



**2017 Arizona  
Decompression  
AFTERBURN REPORT  
Tucson, AZ**

Photo Credit: Julie Jonsson

## Table of Contents



[Introduction](#)



[Event Lead Notes](#)



[Financials](#)



[AZBurner Art Fund / Art Grants](#)



[Site Management / Lead Reports](#)



[Moving Towards the Future](#)

## **Introduction**

Arizona Decompression 2017 was held outside of Tucson, Arizona on October 12-15th.

The call-out for land in Southern Arizona was successful. Arizona Decompression included community members and new participants from the southern region of the state, on land 20 minutes southwest of Tucson. We built a city, we engaged a community and embraced our differences, in a celebration that embodied the [Ten Principles](#).

Those principles are guidelines for us to follow. They are a code of conduct, a standard to strive towards, as we grow our community in an ever-increasing web. We came together and create a fantastical, whimsical, beautiful city, that flourished for four days, then vanished without a trace.

Tickets for Arizona Decompression 2017 (Reverse Cowgirl) went on sale June 19, 2017 with a single ticket price of \$35, not including ticket vendor fees. For the first time in AZ Decompression, the event sold out!

Tickets:

56 volunteer tickets

265 participant tickets

27 Neighbor (free) tickets

A full [Financial Disclosure](#) is listed here-in this AfterBurn report.

Special callouts to Event Leads:

- **Co-Event Lead** – qqtpie, Serpico, Buddha
- **Ranger Leads** – Smitty
- **Gate/Greeter Lead** – Carrie
- **DMV/Placement** – Rich
- **Art** – Conchita
- **Fire** – Jeff
- **Center Camp** – David
- **DPW** – Coop, Sunny, Chad
- **LNT** – Atira

Thank you all, for your substantial efforts in making a very successful AZ Decompression.

### **Lead Notes**

#### **qqtpie Pam – AZ Decompression Event Co-Lead**

We extend a very BIG THANK YOU to ToMas, Bruce and April, for allowing us to gather for a 4-day campout and create AZ Decompression 2017. We very much appreciate your hospitality. You are wonderful hosts. It is our hope that as the last participant departed, the land is once again alive with a renewed energy & spirit.

The Art Committee created an awesome Event Theme – Reverse Cowgirl, that gave this event a great vibe to share from the all great regions of Arizona. Decompression isn't just for Arizona anymore. Participants came from neighboring states, but they also came from places like Wisconsin and Israel!

- Average age (Of course people can cheat on that one) – 41
- have been to Burning Man – 61% for a combined total of 885 years!

Ranger Smitty stepped up to help organize Heliotropic Rangers and assistants, who came together to fill empty shifts. They also secured a fire perimeter for the Cholla Reverse Cowgirl burn. Richard Harter stepped up to help placement with the influx of the unprecedented amount of motorhome placements. A special call out and a huge thank you to Mr. Mom and Conchita Tait for spending weeks of their time and an enormous effort, bringing this new land up to the condition needed to hold AZ Decompression. The biggest thanks to April for smoothing the path between the landowners and the community, and working for months, to help make this happen. April walked the land, after we left and only found two small pieces of trash left behind. THAT is Leave No Trace!

## **Buddha Ron – AZ Decompression Co-Lead**

This year we held the AZ Decompression event near Tucson, Arizona, at a location known as Harmony & Health. This was our first event at the new location and even with all the bumps that come with working with new stakeholders/landowners/land I must say that it was successful in almost every way that you could define "success".

### Facts

- It was a new location with some landowners that hadn't experienced a Burning Man community event before.
- There was significant work to prepare the site, and even more work yet to be done before it could be thought of as "ready", like double dolphin ranch (Saguaro Man location).

### What went well

- Rangers/medical were simply carrying a radio for the event, and helping, as necessary
- Radical self-reliance - Participants self-regulated and ranger/medical interactions/needs were low
- Greeter and gate shifts/coverage seemed to work well
- The weather was warm in the day, cool at night, without snow, hail or high winds.

