

BRC WEEKLY

BLACK ROCK CITY'S INDEPENDENT NEWSWEEKLY · AUG 27 – SEPT 2 · 2018 · ISSUE 9



Was there really any question what was going to be on the cover of this year's *BRC Weekly*? In memoriam of Burning Man's founding father – who sadly passed away this past April at the age of 70, after suffering a major stroke – the *BRC Weekly* asked its writers to share **personal anecdotes and memories** about Larry. We've all read about what a visionary and mentor Larry was for the Burning Man community. But we wanted to hear more about the small moments, the little things that help us remember the kind of person that was **"the Man in the Hat."**

Cuddles, BRC Gate & Commissary staff

Larry came in to the Commissary to eat. He had his meal pass and ate dinner, and then left. About 20-30 minutes later, he reappeared, exclaiming **"I didn't realize we had ice cream today!"** But I told him, "Sorry. You already left and I cannot let you re-enter." Larry lowered his head and apologized, saying he understood. He started to walk away.

No, I am not a cold-hearted monster. I ran after him to let him know I was just fucking with him, and I let him back in. And he had the biggest child-like grin on his face, walking back out with his ice cream. There were a few other times though, where I joked with him about not having his meal pog (or pass) and he NEVER threw a celebrity-entitled fit. **He was always appreciative of everyone, regardless of their role at the event.**

Adrian A Roberts, *BRC Weekly* editor/publisher

Remember that time I crashed Larry's interview with *Time* magazine in 2000? Or that time in 2001, when I submitted a zillion snarky sayings for the signs on Gate Road, and he wrote back to say that mine "were the best things [he] got" and that he was going to make **"Burning Man was better last year"** the very first sign? As serious as he was about trying to create something that would outlast himself, he always still kept a sense of humor about the event.

