

Playa del Fuego 2015 Annual Report

About Playa del Fuego (PDF). Playa del Fuego, Inc. is a non-profit, participant-directed organization whose mission is to hold interactive events that promote artistic creativity and freedom of expression. PDF provides the framework and the infrastructure to allow artists such as sculptors, painters, musicians, DJs, fire performers, dancers, and any other creatively-minded individuals to come together to practice their unique form of self expression and create a viable volunteer-based community that exists beyond the boundaries of the event itself. A fundamental tenet of these events is the establishment of a zone that does not involve any currency-based commerce aside from the initial ticket purchase, thus creating a gift-based economy wherein all participants can exhibit, demonstrate, and educate others about their particular form of creativity.

Playa del Fuego, also known as PDF, is a Mid-Atlantic Regional Burning Man Event. Events are held every Memorial Day and Columbus Day weekends in Odessa, Delaware.

Playa del Fuego is an experiment in collaborative community, featuring art and music. Volunteers work together to build community, utilizing the [Ten Principles of Burning Man](#) as a guide. There are no spectators at Playa del Fuego; everyone collaborates in some way to create the event. It's a place for radical self-expression, acceptance, inclusivity, and respect.

This is a sincere experiment in creating a gift economy. There are no concession stands. No cash transactions (except ice sales) are permitted at Playa del Fuego. Even bartering is discouraged. If you need something, ask for it. If you have something, gift it!

Potable, and non-potable water, porta potties and firewood are available on site and are paid for with money raised by tickets sales. There are no garbage cans: everyone is responsible for packing out their garbage or throwing it into one of the handy dumpsters.

The event began with about 20 East Coast residents, many of whom had been to Burning Man in the Nevada desert, and wanted to get together a little closer to home to celebrate the spirit of the event. They joined together on the beach of Assateague Island on Maryland's coast in 1998 for a weekend. Since then, Playa Del Fuego has grown so much that a new site was needed to accommodate all the participants. The event was moved to a horse farm run by Vietnam Veterans in Delaware where it remains today. Now it has grown to over 1,200 participants, with a large team of volunteers, many of whom work year round to make PDF come to life.

For more information, visit our website at: <http://playadelfuego.org>

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Organizational Structure

Playa del Fuego is entirely volunteer run and includes the Board of Directors, the Planning Committee, the Arts Grants Team, and a Web Team. Playa del Fuego has three Burning Man Regional Contacts on its Board of Directors: Dove Russo, Damian Masterson, and Patty Simonton.

The Board of Directors includes members who are elected by sitting members of the Board from a pool of nominees submitted by the Playa del Fuego community. The Board of Directors works to ensure that the organization fulfills not only its legal and financial responsibilities to maintain non-profit status within the United States, but that the organization meets all requirements to be a "Regional Burn" within the Burning Man network. The Board maintains communications with the Veterans who own the land, and welcome discussions with them regarding infrastructure improvements to the land, sound, and parking. The Board oversees all organizational finances, decides on community art grants, defines short and long term strategic plans, maintains oversight of all official organizational communication, ensures the event fulfills the proper fire and safety regulations, and has the final say on participant ejections from PDF.

As of December 31, 2015, the Playa del Fuego Board of Directors includes the following members:

Active

- Ben Sarsgard
- Damian Masterson – Rochester Burning Man RC
- Dave Diller- President
- Dove "Starfish" Russo – Rochester Burning Man RC
- Ed "Lizard" Rosen
- Patty "DirtyGirl" Simonton- Treasurer and Washington, DC Burning Man RC

The Playa del Fuego Planning Committee

The Planning Committee includes Department Coordinators, Co-Coordinators, and any community participants who choose to participate in the monthly Planning Committee phone calls. The PC proposes and approves department budgets, and Coordinators work with one another to oversee the details of the event planning for the Regional event.

The following list reflects the list of departments as of December 31, 2015:

Art Grants

- **Burning Arts** (includes pony-wrangling and build team)
- DPW
- Drum Conclave
- Exodus
- Fire Conclave
- **Fire Perimeter**
- **Fire Safety Team**
- **Gate/Greeters**
- Lamplighters
- MASH
- MOOP
- Parking
- Planning Committee
- Purchasing
- Rangers
- Sanctuary
- Sound
- Stage
- Theme Camps
- Volunteer/Participation Station
- **WWW**

Art Grant Coordinators. The Art Grant Coordinators work with a team of volunteers to select pieces for each event. Each year, Art Grants are allocated 10% of the previous year's ticket sales, with a rolling total for any budgets not used during a given year. In 2015, Playa del Fuego distributed \$10,351.54 in Art Grants for projects that appeared at the event. Details of these projects are explained below.

Web Team. The Playa del Fuego Web Team is open to anyone who would like to participate. Those interested should speak with Darrell Duane.

Financial Summary

The financial summary Profit and Loss is included below for FY 2012-2015. Below, please find details on some noteworthy elements. Yearly P&L statements are attached.

- **Ticket Sales.** The substantial growth in ticket income between 2013 and 2014 was primarily because reserved tickets set aside for Artists, Coordinators and Board of Directors were added above the 1200 ticket cap, bringing the new total to 1275.
- **Art Grants.**
 - In 2015, Art Grants totaled \$16,366.54. This includes \$4,400 toward Community Projects, including contributions toward Michael Verdon's Temple of Transformance, and Tutus for All, a project run by Rebecca Looney and Tiffany Joslyn.
 - In 2014, Art Grants totaled \$11,693.44. There were no Community Art Grants distributed in 2014.
 - In 2013, Art Grants totaled \$19,162.52, with \$15,579 going toward PDF Art Grants and \$3,585.52 going toward Community Art Grants, including FIGMENT Phila and the Bring It Home Grants.
 - In 2012, total Art Grants were \$19,916.26, with \$14,196.14 going to PDF Art Grants, and \$5,721.12 going toward Community Art Grants, including FIGMENT DC and the Mid-Atlantic CORE Project for Burning Man.
- **Board of Directors.** In 2015, the Board spent \$4981.01 on the annual retreat in Wilmington, DE, which was run by a professional facilitator, Vikki Frank. This retreat included two full days of strategic planning, including a day with Department Coordinators. In 2014, the Board spent \$1398.26 on our annual retreat in March 2014. In 2013, expenses for the annual retreat totaled \$3909.86 including room rental, facilitator fees, materials, and food. The use of a facilitator was a new, and much needed addition for the retreat. In 2014, two members of the Board attended the annual Burning Man Global Leadership Conference in San Francisco for \$100 each, 4 attended in 2013. In 2012, total expenses were \$3818.25 for two in-person Board meetings, including room rental, food, and babysitting.
- **Capital Purchases and Improvements.** In 2014, Playa del Fuego purchased MURS radios and a new canopy for the gate. In 2013, Playa del Fuego spent no funds in this category. In 2012, the Gate team purchased a Laptop and VOI Adapter for \$548.99, as well as burn barrels.

- **Golf Carts and Equipment Rental.** In 2015, equipment rental was \$3463.90. In 2014, equipment rental totaled \$2769.82, up from \$2116.50 in 2013. In 2012, this number was 2904.56. Equipment rental applies exclusively to department golf cart rental and gas.
- **Insurance.** Event insurance expenses for 2015 totaled \$8176.00, the lowest in 4 years.
- **MASH.** MASH was created in 2012, reflected in their set up costs of \$701.98 in 2012 and an additional \$385.58 in 2013.
- **Infrastructure Improvements.** In 2012, Playa del Fuego paid \$250 to replace a light pole on site at the VVMC that fell during an event. In 2013, Playa del Fuego purchased \$1100 for four loads of crushed concrete to fill in holes in the back lot to improve parking conditions.
- **Printing.** Printing covers all badges for volunteers, waivers, tickets, WhatWhenWhere guides, Ranger handbooks, and the VET Guide to PDF, distributed for the first time in 2014. Categorization of expenses may also list printing under individual department expenses.

Event Growth and Tickets

Playa del Fuego has sold out at 1275 tickets for both events each year since 2013. Attendance has occasionally been lower than ticket sales would predict due to inclement weather. Tickets sales are non reimbursable.

Ticket Sales and Land Purchase

In YEAR 2004, Playa del Fuego's Planning Committee decided that any additional funds raised through tickets sales above the cost of the event, a \$25k rainy-day fund, and funds set aside for event-related art grants would be considered part of the PDF "Land Fund," to be used for a future land purchase.

In 2014, the Board of Directors voted to modify this broad rule to enable additional funds to be set aside for Community Art Projects and other non-land related activities. The land-fund contribution was capped at \$15 per ticket. As of December 31, 2015, Playa del Fuego has approximately \$361k earmarked for a future land purchase, with an additional \$19k in "unclassified" funds.

2015 Playa del Fuego Art Grant Projects

The following artists were awarded grants to bring their work to Playa del Fuego in 2015. Not all artists completed their projects, turned in receipts for reimbursement, or spent their entire budget. The numbers below reflect their awarded amount.

Spring 2015:

- 1- Playa Del Fuego Marquee Sign by Ursala Sadiq - \$180.00
- 2- Hanging Balls 2.0 by Gary Sparks - \$325.00
- 3- Strawberry Jam by Mitch Delsack - \$500.00

- 4- PDF by Alan Shechter \$940.00
- 5- 6 X 6 Gallery - \$0.00
- 6- Hall of Mirrors - Giant Pachinko by Alexander Griffin - \$800.00
- 7- Pigment of the Imagination by Diana Svendsen - \$450.00
- 8- Saucy See-Saw by Daniel Ricciotti - \$1,400.00
- 9- Evolution by Peter Willis - \$275.00 (Did not build)
- 10- Communillage by Scott Frias - \$70.00
- 11- The Moon by Robert Jones - \$800.00
- 12- Color Changing Building Blocks by Darren Sontos - \$500.00
- 13- Philly Phreak Show & Oddities Emporium by Kimberlee Traub - \$1,100.00
- 14- Galileo's Revenge by James Thanh Duy Ha - \$1,229.00
- 15- Flaming Boptagon v.2.0 by Devin Thompson - \$500.00
- 16- Intensegrity! By Benjamin Gardiner - \$128.00 (Artist encountered structural issue. Will try again in fall.
- 17- Totem 3 by Quentin Davis- \$562.00

TOTAL GRANTED
\$9,759.00

Fall 2015

- 1- Talk to God by Princess Mirabal --- \$285.00 --- No show
- 2- Dick Poertry by Andrea Morris --- \$150.00
- 3- Connies Cantina by Mary Hickok --- \$694.00
- 4- Soap Box/AntiBox by Andie Oswald --- \$91.15
- 5- CHURCH by Colin Carroll --- \$1,465.00
- 6- Patchwork Painting by Victoria Chapman --- \$205.00
- 7- Dear Future Me by Zoe Deroo --- \$43.00
- 8- Alyse Firefly Art's PDF portrait project by Lauryll Russell --- \$135.00
- 9- Art Inside: The Big Box by Michael Canepi --- \$750.00 --- Declined grant
- 10- The Confessional by Liza Shankar --- \$540.00
- 11- Cock Cannon by Timonty Dougherty --- \$645.00
- 12- Knick Knacks, Paddle Whacks, Give Our Dog Your Bone --- \$500.00 --- Declined grant
- 13- Nemma: the lantern project by Quentin Davis --- \$131.00
- 14- Seahorses Forever by Jeffrey Owens--- \$1,400.00
- 15- Tapestries with Dharma Dye by Cheryl Erickson --- \$300.00

TOTAL GRANTED \$7521.15
TOTAL GRANTED - MINUS NO SHOWS AND DECLINES \$5799.15

Total Art Grant Payouts for 2015 = \$10,345.41

Comprehensive Afterburn Report Spring and Fall Playa Del Fuego 2015

Contents:

Art Grants - Spring & Fall
Burning Art - Spring & Fall
DPW - Spring & Fall
Drum Conclave - Spring & Fall

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Fire Perimeter - Spring & Fall
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Sanctuary - Fall
Sound - Spring & Fall
Stage - Spring
Theme Camp Placement - Spring & Fall
Ticketing - Spring
What Where When - Spring & Fall

Art Grants - Spring 2015

(O-Man)

Recap

It was a great year for art at PDF! Feedback from many attendees was enthusiastic and shows that this was one of the better years for art. We had such a wide variety of participatory art and the granted artists created exactly what they said they would in their contracts to perfection!

