

Kitchen Inspector Puts Safety First



PHOTO: Raymar

Use proper protection when makin' bacon.

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 condoms and makes sure those hand sanitizer dispensers stay filled. Ten kitchen inspectors ride bicycles in pairs all over the Playa, each covering eight to ten miles a day. In 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 <http://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.

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.



Beyond the Back of the Ticket

INSURANCE AS RADICAL SELF PROTECTION

CURIOS

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 Pred, 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 unlucky and unpredictable happens? Should artists lose sleep worrying about being personally liable if someone gets hurt on their equipment?

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 have to worry about being on the hook if someone got hurt.... We do encourage [them] to seek out what they need to do to feel like they're covered."

DeathGuild'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 crackage — 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 two ribs. We generally have ribs, noses, fingers, a clavicle or two.... The combatants get beat up. It's a full contact sport."

Thunderdome worker Tanya 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 (medivac, 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 Bet-

tieJune, Associate Director of Art Management with The Artery, but added "It is something we are moving towards."

BettieJune 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 walking to it and engaging with it, you're making decisions and risking yourself,'" and tossed the suit out.

BettieJune said she would

like to think that Burners are fine with the idea of liability insurance on playa. While she recognizes there could be a backlash, she said it could allow artists to feel empowered to take on risks for art while being protected creatively and legally.

"This is definitely a conversation the community needs to have," Miller said, adding that the growing culture and worldwide network of Burning Man events make this something everyone is facing, whether it's on the Playa or at events in their own home region.

TRASH FENCE FLOTSAM

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"I was driving around last night and saw a clown chasing a unicorn. Everything looked normal so I kept going."

—One Pershing County Deputy to another, overheard at Burning Man

BLACK ROCK BEACON

TODAY'S WEATHER

Monday: chance of thunderstorm
20% chance of precipitation
Tuesday: chance of rain
40% chance of precipitation

The Black Rock Gazette 10 Years Ago

Tuesday, August 26

Goat Edition

"Chupacabra Police Take to the Streets" to demand improved treatment of goats. In a possibly related development, Larry Harvey is accused of having carnal relations with a six-foot goat made of burlap and chicken wire.

Audacity Camp, unbidden, rates pottie users on Entry, Sounds, TP Usage, and Dismounting, we learn in "Porta Party on Dude!"

Wednesday, August 27

Cult Edition

"The Temple Is Coming" but slowly. David Best's fourth effort, the Temple of Honor was bogged down after Korean workers at a Pinata factory in California near Tijuana wrote instructions in Korean, a cross between their native language and Spanish, confusing the Playa construction crew.

Thursday, August 28

Radical Self Reliance Edition

Wheeled windsurfing, a Jane Fonda-ish butt workout, and laser tag on bikes were just some of the activities in which active Burners participated, according to "Sports Beat — Playa Extreme!" by Lord Fouffypans.

"You People have no respect! You People are pigs, You People are a disgrace," were some of the epithets Lady Merv endured in 2002 when returning her RV in Reno, she wrote in "You People." Thing was, hers was clean and they criticized first, looked later.

Friday, August 29

Party Line Edition

About 650 computers had accessed the Internet by Wednesday, we learned in "Webcast Burn." Citizens were using the newfangled Interwebs to send messages and movies to the Default World, generating a debate on what should be seen by nonparticipants.

"Burrowing for Stowaways With the Mole" followed a Gate & Perimeter team as it checked for unauthorized entrants to Black Rock City. Note: Your body heat is perceptible to others in a cold cargo space.

Sunday, August 31

Exodus Edition

Katharine Lampman, a 21-year-old Burner from Belmont, Calif., died after being run over by an art car she was exiting.

What the Trash Fence Saw

BY SMASH AND NICO DODD

An inventory of the trash fence between 8:00 and 10:30 on Thursday morning revealed predictable MOOP, as well as a few surprises.

Bits of plastic and paper, much of it food packaging, dominated the list, followed by a pile of foam detritus. Also spotted were a Virginia is for Lovers bumper sticker, a tent instruction manual, three pieces of feces (presumably human), a dance camp flyer, a boa feather, and a cigarette wrapper bearing a California tax stamp.

Our researcher also reported seeing the following non-MOOP

items at the fence: a volley ball court, two Chevy Silverados, and a couple making love.

The Beacon asked Ember, the creator of the trash fence, how this compares to the first pile of MOOP collected in 1996. The original trash fence was just one mile long, he said, placed to catch items sailing downwind from BRC. The morning after he set up the fence he went to see what it had trapped. The items he remembers are: one dollar bill, one counterfeit dollar bill, a baggie of vegetable matter, some beach balls, and a dust jacket from the classic medical tome Gray's Anatomy.



The trash fence's unique design prevents items such as plastic bags from exiting BRC.

Police & Medical Beat

REDNIKKI

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.

Rampart reported an extremely busy Friday night, 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.

The Bureau of Land Management reported 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.



UFOs 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 Motherfu*!#ers! You wouldn't know what to do with a Mexican if she or he was standing in front of you wearing a silver spinning 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 default 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, cervezas, margaritas, loud music, burritos/tacos, señoritas — It makes me feel so radically included! So this year I took it a step further as I 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 sombreros loud and proud, then find us few funky Mexicans here and share in our Burner spirit!

ALMANAC

Sunday • September 1

Sunset • 7:31 P.M.
Twilight ends • 7:59 P.M.
Moonrise • 3:47 A.M. (Mon)

Monday • September 2

The moon will be in the sky at dawn.

First light • 5:57 A.M.
Sunrise • 6:25 A.M.
Sunset • 7:29 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 • 6:26 A.M.

Happy Trails!

Courtesy www.SunriseSunset.com

BRAINTEASERS BY DURGY

2013 Answers

Crossword:

C	A	R	G	O	C	U	L	T	M	O	P	E	D
R	A	R	N	O	A	R	E						
E	L	M	N	E	W	Y	O	R	K	J	E	T	S
A	R	A	E	T	E	G	S						
T	R	O	U	T	D	E	H	Y	D	R	A	T	E
U	D	E			A	O	M	R					
R	E	S	I	L	I	E	N	C	E		R	E	S
E		Y	P	H	D								
C	U	S	P		G	I	V	E	L	I	F	E	T
O	I	D	C		S	N	P						
M	I	N	C	E	A	T	T	O	T	U	P		
F	C	M	N	I	I	E	I						
O	R	E	G	O	N	T	R	A	I	L	R	U	N
R	R	N	E	R	L	E	G						
T	R	E	S	S	R	E	A	S	S	U	R	E	S

Search-a-Word: Participate

Rhyme Puzzle: Bacon

Cypher Puzzle: "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



The Flame Thrower Shooting Gallery is alight.

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