But more than anything else, I remember Larry simply being a

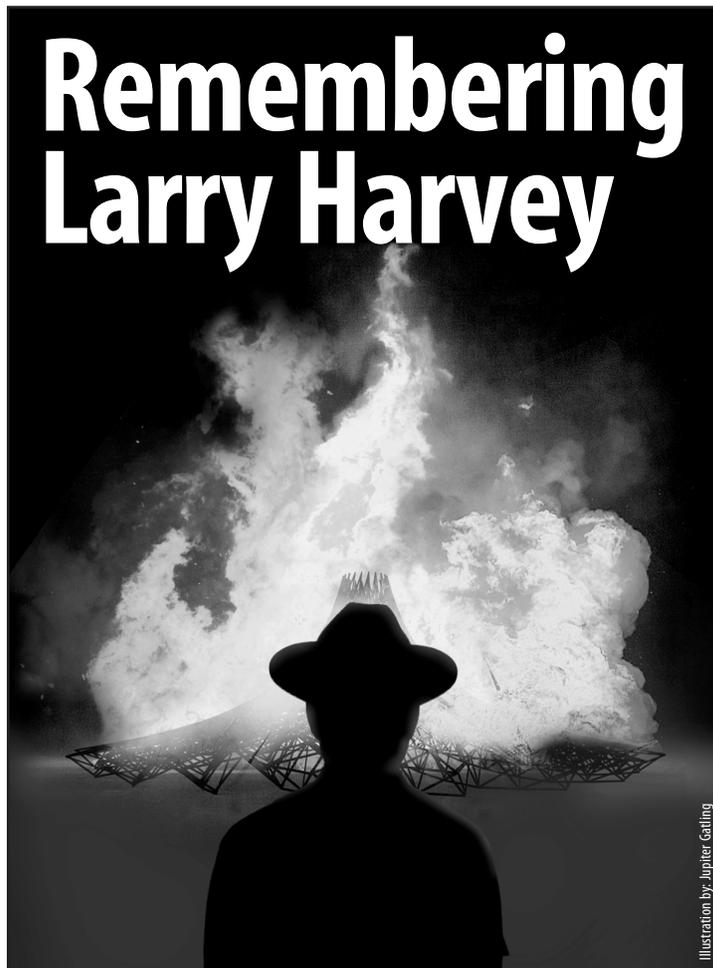


Illustration by Jupiter Gailling

consummate diplomat, massaging relations between various factions (and fractions) of the Burning Man communities, as well as attempting to keep things smooth between **our little freak-fest** (especially in the early days) and the government authorities who wanted to shut it all down (especially before Burning Man turned into a **cash cow** for the BLM and local Nevada counties). This was quite apparent in 2003, when law enforcement officials secretly confiscated and destroyed nearly an entire print run (around 6000-8000 copies) of *Piss Clear's* "Drug Issue," after calling an emergency meeting with the BMorg about how to (poorly) handle the situation.

Larry was just as shocked and angry about it as I was, and within

a few days of returning from the playa, he suggested we meet for coffee at his favorite café in the Lower Haight in San Francisco (it was his preferred spot, because they had an open-air patio where he could chain-smoke). Over the course of five hours, he spilled the beans on what he knew, and we **traded "war stories" and compared notes**. He could have totally blown the whole thing off, but instead, he wanted to make things right, and treated me as a friend. Of course, our meeting diverged into numerous **tangents**, as Larry often did in conversation, rambling on and on. He was extremely **verbose and long-winded**, yet always managed to know just what to (eventually) say to ease tensions and make things better.

continued on the inside ►

INSIDE:

How not to die at Burning Man

Top 10 Instagram Spots in BRC

Ask a playa sexpert

8 reasons to not plan & just show up here at the last minute

Why you should take a BRC "gap year"

The illusion of interactivity

Get off your lawn!

Overheard in BRC

The infamous Out/In List & Playa Lingo

Help deliver the *BRC Weekly*!

The *BRC Weekly* needs volunteers to help deliver our fine newspaper. If you'd like to help out, please stop by our offices at **6:15 & HAL**.

Look for the dome and RVs with the big *BRC Weekly* logos. We usually have a couple boxes of newspapers at the front of the camp **next to the red newspaper box**. If it's early in the morning, we might still be sleeping, so just grab a stack of papers and go to town! It's a great way to meet people! **Take all you want, but deliver all you take!** Thanks, BRC!

Scheduled list of interactive events at the BRC Weekly camp at 6:15 & HAL

Morning Coffee & Newspaper
Every morning,
Monday thru Saturday
Join us in the morning for a free cup of joe to wash down our salty newspaper!
Hosted by **Doug**.

How Not To Die at Burning Man
Monday and Tuesday, 10 AM
Tailored for burglars, this workshop will share tips and tricks for surviving in style in BRC. Hosted by **Muse**.

BRC Weekly Distribution Dance Party
Monday, 9 PM-???

Join us as we celebrate the launch of this year's issue by riding around with the **Heavy Petting Zoo** art car, distributing newspapers to the masses while dancing to the block-rockin' mashups of **Bootie BRC DJs Tyme, Adrian A, Lobsterdust, and Faroff**.

Humpday Hangover Hangman
Wednesday, 10 AM
Work through that hangover by coming over to play some Hangman in the morning! Hosted by **Muse**.

Erotic Blueprint Workshop
Wednesday, 2-3:30 PM
Embody your desires! Master the art of the playa orgasm! Women, couples, and non-creepy guys welcome! Hosted by **Stephanie the Sexpert**.

What You've Always Wanted To Say... In German!
Thursday, 2-3 PM
From classic swearing in German, to composite words that express everything you need to say, to ordering a beer the right way. If you're lucky, there might even be some genuine German beer left, schlepped directly from Berlin to BRC. Hosted by **Jupiter, Clodwig, and Winter Raptor**.

Megaphone 101
Friday, 4:30-5:30 PM
Don't be "one of those assholes with a bullhorn." Practice your playa heckling skills during this hands-on workshop. Hosted by **Adrian A**.

