

AZ/NM DECOMPRESSION 2015



**DANCING THE TWIN FLAME
WITCH WELLS, AZ
AFTERBURN REPORT**

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Introduction – Arizona Decompression 2015 - AfterBurn Report

Introduction

Arizona/New Mexico Decompression 2015 was held @ Witch Wells outside Sanders, Arizona on October 8-11.

Arizona & New Mexico have been 'Sister Regions' since the Global Leadership Conference 2012; as Regional Contact of Arizona & as a Meta Committee member I have been working with my New Mexico counterparts – assisting them in any way I could to find their way as their leadership has ebbed & flowed. To their credit they have started an awesome event now in its 2nd year known as 'Enchantment Burn'; which was also held @ Witch Wells earlier in 2015. To continue this sisterhood of our two regions we decided to create a Decompression that celebrated all that we are as individuals and see what we could create crossing our state borders - share in the creative space - build a community that for 4 Days embodies the [Ten Principles](#).

Those principles are guidelines for us to follow – a code of conduct – a standard to live up to; an instructional platform to teach the next group to take on the task. I hope that as we mixed Arizona & New Mexico Burner flavors that each attendee held in their hands that 'Family & Community' feeling and to see & feel what we can create TOGETHER.

Tickets for Arizona / New Mexico Decompression 2015 went on sale June 1, 2015 with a single ticket price of \$35. When sales ended on October 2nd – 187 tickets were sold.

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

Special callouts to Event Leads:

- **Co-Event Lead** – Blaze
- **Co-Event Lead** – Sweeney Odd
- **Co-Event Lead** - Conchita
- **Financial Lead** - Mr. Mom
- **Ranger Leads** – Corvus | Grateful | Hermione
- **Gate/Greeter Lead** – qqtpie

Thank you all for your efforts to make a very successful joint AZ/NM Decompression. I hope to work with you all again soon.

Scotto

- Co-Lead Arizona Decompression 2015
- AZ Regional Contact
- Meta Committee Member
- Burning Man Lifer/Geek/Zealot

Lead Notes – Arizona Decompression 2015 - AfterBurn Report

Lead Notes

Notes from Scott Platsky aka 'Scotto'- Decompression Co-Lead

We extend a very BIG THANK YOU to Jerry & Virginia Meixner & their Witch Wells property (The home to TOAST 2002-2010) (The Home of Enchantment Burn 2014-2015) for allowing us to gather for a 4-day campout and create AZ/NM Decompression 2015. We very much appreciate your hospitality. You are both such wonderful hosts & friends. It is our hope that as the last participant departed, Witch Wells is once again alive with a renewed energy & spirit.

The Art Committee created an awesome Event Theme – 'Dancing the Twin Flame' that gave this event a great vibe to share in all that was/is the two great Regions of Arizona & New Mexico. Here are some numbers where our participants hailed from.

- AZ - 109 - 59%
- NM - 57 - 29%
- CA - 4 - 2%
- CO - 8 - 4%
- NC - 2 - 1%
- NV - 4 - 2%
- TX - 1 - 1%
- UT - 1 - 1%
- Average age (Of course people can cheat on that one) – 40
- 130 out of 183 have been to Burning Man – 71%

I had a great experience working with Blaze & Sweeney from New Mexico in planning the event and hope they did as well. When we started talks of doing a joint regional event – we decided that the two regions would split any profits from the event and per the [Financials](#) we each received **\$1,336.46**. Here in Arizona we will be folding that money to our Art Fund for Saguaro Man 2016; I am sure that the New Mexico Region will find a great way to put their money to use to further their Regional Burner Agenda.

Thanks to our Ranger Leads Corvus | Grateful | Hermione and supporting Rangers (LizardMan, Dandelion, Number Nine, Axnite, Not Just & Joshifer for walking the beat and making sure that we were all safe throughout the weekend.

Thanks to Conchita & Gregg for Co-Leading and all their support to make sure that not only did our participants have fun but that 'Dancing the Twin Flame' was not just an event theme but a way for both New Mexico & Arizona Burners to feel a part of a greater whole than individual regions.

