

Little darling, it's been a long cold lonely winter
Little darling, it feels like years since it's been here

Here comes the sun, here comes the sun
And I say it's all right

Little darling, the smiles returning to the faces...

Yes boys and girls, it is ALMOST HERE! Only 5 sleeps to go until we join our family and soak up the sun. YES! There WILL be sun! Or...at least according to the current weather report...

This edition is jam packed with information that you want to know for Spring PDF 2015. Yes, it's long, like our cold, lonely winter...except that everything here will give you warm fuzzies. These updates should help you get even more excited and prepared for what is shaping up to be an amazeballs Burn!

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1. SPRING EVENT DATE

Playa del Fuego will be held at the Vietnam Veterans Motorcycle Club of Delaware on Memorial Day weekend from Thursday, May 21st at 5pm through Monday, May 25th at 12 noon.

2. TICKETING HOURS

Come one, come all...but only during these hours! Yes folks, the gate DOES close, so please show up during the hours listed below. You will NOT be allowed in to the festival if you show up outside of these hours:

Thursday 5pm – Friday 2am

Friday 9am – Saturday 2am

Saturday 9am – Saturday 8pm (Closed for Pony Burn)

Sunday - CLOSED (please know that if you show up Sunday, you will still be able to get your wrist band, you will just have to wait for a GOD to come to the gate).

Monday – CLOSED

3. WEATHER AND SITE UPDATE

After a number of soggy, muddy, and rainy Burns, it appears that the Man is smiling on us this year. We are almost afraid to say it, but the weather looks AMAZING!

We have a current report from the site (huge shout out to our DPW team; please give Yeti an Smartie Martie mad love for making the trek out to the VVMC in their limited free time to give us this information):

“The site ground looks good as of this morning for weather conditions, which can change due to weather.”

It does appear there may be some rain prior to the event, but the forecast at this point looks delicious. As always, things change, and ALWAYS prepare for rain and mud...but don't forget your sunscreen (and bug spray...) this year!

4. VOLUNTEER SIGNUPS CLOSING SOON

Volunteer schedules close on the Sunday before PDF (Sunday, 5/17 at 11:59pm); if you want to sign up on-site you can do so at the Participation Station near the Stage. Sign up today! Volunteering is sexy and all that jazz, but more importantly, your contribution in terms of man hours is what makes PDF happen.

<http://tickets.playadelfuego.org/schedules/>

5. WWW AND THEME CAMP MAP NOW AVAILABLE

Yes! Our printed What When Where and Theme Camp Map are ready for you to check out! Hey all you Type A's out there, you'll want to take advantage of this while you plan your burn minute by minute. Or maybe that's just me...

<http://playadelfuego.org/content/print-www>

<http://playadelfuego.org/content/spring-2015-placement-map-now-available>

6. NEW SOUND POLICY

Given our improved track record with managing sound, the PDF Sound Policy has been revamped. In a nutshell:

- a) Anyone can play amplified sound from 10am to 10pm, keeping it to 80dB at 50 ft
- b) Quiet Camping aka both the front and back fields and anyone who has not been approved for nighttime sound must turn music off at 10pm and remain off until 10am.
- c) Here are the approved night time sound camps:
 - a) Barrel of Fun
 - b) Decadance
 - c) Eat and Beat
 - d) Tiki
 - e) Whiskey and Whores
 - f) Camp Sexy (but only for Burlague on Friday night)
- d) The Sound Rule! If someone asks you to turn down, do so IMMEDIATELY. then find the Sound Patrol and/or Sound Marshal to straighten things out. They're on Channel 4 on the radios ranger and coordinators have, or likely hanging around Camp Sexy.

Approved night time camps have been emailed by the Sound Marshall with their nighttime restrictions.

For more information on the updated Sound Policy, visit <http://playadelfuego.org/sound-policy>

7. CONSENT!

Self Expression and Cooperation require a social contract to make our event a safe place to play. These rules apply to everyone regardless of their gender or sexual orientation. Remember that not everyone wants your attention so be courteous and always ask for consent.

What do we mean by consent? Consent is an affirmative, unambiguous, and conscious decision by each participant to engage in mutually agreed-upon activity. The consent has to be ongoing throughout any encounter. While consent is generally spoken about in terms of sexual activity, it extends beyond this at PDF - we apply the same guidelines to taking pictures of others, hugging, entering a camp's private space, etc.

While we strive to make PDF a safe place for everyone, assumptions can be made (sometimes from those who have never been to a Burn before) about what is acceptable and what is not. The following is PDF's stance on consent and "best practices" for protecting yourself and others.

- NO always means NO. Only YES means YES. Get an enthusiastic YES before proceeding with anything that might infringe on someone else's boundaries.

- After someone has said NO, cajoling, pleading, or any form of emotional blackmail is UNACCEPTABLE.

- YES can turn into a NO at anytime and that needs to be respected. You or the other person don't have to go along with something, even if it was previously agreed on. If you change your mind you should speak up, and if someone else changes their mind you should act in accordance with that new boundary.

- Before you assume someone wants your physical attentions, ASK. Being direct is OK. This includes anything from hugs, spankings, kissing, etc. Some people do not want to be touched, and that should be respected. Asking is expected protocol, and sexier than you might think. Not respecting these boundaries can be considered sexual assault, and will not be tolerated at the event.

- Respect the moment. Comfort levels vary at different times and with different people. Even if a person seems comfortable with one person touching them does not mean they are ok with everyone touching them.

