

BRC WEEKLY

BLACK ROCK CITY'S INDEPENDENT NEWSWEEKLY · AUG 29 – SEPT 4 · 2022 · ISSUE 13



3 YEARS LATER 3 BIG CHANGES

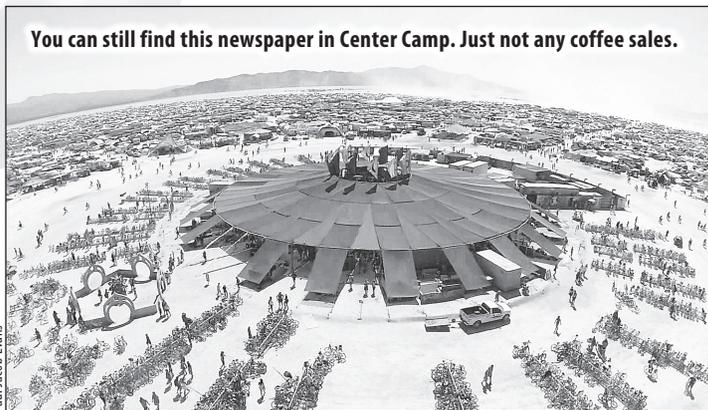
Center Camp cafe coffee concessions cancelled, convenience camps curbed, Covid concerns carefully (carelessly?) considered by ADRIANA ROBERTS

Welcome “home,” bishes! Indeed, it’s been three long years since many of you have been here – or maybe just a year, if you count last year’s **Renegade Rogue Burn**, which, since we actually published and distributed a newspaper out here, we are **totally counting it**.

So for those keeping score, this is our 13th year as the *BRC Weekly*, meaning we’ve now been around as long as our legendary predecessor, *Piss Clear*, (“**Drink enough water so you piss clear!**”) the newspaper I started way back in 1995, my third year on the playa.

Yes, it’s true, **I’ve been going to Burning Man longer than everyone who actually RUNS Burning Man**, with the lone exception of **Danger Ranger**. But lest you think this is some **crusty cred flex**, as you roll your eyes and say “**ok burner**,” let me quote our own columnist **Buck AE Down**: “Once you hit your 20th Burning Man, every year after is less a badge of honor, and more a testament to the fact that you lack imagination on how to spend your summer vacation.” I’m so feeling that!

But here we are anyway, ready to serve the Black Rock City reading public with our usual brand of **snark and cultural commentary**. And as you can tell from above, in **the greatest alliterative headline ever to grace these pages**, there are three



You can still find this newspaper in Center Camp. Just not any coffee sales.

Paul Jacob Evans

big changes happening this year for our triumphant return to this dusty metropolis.

Center Camp cafe coffee concessions cancelled

First of all, I really hope that despite the fact that there is no longer a Center Camp Café serving up espresso drinks, people still manage to find their way to our lovely city center – if for no other reason than the fact that it’s **still our main newspaper distribution point**.

It remains to be seen if **Center Camp** will continue to be a nexus point for our fair city, but I suspect despite the closing of the café, people will still find themselves there at some point during the week, if for nothing else than to revel in the clas-

sic Burning Man clichés of **pretentious acro yoga showoffs, questionable spoken word performances, homeless hippies sleeping it off, and one-stop shopping for more traditional “gallery-style” art**.

And let’s face it, it was always a bizarre anachronism in a city that goes to such great lengths to espouse the “no commerce” rule of **Decommodification** (one of the **10 Principles!**) that the BMorg somehow gave a pass for something as “**basic bitch**” as... our own alternate universe version of Starbucks. I know Burning Man founder **Larry Harvey** was a big fan of coffeehouse café culture (especially as it existed back in the ‘80s and ‘90s, before a certain Seattle-based coffee retailer ruined it.

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And of course... Out/In List & Lingo

Help deliver the BRC Weekly!

We need volunteers to help deliver this newspaper! If you’d like to help out, please stop by our offices at **5:45 & Dalí**, just off of Rod’s Road, in the Bermuda Triangle of Black Rock City. Look for the *BRC Weekly* logos on the shade structure and RV. We have a box of newspapers at the front of the camp **next to the red newspaper box**. If it’s early, 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!

Time to terminate tired Tutu Tuesday

by eggchairsteve

Is it Tuesday? At Burning Man? Are you wearing your **tutu**? Just stop already.

I hate to have to tell you this, but your oh-so-favorite **Tutu Tuesday** simply smacks of... **mass conformity**. Fact. Seriously people, **Radical Self-Expression** is one of the damn 10 Principles (**Larry Harvey's Holy Scriptures**), so do you really think you're expressing yourself radically when you wear the same cheap prop that everyone else is wearing, on the same day? Every. Damn. Year? Do you honestly feel like you're being original? No.