### What can be improved

- Expectations, responsibilities and agreements with landholders will be clearly defined in writing in the future to avoid any miscommunications.
- Better placement (more efficient use of space) will be required next time, for the site.

The amount of participation and self-expression was evident in our costumes, art, camps, events and the immediacy with which we interacted with one another (the good-natured heckling and snark was out in full force). Slow Down!

The inclusion of people we hadn't yet met, the way we treated and interacted with one another - with responsibility and respect, showed us "at our best." I got many reports indicating that this was not just my perception, but that of others as well.

I'm filled with love for 200+ of my closest friends. I am inspired by the connections that were created, renewed and reinforced and the simple ease with which we seemed to come together as a community. It was one of the best events that I've been a part of, and I'm honored to be a part of such an amazing community of people.

Deep bow of respect & love,  
Buddha / Ron

## **Tim/Serpico AZ Decompression Co-Lead**

Overall, I feel the event was an amazing success. We had the biggest decompression we've ever had. This was the first time using this property and I feel it fit our needs well. I would suggest that we only use this site, as it is, for events of 250 people or less. I don't feel this venue would be as comfortable with a larger group. Prior to the event we had a local crew that was instrumental to help us clean up the property and get passable roads in place.

There was a water truck during the event, that was requested per the landowner, to wet the roads to keep the dust down. From my observations, I feel this was unnecessary and costly. We had no art cars or event vehicles patrolling the event and we had minimal foot traffic that produced very little dust. I recommend revisiting the usefulness of the water truck. There should be a written contract in place that will set the terms before the event.

There was confusion about whether someone can have an impromptu art burn, and we need to clarify that is not an option in the future and that all fire art must be submitted in advance.

We had plenty of volunteers to help with gate and general setup. The art crew volunteers and all the artists are to be congratulated for the amazing art.

## Financials

### Revenue

Ticket Sales (321)	<b>\$9,905.00</b>
--------------------	-------------------

### Expenses

Land Maintenance & Upkeep	\$2,600.00
Event Insurance	\$842.00
PayPal Processing Fees	\$880.60
Portable Restroom Rental	\$1,538.32
Center Camp Support	\$200.00
Firewood and Ice	\$500.00
Work Weekend	\$1,048.32
Radios and Dog Tags	\$142.16
Infrastructure – garages (\$2470 for SM 2018)	\$821.02
Transportation	\$380.00

<b>Total Costs of Event:</b>	<b>\$8,953.42</b>
------------------------------	-------------------

<b>Total Event Revenue:</b>	<b>\$951.58</b>
-----------------------------	-----------------

The remaining balance of **\$423.12** will be used by the Arizona Regional Contacts to further the AZBurner Community during its year-end activities as well as be used as seed money for AZ Decompression and Saguaro Man 2018.

**AZBurner Art Fund / Art Grants**

The AZBurner Art Fund was created with the following Mission Statement:

The AZBurners Art Fund promotes artistic expression by providing financial support for art projects at the AZ Regional Events, Saguaro Man and Decompression. The goals of this fund are to attract a wider range of artists, inspire creativity, and foster diverse works of art that reflect the values within our community.

Regional events revolve around artistic expression; we all benefit from the artist's endeavors. In order to establish the opportunity for art funding, the Art Committee has established an Online Art Grant Request process.

The AZBurner Art Fund gets its monies from 'Profits' of Arizona's two Regional Events – Saguaro Man & Decompression. Distributions from this fund via the Art Grant Registration Process go directly towards art materials, assisting the artist in taking their imagination & talent from the drawing board to fruition.

**Art Grants / Art Fund Balance - 2017**

**AZBurner Art Fund Balance – 6/1/17 \$21,246.19**

**Art Grants – AZ Decompression 2017 \$2,017.00**

**Final Balance: \$19,214.23**

The Art Committee is responsible for receiving submissions from artist for monetary reimbursement, then making decisions of how the available monies from the Art Fund will be dispersed and coordinate Art & Art Placement at Saguario Man & Decompression.

The Final Balance of the AZBurners Art Fund is **\$19,214.23** that will be available to the Art Council for Art Grants for Saguario Man 2018.

