

# BRC WEEKLY

AUGUST 30 – SEPTEMBER 6 · 2010 · ISSUE 1  
BLACK ROCK CITY'S INDEPENDENT NEWSWEEKLY



## METROPOLIS IN FLUX

### Black Rock City embraces urbanism as the Temple goes all natural

by SCRIBE

After moving beyond its grand sociopolitical ambitions, Burning Man has finally become a city – a **Metropolis**, if you will – a relatively mature urban culture scattered around the world that unites for one glorious week in the desert. Yet this year, as we embrace our status as one of the greatest cities in the world, our Temple is a throwback to pre-civilization.

**Temple of Flux** isn't really even a temple, but five massive wooden dunes that replicate land forms and create a series of canyons and natural shelters from the



we all gravitated toward the idea of natural formations, and the more we talked about it, the more it made sense," says artist **Jess Hobbs**, who was selected by Black Rock City LLC, along with artist **Rebecca Anders** and architect **PK Kimelman**, to lead the project. "We wanted to relate Metropolis back to where we came from

"If the city was going to be architectural, then the Temple should stand in counterpoint to that, and go back to where our collective enterprise began," said PK. "Man originally sought shelter and dwelling in the land,



elements – the kind of early gathering place that our city structures replaced. The three principal artists say they knew this year's Burning Man theme would invoke architecture, so they opted to create the first Temple that wasn't a traditional building.

"Even before we discussed it together,

in caves, and in canyons, and it was only after existing in the cradle of the earth, literally, that man then started making and building structures that became more and more elaborate – and we relate to it in very much the same way we once related to the peaks and canyons."

continued inside ▶

### INSIDE:

We're baaaaaaaack!

Did you pay camp dues? You're lame

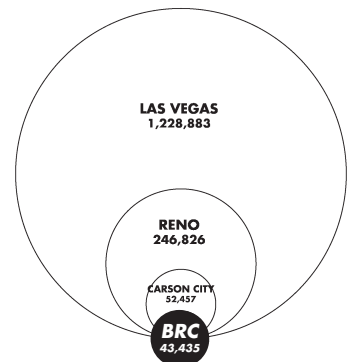
Best drug guide ever

Slow the fuck down!

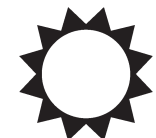
Why bunnies giving blowjobs to pirates is a good thing

The return of the infamous Out/In List

#### CITY POPULATIONS of NEVADA



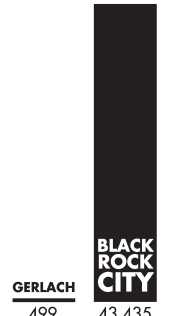
#### AVERAGE WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST



86° HIGH | 41° LOW

WIND SPEED  
7 MPH

#### LOCAL POPULATION COMPARISON



2009 statistics, infographics by FLINT HAHN

# Aaaaaaaaand ... we're back!

by ADRIAN ROBERTS

Saying "we're back" may seem a little odd for this – the inaugural issue of a brand-new Black Rock City publication. But, you should know, the *BRC Weekly* comes with a rich playa pedigree that dates back to 1995. Astute old-school Burners – and by "old-school," I actually mean pre-2007 – will likely recognize the names and faces on these pages, as well as the familiar newsprint format. The *BRC Weekly* is, after all, the successor to Black Rock City's much-loved, long-running alternative newspaper, *Piss Clear*.

## **Piss Clear is dead. Long live the BRC Weekly!**

For those who don't know, *Piss Clear* was an infamous Burning Man institution, publishing several issues – not unlike the one you're holding in your hands right now – on the playa each year. Three years ago, we decided to call it a day, and last year, a book anthology – *Burning Man Live: 13 Years of Piss Clear, Black Rock City's alternative newspaper* – was published by RE/Search.