- If you're not sure if what you're about to do is ok, either where you are, or who you are with, ask. Not everything is a good idea everywhere.

- Being under the influence is not an excuse for infringing on others boundaries. Consider your level of sobriety. Are you able to ask permission and respect an others boundaries? Consider the other persons level of sobriety. Are they able to give consent? TIP: You can say that you would rather wait until you both have your full judgment before doing anything you may regret later.

- Don't hesitate to check in with others around you. If someone looks uncomfortable, don't be afraid to say hello and ask how they're doing.

- If you are uncomfortable, ask for help. We are a tight knit community and look out for each other. Look around - are there friends close by? Theme camps? Random people walking around? Let them know that you aren't comfortable in the current situation.
- Rangers are trained in mediation techniques and can diffuse any number of situations. In addition, if there is a violation of your boundaries, Rangers can intervene and will keep a log of the incident in case the offending party continues this type of behavior. Assault or repeated harassment may lead to ejection from the event; reporting incidents helps us spot predators. Rangers are the cool kids walking around in khaki with walkie talkies.
- Practice saying YES as well as no. We know it can be challenging to communicate your feelings or boundaries verbally. And no one should assume they understand someone else body language. Being clear about what you want or don't want can help avoid situations where boundaries are being violated.
- Remember, respecting personal boundaries includes taking pictures or video, as well as physical and verbal interaction.

8. BURNING MAN REGIONAL STATUS UPDATE

This year, the Burning Man Project has required all events interested in being an official sanctioned event sign a use agreement policy. We are very pleased to announce that Playa del Fuego has submitted our application and expect to complete the final paperwork for this process on Monday, once again ensuring our status as the official Burning Man Mid-Atlantic Regional Burn. Many thanks to the Burning Man Project and especially Steven Ra\$pa for their guidance and willingness to work with us, and their continued faith in our organization as one of the longest standing Regional Burns.

9. BOARD NOMINATIONS OPEN

Are you someone who would like to join the Playa del Fuego Board of Directors? Do you know someone who would make a great addition to the Playa Del Fuego Board of Directors? We will begin accepting nominations for new BOD members starting TODAY! Nominations will close on Tuesday, June 30th. This will be followed by a public comment period in which community members may submit testimonials about those who have been nominations for consideration. We will be speaking with individual nominees to discuss the role of the position so that expectations are fully understood. The final selection of new directors is made by the existing board, STRONGLY taking into account community feedback and the results of the interview.

We STRONGLY encourage you to reach out to current Board Members at the BOD and Coordinator Meet and Greet, Sunday at Camp Eat and Beat (near the barn) from 2 - 3:30pm on Sunday. Board members will be around to answer any and all questions you may have. In addition, if you are unable to make this event or are still asleep from Saturday nights shenanigans, look for the Spring 2015 Mayor Dove "Starfish" Russo; she will be wandering around making herself available at all times to speak with you about joining the BOD. She can be found at Camp Sexy, walking around at night patrolling Sound, or performing as a member of the Camp Sexy Synchronized Swim Team on the Slip n Slide at 2:15 on Saturday. Just look for the giant top hat all weekend long!

The responsibility of the Playa Del Fuego Board of Directors is to handle the larger issues related to non-profit management for Playa Del Fuego, Inc. This includes:

- handling the paperwork and tax filing needed to remain in good standing as a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation
- managing the organization's finances
- supporting organizational long term goals and strategic plans, including Land Purchase, restructuring of the organization, and increasing community art grants
- managing art and community grants

You can read the minutes from past BOD retreats at <http://playadelfuego.org/node/53>

Expectations of BOD members include:

- Sign a contract agreeing to the duties and expectations
- Read the BOD minutes, bylaws, and documents prior to joining
- Attend all meetings (1x month, 1-1.5 hours)
- Attend the yearly retreat
- Respond to emails in a timely manner
- Be willing to use technological resources to communicate, manage tasks, and stay current on the goings in between meetings
- Work on additional projects outside of meetings
- Serve on sub-committees
- Work closely with the PC and Coordinators
- Be active in strategic planning and long term goals
- Work on succession planning policies for both the BOD and coordinators

While ANYONE AND EVERYONE should feel welcome to nominate ANYONE AND EVERYONE including themselves, it would be useful to the organization if

we had a number of “specialists” who were willing to serve on the BOD. These include but are not limited to:

- Individuals with backgrounds in other nonprofit work,
- Individuals who have experience with strategic planning
- Individuals who have experience with monitoring and evaluation
- Individuals with experience in grant writing
- Individuals with a legal background

Again, we welcome anyone and everyone to join; however, we feel that often there is a lack of understanding as to what the BOD does and what skills we may need. We are hoping listing these things will help to reach individuals who may not have realized they could be an asset to the organization.

PDF board members are volunteers. Despite this, BOD members are expected to be actively involved year round, starting immediately after joining. BOD members leave the board when they choose, or can no longer fulfill their responsibilities. New members are considered each year after the Spring Burn. Members may choose to take a leave of absence status if they need to take a break from their board responsibilities, but plan to return to active status in the future. Members may also choose to step down and join the newly formed Advisory Board if they wish to continue to provide input to the BOD but no longer wish to take an active role.

You may submit your nomination via e-mail to BOD Secretary Dove “Starfish” Russo (dovelette@gmail.com) with your nomination any time during the nomination period. Please include the name of the person you are nominating (both playa name and real name if possible), their e-mail address, your name, and a few sentences about why you think this person should be considered.