittens who are being looked after by an onsite Burner vet has not. 🐱

to sustain flora and fauna, the Playa surface experiences very little biological activity. The sun ends up being the major decomposer of residues from Burning Man and other on-Playa activities. So, if the grey in your water doesn't photo-degrade, it's likely that it will be waiting around to greet you if you get tickets next year.

Please, keep track of your grey water and make sure it leaves the Playa. Whether you store it, pay to have it pumped, or evaporate it, all of your hard work will help ensure that Burning Man continues to leave as little trace as possible.

## Finding sacred spaces on the Playa

### SUSAN

Not all the sacred spaces in Black Rock City are as obvious as the Temple of Juno or Sacred Spaces Village (9:45 & Edelweiss). Quiet contemplation, spiritual guidance, participatory celebration, or semi-(ir)reverent fun are scattered throughout the Playa.

Tribal Thunder (3:30 & Esplanade) comes from you and a herd of sacred animals. Poppy will hand you a pair of drumsticks. As he listens to the spirits of the cows singing, he may rearrange the drums for different drummers to play.

Theophony is a blue yurt between the Man and the Temple of Juno. Outside hang prayer flags reflecting on visitors' experiences. Inside are panels by about a dozen artists, representing positive and negative aspects of spiritual disciplines and ways of encountering The Sacred. Theophony is best visited in the evening, when you can play the Optical Theremin, accompanied by chants.

Buddha Camp (4:15 & Foxglove) features a chill dome, where you can hang with cool Buddhists, and a sacred dome

for meditation and mindfulness. Daily chanting at 11 am is followed by discussion, then yoga.

Nectar Camp (6:40 & Foxglove) is home to the HeeBeeGeeBee (HBGB) Healers and Shaman Dome. Both offer space for contemplation, gathering, and healing. Shaman Dome reaches the body through spirit, and HBGB approaches spirit healing through the body.

Spirituality can be fun, too. Don't miss VooDoo Soup's Haitian altar, refreshing homemade soda on tap (lime and root beer Tuesday afternoon) and a piano anyone can play.

At the Temple of the Flying Spaghetti Monster (4:30 Vortex) you don't have to be 21 to worship, but you do have to be 21 to drink. Kathy says the loyal Pastafarians are "just here to serve."

First Church of the Last Laugh on Rod's Road deserves the closing spot in this review. Pay your respects to Saint Stupid and write in the Book of Stupid to receive absolution the night of the Temple Burn.

## Playa Gourmet

by Ringo

Head over to 7:15 and C now through Sunday around 6:30-ish for the melty goodness of Operation Fondue where the Swiss dream team, Bareusdarus and Xeena, will tend to your cheesy needs. Enjoy a chilled white wine with your gooey goodness of melted Gruyere and Emmenthal in a very secret recipe. The "fundue" staff will be at your service wearing aprons, and nothing else, to enhance your experience.

Wine Tasting at Black Rock Wine Cellar: Stop by at 7:30 and A between the hours of 10:30 and 3-ish sometime over the weekend for a splash of the desert good stuff. Your friends can enjoy the fruits of the climate-controlled cellar from grapes grown at the north end of the Black Rock City French Quarter, the only carnivorous grapevine on the face of the earth. Fine glasses will be onsite for proper wine snobbery. Make certain to stop by to celebrate fine Playa living.

Elusive Tuna Guys: Ladies and gents, the tuna army is no urban legend. Back

for their fourteenth consecutive year, the fishermen and tuna girls are at it again and now approved by the Nevada State Division of Health. Come by to share over 1000 pounds of Pacific albacore and salmon that were swimming in the sea just eight days ago. Dining hours are between 6:00 and 8:00pm this Friday through Sunday. Bring your own utensils and something dishy for the grand potluck. Anyone showing up with schweg for the industrious chefs will be granted the right to move to the front of the line. Location? Somewhere and somewhere.

## ALMANAC

*A full moon will rise Friday just before sunset. It will provide light throughout the night.*  
— Frogbird

Friday, August 31 • Sunset: 7:31 p.m.  
Twilight ends: 7:59 p.m.

Saturday, September 1  
First light: 5:56 a.m. | Sunrise: 6:54 a.m.  
Sunset: 7:29 p.m. | Moonrise: 7:47 p.m.  
Twilight ends: 7:57 p.m.  
Burns: The Man burns at dusk

Sunday, September 2  
The moon will be in the sky at dawn.  
First light: 5:57 a.m. • Sunrise: 6:25 a.m.

Courtesy www.SunriseSunset.com



## BRAINTEASER BY DURGY

The answer to this puzzle is "bacon". Why? Show your work, and bring to the Beacon at Inner Circle @ 1:15 for a surprise.

Clues:  
SIGNIFY  
TRIGGER  
INFIGHTING  
EXTROVERT  
EXPENSIVE



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