The fact is, you look like **you're wearing a fucking uniform** just to fit in with everyone else. It's way past time to finally put an end to this **tired tradition**. Look, I get it, 'a long time ago,' somebody came up with a fun



alliteration theme for each day of the week, as a communal interactive game or something (does anyone even remember what the other ones were?) and for some reason, only this annoying one stuck around after all these years. Why? Maybe because it takes such **minimal effort from your lazy-ass to "participate."**

I don't know about you fashion sheep, but when I first started coming to Burning Man, **playa style** was about being an individual, wearing whatever the fuck you felt like (frankly, if you're still hell-bent on wearing a damn tutu, **try wearing it on Thursday**, now THAT would be unique). Try to be original, be innovative for fuck's sake. These days, if you google "**Burning Man fashion**" you come up with the same old endless monoculture - completely unoriginal, cheaply manufactured, "sexy" festival wear. **BOOOOORING**. You can do better than that, I believe in you.

EGGS

Waaaaay back in the 90's (yeah, **I'm fucking old**, have you guessed?) *Wired* magazine published one of the very first Burning Man photo books. If you find a copy, just flip through it, and you won't even recognize the "Burning Man fashion" you just googled. There's one full page picture of this dusty desert dude, he's got a **cut up fucking milk jug on his head for a helmet and friggin popsicle stick through his nose**. And you know what, he looks totally **DOPE** - way more stylin' than you'll ever look in that tutu you just bought on Amazon Prime two weeks ago, along with the rest of your **playa gear**.

While we're on our favorite topic: **Burner Fashion Trends That Never Seem to Die** - if you're still wearing a god-damned **bejeweled and bedazzled captain's hat**, you're sadly never going to get it anyways. Although, that said, by now, if you're **STILL** wearing a Native American feathered headdress, I hope to hell you're at least wearing it ultra-



Tutu Tuesday: tired tradition?

ironically, just to fuck with all the people telling you how un-PC it is. If that's the case, the jaded Burner in me bows to the snarky Burner in you. But seriously, **ditch the damn tutu**, start something new. **BRC**

3 big changes

continued from front cover

So I'm sure they kept the café around mostly for Larry. But since his untimely death in 2018, it's no surprise it only survived one more year before **BMorg** pulled the plug, using the three-year pandemic break as an opportunity to shut it down, citing its not-insignificant operational costs and **wasteful environmental footprint**.

We'll see if enterprising burners still use the space for **coffee gifting pop-ups**. We hope so, because we'll fully admit we love the sight of people hanging out, sipping a cup of joe while reading the morning newspaper!



RV wall: telltale sign of turnkey camp

Convenience camps curbed

The OTHER big change in Black Rock City this year is one that may not be as visibly obvious on the surface, but we hope will translate into more subtle changes in our culture. And that's that "convenience camps" (otherwise known as **plug-and-play or turnkey camps**) are now no longer permitted to have RV vendors bring motor homes to their camps. This new rule really only affects the people **SETTING UP**, making it much more

difficult to coordinate the logistics of housing for these camps' **rich, high-paying clients**, who often fly in for a stay at **Airbnb-esque resort-style VIP camps**, pre-setup for their arrival.

I mean, plug-and-play camps can actually still **DO** all of that - but the critical difference here is that the special, very expensive (like, \$1000s)

ADRIANA

Outside Service Program

pass - the one that allowed outside RV rental vendors **early access** for their drivers and easy **in-and-out privileges on a special road** - is now a thing of the past. So now, if turnkey camps want a fleet of nice RVs for their **well-healed guests**, each person driving in has to actually have a regular ticket, and wait in the same long Gate Road line as everyone else - for each and every RV delivered. For convenience camp organizers, this sounds like a **logistical nightmare**.

That said, these camps tend to be **rich and resourceful**, so I'm sure many have figured out suitable workarounds this year. So we'll see how much of a difference this really makes for the "**cultural course correction**" goals that **BMorg** set for itself back in 2019. But at least it's a move in the right direction, and it might help curb the tide of **1%er "adventure tourists" who ignore Radical Self-Reliance** so they can treat a trip to Black Rock City the same way they do a trip to Tulum.

Covid concerns carefully (carelessly?) considered

And finally, the last big change for Burning Man this year is one that

BRC Weekly editrix Adriana would like to thank all the IndieGogo patrons who made this issue possible!

Jupiter Gaillard



many of us seem to have conveniently forgotten about - or at least pretend to forget about. And that's that we're all still kinda partying during a plague.

