



WELCOME TO NOWHERE

ROD ALLEN

Whether you're a nervous newbie or a blasé veteran, you're greeted at the Black Rock City gateline with the words "welcome home." It's a recognition of the idea that Black Rock City, even though it takes existence for just seven days in the desert, is where your heart and soul live — and the other 51 weeks in the default world are spent away from home, giving you time to reflect, dream about and plan your next trip home. But how did your home get to be the way it is today?

Black Rock City: a maturing municipality providing services to its citizens

ferent sheriff's departments have jurisdiction within Black Rock City, and they're not averse to the firm enforcement of local laws about drink, drugs and even food safety (no naked cooks allowed, apparently). And Black Rock has its own law enforcement team and

city departments that regulate and license things like art cars and loudness of music.

Some say that the growth of bureaucracy and order in Black Rock City is the sign of a maturing municipality providing services to its citizenry. Others ridicule the idea of Black Rock being even a simulacrum of a functioning city because while it has the goods and services, what is missing is the democracy. However good or bad you think the Bmorg is at doing its job, the fact is that nobody voted for them; on the contrary, they appointed themselves and chose what services to provide and how. This, however, is an argument that will rumble on for years (and will probably only come to a head upon the long-distant demise of Larry Harvey).

Madly unsustainable

Most of us who have been drawn back year by year to the inhospitable, madly hot, madly cold, madly dusty, unsustainable desert come back not for the music, not for the food, not for the sheer bravado of continuing existence in the desert climate, but because of the population — the 60,000 people who call Burning Man home. We are the Burners for whom the playa will provide, and far from leaving no trace we know that simply from being present on the playa there will be a profound impression left both on us and on those with whom we interact. And far from radical self-reliance, our most profound memories will actually be of the kindness of strangers, the helping hand or evening cocktail, the delicious meals and the hugs and kisses we all give and get.

So don't believe that stuff about the Bmorg providing a magic experience for you; the magic experience is made by you, and you, and you. And who would want to be anywhere else in the world, as August gives way to September, but home? 🐷

Semi-macho

Burning Man has its origins in a 1986 semi-mystical, semi-macho, semi-spontaneous gathering on Baker Beach in the Bay Area where father figure Larry Harvey and a few buddies set fire to a small wooden figure. (Yes, and there are other origins, too, including the Cacophony Society, Mary Grauberger, and the thousands-of-years-old tradition of ceremonially burning an effigy, often at one Solstice or the other.) By 1990 the burners had been ejected from the San Francisco beach and decided to go play in the northern Nevada desert, where for some years their main annual activity seemed to be driving rented cars around the desert and shooting live firearms at each other.

Forbidden

It all seems very unlike the experience you are about to undergo this year. Firearms, for instance, are absolutely forbidden; and the Burning Man Organization (Bmorg) likes to be known in public as opposed to illegal drugs, though heaven knows many of the activities at Black Rock would not be possible without some sort of artificial stimulus. You can burn things, of course, but only in officially-designated areas with health and safety regulations strictly imposed. (This newspaper believes that smoking tobacco in the desert, as in Nevada's casinos, is still legal. Don't stub your cigarette out on the ground, though.) You're expected to agree to ten principles of behavior (or states of mind) which include things like Leave No Trace and Radical Self-Reliance. You can only drive at 5 mph, and once you've found your spot you can't drive at all, unlike those good ol' boys in the '90s who drove around the place popping off at each other. At least two dif-



Welsh burners rejoice

Success For First-Ever Official British Burn in Wales

AMBRIDGE FARMER

As bleary-eyed British burners emerged from a Sunday night of revelry at Nest last June, a jubilant Max Grant, who was the organizer of the first-ever British regional burn, confirmed that there would be another Nest on the same weekend next year; that it would take place on the same site; and that next year's Nest would run from Thursday to Tuesday.

It nearly didn't happen at all this year.

Grant, who had been work-

ing for six months on the project, needed the nod from the Bmorg in San Francisco, which in its turn insisted that the event should be properly insured.

Most insurers Grant spoke to said the event "looked too much like Burning Man" to them, and turned him down. But with a week to go, Grant found a sporting underwriter who would insure it, and Nest went ahead as the first ever official British regional burn, with the blessing of the Bmorg.