We budgeted \$11,000 for art grants for the Spring 2015 cycle and awarded \$9,759.00 worth of grants.

We had 19 applications with 17 applications awarded grants. We had 2 art pieces back out and 15 show up to build.

Photo Archiving

For the first time ever we had an OFFICIAL Art Grant Archivist, Sara Muskulus, and she did a wonderful job documenting the art builds as well as the burns for all of the pieces. She wants to continue archiving our art grants in the future. You can see her work at the link below. All she asks is to be credited for the photos when they are put up on the website. We should dedicate a section of our website to art projects that have been awarded grants.

[https://drive.google.com/folderview?id= ... sp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=...sp=sharing)

Art Grant Reception and Tour

We had our 4th Art Grant Recipient's Reception this Spring. It was completely organized this year by Jill Nado, who conceived of it as a faux obnoxious art gallery reception. We had wine, snacks and funny french berets for the Art Grant Coordinators. The Art Grant Coordinators requested and were awarded \$50 from the PDF PC toward refreshments. It was the best attended reception we've held yet with many of the artists in attendance, and we will continue to do this moving forward. It's a great

community building event for the artists, the Art Grants Committee and the Board. All who attend can learn about the process the committee goes through in choosing artwork as well as the work involved for the artists. We also added a new Art Grant Tour this time which was run by Co-Art Grant Coordinator, St. Greg. It was an amazing hour or so of visiting each art piece and having the artist talk about their work, with attendees able to ask the artist questions. St. Greg did an amazing job!

Issues

-In the future, we want signs for pieces awarded the art grants, so attendees can identify what was funded by Art Grant Committee.

-PONY Burn: Art Grant Committee members are ready to take over the task of wrangling PONY builders. We can promote the need for builders as well as evaluate applications in a transparent, even-handed way that may prove to be more efficient than efforts in the past.

-We'd like to request more money from the org to do a bigger, more publicized Art Grants Reception during the event. We'd like to make the reception a place where artists and potential artists can ask questions and get answers, as well as share ideas for expanded art pieces.

- It would be great if we can give the art archivist a form of identification indicating that she is the PDF archivist so she has an easier time documenting the work. She ran into a few issues and frequently had to explain what she was doing. A badge or nametag would make the process run smoother.

Art Grants - Fall 2015

(St. Greg)

Overview:

24 projects submitted, 16 grants awarded for a total of \$7521.15 (out of a budget of \$11,000), with 2 declining (unable to attend PDF or unable to complete project) and 2 that were no-shows. After removing those 4, we granted a total of \$5799.15.

We also hosted an artist reception and an art tour on Saturday afternoon, that was advertised in the What Where When.

• What went well

Process:

We usually see around 25 applications these days, so we had plenty to evaluate, and with a good mix between fire art and non-fire art.

Posting in the P.O.N.Y., BPE, regional BM lists and regional FB groups seems to work pretty well for us in terms of getting the word out on applying for a grant.

Our process of discussing applications initially via email, then focusing the conference calls on decision making seems to work well. We've so far been able to keep our voting process to one meeting that takes a couple of hours.

Reception:

Organized by Jill Nado. Plenty of snacks and drinks to share. Might have even had too much.

The new banner came out very well. Thanks to Jill for advocating for this and getting it done! We hope to use this for many years to come.

Good attendance from coordinators and fire team.

We did a round of introductions prior to wrapping up the reception. This was a good idea and we will likely make sure we do this as part of future receptions.

Tour:

Organized and run by St. Greg. Most people from the reception joined the tour at the beginning.

Art Grant Archivist, Sara Muskulus, took photos as the tour progressed. Thanks, Sara!

We hit all art grant projects in less than an hour, and about half of the artists were present to speak on behalf of their projects.

• What could go better

Process:

We need more people in the Art Grants Committee. We will send out a blast to the community, but typically only have a core group that stays involved consistently.

We've been getting more applications recently that ask for funding for durable goods. Maybe we need to clear up the guide document on the application process and more strongly encourage applicants to review it prior to submitting an application.

Reception:

Attendance from artists and art grant committee members was a bit lower than previous receptions. We may want to consider measures to encourage greater attendance.

This event has yet to generate much participation from the general community. We always welcome them, we need to find ways to draw them in.

Tour:

Many people dropped out as the tour went on. Had a handful of people by the end. It would be great if we could find a way to maintain attendees and even attract additional attendees. We will likely look to shorten the reception and tour to 45 minutes each, in order to help maintain attendance and interest.

• Other noteworthy items

Reception budget -
\$35 for vinyl banner,
\$100 for drinks, snacks and tableware

Art Grant Coordinators are working with Hatter and Art Grant Archivist, Sara Muskulus, to create an online space to share art grant photos. Project not yet complete, but we now have 2 PDF's worth of photos to post.

St. Greg will be taking over organizing the reception going forward.

We are searching for a new co-coordinator to take O Man's place.

We expect to integrate the PONY application process into the Art Grant process starting with the upcoming Spring 2016 burn.

Burning Art - Spring 2015

(Rev Dave)

The good

We had some awesome art. Between Saturday and Sunday, we burned 10 pieces, which is probably a record for PDF. Our effigy builder left the effigy in the truck until Friday, so it was dry and burned beautifully (and it was an awesome piece). We had excellent turnout for perimeter folks, and the crowd (overall) seemed very good about respecting the perimeter. The Sunday art burns went pretty well; we went through 8 pieces in a bit over 2 hours, so while there may have been pauses in there, the pace was pretty good. We had a couple first-time pieces (including our effigy builder and the biggest single piece to burn on Sunday). We sorted out the details of using an aerosol sprayer to apply accelerant, which seems to give much better coverage while using less fuel (we ended up using about 5 gallons for everything, and, in hindsight, probably could have used less than that).

The bad:

Despite ordering an extra 3 cords of wood above and beyond the normal spring load, wood had mostly vanished by Saturday morning (artists were advised to grab some wood early to ensure not needing to send out foragers before burn time, and Jill squirrelled away an extra stack, just to be sure), but on Monday morning, there were stacks of leftover firewood all over the place, which suggests that there was enough wood, just unevenly distributed.

Also, there are at least a few participants who apparently are into fire-driving (like fire-walking, but in a car), because there were tracks in the ashes when I got there Monday morning (and yes, I do move burn marker signs and chairs on Sunday night to try and prevent this), and I actually saw someone drive around chairs placed in the road to cross a (shoveled but not mag-swept) burn field. Not saying this is a problem that I (or PDF) need to do something about, just noting that we should see if we can get a kickback from AAA.

The ugly:

I don't think anything on this burn really rises to the level of "ugly". It was (mostly) nice weather and nice art.

Noted in passing: We seem to suddenly be attracting participants with service dogs (I'm thinking I counted 4?), most of whom seemed pleasant and well-behaved, but, in a few cases, not real well trained. (Also, if you need your service animal, you might not want to walk across an unswept burn pad with your leashed service animal. Just saying.)

Budget item for Fall: Another McLeod tool. I wonder if Amazon offers these on a subscription basis?

Burning Art - Fall 2015

(Rev Dave)

The good:

We had some pretty impressive art. The weather mostly cooperated. Splitting the wood order so that the art burn wood got delivered on Saturday seemed to work very well (gold star for Jill for figuring that option out!). The main stack lasted until Sunday morning (it was, admittedly, pretty picked over at that point), and there was available wood on the art stack Sunday night. Theme camp wood orders seemed to go well; F**k A Duck and Barrel Of Fun both seemed pretty happy with their orders (another gold star for Jill for being the contact person for that). Mad props to the artists of "Seahorses Forever" for being willing to burn on Saturday night; it simplified Sunday scheduling tremendously (and it was awesome to have a second pony!).

The bad:

We had a number of artists who had art grants for burning art who, as far as I can tell, no-showed (didn't respond to multiple emails, didn't show up at center camp on Saturday afternoon, didn't attend the artist meet-and-greet, didn't show up at center camp on Sunday afternoon). Not sure what happened there, but that's a matter for them and whoever is handling reimbursement at this point. (I'm not saying anything about their art beyond that I didn't see it. May well have been there, may well have been tossed on the fire at some point, but I didn't see it.) Someone apparently walked off with PDF's shiny new fire rake sometime Sunday morning (between about 3AM when the road fires got put down and 8AM when cleanup started).

The ugly:

Nothing really rises to the level of "ugly".

DPW - Spring 2015 (Yeti)

THE FOLLOWING WORKED.

Early Arrival - (Wednesday 12pm/Thursday 5pm) - Early Arrival

- Most early arrival volunteers arrived to schedule and completed necessary tasks for their respective departments and for DPW and general event setup
- Front Gate and Ticketing shade structures erected/secured, materiel set up/out
- Back Gate Greeting and Parking shade structures erected/secured, materiel set up/out
- Participation Station Ranger Station combined shade structure erected/secured, materiel set up/out
- Property "de-mooped"/ground cleaned
- Showers front and back cleaned and power washed
- Pavilion cleaned and power washed

- Porta-poties delivered
- Wood delivered
- New shelves assembled in shed(after the early arrival proper but I note it here)
- Shed cleaned and organised
- Street Sign Dept set up their Street Signs art-project
- Lamplighters Dept set up the Lamp lights
- some tasks were of an interdepartmental nature(personnel allocated as needed)

All tasks were completed safely in a well functioning cooperative manner by all concerned.

PDF - (Thursday 5pm through Monday 12pm) - PDF

- Structures inspected and maintained and secured when necessary for front and back gate, parking and participation station/ ranger station.
Basically it was tightening down straps,refitting covers etc when necessary.
Trash bag removal etc when requested

- Shed inside maintained. basically some cleaning, rearranging etc.

- In cooperation with non strictly speaking DPW volunteers the MOOP were found was collected and more appropriately disposed

- Some assistance was rendered to participants in the form of tent erection, camp setup, carry in/carry out, referrals and/or help for getting vehicles "jumped" and other technical issues(generators, who can fix them etc) and questions

- Assistance was given/ received from other departments when requested.

It was given when they needed more personnel, received when we needed more personnel.
Some of these tasks already were mentioned.

Other tasks helping transport from the shed to the given departments area, helping to set up the other department structure, equipment and materiel, loading stuff from shed onto given departments transport.

All tasks were completed safely in a well functioning cooperative manner by all concerned.

(Monday 12pm through to Last Burner's Off)

- DPW , EXODUS and MOOP PATROL promoted safe and timely departure of and assistance to departure averse participants.

- MASH and SANCTUARY took down their area and transported it to and placed it in the shed.

RANGERS, SANCTUARY,GATE and TICKETING, GREETERS, PARKING to a good degree took down most of their own equipment, leaving only really the heavy stuff for DPW to transport

- STREET SIGNS and LAMPLIGHTERS disassembled the signs and lamp lights/posts, and moved them to the shed

- Combined RANGER STATION and PARTICIPATION STATION shade structure disassembled and moved to storage

All tasks were completed safely in a well functioning cooperative manner by all concerned.