(And by "published," I mean that, despite their logo being on the cover, I still got stuck paying out of my own pocket the entire \$11,000 printing bill.)\*



## **Just when I thought I was out, they pull me back in**

Sure, it was nice to have a couple years "off" to pursue other playa projects. We started DJing and throwing our **Bootie mashup parties** out here – which apparently, the homogenized, electronica-dominated nightlife scene in Black Rock City desperately needed, as I'll never forget the girls who ran up to us at Fandango, screaming in delight, **"OMG! MUSIC WITH WORDS!!!"**

Despite the joy of doing **Bootie BRC** though, I have to admit – I missed doing this. When so much of your "playa identity" is wrapped up in being "that sassy editor from that snarky playa rag," it's hard to let it all go. As **Buck from the Mutaytor** said to



me, "You just can't help yourself, can you? It's like a sore tooth you won't stop fucking with."

And he's right. For the past two Burns, my staff and I kept coming up with stuff – items for the "Out/In List," new "Playa Lingo" terms, bitchy rants – and ultimately, we got frustrated at not having an outlet for all our little Burner in-jokes. So ... **what was left to do but launch a new newspaper?**

ADRIAN

## **This year, we're "theme art!"**

Longtime readers of *Piss Clear* will know that we were never much of a fan of the annual contrived Burning Man "themes." So it may come as a shock to discover that part of the reason I decided to launch a new newspaper was because of this year's theme, **Metropolis**. After all, **you can't pretend to call yourself "one of the world's great cities" and NOT have an alternative newsweekly!**

So here I am, back behind the editor's desk once again, trying to produce something interesting and entertaining to read while you go to the porta-potty. And for those *Piss Clear* fans out there, you might be asking: If it's pretty much the same writers and the same newsprint, why change the name? Well ...

## **All the glory, 1/3rd of the work!**

It's not EXACTLY the same. For one thing, there's only this ONE issue. After all, it's called the *BRC Weekly*, not the *BRC Every-Other-Daily*. Why bust our asses creating multiple issues, when it seems like most of you only manage to get one edition anyway? So instead of three issues, we've decided to make just this ONE issue ... and to just print MORE of it!

This also means we don't have to deal with that OTHER pesky nuisance: the logistical nightmare of publishing out here on the playa. Nope, this time, we did it all last week, then schlepped all these papers out here on Sunday.

This also means that hopefully, you people will stop coming by our camp to pester us with "story ideas" and bad poetry. Go bother the *Black*

*Rock Beacon* with that shit.

And the biggest reason we aren't called *Piss Clear*? Did I mention "Burning Man Live," the *Piss Clear* book? If I published another issue, the book would no longer be a complete anthology, now would it?

## **It's gonna be the best year ever!**

So here I am, my 18th Burn – which feels kind of ridonkulous – and believe it or not, I'm more excited about this year than I've been in years. I feel like one of those annoying second-year Burners, full of energy and enthusiasm – a little overzealous, and little too eager, and taking on **WAY too many projects:**

- I'm publishing a playa newspaper again!
- We bought a brand-new sound system and flashy dance floor lighting for **Fandango**, and for the first time ever, we're an Esplanade theme camp!
- We've ramped up our **Bootie BRC** mashup party at **Fandango** (3:30 & Esplanade) on **Thursday night** and an encore edition at **AutoSub** (4:00 & Esplanade) on **Friday night**.
- We're also DJing at Fandango practically every day and night, including happy hours.
- We're doing a goth/ industrial mashup set during the fights next door at **Death Guild Thunderdome** on **Wednesday night**.
- We're going rogue on the **Slug Car** on **Burn Night**, throwing guerrilla-style **Bootie** mashup parties and giving the unsuspecting BRC masses some live commentary and snark.
- And in the midst of it all, we've got some drinking to do, and some partying to do ... with 48,000 of our closest friends!

In other words, this week in the desert is now more "work" than ever before.

But after 18 years, if there's one thing I've learned about Burning Man, it's this: **THE MORE YOU PUT IN, THE MORE YOU GET OUT.**

**And this year, we're ALL IN.**

We hope you are too. **BRC**

\* And hey, seeing as that I'm still in debt because of that book, I have no qualms about whoring it out on these pages. It was truly a labor of love. Jam-packed with more content than any other Burner book out there, **Burning Man Live** compiles all 34 issues of *Piss Clear*, and includes yearly chapter introductions, and additional articles.