The illusion of interactivity

by **ADRIAN A ROBERTS**

If you're reading this, then I guess that means you somehow found our stupid little Black Rock City rag. Maybe one of our "newsies" delivered one to your camp, or you picked this up at one of the bar or coffee camps where we have countertop newspaper stands. More likely you grabbed one from a box at the Center Camp Café, which has always been our best distribution point. Far less likely is you grabbing one from the red newspaper box in front of our camp, since this year, we fell victim to something I've heard happens to many long-running theme camps – **we got back-burnered**.

Instead of being placed in a central spot in Center Camp, like you would expect for a newspaper that was basically been here since 1995 (long before 99.99% of you were even going to Burning Man) and what you would expect of a place that really REALLY wants to pretend that it's a "real" city, with a radio station, post office, café, and – yes, even a newspaper printed on actual newsprint – well, you would expect these sorts of things in the center of the city, right? Nope, not this year.

Apparently, producing and distributing 20,000+ newspapers in Black Rock City was somehow not deemed "interactive" enough for the *BRC Weekly* to get placed in Center Camp this year. So we got back-burnered out to **6:15 & HAL**. And that's only after we appealed our original placement even further out at 9:15 & G, which would have made it extremely difficult for us to schlep heavy boxes of newspapers to the Center Camp Café every day.

It's not like they didn't warn us
In June, the Placement Team sent out an email that said, "This year there are camps who will be making some big moves." And they weren't kidding. According to the **Placement Team**, our interactivity simply wasn't enough. Besides creating and distributing a newspaper, we now also need to **SCHEDULE a whole bunch of random things at our camp**, like workshops, performances, meet-ups, etc. For instance, instead of me just randomly ranting on a megaphone, now I have to turn it into a workshop like we're the Learning Annex or something.

And we weren't the only ones. A Camp Lead from a 9-year theme camp (one that's actually WAY more "interactive" than we've ever been) said, "The Placement Team value scheduled quasi-interactive events and carnival



Your fearless editor

booth operators over unscheduled deeply interactive experiences. **The BMorg prefers "tell a dirty joke for a dirty martini"-style regular things.** I was vaguely – and then very clearly – told we had to schedule shifts for our camp's interactivity."

Let's schedule more vapor events!

So now we need to be like all those other theme camps that list their stupid little events in the WhatWhereWhen guide – you know, the kind of stuff that maybe sorta sounds interesting, so you ride your bike all the way across the playa, only to get there, and discover... **nope, it's not happening.** Not only is it not happening, but nobody in the camp even seems to know about it. Like, "oh yeah, so-and-so was supposed to do that, but we haven't seen her in three days." That sort of thing. What we call "vapor events." This happens ALL THE FUCKING TIME. **The WhatWhereWhen guide should be renamed the ShouldaCouldaWoulda**, since I bet barely 50% of the things listed actually ever happen. After all... "it's Burning Man!"

A funny thing happened on the way to bitching about Placement

But hey, when I told my fellow *BRC Weekly* campmates that we weren't "interactive" enough, lo and behold, some of my staff stepped up and offered to do a bunch of these so-called scheduled events. So now we're hosting "Morning Coffee & Newspaper," as well as sex workshops, language lessons, hangover hangman, megaphone practice, and desert survival seminars. And while we were too late to get our shit printed in the actual WhatWhatWhere guide, what's the point of publishing our own newspa-

per if we can't **Pimp Out Our Own Shit?**

So in the sidebar to the left, you will find a handy-dandy guide to all of the events happening at our camp this year. Hopefully, they'll *actually* happen. But hey, even if you biked your ass all the way over, only to find that one of the workshops or whatever isn't actually happening because the person organizing it decided to, oh, I don't know... **GO TO BURNING MAN**, well, I'm sure someone in our camp will at least offer you a beer or something.