THE FOLLOWING WORKED BETTER

- COMMUNICATIONS.

- RADIO COMMUNICATIONS within/with DPW was improved.

Many DPW and PDF tasks throughout the PDF were emergent.

DPW radio use improved communications with DPW, and improved the performance and response time of DPW volunteers.

- New volunteers – DPW does not lack for willing volunteers, both those scheduled before hand and adhoc volunteers throughout the event

Other notes:

Names have not been mentioned pending approval of entering them into the record.

Costs for this burn were mainly straw. We are happy to have had it and not needed it.

Further notes:

Speaking for myself I am very pleased with all of the cooperation and good will of all manner of participants, planners, volunteers, coordinators, board and so on.

DPW - Fall 2015

(Yeti)

This is a preliminary report summary with a full report to follow

DPW did not use any reserve tickets and is are not putting in for reimbursements

The setup and take down went safely and effectively

DPW worked well with the rest of PDF (i.e., other departments, etc.)

Drum Conclave - Spring 2015

(Moose)

The Good:

There were fires.

We drummed.

All was well.

Drum Conclave - Fall 2015

(Moose)

The Good:

Had a decent core of drummers to keep the rhythm. Kept the burn time to about a couple hours which is reasonable for how long I can play straight and let others take shifts in and out. Nobody came up to me while drumming and told me I had to move, and all the musicians stayed together. Side circles make it harder for everyone.

The Bad:

Didn't think about teaching classes. Gonna do that this year. See if I can't get us all synced up on 3 or 4 specific rhythms to keep everyone together.

Changes requested: Can I get a co-coordinator to help me manage the base rhythm at the burn and set up the classes? I am great at making lots of noise you wanna dance too, but I suck at logistics. I was thinking Rod Gnarley aka Hippee since he has both dedicated himself to this community and to that drum circle many times through the years, and he has proven himself a good hippee wrangler.

Exodus - Spring 2015

(Fitz & LilBit)

Full version:

1. Dumpster area at BackGate got messy. Some folks were too lazy or hurried to get their bags or junk actually up and in. This may have been because...AGAIN... the dumpster contractor parked the back two too close to each other, making the hindmost bin very hard to access. Solution: put dumpster 3 at the end of the extended gravelled road where the portapotty truck will turn around. ;)

2. Pavilion was the cleanest ever; thanks Karnak & JenFinkle! Showers & pottie areas were ok generally; just the usual debris. Burn pad area was cleaned up by Rev Dave. One barrel left near the Stage became a Massive Moop Magnet, but an Unknown Volunteer stepped up and bagged most of it for us, thanks. Theme Camp areas, parking lots, and both open camp areas were generally cleared of 99% moop by their respective inhabitants. Some tent-stake extractions/ education were performed by DPW staff; a wet Thursday made for easy and deep stake hammering, but 3 days of drying turned that Delaware Bay Clay into concrete. (Just remember... "To get it out, Get it wet!") It seemed there was a high level of Community LNT Awareness for this event. Exceptions were by 'spectators' not

participants! No valuable items were found or reported lost after noon. Low value items were dumped, or binned for Fall. Thrashed and smashed tents, canopies, camp-chairs, and styro-cardboard packaging seemed awfully high for such a nice-weather burn; i blame Wally World's "everyday low prices" and our rebounding, but still disposable, economy.

3. Burn scars were radically reduced from a high of 17 in Fall'14 to only 4 small ones this Spring. Leftover firewood piles added up to, at most, a quarter cord. The Ash Dump was 'smokin' hot! but thanks to Fernando, it was extinguished. There was one minor 'hotfoot' incident again, without serious injury. PLEASE be careful wearing sandals near hot embers!

4. All campers were 98% packed and gone by 14:00. WWW reporting a "2:00 checkout time" was a typo, i think? Nevertheless, we were at least 80% cleared off the site at noon Monday. That's good for a Spring event. Our Asst. Exodus Coordinator Eliz. 'LilBit' Hanna did the Sunday Exodus Assessment, reporting an estimated 20% of participants had left on or before Sunday night. (This is done by counting empty car slots in both parking lots, as well as empty tent spaces in Front & Back camping.)

5. No thefts, major injuries, or severe dehydrations were reported during this Exodus. No property damage was discovered or reported. Dry ground meant no stuck cars this event. No 'ride orphans' or lost keys caused us problems this time. Only 1 vehicle was left out front by a wise driver who decided to ride home and return for it later. The Vets are ok with this, as preventing DUI's in everyone's best interest.

6. Most infrastructure was shedded by 15:00; Exodus was completed at 17:00, with only 9 DPW crew remaining onsite, packing personal items and performing Final Sweep. I left around 18:30, turning over the last loose ends of shed packing to Yeti, Marti, & LilBit.

7. Traffic management at the Back Gate Bottleneck was graciously handled by Alfred and Hot Dog; kudos to those great Greeters!

(Lilbit)

The Good:

- While making my backfield megaphone rounds, I was able to offer gloves to participants for final MOOP sweeps of their personal camps - thanks to an extra but opened box in Exodus inventory. Many happily accepted, and backfield MOOP was noticeably down. Coincidence can't be ruled out unless results can be duplicated during a mud burn, so I'd like to run this experiment again in fall.
- "The Best" (for personal reasons, because sometimes it's my Monday Achilles' heel): THERE WAS NEXT TO *ZERO* ORANGE TAPE ON THE GROUND! Serious appreciation goes out to everyone who remembered to pick it up. This is a remarkable reversal of fall's record amount covering the entire backfield.
- Kudos to the ever present Cheekie and first time Exodus volunteer Pencil. They covered a lot of ground during afternoon MOOP sweeps. Extra thanks to Pencil who spontaneously changed her travel arrangements in order to assist, she was a great addition to May's Exodus.

The New:

- Exodus on Sunday? Quiet. Coordinator had a pre-scheduled day off site. Per instructions, "Asst. Coord" checked in with both the Greeters and Parking, and was advised the need for staffing was doubtful. I was on comm. and available to respond to potential but non-existent calls for assistance.

The Bad:

- On last re-check of the day we discovered posters were still hanging in numerous porta potties. The barn row had posters in all but one and the majority of the back gate row had them, however the burn field & front gate rows combined had only 3 or 4 remaining. These posters somehow survived multiple teams of sweepers plus countless LNT minded peeps. We as a community must have had a collective

blind spot that day! Maybe because we're no longer accustomed to sunshine at Pdf? But these things happen once in a blue moon, that's why we re-check before lights out.

The Future:

- At this time there is no need to submit request to add Exodus Sunday slots to the online volunteer schedules, but we can reassess after fall burn. Exodus and Greeters will likely be able to collaborate on Sunday and Monday coverage needs so neither dept is stretched too thin.
- Will still move forward with Exodus department description. Expecting to have it submitted to the web team by July.
- Exodus does need to start active recruiting, but for Monday instead of Sunday. 2 additional volunteers (or 1 if Pencil returns!) for 2-3 hrs of the afternoon would be optimal.
- Create an Exodus Coordinator Survival Guide, complete with checklists, advisories, frequently overlooked "Forget-me-nots" to pay attention to (like posters in the portas!), and scripts for the megaphone rounds. And with permission maybe an inventory of the contents of Fritz's van, under the heading of "Equipment You Might need" in the "Be Prepared for Anything" category. Ideally the manual will be completed by fall burn, but at minimum the more important checklists and such will be documented by then.

Exodus - Fall 2015

(Fitz)

No major injuries. No major thefts reported.

No major fires, damage, or graffiti found.

One ride-orphan; resolved. (volunteer/DPW)

One spunkyun; yellow-carded (car in front lot).

> 100 cars still in back parking at Noon; plus > 150 cars in back fields leaving ~11 to Noon caused a traffic jam at BoF Potties Bend.

Last back camp (non-staff) left ~5pm

Last theme camp (Muppets) left ~6pm

Last DPW staff left ~9pm Shed locked. LNT.

While we (PDF, as a whole, or the Exodus Staff esp.) were onsite longer than 'necessary' given the stated "noon" check-out time, the condition of the site had a few 'challenges' from Day 1:

Grass in back fields was high and shaggy

The pole-top lamp at back gate was still out

Disgusting back potties by our new PS/RangerHQ location

All three back rows of potties were not serviced on Monday morning, resulting in heaping poo stink and no toilet paper.

Front potties WERE cleaned and had fresh TP on Monday

Dunno what went wrong with the vendor this event?

It's tough to pack your car on time when you have to spend time searching around for alternative bumwipe.

Showers slimier than usual because a power-washer was forgotten on both Wed. and Thurs. setup days. (Promise of cleaner showers next time from our awesome volunteer who usually does that for us all!)

Fire Perimeter - Spring 2015

(1K)

Good:

More people than vests!

Use of taping as temporary ground marking for the perimeter line on Saturday night was received very well. Several on Sunday expressed their disappointment that it was not available both nights. (Will be budgeted.)

Bad:

More people than vests! - definitely need many more ordered for Fall.

"The Crush Zone" between the road and the stage and the road burn pads in that area is too narrow. It is dangerous. On Sunday Night it took at one count four perimeter volunteers to control a 20' line. Suggest review of spacing of burn pads and/or adding more art burns to Saturday night to increase flow.

Ugly:

None. No injuries, no fatalities, art burned, participants were happy.

Fire Perimeter - Fall 2015

(Thudd)

The Good

My team (mostly) did what they were supposed to do. (And I will remember the ones that didn't.)

They communicated well with each other and myself, regarding people acting squirrely.

A few were actually stoked to be on the perimeter crew, and will be jumping back in, come this Spring.

The Bad:

Devon thinks he's funny.

The Ugly:

Nothing to report.

Fire Safety - Fall 2015

(Rev. Dave)

Had 3 fire fighters for the pony burn

Had 2 fire fighters for the art burn

Had no incidents in which fire fighters were called upon to protect life or property, so all good.

Greeters - Spring 2015

(Hotdog, Nyk Giove & Alfred)

THE GOOD:

- Lighting all four nights in back parking lot! Yay!
- Lots of great volunteering, excellent community spirit!
- Very smooth entry in Thursday night, despite the carry in only.
- Smart Marty's 3 ring binders.
- Major incident free.

THE BAD:

- Communication between all departments. We were down a couple radios at the back gate, but I think a general meet greet of coordinators before gate opens might solve this.
- A little weak on volunteer numbers in the morning shifts. Perhaps having theme camps fill the rosters for these times would do the trick.
- PDF Yellow Cart #2 blew a tired. Repair for fall burn necessary.
- I accidentally stored a participant's ID in the shed. Yeah, that happened.
- Though we did get lights for all four nights, the event will now be taking on the cost of lighting, previously covered by the Vets.

THE UGLY:

Not applicable

FOR NEXT TIME:

- Gillian Slovick will be taking over as Assistant Greeter Coordinator for fall burn.
- I will be taking over Greeter/Back Gate budget from Smarty Marty.
- Exciting revamp of Greetering Operations. Much change to the Greeting Structure before fall I.e. shift descriptions based on expectation of gate traffic/processing necessary, greeters at front and back gates, facilitation of a greater sense of "passageway to new realm" sort of experience.
- Many sweet Greeter Shift Perks.

Nyk Giove Greeter Cooordinator/Volunteering Bad Ass. ABR

The Good:

Starting this fall, I will be a full time assistant coordinator at the gate to help Martie with ticketing.