So when you get back to the Default World, please consider buying it directly from me online at: [www.pissclear.org](http://www.pissclear.org). I'll even personally sign it for you!

## **Short list of shit I like in Black Rock City**

by ADRIAN ROBERTS

- Getting to BRC on Sunday morning
- Riding around in the Slug Car
- Fandango being on the Esplanade!
- I heart Thunderdome ... still!
- WiFi hotspots in Black Rock City
- Turning our entire Burning Man trip into a tax write-off by throwing a couple **Bootie BRC** parties out here
- Nicknaming the Temple "the Lumber Canyon"
- BRBC 99.1 solar-powered radio
- The sexy paperboy and/or papergirl who delivered you this newspaper
- Dropping E in the daytime
- Watching people read the "Burning Man Live" *Piss Clear* books scattered about in the Center Camp Café
- The Space Cowboys turning the normally-solumn Temple into a thumping rave party
- The Black Rock Film Festival at 4:00 & Ring Road, every night at sundown
- MidNite Popcorn Palace
- Warming up on a cold night at Gigsville's Car-B-Que
- Mal-Mart
- The Sapphire Portal Center with the low humming Quasar Wave at 11:11, in the deep playa



**BLACK ROCK CITY'S  
INDEPENDENT NEWSWEEKLY**

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

**Copy Editor** Eric 'ShutterSlut' Stein

**Assistant Copy Editor** Deidre Roberts

**Page 3 Columnist** Malderor

**Infographics** Flint Hahn

**Contributing Writers** Apollo, Bobzilla, Delachaux, Eggchair Steve, JohnJohn!, Orange Peel Moses, Polly Superstar, Sailor Boy, Scribe, Soulaye, Whelpley

**Comics** Ed Contradictory, Feral Hollowell

**BRC Weekly** @ Fandango Village  
3:30 & Esplanade, Black Rock City, Nevada  
[BRCWeekly.com](http://BRCWeekly.com) · [BootieBRC.com](http://BootieBRC.com)

BRC Weekly is an independently-funded, private entity, unaffiliated with the Burning Man organizers or Black Rock City, LLC.

Published by Bootie Productions, LLC,  
1450 Sutter St. #215, San Francisco, CA 94109-5418

©2010 Bootie Productions, LLC

## **Help deliver the BRC Weekly!**

We need paperboys and papergirls to help deliver the *BRC Weekly*. If you'd like to help, please stop by our offices at 3:30 & Esplanade and grab a stack to distribute around Black Rock City. It's a great way to "participate."

# You've already paid your dues

by MALDEROR

At the risk of alienating 70% of our new readership right off the bat, I have a question. Did you pay "Camp Dues" to be part of an organized theme camp this year?

Are you a complete and utter dumbfuck?

The belief that one has to pay some kind of tithe to be a part of a "theme camp" has become a citywide epidemic. It's much like people who think a "chill space" counts as a fucking art project. (Dude, you tossed off a geodesic dome with a drippy mist system and a boombox playing "downtempo dubstep". Your dome is a bullshit waste of real estate, and a "chill space" is NOT a fucking art project. You have something called an imagination. Try exercising it once in a while, you lazy fucktard.)

Where was I? Oh, right, I'm amazed when I talk to somebody

who is part of a big project or theme camp, and they tell me, "Oh, we all paid \$400 and agreed to work an eight hour shift peeling potatoes or washing seitan in order to be part of Camp Wipe-Your-Ass." These people are paying a fuckton of money for other people to handle their bacon needs? This is what you expect for your "Burning Man Experience"?