Over 200 burners attended the event — 50 more than were



Grant: jubilant

expected — and the weekend unfolded as a celebration of the Principles of Burning Man, though in truth radical self-reliance was made rather easier by the accommodations provided, which included electricity, hot & cold running water, and proper beds for those willing to pay. 🐷

FEDS OKAY 68,000 POPULATION CAP

MORNINGSTAR

Following negotiations between the Burning Man Organization (Bmorg) and the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM), officials have finally issued Burning Man organizers a four-year "special recreation permit" that will allow a peak population of 68,000 at the event in the northern Nevada desert.

Last year, the population at Black Rock City reached just over 53,000 — substantially

below the population limit of 60,900.

But the Feds aim to maintain control of many dimensions of Burning Man activity. Gene Seidlitz of the BLM told the Press Association that the agency will require compliance with over 60 conditions related to issues such as security, public safety, resource management and cleanup.

Founder Larry Harvey has been talking up the growth of regional burns to ease the pressure on Burning Man ticket

demand. But, as burner Bucket told the Beacon, "there's only one Burning Man".

Black Rock City's population has flatlined around 50,000 people for the past few years, and the event is exposed to factors such as economic downturn and increased travel costs.

But there is no guarantee that total capacity of 68,000 will be sufficient in four years' time, especially in view of growing economic recovery. 🐷

GREETINGS BURNERS! The Black Rock Beacon is pleased to bring you the ninth annual installment of Black Rock City's saltiest independent newspaper. After today's issue, we're aiming to publish on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday. 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 1:00 on the Inner Circle of Center Camp. *Lux. Veritas. Lardum.*

OOPS! In the Sunday, September 2nd, 2012 edition of the Black Rock Beacon, one of our editors made an incorrect and inflated estimate about the number of tickets that went unused. The Beacon regrets the error.



Nev. Lawmakers Struggle With Medical Marijuana Law

ROD ALLEN

The government of Nevada is starting to wrestle with the issues surrounding its recently-enacted medical marijuana law. But it has made it clear that medical marijuana cards issued by other states, such as California, will not be recognized by Nevada law enforcement, and possession of marijuana by anyone other than a Nevada citizen with the appropriate paperwork remains illegal.

The Nevada marijuana dispensaries law, finally signed by governor Brian Sandoval in June this year, tackles the detail of growing and prescribing marijuana in the state. The use of medical marijuana has been legal in Nevada since passage of a constitutional amendment in 2000, but until now there has been no legal way of growing or buying marijuana.

Among the regulations introduced by the new law is one which limits the number of dispensaries in any city to one-tenth of the number of regular pharmacies (which will not sell marijuana). Thus there will only be two medical marijuana outlets in Reno, and possibly a further two in Sparks.

Each dispensary will have to pay an upfront registration fee of \$30,000, show it has access to working capital of at least \$250,000 and pay an annual renewal fee of at least \$5,000. Sales of marijuana will be subject to a 2% excise tax as well as regular sales tax. 25% of the money raised will fund the marijuana regulatory system; the balance must be spent on education.

The law takes effect in 2014, although medical recommenda-

tions are already being issued by Nevada doctors.

Medical marijuana sales, now permitted in 20 states, are still illegal under Federal law, and the Feds have been ambivalent over whether they will pursue medical marijuana users, sellers or growers. Only Colorado and Washington have legalized recreational marijuana use, and they too are still trying to work out how to regulate and tax it.

Burners, even if they are registered to purchase medical marijuana in their home states, should be aware that Nevada law enforcement has not changed its attitude to possession or use of marijuana, and the new law will not affect the no-tolerance policy they follow at Burning Man. 🐘



Larry on the big screen at Le Web

REGIONALS TO PAY BMORG?

PROFNOD

Burning Man founding father Larry Harvey met over a hundred adoring burner fans at the Bedroom bar in London's trendy Shoreditch in June. The purpose of his visit was to check out regional affiliations and activities, and to make a featured appearance at Le Web, an international conference of on-line entrepreneurs at London's Central Hall.

Larry said that the Bmorg wanted to spread expertise and knowledge throughout the world; but he also thought that regionals should pay Bmorg a consultancy fee in return for its help and support.

He said that it was amazing to see so many people coming to

meet their founder/leader/idol in a Q&A session organized by regional rep Yoms.

Questions from the audience addressed issues such as "leave no trace" — apparently in the early days photography was regarded as leaving a trace but Larry pointed out that BM doesn't advertise and the dissemination of photos taken at the event helped to publicise and spread the word about BM, so he prevailed over the photog-haters.