The Bad:

Starting this fall, I will no longer be an assistant coordinator for greeters.

For Next Time

I'd like to echo Damian's notion of creating a greeter lead position, so that the coordinators can spend more time participating in the event, as opposed to just outside it.

Alfred Greeter Coordinator ABR

So I'm not super sure what to write here but here goes:

- Friday night around 4 am there was a slight issue with parking passes/late comers. It was mostly handled by Crash the Vet, but it resulted in cars staying on-site "overnight".
- There seemed to be miscommunication between the front gate and the back gate regarding someone's license and how people were departing the event. When I had another (more experienced) coordinator I deferred to them, which sometimes was conflicting with what we were already doing.
- Smartie Martie's handbook was very helpful, the only thing I would suggest is to have it available online (pony, Google docs, something) so people could potentially access it before hand.
- Exodus traffic directing went smoothly.

Greeters - Fall 2015

(Gillian)

The Good:

- -We had art at the back gate as well as participants leading games and activities for those waiting.
- -Hug menus were a huge hit, hug glory hole could be re -imagined.
- -Volunteerism was damn good!
- -No shift went unmanned or even under-manned.
- -Volunteers loved their bandanas swag! And this came in SIGNIFICANTLY UNDER budget as well!
- -We had great dealings with the vets for gate turnover.
- -Despite the bad weather Friday everyone was in good willing spirits for packing in.

The Bad:

- -People not understanding how to gtfo of the event during the loading/unloading process.
- -Maybe legit signage is necessary, because verbal communication in line and at the parking pass station was not enough.
- -Bugs (need for citronella candles for the spring).
- -It took the greeters this long to send in the Afterburn report...

For next time:

- -Citronella candles for the love of god.
- -There is talk about making some sort of intro to consent culture at the back gate. Devon wants to take on looking into how to carry this out because she is fantastic.
- -Normally we "shut down" the gate after Saturday night; discussions were made for adding shifts on Sunday for help with gate break down for easier Monday exodus.

Lamplighters - Spring 2015

(Starboy)

What went well:

1. I was able to arrive early to the site, and with some help from Yeti, got 15 spires erected by the end of the evening on Thursday. The new rebar made this process much easier than in the past. I purchased the new rebar at Missco and had it cut into 30 pieces, and outgoing coordinator Liz K arranged to have it bent into candycane shapes.
2. Having a dedicated sledgehammer (which I donated in the Fall) for driving the rebar into the ground for the poles was a big help, though there were a couple of complications (see below).
3. We had ample volunteers for both the lamplighter procession each night; in fact Sunday's had 14 people. We also had ample volunteers to take down the lamps each morning, including prior to the exodus. I also had volunteers who helped take down the spires Monday as well.
4. Some people volunteered for more than one night; in addition to "many hands making light work," this helped people build expertise in getting the lamps set up, which made the process go even more quickly.
5. Liz K, Violet, and I were able to recreate the Lamplighter robes, which, several burns ago, were destroyed. (Apparently they got wet or damp in the shed somehow, and a well-meaning person laid them out on the grass near the pavilion to dry out--but then left them out in the rain, completely ruining them.) I obtained 22 sheets (donating some, buying the rest out of the budget). Liz then made 20 into robes, and she and Violet were able to get 15 of these stenciled for use this burn. Adam S. pitched in by making one sheet into sashes for the robes. Having the robes for our procession really brought back something special (which I think our fellow burners appreciated).
6. We came in well under budget.
7. I was able to do a pretty thorough inventory of our stuff in the shed.

What could go better:

1. Five robes still need to be stenciled, and six more sashes made.
2. We were able to erect only 15 of the 18 spires, due to lack of rebar; as a result, only one spire was erected in the lower field. The old rebar, which I'd counted on to make up the difference between the 30 pieces of new rebar and what we needed to put up all the poles (36) has become scarce and what is present is more-or-less unusable. I plan to request another 30 pieces of rebar for the Fall to make sure we have an ample supply not only to make up the deficit of six pieces, but also anticipating more rebar going missing (which has happened prior to both of the last two burns).
3. When I arrived at the site, both dedicated sledgehammers I donated for Lamplighters were missing. Yeti was able to locate one for me, allowing me to get to work, but the other remains missing (so far as I know).
4. A majority of lamps are in a state of disrepair. While some might be repaired, some surely cannot be. The fact is, the lamps are pretty cheap and break easily in various ways. I'd like to be able to try to

salvage some of these, though buying more replacements would be prudent; we used all seven replacements I bought for this burn.

5. We could use more shepherd's hooks; on Sunday night's procession, we had so many volunteers, the lifters had to share the four hooks between them.

6. Due to a misunderstanding on my part, Lamplighter Laminates were not made for this Burn.

Finally, a BIG thanks to outgoing coordinator Liz K for everything she's done over the past five years. And another big thanks to Violet for agreeing to become Lamplighters Assistant Coordinator.

Lamplighters - Fall 2015

(Starboy)

What went well:

My co-coordinator, Violet, and I were both able to arrive early to the site, and with some help from some volunteers, got ~15 spires erected by late afternoon on Thursday. The new rebar made this process much easier than in the past.

Our second dedicated sledgehammer (which I donated in the Fall of last year), which had disappeared last year, reappeared at the end of this burn.

We had ample volunteers for the lamplighter procession each night. We also had ample volunteers to take down the lamps each morning, including prior to the exodus. I also had volunteers to put up the spires on Thursday as well (see above).

Violet stenciled the five robes that did not get done in spring due to running out of paint. She and I also were able to paint the sashes, adding more color to the procession. o We came in well under budget (though there was one complication, see below).

What could go better:

About half of our new rebar, purchased in the spring, was found to be missing. Fortunately, I had budgeted for and purchased some extra rebar for the Fall burn (which coordinator emeritus Liz K bent into candy cane shapes). So while we were able to put up all the fully-functional spires, it is only because I happened to buy the backup rebar. For Spring I will budget for more rebar (it's pretty cheap), anticipating losses and building a backup supply.

Three spires have gone unused the last couple of burns due to having only one hook on them, the second hook having broken off). It would be nice if we could have those repaired, and/or have some new ones made. This would allow us to resume lighting the lower field again, as well as the other side of the back field. o We have a great many lamps in a state of disrepair; the fact is, the lamps are pretty cheap and break easily in various ways. I'd like to be able to try to salvage some of these if at all possible, so as to avoid buying replacements.

We could use more shepherd's hooks; on Sunday night's procession, we had so many volunteers, the lifters had to share the four hooks between them.

I vastly underestimated the amount of lamp fuel we'd need; a result that line item went way over budget; however, other areas were significantly under-budget, so overall we came in under.

MASH - Spring 2015

(Radar)

The GOOD:

People Mostly were good for this Burn, Only minor scrapes and such. We had three cases of cut fingers and toes, and advised them to seek more assistance. One of them did and received stitches. The others declined and from what we have heard all are doing great.

There was one case of someone getting hit in the head with a sign, we did a tent call and brought them back to camp and gave them liquid hydration.

Had quite a line for scrapes after the Slip and Slide, but nothing serious.

The BAD:

The Volunteers that we have ROCKS, but we continue to be slack on overnight shifts. There have been discussions around this and a proposal will be forthcoming. We have been extremely lucky the past 2 burns on the overnight shifts not to have many problems.

The UGLY:

Can't think of none

Things TO DO NEXT TIME:

We need to stock up on some supplies, will be getting it in the budget soon.

Budget will come in pretty much as proposed.

MASH - Fall 2015

(Radar)

The Good:

Volunteer signups were well, quite a few brand new people (YAY!!!!) although we had several last minute dropouts that caused some shifts needing claiming.

With one exception there were only minor cuts and several severely dehydrated persons. One really bad bump to the head, but patient refused further treatment.

No one had to be sent away for medical reasons. (DOUBLE YAY!!!!)

The Bad:

Still lacking complete shifts, will be looking for more reserves in the Spring to help fill in shifts. Having to wait for the last minute ticket exchanges doesn't help get qualified medical folks there.

The Ugly:

There were really none. (TRIPLE YAY!!!!)

Budget:

Budgeted \$ 60.00 spent \$78.63, just a minor overrun on supplies

MOOP - Spring 2015

(Jen)

THE GOOD:

- Overall MOOP levels were on the low side of average.
- Pavilion was redonkulously MOOP-less much of the event due to Karnak adopting the area as his own project. Thanks, dude!
- Good volunteer turn-out for schedules shifts, plus saw two people doing a flashlight MOOP sweep in the wee hours of Monday morning.

THE BAD:

- On the stage was a mess on Sunday morning-- half-full drinks and empty cig packs everywhere.
- A trash can left out next to the stage was overflowing with bottles and cans (just clap your hands) by Sunday.
- Didn't have lockable viewing box for expensive/important L&F items, so some ended up locked in the ranger cabinet and not available for immediate claiming.

THE UGLY:

- Poop in the horseshoe pit Saturday morning. Picked it up myself, with gloves and plastic bag. Someone reported seeing an unattended German Shepherd drop said deuce same morning.
- Reports that property owner at the back of the back field has been finding poop MOOP on her property from people jumping the fence.

BUDGET:

Spent: \$0 -- I forget how much I asked for, but didn't purchase anything for this burn. Will resubmit for Fall.

GOING FORWARD:

- Look into switching MOOP shifts from scheduled times to adopt-a-highway style patrols, where people pick an area to patrol for the duration of the event, i.e. the stage.
- Purchase lockable viewing box for L&F valuables.
- Brainstorm ideas for signage and education along back fence to deter pooping, especially on the neighbor's side of the fence.

MOOP - Fall 2015

(Jen)

The GOOD:

High volunteer turnout for Saturday morning 9am shift- so many that I ran out of MOOP bags o Lower turnout turnout for Sunday morning 9am shift

The BAD:

Usual high volume of MOOP outside portapotties most mornings

High volume of MOOP around burn field Sunday morning

2 of the 6 MOOP bags didn't make it back (1 has been accounted for and will be returned at spring burn)

Boxes of disposable gloves and hand sanitizer disappeared before first scheduled sweep on Saturday

The UGLY:

Second-hand report of MOOP sweep volunteer stepping in feces along back field fence o Tampon applicators, plastic bags, cups and other inappropriate items seen in portapotties

Parking - Spring 2015 (Chef Phil)

Good:

- *Parking set-up crew did good job of setting up in the rain Thursday. Tear-down on Sunday went quickly.
- *Rain stopped for Friday, dried up and lifted “pack it in” All were Happy!!!!
- *Rain on Thursday “pack it in” everyone carried Items on-site, with 2 carts (and Jill) we helped as many as we could get their things in.
- *Had decent turn out of volunteers and most all open spots on schedule were filled
- *Ground conditions Dry because of Delaware drought, so mud was none issue.
- *Volunteers loved and responded well to parking bandanas

Bad:

- *Field was not entirely mowed as Vet mower broke
- *Communication between volunteers needs work
- *4- 30min parking passes need reprinted (1,6,16,21)
- *thought we had more parking wands may be missing a couple

Ugly:

*None: there was No MUD or Major Issues

Thing to Work ON/ to get:

- *Communication between Volunteers
- *Print Vinyl Sign w/ Parking Volunteer Instructions
- *Lockable whiteboard with shift lead Information
- *must leave front 4 lane of parking for late night parking shifts
- *need a couple more parking wand and vests
- *need more rain ponchos

Parking - Fall 2015 (Diana Smiles & 2E)

The Good:

Generally, this was a very smooth burn for parking. The best news was that the parking lot was mowed this time, so we didn't have any problems with ticks or not being able to see the flagging in the parking lot. The new thin fiberglass stakes worked really well, although we needed more. While they worked

great, the stakes won't work well if the ground is dry and hard (like it was in Spring), so it's not a permanent solution to the dwindling supply of quality stakes. There is a thicker and sturdier version available that may meet our needs. The nice thing about these fiberglass stakes is that they are tall enough to be seen over grass and over the cars. They also have a reflective bit that helps them be seen at night.