Leading up through the Black Rock City build season, it was obvious that **BMorg** had **failed** to enact any meaningful Covid (or monkeypox) risk mitigation for its early crew. Allegedly, the **BMorg** executive staff **vetoed the advice of a Covid task force**, and one member was supposedly even **mailing out fake vaccination cards**. There was **zero testing, no vaccination requirements, and no post-exposure quarantine protocol**. After multiple Covid infections amongst the crew, several quit, and a few publicly complained, with at least one open letter begging the higher-ups to enact regular Covid testing and to

provide a safe quarantine space for those infected.

For an organization whose 10 Principles include **Radical Inclusion** and **Civic Responsibility**, it sure seemed like **BMorg** was spectacularly failing those two when it came to Covid. But like most issues that plague the inner workings of Burning Man, they **belatedly got dealt with** - but not before pissing off a fair share of their own staff before **acquiescing**. Heeding their own workers' pleas, they eventually DID institute Covid testing and protocols for the more recent DPW crews. **So at least there's that.**

Be careful here! Or... don't

But look, we're well-aware of the irony of **Radical Inclusion** and **Civic Responsibility** butting heads with each other out here when it comes to the thorny issues of Covid concerns, vaccination requirements, and body autonomy. And I'm not here to preach. **You all can make your own bad decisions**, as I'm sure many of you will do this week - and I'm not even talking about infectious diseases!

We've all had three years off from this insanity we call Black Rock City, and many of us are out of practice. Like a sailor who's been on shore leave for three years, you may have some trouble getting your sea legs (**playa legs?**) back - but **we believe in you!** Sure, I can tell you to be safe out there (and I hope you are) but also - **embrace the chaos!** Welcome back to the weirdest city in the world. **See you out on the playa, BRC!** **BRC**

Last year's Burn was better

by JUPITER GATLING



After years of going to this festival without having drank the Kool-Aid, last year's **Renegade Burn** really proved that what I don't like about Burning Man, is, well ... Burning Man. I rightfully predicted in last year's article that it's more enjoyable to have "sturmfrei" – the German term for when your parents are gone and you can actually have fun at "home." There was a **rawness** and **freedom** that I missed in previous years and it gave me a glimpse of what it felt like back in the early '90s when Burning Man started as **Zone Trip #4 of the Cacophony Society**. The rules from the BLM, as well as all the missing amenities, actually made for a more interesting event.

These are the reasons why less org and **more chaos** is good for everyone's experience and what Burning Man can learn from this:

1. Drone Man: the best Man Burn

Since the BLM forbid burning of any kind last year, the community got creative. **Studio Drift**, an Amsterdam-based collective, created nightly **drone shows** that were entertaining, artful, and ephemeral, culminating in the Saturday "Man Burn," a masterfully-choreographed spectacle of flying lights, shaped like the Man, rotating over Black Rock City, lifting his arms, turning fire red, and then falling apart. The sheer massiveness of the drone fleet buzzing over everyone's heads was incredibly impressive, **visible from miles away** and left everyone in awe. Not only was it beautiful, it also had none of the carbon emissions the classic spectacle causes.

2. You could drive your vehicle around the city

For a newspaper camp, it was certainly convenient to be able to drive around playa with our entire edition, **handing out newspapers from our window**. This also comes in handy when your campmates start blasting bangers at 8 in the morning and you need to make a quick getaway. Or when you're out exploring at night and the temperature drops. Gotta go back to grab more layers? **Your house is right behind you**. Need another drink? The fridge came with – that is, if you have an RV at least.

3. Different sense of kinship

Since people literally had to **handle their shit** because of the lack of porta potties, not to mention crowd-source and organize a city layout while not pissing off the BLM, everyone was on their **best behavior**, which led to people connecting to the other participants on a deeper level than what I had previously seen. It was a less convenient experience, so you had way less of the **"bedazzled captain's hat sparkle pony glitter romper from Amazon"** people you usually see here.

4. It was free

Many creative people, hungry for self-expression, will never make it to the playa, because they're also hungry for actual food, and **Burning Man is hella expensive**. Not everyone can afford it. But it's not always about your own wallet. It's others too. On a casual drive out in deep playa, we ended up at a big wedding! Classic suit & tie, with only the bride and groom looking like burners. And I thought that was a wonderful thing: if Burning Man is a big part of your life and you want to share that with your

auntie and grandpa, you won't be able to make every one of your guests pay half a grand, if they can even GET a ticket. It finally was the **"radically inclusive"** event the BMorg always tries to make it out to be.

5. Questionable art

The BLM also forbid art to be placed here, for no apparent reason other than appealing to BMorg. So the only thing allowed were **"shade structures."** Yet again, **people got creative!** There wasn't much "art," but there were a few pieces that had plaques hilariously proclaiming that it was actually a "shade structure." Art was placed on wheels, ready to be moved around if the BLM had any issues, and that stage over there? No, that's **ALSO** a shade structure, because there's a tent underneath it, but we might as well have a band play on top. There was also something **refreshing** about



Adriana Roberts

the DIY nature of these makeshift sculptures, compared to the **big money grant effigies** we've have gotten used to.