He emphasised that BM must be open to everyone, despite colleagues who wished to fire on frat boys as they arrived on the playa, though he didn't address the filtering effect of ticket prices. 🐘

The Black Rock Gazette 10 Years Ago

Monday, August 25
Gate Edition

In "Sticky Fingers on the Playa," by LadyBee and PlayaQuest, we found that several art installations had been subject to theft in 2002, including Jeremy Lutes' Lily Pond. Most thefts were said to occur between 3 A.M. and 6 A.M.

Washoe County had trouble classifying the work ranch, a.k.a. Black Rock Station, where many things that make Black Rock City are made. Seems that it's not a farm, factory, mine, or any other business on the county checklist, Caleb Schaber told us in "All Aboard! Black Rock Station!"

Durgy took a look from both sides of the Café counter to consider gratuities in "Tipping." Takeaways: Burner barristas often need the dough more than, say, the cool kids at Arctica, and if you decide to tip, it doesn't have to be in cash. 🐘

Apple Takes the Burning Road

BRIAN TESLA

Apple, the manufacturer of the iPhone, iPad and Mac, has chosen the road to Black Rock City for its latest piece of tech-wizardry — a massive server farm which will be used to power its iCloud system.

iCloud is a system by which you can use an Apple portal to upload files to a "drive" in the sky and save, or lose, them there rather than saving and losing them on your local device.

Apple chose the site, on the road between Reno and Nixon, partly because the Nevada tax structure is greatly favorable to infrastructure investment like the server farm, and partly because the site is sufficiently isolated and makes it easy to maintain security. Well, it is isolated apart from the 60,000 Burners who will pass it in

both directions one week in late August.

Apple boasts that the server farm will be completely self-sufficient in terms of power consumption. A vast array of solar panels will generate enough power to keep the plant running day and night. The site near Black Rock City was chosen because it

enjoys a great deal of relatively predictable sunshine. And like Black Rock City the alkaline soil supports little to no wildlife or vegetation, thus avoiding prob-

lems caused by critters nibbling through cables.

Does this mean the antique Apple computers on which the Beacon is produced will be less likely to break down? Or that we will get swifter response to service calls on the playa? No. 🐘

A vast array of solar panels will generate power to keep the plant running day and night.



Apple stakes a claim on the road to BRC

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD BY DURGY

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
9				10										
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22										23		24		
25													26	
27										28				

ACROSS

- Cart that contains the log you see splintered for John Frum's followers (5,4)
- Sulked about the motor bike (5)
- Mel was wrong about the tree (3)
- Football team seen above LaGuardia (3,4,4)
- The reason one uses the foremost fish (5)
- Lose water when they dared to screw up (9)
- Stumbling I reel since being able to bounce back (10)
- Relax at the topless crest (4)
- The verge of some hocus pocus (4)
- Get love if I animate? (4,4,2)
- Aim cement poorly and get pie filling (9)
- Sum for the child that's awake? (3,2)
- Bizarre large root in wagon route (6,5)
- Boundless grunt to sprint (3)
- The braid under much stress (5)
- Sues rears off and relieves (9)

DOWN

- Sporting retro cat fur, come for the material luxury. (8,7)
- A mod railroad's disturbed by tamping tools (7)
- Only tear fancifully! (8)
- Single uncle needs what everybody does primarily (5)
- To each hot problem comes mouth pain (9)
- Confused Oklahoma dame to get by on what's available (4,2)
- Peg mare to gallop before the match (7)
- RN's pet pig tossed about sweet enhancers (7,8)
- Sinisterly entice rep to the earthquake origin point (9)
- Makes hooch by working slit lids (8)
- Sounds like a moral wrong visionary is true blue (7)
- In-putter did re-enter wrongly (7)
- Evil spirits vexed Esmond (6)
- I went to Tara for a headpiece (5)

ALMANAC

Monday • August 26

The moon will rise at 10:12 P.M. on Sunday, three days before its final quarter. It will appear later and provide less light each subsequent night.

First light • 5:49 A.M.
Sunrise • 6:18 A.M.
Sunset • 7:40 P.M.
Twilight ends • 8:09 P.M.
Moonrise • 10:50 P.M.

Tuesday • August 27

The moon will be in the sky at dawn.

First light • 5:51 A.M.
Sunrise • 6:19 A.M.

Courtesy www.SunriseSunset.com

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