The flood lights were onsite and worked with no issues, once the vets came and turned them on. Parking would like to give a great shout out to DPW for being rock stars with set up and break down the back gate area.

The RVs and onsite parking passes went fairly smoothly this burn; however people were still submitting onsite parking pass requests on the Tuesday night before the burn. Going forward Parking wants to set up a (well publicized) cut off date of two weeks before the burn. o Parking was well prepared for the storm Friday night, and was able to use the golf cart to warn all the folks in the back field that it was coming. The site was then closed to cars for the evening. Carts were then used the rest of the night to haul people in. Volunteers were encouraged to come in if they did not want to stand in the field while it was lightening.

On the whole, the volunteers shifts were covered and a huge shout out to Barrel of Fun for running the parking lot on Saturday afternoon. They really have it down and have a good time with it! But the real shout out goes to Greeters!!! The only reason parking shifts were mostly covered was because Greeters really stepped it up and rocked it out by handing out the temporary parking passes and collecting the driver's licenses. This seemed to be very popular with the Greeters, and going forward Parking would like to have discussions with whoever takes over Greeting as possibly to making this a permanent part of their duties. The Greeter volunteers were very happy to help as long as they didn't have to go stand in the field and flag. Turning this over the to greeters makes sense, since this is a major point of contact for education and Greeter interaction and allows Parking to focus on handling the flaggers on shift change. Juggling the volunteers for the onsite parking pass portion of the job and the volunteers for flagging at shift change was difficult, causing someone to stay late after their shift while sorting the two jobs out. Turning this over to Greeting will smooth all that out and create a better volunteer experience for all involved. •

The Bad:

The Big Bad for this burn was volunteer coverage for the late night shifts. The Participation Station closed at 10pm and we were unable to get the late night shifts covered Thursday and Friday night. This closure time was a complete surprise, as the PS has always been open until midnight previously. For the closing shifts both nights we only had one volunteer, when we needed three (minimum). Going forward, Parking kindly requests that the Participation Station stay open until the closing shift is verified as being staffed.

The other no-so-great thing that happened was that someone wrote on many of the temporary parking passes with a permanent marker and they now need replacing. In addition, the sleeves that hold the driver's licenses is also getting a bit worn in, and also needs replacing (they were not vandalized, just worn out). Also, we did not have any copies of the pages we use to track the driver's licenses. More of those will need to be made up for Spring burn.

The Ugly:

Parking is very happy to report that we didn't have any ugly this burn!

Participation Station - Spring 2015

(Princess Giggles)

THE GOOD:

Our Volunteer Schedule Boards were nearly full! Ongoing efforts to develop ways to recruit for harder to fill shifts. The amazingly positive vibe that was maintained throughout the burn made it easy to recruit when I knew fresh volunteers were needed. Not having radios, I routinely stopped by Front and Back Gates to check on volunteer status. I had some rockstar volunteers Friday at participation station that were thrilled to utilize the How-To Guide to answer volunteering questions. All participation station items were taken off site for inventory and reorganization. New bins have been purchased to replace old broken ones. About 10 L&F items have been claimed and returned.

Lea shall not be in attendance at the fall burn. I will be the Volunteer Coordinator, and I have the radios! I gained a lot of experience as sole acting Volunteer Coordinator for a majority of the burn, and found so much inspiration in the amazing network of coordinators we have. Thanks for your guidance and support!

THE BAD:

Participation Station was without schedule boards until Friday and left without Snacks for Volunteers and Raffle tickets/Box until Saturday and we didn't have a working Lost and Found Bin at all. Lost and found was large this burn. Full pairs of shoes seemed to be the majority. Per Lea "Any unclaimed items will be donated to goodwill August 1st." Despite the boards being full there was poor turnout for participation station shifts Saturday night and Sunday. Per Lea "Many volunteers seemed lost as usual." Rose has decided to step down as a Volunteer Co-Coordinator. Our scissors were "unintentionally gifted". It was windy and schedule boards were blowing everywhere- ziptied the schedule boards together and to structure so they served as a windbreaker and gave them stability to write on. Note to Self- Eat Drink Sleep Shower!

THE UGLY:

Leah got to camp Saturday evening due to being "busy with real life drama and turtle rotation, hahaha." That left me without a radio during the peak needs for Ticketing, Parking and Greeting. There were some unattended tweens wandering about the event- stirring up a ruckus- do we have a policy in place in regards to parents responsibilities to moderate their children? During exodus, complaints were raised about suspension artists using the helicopter frame. Lea spoke directly to the vets, specifically "mother" who said it was ok. Lea spoke to Snuggles who said it is not ok. Snuggles will talk to Pineapple to discuss vets giving permission to do things.

THINGS TO DO NEXT TIME:

Make Participation Station more effective, relevant, and dynamic!

Move Participation Station to "Center Map"- Possibly 4E(which would also eliminate issue of folks setting up camp in neighbors field) or across from Back Gate

- 1- The location next to the stage is often too loud for PS volunteers to hear the Base Radio
- 2- "Center Camp" is no longer in the center- our event has grown in number and size- several acres- having PS more Central makes it more accessible to the back field- where a majority of attendees camp.

Wall of Purpose- Add a clear plastic shoe organizer to PS Gear and label Pockets with Purpose- so that PS volunteers can find what they need quickly and easily without diggin through bins.

PS Info Sessions- Wherein the folks that I introduced to the How-To Book were amazed(Thanks for all your input- suggested changes have been made)- I think initiating PS Events like Burner 101 and Dept Info Sessions would help to engage participants to volunteer- having willing department leaders give info sessions on their depts, what to do, where to go, what to bring, necessary training, and the importance of having volunteers to fill those dept shifts would provide more enthusiastic and knowledgeable volunteers, and help fill those "problem" shifts. Having a book on a table is good- having someone who is passionate about volunteering and the function of their department is a thousand times better!

Initiate Roving Recruiters- Utilizing Smarty Marty's Organization Binder idea- which has shifts and volunteers that are signed up for those shifts in Binders- I'd like to implement new functions for PS volunteers. Following on the awesome success of our PDF Rangers- roving means they are in the right place at the right time- I think having a handful of Volunteer Talent Scouts with radios and clip boards or "Roving Recruiters" being where things are happening would be more effective at refreshing volunteer shifts that have no shows without burning out your volunteer coordinator.

Gnomes for Noms- Coordinating with Camps that are hosting nommy food events to provide our awesome volunteers with some of the delicious that they would otherwise be sacrificing to be awesome volunteers. I personally went around to a few breakfast camps and brought bacon and pancakes to volunteers- it took a long time waiting on all the different lines- but I think coordinating with those camps that are willing to serve the folks that are serving the community before hand and wearing Gnome Hats to be distinguished as a Volunteer Feeder- would expedite the process- and show the community that volunteers are appreciated and rewarded!

Dept. Raffle Tickets- Dept Raffle Boxes- Did you have awesome volunteers that didn't know about/forgot about the Reserve Raffle? Do you think they would remember if there was a raffle box where you are volunteering? I'd like to bring additional Raffle Boxes for the front and back gate and give dept leaders raffle tickets to distribute to your awesome volunteers.

Participation Coordinator On Call (Peacock)- There is a whole lot of awesome I'd like to see happen with PS- but I'm one person I can't be in two places at once- as Lea will not be in attendance in the fall and Meg has stepped down- I'd like to request 3 reserve tickets for my Peacocks- because 1) I'm starting from scratch this burn 2) I'd like to train more folks on the ins and outs of PS leadership 3)to help prevent burnout- 4) to be prepared for turnover.
-Roving Recruiter Asst. Vol Coordinator
-Gnomes for Noms Asst. Vol Coordinator/ Foody Liaison
-PS Events Asst. Vol Coordinator

Participation Station - Fall 2015

(Princess Giggles)

The Good:

What worked?

VOLUNTEERS! We had a great crew, and very few shortages, most of which were quelled in a timely manner. I had my Leads checking on Front and Back Gate Statuses periodically, and they kept it moving. Got most other posts filled to the brink-which was amazing, and I hope led to smoother operations of other depts.

Organization systems:

Laminates:

having the beautiful laminates displayed, created an almost self-serve system, and folks were actually deciding which volunteer shifts to sign up for based on the laminates, because you could see them • there was little confusion and much regale

Information access:

Having directions for new PS Leads to follow was helpful - having Leads is good - taking note of information they need to know, and preparing further training.

Notifying PS Volunteers of the Volunteer Guide- and having it hanging up/easy to see was awesome- got to see some really awesome recruiting techniques from PS volunteers. Might start hanging the individual descriptions below the sign-ups for ease of accessibility.

Having start of shift run-downs of where everything could be found, and how to answer FAQs worked very well- Assembling a LIST OF FAQs for PS.

Roving Recruiters:

This was my Beta Project and it was a SMASH HIT! I had a few really excellent Roving Recruiters - Jes & Mandy - who just walked around to camps and asked folks if they'd volunteered yet, in a non-confrontational manner without misdirection or barking commands, in an hour they had 18 sign-ups! They enjoyed their volunteer experience, and the folks that they recruited reported positive feedback. I hope to work with Devin to get custom laminate reels, and work with WhipLash to have the laminate holes wide enough to accommodate the reels- so the Roving Recruiters can bring laminates with them while they are recruiting and the reels will be reusable for future burns

PS Events:

BALLOON BUTT HUMP was short sweet and tons of fun!

LOCATION:

We Had Power- We Had Centrality- We Could Hear Ourselves Think

We Had Space for Balloon Butt Hump and The More You Know, and will have space for future workshops and fun events!

We had a good flow of foot-traffic which helped in getting shifts covered.

We definitely had more of a backfield presence!

The Fire Pit was Amazing- HUGE Props to JillNado!

LOCK BOX:

We had one - the Leads had the code - valuables were placed in the Lockbox.

The Bad:

Someone tried to break into the LockBox, but they failed.

Not having the WWW's On-Site on time meant folks didn't know where Part Station/ Ranger HQ was at first- despite my efforts to advertise the move on FB. I had brought signage, but with the grasses being

so high- it was repurposed to smooch grass down. I'm hoping to work with Whiplash on better signage for PS

PS Events: Epic missed or wasn't prepared for a majority of his events that were held on sight at PS.

The More You Know: some folks showed up, some folks didn't; will work with Epic to have All PS Events more publicized ahead of time, and a planning timeline.

Roving Recruiter Training - didn't have many show up, but those who did, rocked it- the system works!

Having my Asst.Coordinator bail out on Monday and not having my cart when it was needed resulted in some serious burn-out on my part. This is being addressed.

The Ugly:

The weather really rocked our horses

it set the PS RHQ structure on it's last legs, held together with rebar and duct tape now, and the center supports continued to fall until morning - potentially severe head wound in the waiting. It forced us to close down shop for a bit • possible solutions- whatever structure we have, shall have sidewalls.

The schedule boards while beautiful and easy to set-up and follow were unable to weather the weather. More coroplast is in the future, and possibly a new structure.

There should be a protocol for what happens when a dept leaves their cart light on overnight and the battery dies - without another dept. suffering without a cart.