Yes, we're trying to step it up this year. We're looking forward to being more IN the city, and being a vibrant part of our neighborhood. Plus, I'm curious to see if anyone actually shows up at these events, which, sure, we're obviously doing to placate the Placement Team, but also because, well, **why the hell not?**

We're living our best camp

Look, if we sound bitter, well... we aren't (anymore), really! We know that everything on the playa disappears (**leave no trace!**) and that every year is different. Or at least, every year SHOULD be different. But the truth of the matter is, we here at the *BRC Weekly* got complacent. We got spoiled. We became **playa princesses**, thinking that the newspaper we create – as much work as it is – is somehow enough to warrant the placement we ask for. But apparently it's not.

So please come visit us if you can find us (6:15 & HAL!). Grab a stack of papers to bring back to your camp, or become a newsie and deliver papers to your fellow citizens! Grab some back issues from previous years if you want! Pitch the editors on Out/In List items for next year, or what you "Overheard at Burning Man." **AND BRING ME ALL THE STICKERS!** We're looking forward to hanging out with you, Black Rock City! **BRC**

BRC WEEKLY

BLACK ROCK CITY'S INDEPENDENT NEWSWEEKLY

Editor / Publisher / Art Director **Adrian A Roberts**

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Bye bye burner

by SHUTTERSLOT

One of the core truisms of Burning Man is that no **Real Burner™** would ever miss a Burn *willingly* – at least not if a ticket was obtainable and you're healthy. I mean, seriously, **who would choose to miss the greatest party on earth**, the rave to end all raves, the **coolest open-air art gallery in the world**, unless they had utterly and completely flamed out on it? Hell, the very idea this could even happen is probably unimaginable to newer burners, still fresh in the wonder of **Vegas On Mars**. Well it can, and this



SHUTTERSLOT

It helps you to remember what this madness was like when it was new to you, but it's not the same thing as it being new, being fresh, being different. I mean, oh look, there go the cupcake cars, *again*; there are the big sound camps at 2 and 10 dropping the sick beats, *again*; **there's Robot Heart desperately trying to hold on to their caché from a few years ago, again**, there's me writing a "fuck" overloaded rant in this paper about something stupid, *again*.

So before I even set foot on the playa last year, I decided that I couldn't rely on a virgin, or anyone else, to freshen up my Burn – I had to do it myself. After all, **Burning Man is supposed to be the Great Do-ocracy**,



year, it turns out that I'm THAT Burner who loves our "**refugee camp for freaks**," but is still missing it by choice.

I'm not missing it because I have to, or because I'm "over it" – I've got a ticket and vehicle pass in hand and if I wanted to "**pull a Greg**" (see the *Burning At The Last Minute* article inside this issue) I could be out there in no time – that is, if I hadn't already gifted them away. No, this year I've decided to take a **Gap Year, a Burning Leap Year**, to play hookie as it were. I'm not burned out, all puns intended; I'm actually feeling the opposite. Like, I know the event *too* well, understand it *too* well. **I've gotten comfortable**, and I've lost the spontaneity that used to exist in my BRC adventures, and I know there are others roaming the dust like me. Most of us don't want to be that person.

The Great Do-ocracy

It's long been said that the best way to see BRC with fresh eyes is to bring a virgin, and our camp does that almost every year. The problem is that while you see *their* Burn, you don't honestly freshen your own.

where **We The Burners** create what we need. Some people do that by changing camps, changing where they volunteer, changing where they wander. I decided to go for what basically amounts to a dust cleanse – stopping cold turkey for a year. I'm still moderating **ePlaya** with the team, still paying attention to what's going on. But I'm not investing in it this year. I didn't spend the last month worrying about getting my Default World job set up on autopilot so I could be stress-free in the dust while trying to make sure I didn't forget anything I needed for the trip to the playa. Nope, this year it's like a summer vacation without leaving home.