**Dude, fuck you.**

It's not like your store-bought theme camp is providing you with a 4-star hotel room. If you're lucky, your campmates might get up and make you coffee and some kind of salted pork item. But - and here's the rub for me - they should do that because they WANT to do it, not because you paid them to do it. And if they don't want to provide you with food, drink, shelter, and/or hand relief, there is probably somebody two camps over who is throwing down all of the above. And they aren't going to

ask you to take out a pre-playa loan before they share it with you.

If everybody in my village paid me \$300 bucks for the glorious privilege of camping in my presence, I could honestly take the rest of the year off. (I call this **The Larry Harvey Model™**.) Seriously, we have one of the larger villages. You know how much we demand folks pay to camp with us? Zero. Zilch. Nada.

## Remember radical self-reliance?

Your "Camp Dues" are bullshit, and they funded one of your jackass "buddies" to get here for free. With an eightball. You got taken for a ride, my dreadlocked-and-smelly friend.

We don't charge "Camp Dues." This is because we remember when there was a concept in place at the Burning Man Arts and Entertainment Festival™ where we were all radically self-reliant. Radically self-sufficient. 100% able to handle all of our own shit, without help from anybody else.



If you want to camp with us, this is what we still expect of you. We ask nothing. If you have something to share, great. Sure, we take donations for our communal bar. (And, good christ, **we could really use some donations.** We're on the Esplanade and you fuckers are drinking us DRY!)

We don't mind contributions for our generators, gas, rental truck, and so on. But we don't expect it, and it's not a requirement. Our camp does not require anything from you to be a part of us.

Burning Man, so far as I understand it, is about offering things to others. Come out here and make something, build something, do something. Don't buy into somebody else's idea of what your experience should be like.

"Each according to his abilities, each according to his needs," I think somebody said that once. If your village needs some petty cash, pass the hat, and folks will cough up what they can. It's remarkable.

We had a close friend who came out here last year for the first time, and joined a well-respected 'theme camp'. They required her to pay \$250 to camp with them, and then she had to work an eight-hour shift cooking in their kitchen. Guess what? She had an okay time, but she didn't come back this year. Does that strike you as odd? Somebody came to Burning Man and decided it was 'ho-hum' and didn't bother to return? Clearly they are doing something wrong over there at Camp Pay-A-Lot-To-Work-Your-Nuts-Off.

It doesn't have to be that way.

If it's your first year, and you got roped into paying to join a big theme camp, here's a notion: **do it yourself next time.** Fuck those guys. Camp on your own. Take whatever you spent on your camp dues, and spend it on the aforementioned coffee and bacon. Then just give it away. You may find you have an even better year than when you left the planning and organization to somebody else's "wisdom." You didn't come here to pay some jackass to be your fucking mom.

Step up and organize your own goddamn camp. Did you throw cash at the problem so somebody else can mollycoddle you? **You may as well have just gone to Vegas.** BRC

# Gift-giving as a spectator sport

by SHUTTERSLOT

Have a gift for you..."

Are there any more annoying words on the playa? Spoken by some glaze-eyed sparkle pony covered in glitter, proffering in her blissed-out fingers some piece of cheap Chinese shit she expects you to take - it sends dread into your soul.

Just what you need, more MOOP to drag home because newbs take every word that spills from The Hat's great maul as gospel, and think that somehow buying mass-produced



blinky toys that break within hours fulfills some hidden karma-filling response to the crass commercialism of Defaultia - the world outside of Black Rock City - conveniently ignoring the fact that the rubbish they pass out is the very epitome of that commercialism. Merely buying things to give away does not make you a participant - it makes you a spectator trying to buy into a culture.

A gift is something given freely, and not expected to be received - an offering of food, booze, massages, conversation, help around the camp, even lip balm or water out by the trash fence. This has been degraded into a

requirement like a Christmas or birthday present, a world removed from a real gift, and has led to the mentality of walking into camps and thinking you can just take what you want or

that you deserve a drink just because the camp has a bar.

"But it's Burning Man!" I hear you whine, proving in your cluelessness that you have somehow mistook the world's greatest party for a commune. Once you step away from thinking of gifts as obligatory - and start actually giving - then you can tell me that you "get it."