Having the PS cart absconded twice during the course of the burn seriously impacted how burnt out I got

I didn't have it when it was most needed to recruit for gate reliefs due to no-shows, and when it was needed to inform people where L&F was located so they would come and collect their belongings.

Lost and Found was out of hand

There were two large bins full of Lost and Found delivered to the new PS location, and it only grows.

I'm not sure if MOOP sweepers were bringing gross items to L&F or if they were dropped off by passerbys- but there needs to be standards of what is acceptable at L&F. There were dirty panties and a robe with human fecal matter... this is unacceptable.

That being said, I have no intention of keeping items (or expecting my Asst. to) for more than 60 days; you claim it in 30 and collect or send money to mail it within 60 or it gets trashed. That is the new policy.

I do not consent to be a storage facility for irresponsible burners.

If someone disagrees, you are welcome to take over L&F responsibilities. § As the new Volunteer Coordinator I'm not even sure why Lost Items, which are MOOP, are under the coordination duties of the Volunteer Coordinator, as it has zero to do with recruiting volunteers. Managing L&F takes up most

of Sunday yelling at people to get their belongings - precious time that could be used to recruit and train new Exodus volunteers.

Things to Look Forward to:

Roving Recruiters in Full Swing!

OVEN (Official Virgin Education Network)

Flashy Sexy Volunteer Signage

It may be time for a new structure as the poles in the current structure kept falling down § (Not sure how to move forward with this.)

New schedule boards!

Budget:

Approved: \$1415

Actual: Pretty close; unsure of final costs on Amazon orders, but around \$1400.

Planning Committee - Spring 2015

(Owsla)

Good:

Our system continues to work. We had a great burn with few planning problems. Budgets were reviewed and approved in proper time. Most planning issues were discussed and resolved using the normal process.

Bad:

We had to do an otherwise avoidable emergency vote to ensure reserve tickets for necessary personnel. The issue of some departments not having enough reserve tickets for their necessary personnel should have been brought up earlier in the cycle so that it could have gone through the normal process.

Ugly:

No ugly.

Next time:

Try to keep communication with departments and coordinators more active so that we don't have avoidable last minute adjustments. Continue to encourage more people to participate in the planning committee.

Planning Committee - Fall 2015

(Owsla)

The Good:

Meetings progressed apace, usually running just over one hour each. The stacking protocol has continued to work well to keep discussions organized.

The few confusions/disagreements about proper procedure that came up this cycle were able to be resolved on-call, keeping the system working and all departments supported by the PC (especially in terms of budget approval issues).

The Bad:

The minutes for August's PC meeting were posted only in a summary form, not following the more extensive form that's regularly used. This caused a bit of confusion with the BOD Treasurer, who later needed to verify approved budgets from August with the PC Coordinator in separate emails. Moving forward the plan is to adhere to the longer form of minutes for clarity.

There was/is some confusion over the protocol for budget submissions from a department. Though officially a single department, two separate budgets were submitted with the expectation that they would be reviewed and voted on as separate entities. The current PC Coordinator (Owsla) would like to keep to the standard of departments submitting a single, coherent budget.

We have not had a BOD member on a PC call since March 2015. (Note: There's no requirement for BOD members to be on PC calls, but it is desirable for communication and helps to keep these sections of the PDF organization informed and working in concert.)

The Ugly:

Nothing ugly to speak of.

Pony Wrangler - Fall 2015

(Rev Dave)

Found a team of experienced artists who delivered a spectacular pony that burned beautifully.

Purchasing - Spring 2015

(Hatter)

This will be my last burn as the Purchasing coordinator. Please welcome Jim as the new coordinator. I will be remaining as asst for fall just to answer questions and help transition, but otherwise Jim is the guy. Also, I apologize for not getting this posted earlier.

The Good:

- Carts were delivered and picked up without issue.
- Jim did a good job taking up the return of items and getting them all to where they needed to go since I had to leave on Saturday.

The Bad:

- Water had 19 bottles delivered instead of 10. Not sure why, we were not charged for the extras nor did we use them.

- 9 of the 19 bottles went missing between the time were stacked at the club house on Monday and picked up Tuesday. We will be charged the deposits for the missing bottle, however I have not heard back from Culligan how much.

- It took from May 28th to June 17th for the BOD to respond to multiple requests to contact the Vets about this issue. Most of that time with little to know responses from emails sent. I feel that there should have been better response time.

The Ugly:

- Nothing that wasn't taken care of.

Changes:

- Jim will be renting a van and ordering water coolers and bottles locally and transporting them to PDF himself in order to save money for the next burn. It will also ensure that bottles don't go missing when left over night before pickup.

- Jim is also looking into taking on Revs suggestion of doing an amazon wish list and having a single point of purchase and transportation for purchased items. More to come on that in the following meetings.

Purchasing - Fall 2015

(Jim)

Water:

no issues and appropriate amounts ordered - flawless delivery and pickup as scheduled using Culligan Water.

Golf Carts:

Ordered six (6) passenger carts. Pricing was fine but had delivery issues as noted in Hatter's Incident Report (below).

Had a brief maintenance issue with one cart and will address parameters on how to deal with down carts for future burns. Will investigate what to do if a cart becomes inoperative during the weekend.

Hatter's Incident report follows (all uses of "I" refer to Hatter):

Carts usually show up around 9-10am on Thursday so they can be used throughout the day for setup. When they weren't there by noon I had called Jon and asked about it. He said the paperwork was picked up and they should be on the way. 3 came and still nothing and I think that is when you called? Or someone called and they said they were an hour out.

Around 4 they showed up and the guy delivering them said he wasn't coming back with the second load tonight. When confronted about it he basically left mid sentence and got in his truck to leave. I was able to get the spare keys from him before he left, but he damn near hit several people in front of the ticketing booth while pulling out and then sped away like a total asshat. I went to each of the departments and worked out the best way to distribute the carts, ticketing agreed to share their cart

with parking so parking could have a second one, and part station gave up their cart for the night. All departments were understanding and worked together to resolve the issue which was AWESOME!

I called Jon again and he basically said there was nothing he could do about it. But he would talk to the owner and get back to me. We basically pay to have the carts from Friday - Monday. They have been delivering them on Thursday morning and not charging us for years now, so I kind of understand why they would be hesitant to offer additional discounts.

The next morning the owner showed up with the additional carts and apologized for the driver's behavior, who happened to be his nephew, but didn't offer any sort of discount or anything. Honestly at that point, I was just happy we had the carts.

So that's basically the gist of what happened. If you decide to continue with easy lift, it might be worth having a conversation with Jon and seeing what can be done to guarantee delivery on Thursday. It might mean paying a few extra bucks per cart, but having all the carts delivered Thursday morning is kind of essential so it might just be what we have to do.

___ End of Hatter's Incident Report.

Future Purchasing:

as the new Purchasing Coordinator I will work with Dave and Patty to put a process in place where I can facilitate purchases for coordinators with approved budgeted purchases. o This process will take shape and be communicated to all coordinators by early 2016.

Rangers - Spring 2015

(Mythic)

The Good

Golf Cart- The Coordinators made use of the cart for set up and tear down, and during the event, the Coordinators-on-Comm regularly made rounds to the back field, and were able to respond to calls quickly, using the cart.

Ranger Training on Friday evening had excellent attendance and we continue to add and train new Rangers to our ranks. We are in the process of revamping our manuals and expect to have that process completed by Fall.

This burn was largely calm and quiet. We had the usual types of calls and we continue to find that the F.L.A.M.E. process is working well.

This year, Rangers made and posted ~55 posters regarding Consent and how to find a Ranger. We had zero consent calls this year. So far, we have not heard of any troubling reports. We will continue this program in the future.

The Not-so-Bad

Lost and Found - we continue to find that the Ranger box seems to be popular for Lost and Found. This really isn't a good solution. We would like to request Participation Station budget for a locked box to keep cameras/phones/etc.

The Ugly

Our entire stock of t-shirts and hats was commandeered by the rodent population of the playa as their favored nesting ground. Mice were able to get into our lock box and completely destroyed the contents. We will therefore need to completely replenish our stock of t-shirts and hats for Fall. This is an opportunity to redesign our t-shirts.

Budget

We were under on budget this year - partly because we didn't need much this burn and partly because people did a lot of volunteer printing for us this year (Manuals, etc.).

We budgeted \$50 for water, ice, snacks, and spent about \$35.

As noted, no "office supplies" were purchased, but we do need to refill our supply of these items so they will be purchased in the Fall.

Rangers - Fall 2015

(Mythic)

The Good:

We had a total of 48 Rangers, 14 of them brand new Rangers, attend Ranger Training on Friday night. Training has been expanded to include small group :break-out sessions where newer Rangers work with veterans in role playing exercises that cover the most common situations our Rangers encounter in the field.

We debuted our Ranger Field Guide in response to prior requests that we trim down the Ranger Manual to a more manageable, pocket size that covers Field essentials. Overall response was very positive. The full length Ranger Manual was available at all times in Ranger HQ.

Some shifts were more eventful than others but we encountered nothing extraordinary. The Coordinators made good use of the cart before official opening of the site for set-up, during the burn for expediting communication / responding quickly where situations warranted it, and during tear down. The new location for Ranger Station worked out well in terms of being more centrally located and having greater visibility in the community. In addition, the quieter location worked out very well in many ways including easier communication during training as well as throughout the burn.

In previous years, there had been some troubling reports of incidents of inappropriate behavior and/or touching, and people feeling uncomfortable but unable or unaware of what to do about it. These reports usually surfaced after the burn on social media. After doing some post-hoc finding out, it seemed to us that this was a combination of people not knowing that a Ranger could help them in this situation, how to find a Ranger when they needed one, and participants not recognizing when they needed help. In response, for the last two burns we have posted "Consent" education posters in porta-potties and other visible locations, in an effort to empower and educate our community about this core idea as well as how Rangers can help and where to find us.

The Bad/Ugly:

There really wasn't much in this category. There remains concern that there should be more locations to call for a Ranger if needed or ways to make Rangers on duty more visible. It seems we can do more to educate and empower the community on what their rights are, and how a Ranger can help them without changing the nature of who the Rangers are. The Ranger Coordination Team will continue to discuss ways of addressing these issues.

Budget

We came in \$85 under budget. The loss of our entire inventory of t-shirts due to a rodent infestation was mitigated somewhat by the partial replenishment of our inventory (we had 50 t-shirts printed and 12 hats; 12 shirts remain).

Sanctuary - Fall 2015

(Jen Dublin)

The good:

There was a sanctuary space! That alone is good news because it was definitely needed and used. I think it was helpful and comforting to many people, for a variety of reasons.

Location next to MASH. I think this gives participants and volunteers peace of mind knowing that we have that support close by. MASH volunteers were very helpful, attentive, and supportive.

Infrastructure. The area stayed dry, the cots were nice, and there were blankets and pillows.

The bad:

Many people didn't know where we were, what purpose sanctuary served, or that there even was a sanctuary. Several participants told me that they couldn't find it when they needed it. My suggestion is to create larger and more prominent signage in front of the area, nearer to MASH's sign.

The position next to the stage was quite loud, sometimes making it hard to have conversations with the individuals who needed sanctuary. One suggestion is to place it on the further side of MASH. The provided lighting was very dim, only two lights which rotates through colors. With the darkness, low overhead, and color changing lights it was not a great environment. My suggestion is to have brighter yellowish/white lights.

Seating: there was no seating for volunteers or friends of the person in sanctuary. It would be nice to have some chairs for outside of the space (so volunteers can be out greeting people) as well as some little stools for people to sit next to the cots.