Why do I think this little reset will work? Easy – I had to miss a few years in the late '00s due to work, and when I came back in 2010 for *BRC Weekly's* inaugural year, it was new and fresh. The cupcakes made me happy, the lights and sounds from the corner camps were fun, I still avoided Robot Heart like the plague. It's not going to be the same as being a virgin, but it's exciting because I missed it. **This is doing Burning Lent**, where the Burn itself is what you give up. When you

Overheard in BRC

- "Be the art you want to see in the world."
"Duck Pond's signage has better 'Overheard in BRC' quotes than the *BRC Weekly!*"
"Bitching about Burning Man is a 52 week marathon."
"Don't tell me how to burn!"
"Have no expectations at Burning Man... other than getting dusty as fuck."
"Here's some advice: Never take a laxative and a sleeping pill at the same time."
"Hey, wait! WAIT! STOP!"
"NO! I already have enough friends!"
"Hey! What happened to my smokes?"
"Sorry, they were destroyed in a series of small fires."
"Hippies don't go to Burning Man. They can't afford the ticket!"
"I didn't come all the way out here to say 'no.'"
"I got some poo-poo on my tutu."
"I hope you have an average time at Burning Man!"
"I just walked into the cockpit of the 747... and saw cocks and pits."
"I see the Xanax at the end of the tunnel."
"I think I lost my boundaries..."
"I'm not a sparkle pony... I just dress like one."
"I'm still high from last night... and I haven't even taken drugs in weeks!"
"If I was in a blackout, it's like it didn't happen, right?"
"Let's go not find our friends."
"Maybe partying will help."
"My boyfriend thinks I'm at a family reunion."
"My drinking crew has a building problem."
"My name's Mom... and I'm on a shit-ton of cocaine!"
"No, you go through the sheep's butt hole."
"People don't go to Burning Man anymore. It's too popular."
"Stop chatting people up and let's go! These are the porta-potties, not Tinder."
"Stop fishing for answers. Drugs are not food. Beer is not water."
"Thank god I only have to see you guys once a year."
"That pink unicorn just gave me a newspaper!"
"The Center Camp Cafe is like Starbucks for hippies."
(Heard from inside the porta-potties)
"The chocolate pudding isn't great, but the blue Kool-Aid is pretty good!"
"The third eye in Kazbah's pyramid told me to dance here."
"This place is like going to the zoo... on acid!"
"This, my friend, is the world's first steampunk DMT vaporizer!"
"Tiesto is this generation's Jerry Garcia."
"Wear the hat."
"Where's the main stage?"
"Who is this Larry guy everyone keeps talking about?"
"You are welcome for dinner from 7-8pm. The orgy is at 9pm."

Overheard by:

Adrian A Roberts, Candyass, DJ Tyme aka Doug, Jens Cromer, Kool Karlo, Sachi Ivy, Trevor Stone

can have it again, it's just that much better!

You're in or you're out

There are the **Mighty Few** who can come for 20+ years and never hit a wall (like **Danger Ranger**, or the legendary **Slim** who beat cancer while still building the Man, or *BRC Weekly's* own Adrian Roberts) but too many of us mere mortals end up burnt out and becoming bitter exes. You've seen them – they're the people who haunt social media talking about how much better it was in **Ye Olde Days**, about how corporate it's become, about how the BMorg has "sold out." And yet these same people haven't set foot in the dust in years, decades in some cases. They've decided it's the Burn that sucks now, not that they've grown too jaded

(even though they'll say they're **Jaded ex-Burners**). They've let their Burnout bury the fact that it's still fun for tens of thousands of people, because obviously if *they* don't like it, well, only fools do. **It's always seemed to be a choice of one or the other – either in or out, no middle ground.** Well, I've DIY'd a middle ground that works for me by taking my voluntary Gap Year – hopefully it gives others on the verge of crankiness something to think about as well.

I've asked my friends to drink in my absence (as if they need an excuse) and my enemies can drink even more. As for me? I'll be enjoying the cool San Francisco fog this year, and come September I'll allow myself to **start planning my return to the dust** next year. I can't tell you how excited I am about that! **BRC**

SAN FRANCISCO · LOS ANGELES · SEATTLE · NEW YORK CITY
BLACK ROCK CITY'S MASHUP PARTY
 IS BACK FOR ITS 13TH YEAR ON THE PLAYA!