Put down the plastic trinkets, walk over to your neighbors, and see if they need some help. *That* would be a gift. BRC

SHUTTERSLOT

# Hoverers and playa miracles

by SAILOR BOY

I know I'm being a total Negative Nancy here, but there's something I really need to get off my chest. It's the **porta-potty hoverers.** You know who you are. I have no problem with the fact that you're a germaphobe and that, after years of practice, you still can't seem to hit a target one foot in diameter mere inches away. What bothers me is that you don't wipe up after yourself. I like to sit down when I poo and you



fuck it all up.

Anyway, I know I'm being a bit of a Debbie Downer here, but what about those people in the parking lot asking for a "playa miracle?" If you haven't had the pleasure of meeting one of these social leeches, I'll explain it: they're the shits who had the wherewithal to get to BRC with their camping gear but didn't get it together to buy a ticket. So they ask everyone walking by Will Call for a "playa miracle" - a couple dollars or a free ticket. These are the kind of people who will tell you with a straight face that Prometheus "gifted" us fire so we wouldn't have to spin poi in the

dark. My response to them is always the same: **Go fuck yourself.**

Everyone else worked their asses off finding the time and money to make Burning Man happen, so why couldn't you? Jerry is dead, by the way. The bassist for Phish is a licentious uncle fucker. And I have nothing nice to say about The String Cheese Incident. **Buy your own damn ticket.**

So, I don't mean to sound like a fault-finding Fandangan, and I realize that much of the above is inevitable in a city of this nature, but ... can you at least not miss the hole when you hover in the blue rooms? BRC

SAILOR BOY

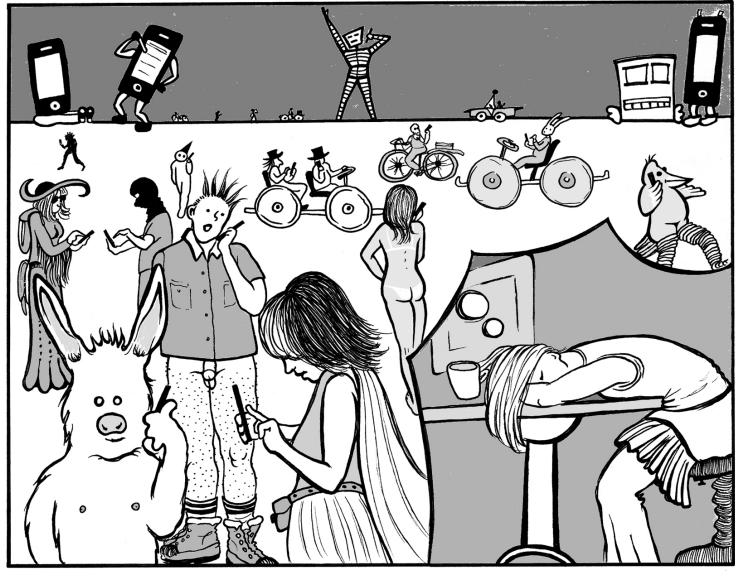
# Ed Contradictory



It seems impossible that someone is Frowning amid the Fun and chaos, so use this handy Flowchart to Figure out...  
**Why is Someone Sad at Burning Man?**



## Feral Toons by FERAL HOLLOWELL



I had a nightmare... The Dream is yet to come!

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

# PISS CLEAR is a book!



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



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

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

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

**RESEARCH** BURNING MAN LIVE: Get the book personally signed and shipped to you for only \$22 at [www.pissclear.org](http://www.pissclear.org)

BootieBRC.com

BLACK ROCK CITY'S MASHUP BOOTLEG PARTY 2010

FREE Bootie mashup CDs!

**THURSDAY SEPT 2 FANDANGO**  
ESPLANADE & 3:30

**FRIDAY SEPT 3 AUTOSUB**  
ESPLANADE & 4:00

Mashup DJs:  
**ADRIAN MYSTERIOUS D MALDEROR BOYSHAPEDBOX JOHN! JOHN!**

Mashup shows!