The ugly:

Flaky volunteers. On Sunday night only one of four (I believe) volunteer shifts showed up.

Reflections:

All things considered, I think the basics are covered but there is room for improvement. I think volunteers could benefit from "sanctuary" training as well.

Sound - Spring 2015

(Blizzard)

The Good:

- Zero neighbor complaints or police reports again, this makes at least 3 consecutive years with no external sound issues.
- Nearly everyone remained well within levels the entire weekend, so even with 5 approved night time sound camps, everyone appeared happy with the overall sound footprint. Props to Devin at Eat and Beat for setting levels Friday afternoon - set it and forget it!
- At least two other camps were allowed to play past midnight as they kept their systems turned low enough not to even bother measuring the levels.
- Checking in at least twice an evening, the Vets at front and back Gate overnight guard duty were always happy with the levels. One had asked a camp to turn their bass down just a little, they did so happily, and he was pleased with the entire encounter.
- On Saturday and Sunday, all camps had subs off before even starting up again after the burns. Awesome.
- There were some awesome volunteers, some delivered by passenger bicycle. I don't believe any were repeats from the previous year, but at least one will be a repeat in the fall. One volunteer in particular was even a Sound Patrol evangelist when repeatedly asked about her radio (are you rangers?)

The Meh:

- Decadance and Barrel of Fun initial speaker placements. There was some concern that Decadance would disturb some of the Vets too much, and therefore their speakers were rotated to point more into their own camp. Barrel of Fun had their speakers pointed out the back gate and were turned to face the Porta Potties (which in turn pointed them at Camp Contact tents). Both camps were happy to accommodate these alterations.

The Bad:

- Friday around 9:30 I went around to all camps and reminded them to disable the subs at 10PM. I hosted an event from 10PM until 11:15 (the Sound Patrol volunteer at that time was also hosting the same event, and thus unable to patrol). At 11:20, I proceeded to walk around and turn every single subwoofer in the event off. Luckily, this did NOT happen the following nights.
- Volunteer time slots don't match up well to the burn schedule. The current start of 10PM works on a fast Pony burn, or a fast art burn, but otherwise is not an appropriate time to train and hand off equipment. Also having volunteers already wandering just before times where Sound Restrictions change would be beneficial
- Back Field had generators and music going after 10PM. Most all generators were of the quiet variety, and music was generally at low levels so as to not cause any real issues.
- 5AM Monday morning howling from the back field was irritating to numerous individuals. If we have enough volunteers, wandering through the front and back fields should occur at least once an hour, but is not viable when there is only 1 active Sound Patroller.

The Ugly:

- Friday night on the Stage, a live performance after 10PM had both the subwoofer on and a sound level measured at 82dB at 50' (which is over daytime max levels). In order to NOT stop the performance, I disabled the subwoofer myself and attempted to have the performers turn the volume down. This was only partially effective, and luckily did not cause any problems. For future events, contacting the Stage Coordinator pre-event and scheduling level checks prior to live performances will be in order.
- One individual in the back field took offense to instructions to disable a generator and turn down their speaker system after midnight on Sunday (policy states NO generators or amplified sound after 10PM), making their displeasure verbally known and not agreeing that they would comply. The individuals' camp-mates were much friendlier and accommodating, avoiding what could easily have become a situation needing Ranger and BOD involvement.

The Rest:

- Prior to the event I began working on the 'Sound Marshal Manual' to document what and when the Sound Coordinator needs to do for things to run smoothly. Having that done pre-event allowed me to see a few things that need added or altered post-event.
- The CM-130 dB meters should be recalibrated. This will entail either purchasing a dB calibration device (which is very expensive for our needs), or sending the meters to be calibrated professionally (I do not know the cost of this yet). Meters should be calibrated every 1-2 years, and 3 of our meters are at least 3 years old.
- It may be beneficial for Sound Patrol to implement a Log Book, for both signing out equipment and for logging any incidents of interest during volunteers' shifts.
- Sound may also request one or two official Co-Coordinator with Reserve Ticket slots to fill the following rolls - Ownership of one entire night as acting 'Sound Marshal', including training of volunteers that evening; Sound Application review and selection (currently only I approve all sound camps); succession planning.

Budget:

- Budgeted / Actual : \$102 / \$95.51 (\$6.49 under budget)

Current Projected Budget Items

- 1 PX-777 replacement belt clip (~\$10)
- Aweek 2-Pack MSC-20B Walkie Talkie Case Pouch - (~\$13)
- 2 screws and 1 belt clip for Dakota radios (~\$, do we have any at other departments?)
- 1 better quality shoulder remote with 3.5mm headphone jack and better clip (taking recommendations on this item from others).
- Yellow Spraypaint (~\$6, unless we have some stashed somewhere already)

Questions for Other Departments

- DPW : Do we have any Yellow Spraypaint for tagging equipment?
- Ticketing : There is a Checkmate CM-130 in Ticketing supplies. Is that considered Ticketing property for inventory purposes, or should Sound take ownership of this?
- Rangers, anyone with Dakota Radios : Do you have extra, or know where to purchase, screws and belt clips for the Dakota radios (I have one that needs 2 screws and the clip)

Sound - Fall 2015

(Blizzard)

Executive summary: Mostly positive with a few blips to iron out.

The Good:

(some copy/paste from last time, with embellishment)

Zero neighbor complaints or police reports again, this makes at least 4 consecutive years with no external sound issues. o Nearly everyone remained well within levels the entire weekend. DJs were happy to do whatever was necessary to get in levels when asked.

Few complaints made it to my radio, and all were resolved amicably. Always remember, you can always ask (nicely) too, it's the neighborly thing to do!

On Saturday and Sunday, all camps had subs off before even starting up again after the burns. Awesome.

Some awesome volunteers, and MANY on some nights. Word of mouth even brought in a few!

Found an individual interested in taking one Co-Coordinator position whom I am in contact with.

The vets were given a radio to be able to contact Sound Patrol directly. This was very useful throughout the weekend, and wasn't needed too often.

No issues from the front or back fields. Camps with sound in the back only took a friendly reminder and things became nearly silent.

The Meh:

This weekend was a productive experiment. We approved all applicant sound camps (7) and found what I believe goes just past the saturation point of what the site can handle with the current sound policy. At this number, proper placement of camps to eliminate cross noise becomes difficult, there become zones of 'very loud noise' which are difficult to sleep in, and the overall footprint, even within levels, pushes the bounds of the property, leaving little room for mistakes. Optimally in the future, 5-6 camps (possibly INCLUDING Stage) should be approved. This WILL unfortunately lead to camps, even ones who behave, being denied in the future (something which I would prefer more community involvement deciding). o Some levels crept up over the evenings, necessitating more constant monitoring than we like late night / early morning.

Multiple series of loud pops late one night. The sound was not from inside our event or by any of our participants. Sweet.

Scheduling volunteers for the start of Sound Turn down at 10PM is difficult for Saturday/Sunday nights, as the burns take precedence. Will need to find an alternate method for staffing these shifts (earlier training, repeat volunteers, etc.) This is one of the more crucial times for volunteers, as we can assist sound camps as they start back up after the burns finish (subs, levels, etc.) and have things smooth from the start.

The radio we gave the vets was turned back in to Front Gate. As its one of the only fully functional ancient Dakotas sound currently has, will need to remember to require.

The Bad:

Late night / Early morning one camp switched systems and their levels jumped (on a smaller system) because of this. It was called in on radio from the front, handled quickly and graciously, but something everyone should keep in mind when switching decks/amps/speakers/etc.

Due in part to the difficulty of placing the large number of sound camps, a three way intersection was created. This causes some sound competition and overriding each other (even inadvertently), as well as neighboring areas that are extremely loud. Reducing the total number of camps to 5-6 and an awareness of this for placement purposes should help keep that from happening again.

Life happened and I was super late getting approvals out to Sound Camps. Sorry!

The Ugly:

A repeat issue from last year, partially caused by my unwillingness to interrupt a live performance. The stage was extraordinarily loud Friday night from 10PM-Midnight, which likely affected the entire front

field. I need to talk with the Stage Coordinator so we can agree on expectations for both when it comes to the stage. I have a few different ideas on how to do this, so I think we can find a solution.

Thank You!:

Pretty much every DJ out there for working with us, and for getting me to dance more than I have in many a burn.

Hatter for having everything run smooth on the PDF Website for me without even a reminder.

Whiplash for the awesome laminates that magically appear for us.

Volunteers that got it! Thanks a bunch, soon I'll be able to sit back and let things run themselves some nights!

The camp who picked up and moved on their own when they found they were in quiet camping, but didn't want to be quiet. That's dedication!

The entire quiet camping back field for being so peaceful and quiet. I actually stopped to talk more because of that too. And no, the 'Quiet Camping' sign wasn't a prank o Everyone else who helps make this happen

Budget:

Budgeted / Actual : \$31 / \$27.35

Stage - Spring 2015

(Smelly Melly & mmmBobby)

I can't really report on how the stage went thru the weekend, it worked as far as I can tell after incident happened that stage coordinator left PDF on Saturday afternoon. All of PDF's owned equipment and all equipment donated by the former stage coordinator were left onsite when current cord. left on Saturday. All equipment came home for storage to Melody (Smelly Melly)'s home to be stored until Fall burn and new coordinator is found.

I will be doing an inventory of equipment and will be budgeting to get equipment to Fall burn, however, I do not have any idea on how to hook stuff up, nor do I desire to be stage cord, so, actual stage cord. will need to be found. I am okay with storing equipment and have space to do so at this time.

(mmmBobby)

For the spring 2015 burn my official report is as follows

Setup went well all equipment functioned properly and acts performed as planned Friday and Saturday.

Saturday I had to leave early due to one of my drivers being removed from the event due to an issue with the BOD

Therefore I had to breakdown my personal equipment as I couldn't allow someone else to drive home a loaned truck full of my equipment.

I did leave the equipment that pdf owns and left 6 xlr cables of mine that will be replaced.

as for the status of the stage after my departure I didn't hear much I did ask Ryan Birmingham to keep an eye on it as he showed an Interest in being a co coordinator. Also I understand the equipment that pdf owns went home with melody and is currently being stored at her house

Theme Camp Placement - Spring 2015

(Heidi)

Good:

Yes, it was good!

Ugh:

One group set up in another Camps Reserved area. Another two groups squeezed on the side of road (between Tiki and Figment of Imagination). They were asked to move and did (with various levels of being pleasant about it)

Needs improvement:

Art Grant Placement. At least 3 pieces of art were placed on the map, but were actually not art for this Spring. Some artist decided to just put their art in their own Theme Camp. Those spaces could have been used for other things. Next time Art Grant Coordinator should review the map and makes corrections before the event.

Reminders

Sound: To be fair to all camps be sure not to increase the number of Loud Sound Camps . No Theme Camp wants to be placed next to a Sound Camp (not a quiet camp or even another Sound Camp) Sounds Camps put a strain on all Camps. The sound competes with the events at their own camp.

Map: There is only one official map. There are many knock-offs, silly maps and maps that have been altered by unofficial folks. The one and only official map is located at the bottom of this page. <http://playadelfuego.org/theme-camps>. It is updated just days before the event with a version number at the bottom. This may be important for serious location matters for MASH, Rangers and other official business.

Next time:

- Heidi will be taking on even less of role in Theme Camp Coordination/Placement. Miles and Katia are taking on more responsibility.
- Remind Camp placed in 4e that they can not expand on to neighbors property, even though it is mowed. A tape mark was clearly placed, but the camp spewed over (they happily moved when asked).
- Remind Gate/Greeters that they should tell “first timers” where Open Camping is. Show them the map and make sure they know where they are driving and setting up.