BOOTIE MASHUP DJs FROM 4 DIFFERENT CITIES:
 ADRIAN A · AIRSUN · FAROFF · LOBSTERDUST · TYME

MONDAY AUG 27

EGGS BAR '80S MASHUP PARTY
 6:00 CENTER CAMP (NEAR RECYCLING) · 3-6 PM

TUESDAY AUG 28

PARADISE MOTEL SUNSET DANCE PARTY
 7:30 & ELEKTRO · 5-7 PM

THUNDERDOME GOTH / INDUSTRIAL FIGHT SET
 ESPLANADE & 7:45 · 9 PM-MIDNIGHT-ISH

WEDNESDAY AUG 29

BAD ASSTRONAUTS BOOTIE TAKEOVER
 8:15 & BENDER · 9:30 PM-???

THURSDAY AUG 30

SPANKY'S WINE BAR SPANK DAT BOOTIE
 8:00 & CYLON · 9 PM-???

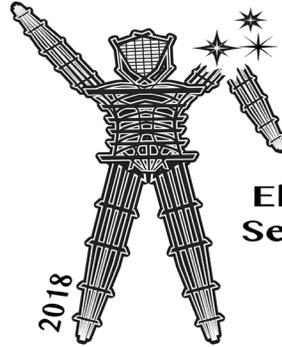
FRIDAY AUG 31

GLAMCOCKS / BAAHS BEACH PARTY
 7:30 & BENDER · 2-5 PM

AUTOSUB FROM DUSK TILL DAWN!
 ESPLANADE & 7:00 · 8 PM-7 AM

FREE BOOTIE MASHUP CDS WILL BE GIFTED!
 BOOTIEMASHUP.COM

**Don't Despair,
 Repair!**



Wonder camp
 4:30 / H

**Elliot's Bicycle
 Service 3:00 / G**

**Camp Armageddon
 Bike Shop 2:30 / C**

**Black Rock City
 Welding & Repair**
 3:00 / A

**Gears &
 Beers 4:15 / D**

Flat Tire Cafe
 4:30 / C

**MacGyver's
 Union 7:16 / F**
Bike Gods
 7:45 / D

Playa Bike Repair
 9:00 / B

Chop Shop
 9:30 / A

Inflation Station
 4:15 / Rod's

**Pandora's Lounge
 & Fixit 6:00 / D**

BRC HW
 9:15 / Rod's

Tacoma is for Lovers 3:15 / B

If you like the BRC WEEKLY, you'll love PISS CLEAR!

PISS CLEAR is a book!



"The alternative history of Burning Man, written as it was happening."

From 1995 to 2007, the alternative newspaper *Piss Clear* was a fixture at Nevada's annual Burning Man arts festival, its cheeky name deriving from the Black Rock Desert's #1 survival tip: "drink enough water so that you piss clear." For 13 years, editor Adrian Roberts and his staff of writers wrote about the colorful culture of Black Rock City, and their snarky and sarcastic tone gave *Piss Clear* its well-earned reputation as the "Vice magazine of the playa."

hard-hitting articles, acerbic rants, witty commentaries, and funny lists. Along the way, it documented – as it was happening – the growing evolution of the Burning Man event.

Burning Man Live: 13 Years of Piss Clear, Black Rock City's Alternative Newspaper compiles all 34 issues of *Piss Clear*, and includes a brand-new essay from longtime columnist Malderor, as well as an introduction from Brian Doherty, author of *This Is Burning Man*. There are also yearly chapter introductions from Adrian Roberts. Telling it like it was, this is the alternative – and yes, opinionated – history of Burning Man.



BURNING MAN LIVE: Go to www.pissclear.org or get it at your local independent bookseller