### **Site Management / Lead Reports**

Carrie 'Cabernet/Spinner' Abts – Volunteer Coordinator

What worked –

Carrie felt that the event came off very well, thanks of the Leads and volunteers. They all stepped up and did what needed to be done! Closing the gate at 4pm was a success. The Tucson weather was great and such a treat! She mentioned that there was a lot of positive feedback about this event site.

A special thanks to Diane "Danger Mom", who signed up for the overnight lead shift, and brought a wonderful entourage with her. She worked the full 8 hours!

Carrie really enjoyed the low-key atmosphere of the event and felt it was very much needed by many of us, who not only volunteer at Saguario Man, but volunteer at the Big Burn, as well.

Challenges –

Communication of the plan is vital. We need to look at our lead staffing, to make sure we have enough coverage for all of our events. Getting the garages set up and taken down takes a lot of effort, and would be served well if there was a dedicated crew. Having a set time and a plan for teardown and storage, is a great help. Additional volunteers signed up as they came through the gate. It is vital that we get more overnight volunteers so we can operate our late-night gate. We also need to look at ways to secure the gate and close it when necessary. We are committed to a safe and secure perimeter.

Safety –

The Gate garage had pool noodles on the support straps along with lights to prevent folks from tripping. There were three LED clamp lights. This provided plenty of lighting for the inside and the entry way. Carrie recommends purchasing four of them for future events.

Moving Forward –

As AZ Decompression becomes a larger regional burn, we need more Leads. By having better ice communication, listing several options to pick up ice on the way in, we avoid people needing to leave early. By increasing ticket prices, we can provide ice.

Lead planning meetings need to be held, as AZ Decompression grows.

Working with the landowners in advance, to create a good project list, will help streamline work weekend.

Richard Harter – DMV, Placement

Richard stepped up to help with placement. As a DMV lead, he wants to remind operators of scooters to be educated about road rules. We had at least one person confused or not following rules and will need to address that seriously next year. Richard also recommends we move fire effects farther from campsite area to further increase safety measures. All flame effects are required undergo a safety inspection, whether they are on a vehicle or not.

Brian, Ranger Smitty - Ranger Lead

Heliotropic Rangers were staffed very lightly for this event, and that served AZ Decompression well, as the event was small and mellow. There were no major incidents of note. Brian plans on having more Rangers for the next Decompression, and events of this size.

Rangers staffed a small ad-hoc perimeter for the Cholla Cactus burn, on Saturday evening of the event. Rangers would like to remind participants that all effigy or art burns are to be approved in advance (72 hours minimum, 2-3 weeks preferred).

### **Moving Towards the Future**

Looking towards 2018: We are always on the lookout for additional locations within the Great State of Arizona to hold our 4-day Decompression Campout event. With the new location, outside of Tucson, we learned that we will need to change the way we think about and run AZ Decompression. The land owners are looking at ways to increase the size of the event to accommodate 500 people. With more participants, comes more responsibility. We need additional staff, volunteers, infrastructure, and more money to pull this off. By increasing AZ Decompression ticket prices, next year, we can keep Saguaro Man Tickets under 100\$. We need a solid plan for RV placement. The road work done on the new land is a reminder that licensed, insured contractors are the way to go.

We all look forward to seeing what incredible pieces of permanent & burnable art will be created in the coming year.

### **Conclusions:**

The amount of people that volunteered, to help build and run this city for AZ Decompression, was unprecedented **Thirty Three percent** of the participants. **33%!** You are the people that make this happen. Together, our community has shown that we have what it takes, to do this thing

Together, Burners from all over, create a distinctive post-burn experiment in community. Decompression 2017 was incredible, amazing, and brought together participants to discover within themselves and others the collective ethos that binds us together.

We look forward to seeing what is possible in the creative minds of our Regional Burners in 2018. As we proceed into the New Year we will start the recruiting process for leads and community leaders to construct a post-burn utopia we know as Decompression. I hope you will be part of the process!!!

Look forward to even better things for 2018.

**Look forward to even better things for 2018.**

Photo Credit: **Candyce Davis**