Theme Camp Placement - Fall 2015

(Katherine)

GOOD:

Yes, it was good!

Grounds and weather were good for setup Thursday (11am to 3pm -ish). There was a long muddy gash in the ground running diagonally through Field 3, which was taped/blocked off when we arrived, but the tape came down soon after we got onsite and the mud dried out significantly over the course of the day.

We arrived to find Rangers and Participation Station structures set up in their new location. We were able to successfully work out placement details via emails among the involved coordinators. I'm under the impression everyone was happy with the result coming into the Fall 2015 Burn. However, we continue to remain flexible with placement in case of future changes/needs/concerns/ideas. Every burn, every mix, every map, is unique.

BAD:

Not really bad even, more like "could be improved"

I had to leave the Burn after Thursday setup. Bummer, as this was my first time in the Co-Coordinator role and I wanted to see it through the weekend and handle any necessary follow-up or questions. But Heidi held it down and reported no issues, thanks Heidi!

We had a few instances of crew members driving over road markings during setup, dragging away our hard work! We ask all fellow participants onsite Thursday to please be mindful of our setup process and watch the tape, it rips and trails easily, as you may have noticed!

We had a few last minute applicants cutting it really close with the deadline, which appeared to have been extended a day due to some confusion with which midnight it should have cut off on. I will clarify and communicate more prominently for next Burn.

We were passed along some information just a few days before the Burn about Art Grant recipients who wanted placement but didn't submit the application. That's unfortunate, as we try to put a priority on placing Art and having it listed in the printed maps. But we can only place your fabulous Art if you reach out to us! So please get your applications in. If any questions arise, whether before or after the placement deadline, please reach out to themecamps@playadelfuego.org.

UGLY:

I hope no one thought so! But if you did, please reach out to themecamps@playadelfuego.org to start a dialogue.

Please keep in mind, we get a lot of requests for specific spots, many for the same spot even. We do our best with the unique set of inputs for the Burn at hand. The more information you provide in your Theme Camp or Art Placement application, the better equipped we will be to place you and your neighbors too!

EXPENSES:

Budget \$75.00 / Actual \$51.81 / Variance \$23.19 (didn't need to buy skewers because we found some left over from previous Burn)

NEXT TIME:

We'd like to work on beefing up a few signs around the grounds, like the one at the foot bridge that says "No Cars," possibly attaching them to wooden signposts that could be driven into the ground to make them more visible and secure.

I will gain clarification from Hatter on the application deadline from the systems side of things. Ideally we can firm up the exact cutoff of the live online application, which I will then work on blasting via all outlets!

Ticketing - Spring 2015 (Smartie Martie)

The Good...

- Yay for volunteers, who showed up, we could not have made the event happen without your time and support. Thank you!
- My new Assistant Coordinator Nyk was super helpful with his time divided between Greeters and Gate.
- All of the G.O.D.'s were awesome this burn and picked up extra shifts.
- The modified wristband ticketing dispenser work out well.
- Resource Materials at the Gates went well. Volunteer shifts(Ticketing, Greeters, and Parking), Communication Log, FAQ, Wristband Log (only at Ticketing), Official Theme Camp Map (PDF WWW Copy) , Unofficial PDF map (Participants fill in onsite), Wristband Guides, Theme Camp Leader Roster
- On Thursday late evening the Gates stayed open til 2:30 A.M., due to a bad traffic accident on Rt 9, which cause a detour to participants on their way to PDF.
- The volunteers seemed to like the water coolers, snack tote, bacon, hot and cold beverages.
- The extra stakes came in handy for roping off the mini construction site.
- Participants were able to drive into the event for gear drop off on Friday, Saturday, and for gear pick up on Sunday and Monday.
- Extra signage.
- Inventory has been completed, and will be updated online.
- Several copies of the wristband guide were given to The Vets.
- The Vets watched the Gates.
- No complaints or calls from neighbors about sound.

The Challenges for this PDF...

- Volunteer no shows during high volume check in times.
- The Vets mini construction project in the Front Gate parking lots, which caused changes to the flow of traffic, and parking for Ticketing check in. In the future, during high volume check in times, adding an extra volunteer slot for the Flagger position will alleviate some of the traffic control issues. Additionally, roping off areas more clearly, extra signage, more stakes, and a staple gun with staples.
- Participation Station was not being fully operational for the full duration of the event.
- On Thursday, during high check-in period, was carry in only, for participants.

The Ugly...

- Nothing ugly really happened

Budget items

Item Budgeted Cost Actual Cost

Totes	50.00	28.00
Snacks, coffee, tea	125.00	125.00
Ice from Vets	20.00	20.00
Gas	20.00	13.00

Spray paint (yellow) 20.00 5.00

The rest of my items on my budget was ordered by the BOD through online distributors.

General Topics

-A participant wanted to charge their vehicle on site late Friday evening. I asked the participant to wait to charge his vehicle, til the morning for clarification on this matter. Pineapple explained, that PDF pays for the electricity for the event and that would be up to the PDF BOD, or PC, and it's something that should be discussed in your group. I was unable to find participant for further discussion on this matter.

-Laminates were not showing up until after the event officially started. My understanding was there was a change in coordinators at the last minute and miscommunication. It would be helpful if the laminates arrived earlier for the event.

Observations of Participation Station

Communications

-Not on comm, until received radios from Gate Coordinator.

-Very hard to communicate over the radio to Participation Station volunteers, due to the placement, which is next to the sound stage. Did they have their base station or a radio, operational or available, to utilize?

-Sign up boards showed up sometime on Friday. Prior to the sign up, boards showing up, no backup copy of volunteer sign-ups was available at Participation Station, for coordinators to refer to, for volunteer sign-ups.

-Coordinator not on site for the duration of the event.

Lost and Found

-No lost and found lockbox, which was at Fall PDF 2014.

Volunteer Raffle For Reserved Tickets to PDF

-Were the volunteer raffle tickets even given out or turned in by volunteers, for the volunteer raffle for Spring PDF 2015?

-Why does the participant have to walk over to the Participation Station to receive volunteer raffle ticket?

-Has there been any record of how many volunteer raffle ticket entries per burn? So the community can see if this is being utilized by our volunteers and the odds of obtaining a reserved ticket for the volunteer raffle.

-When I communicate to the volunteers to enter into the volunteer raffle, sometimes volunteers do not know anything about the volunteer raffle.

-Sometimes volunteers forget to go back to Participation Station, to enter into the volunteer raffle.

-Sometimes the volunteer raffle tickets do not show up, until Saturday afternoon.

-Is there a way, we could maybe, on Wednesday evening or Thursday morning, distribute the volunteer raffle tickets to Department Coordinators, to distribute to their department volunteers. If the Department Coordinator wishes, he or she, may collect the raffle tickets and maybe he or she can turn in the volunteer raffle tickets. On the other hand, the volunteer can be responsible for turning in his or her, volunteer raffle ticket to Participation Station.

Hopefully, improvements and transparency will follow with Participation Station, under the new leadership of April Joy,

Ticketing Numbers

Tickets sold: 1363

Tickets checked in: 1313

Tickets not checked in: 50

Suggestions from Gate

- During high volume check in times, adding an extra volunteer slot for the Flagger position will alleviate some of the traffic control issues. Additionally, roping off areas more clearly, extra signage, more steaks, and staple gun with staples.
- Modifying the ticketing system to a similar ticketing system as Lakes of Fire Regional Burn.
- More communication between everyone.
- Placing more lights in the front lots for more visibility in the evening hours.
- Have laminates arrive on Wednesday evening, so departments can prepare for volunteers with name and shifts.
- Slip n Slide participants/Camp 215: Could it be possible to make an announcement at the beginning of the event to remind participants "Please, if you lose your wristband during the slip n slide, please go to the front gate with your ID to obtain a new wristband. Thank You"
- Volunteer Treat for volunteers: mini charging station at volunteer stations with electrical capabilities.
- Adding an additional assistant coordinator. so there is one Asst Cord for beginning of PDF, and one Asst Cord for ending of PDF. Then we can break up some of the on site responsibilities and duties. Would like to request an additional reserved ticket for this recently created position.
- Having participants with a special needs dog pre registering online.

What Where When - Spring 2015

(Miss Fidget)

Good:

- Delivery of guides to site before gates opened was successful. Delivery and data dump team members had no complaints.
- Vondervixen is gaining experience in "how it all works" will become more active lead in the future (yall are great but I don't want to be a lead, but I will support the lead and lurk)
- Editrix Vondervixen and Miss Fidget's work and travel schedules meant there was a ridiculously short amount of time to create the book but we did it.
- Miss Fidget will complete the "How to Create a WWW" before next issue, print lead confusion makes it tricky
- Printer provided valuable info about how total number of pages in guide affects margins which will be applied next issue
- For continuity the WWW might prefer to continue using Alphagraphics for printing, they "know" our job and Karnak our driver has a near perfect record of on-time delivery. Finding a new printer may mean finding a new delivery person and our current system works.

-If Alphagraphics has trouble getting paid I said I would help them, not sure how, but I will.

Bad/Ugly:

-WWW acknowledges and apologizes for typo on bug out time, (2 pm instead of 12 pm) but look at all the stuff we got correct!

-transition of Print Coordinator from Ranger Buckita to Whiplash caused confusion compounded by Whiplash not getting vital emails. This confusion didn't affect WWW as much as laminates and ranger manuals. Having multiple printers for materials may cause unintended consequences in the future.

-Confusion about due date for submissions to be included in print version due to transition/evolution in event communications. Approx due date for Oct. was included in the Guide's footer to help next issue

-user feedback indicates persistent issue w/ "Legacy Theme Camp Data" which means Theme Camps that wish to "carry over" old descriptions don't get them carried over. Web team has been alerted to for some time. The WWW is unable to contact every camp to double check they are still a camp/haven't changed names.

-Getting an updated Grand Unified Doc earlier would be nice. Perhaps tie that deadline to round two ticket sales. The covers, theme, and front of book are always completed in advance of submission deadlines.

-Getting a reserve ticket for the Print Coordinator and WWW Editor would be ideal and recognize the vital contributions of these volunteers and it appears like it is going to happen which is super duper and pleases me.

What Where When - Fall 2015

(Erika V)

The Good:

We had the requisite amount of WWWs on site, eventually.

We also got the final theme camp map into the printed WWW. Plus, a crossword puzzle!

So far as I know, no names were misspelled, although one person complained online about a misplaced comma.

Also, the printer was paid before the booklets were picked up, thanks to Patty.

The Bad

Some people said to me "I submitted my event online but it didn't make it into the WWW. Likely they didn't get it in on time, but at least one person got their theme camp in, but not their event or vice versa. I'm not sure if it is because people are flaky or if there is a problem with the online submission system. I suspect the former rather than the latter.

Also, I need to do a better job of publicizing the submission deadline. "4 weeks before the event" is not sufficient. I'm sure if I asked nicely, somebody on the web team would add something to the site. Also, I'll put it on the book of faces.

The Ugly

The WWWs didn't show up until Friday afternoon. There was a miscommunication, emails bounced, maybe it was because mercury was in retrograde. But they did arrive, eventually.

Going forward, Fidget, Whiplash, and I are discussing using a different printer. We had been using the printer in Alexandria because Claire Liston had a business account there, but she wants to take a step back. For this burn, we were successful in getting the printer paid before the booklets were picked up, therefore it is likely we could develop a good relationship with a printer in the Philly area, which would be more convenient for Miss Fidget or Whiplash or myself to pick them up on the way to the burn.