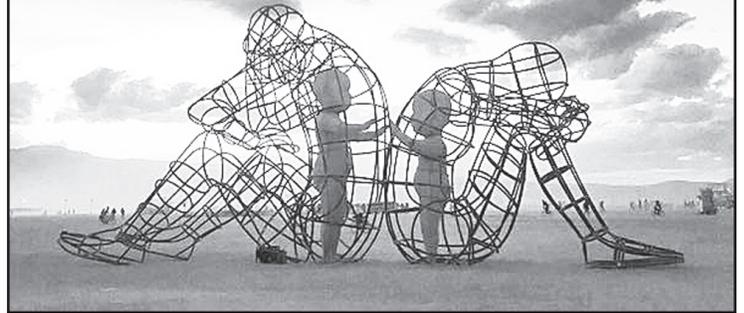
6. There were dogs.

I like dogs. **BRC**

JUPITER

LOVE for our Ukrainian burners

One of the most famous large-scale Burning Man sculptures, 2015's "LOVE," was created by Ukrainian artist **Alexandr Milov**. The founders of the first Ukrainian Burning Man theme camp, **Kurenivka**, are pretty busy this year building shelters and restoring buildings in war-torn Ukraine. Many Ukrainian burners couldn't bring their peaceful collaborative community spirit and projects to the playa this year and may not show up for the next few years for the same reasons. Ukrainian burner culture is an integral part of the international community – their projects lit fire in our hearts. They are missed this year, and the playa awaits their return. – **Siberia**



DRINK WATER!



By NEPTUNE ZEBRACORN



BLACK ROCK CITY'S LEGENDARY MASHUP POP PARTY

BOOTIE MASHUP BRC 2022

DJs: ADRIANA A · JUPITER GATLING · AIRSUN · FAROFF

MONDAY AUG 29

THUNDERDOME GOTH/INDUSTRIAL FIGHT SET
ESPLANADE & 4:45 · 9 PM-MIDNIGHT
JOULE ART CAR
DEEP PLAYA SOMEWHERE · MIDNIGHT-???

TUESDAY AUG 30

STELLAR DUSTY MOON GOTHY SET
4:00 & APPARITION · 3-7 PM

WEDNESDAY AUG 31

SPANKY'S WINE BAR SEXY SET
7:30 & FUGUE · 9 PM-???

THURSDAY SEPT 1

SHACKLETON FREEZER TRUCK SET
8:15 & APPARITION · 4-6 PM
BAAHNS ART CAR GOTHY GAY SET
DEEP PLAYA SOMEWHERE · 9 PM-???

FRIDAY SEPT 2

AUTOSUB ALL NIGHT TILL SUNRISE!
ESPLANADE & 7:00 · 10 PM-7 AM

SATURDAY SEPT 3

L.E.D. ZEPPELIN ART CAR
DEEP PLAYA SOMEWHERE · 11 PM-???

STILL GIVING AWAY FREE BOOTIE MASHUP CDs!
BOOTIEMASHUP.COM

Black Rock City radio stations

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 87.9 Airstreamer Radio | 97.9 KOOGAR-VBC |
| 88.1 BRFO | 99.3 KoolKyle's Disco Den |
| 88.3 K-A-R-T | 99.5 Shouting Fire Radio Equinox |
| 89.9 Radio Electra | 99.9 C.L.A.P |
| 90.9 Playagon Free Radio | 100.5 Radio Free Spanky's |
| 91.5 KFBR-FM | 101.3 Shady FM |
| 92.1 CAMPQ | 102.3 K-HOLE |
| 93.7 Space Cowboys Radio | 103.3 Porta Potty Radio |
| 94.5 BMIR | 104.7 Black Rock F/X Radio |
| 95.7 Fusion Valley Radio | 105.1 QR00 FM |
| 96.3 K A E Z-Alternative Energy Zone | 107.3 F.A.R.T. Radio |
| 96.7 RFFZ - RADIO FREE FRANK ZAPPA | 107.7 Community Improvement Radio |
| 97.7 Radio Dionysus | 107.9 The Folly |



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 Adriana Roberts and her 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."

Having started off as a sort-of sassy survival guide, *Piss Clear* quickly evolved into Burning Man's snarky reality check, chock full of

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 Adriana Roberts. Telling it like it was, this is the alternative – and yes, opinionated – history of Burning Man.



Forget Amazon! Get a personally-signed book direct from Adriana! Email: brcweekly@brcweekly.com