Financials – Arizona Decompression 2015 - AfterBurn Report

Financials

Revenue:

Ticket Sales (187)	\$6,255.52
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Expenses

Land Maintenance & Upkeep	\$400.00
Event Insurance	\$612.00
Ticket Processing Fees	\$336.60
PayPal Processing Fees	\$219.00
Porta Potty Rental	\$1,575.00
Firewood	\$400.00
Event Gasoline	\$40.00

Total Costs of Event:	\$3,398.84
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Total Event Revenue:	\$2,672.92
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Split Revenue with New Mexico Region:	\$1,336.46
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AZBurner Working Fund

Balance AZBurner Working Fund as of 08/01/15	\$2,417.94
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Split Decompression Profits with New Mexico Region	\$1,336.46
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Balance AZBurner Working Fund	\$3,754.40
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The remaining balance of **\$3,754.40** 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 2016.

Art Fund – Arizona Decompression 2015 - AfterBurn Report

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 - 2015

AZBurner Art Fund Balance – 6/1/15 \$10,300.00

Art Grants – Decompression 2015 \$0.00

Decompression 2015 Allocation - AZBurner Art Fund \$1,336.46

Final Balance: \$11,636.46

There may be a additional disbursement to the Art Fund from the remaining balance of **\$1,852.46** in AZBurner Working Fund for additional Saguaro Man 2016 Art Grants after all end of year AZBurner expenses have been allocated.

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 Saguaro Man & Decompression.

Site Management – Arizona Decompression 2015 - AfterBurn Report

Site Management

Gate/Greeters - Submitted by: Pam Whitney aka 'qqtpie'

Gate and Greeters had almost continuous coverage for the entire event. The biggest change was the influx of awesome New Mexico friends that stepped up and became part of the solution. We saw a huge increase on people arriving the first day, in comparison to other years. Our volunteers are continuing to incorporate change and additional training as the event grows. There were two medical issues at Gate. Having the first aid kit readily available, with trained people staffed near Gate, helped allow both medical issues to get resolved quickly and successfully.

Pros:

- Excellent volunteers with great coverage for all of the shifts.
- We had great trash removal support, with participants volunteering to take Gate trash as they returned to the default world.
- Having Rangers near Gate works out well for Gate and for participants.
- The Gate table stayed relatively free of non essential items (i.e. forgotten drinks and random trash).

Cons:

- We continued to have shade structure issues as our infrastructure continues to take a beating in the desert sun and wind.
- Gate needs to stand out more with signs or traffic cones to avoid confusion.

Moving forward:

- We can put the dog forms in numerical order to avoid somebody writing down the wrong number.
- Our new leads that are specifically Greeter leads will help with greeter training and orientation, pre-event, to help with community education.
- Send volunteers a post event survey, immediately after the event, to increase our ability to improve Gate in an inclusive manner.

Art of Decompression – Arizona Decompression 2015 - AfterBurn Report

Art of Decompression

Submitted by Scott Platsky aka 'Scotto'- Decompression Co-Lead

The Art Grant Cycle was open June 3 – July 20 – though no proposals were received that would not mean that there would be no Art @ Decompression.

The Decompression site Witch Wells was also the home to New Mexico's 2nd year of 'Enchantment Burn'; in April 2015. During their event they created a Temple type effigy that was celebrated but not burned; the hope was the structure would stand the test of time & weather on the property. When we arrived for setup for the event it was obvious that six months of Northern Arizona wind & rain had weakened the structure and it was no longer safe and would need to be rebuilt. We are grateful to Blaze & Sweeney who took on the challenge and recruited ~20 attendees to assist in dismantling the remaining portion of the structure and an all-day effort to rebuild and create a space in which all AZ/NM Decompression participants could share in Dancing The Twin Flame.



Burners are always creative with leftover parts and parts of previous art projects that fall apart – we thank Arthur Rudiak & Justin Blair for bringing pieces of art from Double Dolphin Farm (The site of [Saguaro Man](#)) to create a Man/Women effigy worthy of Burners! Thanks also to PainterDave who added Boobs to make the women side of the structure gender distinctive – It was awesome to BURN this peace together AZ& NM.

Moving Towards the Future – Arizona Decompression 2015 - AfterBurn Report

Moving Towards the Future

Looking towards 2016: We are always on the lookout for additional locations within the Great State of Arizona to hold our 4-day Decompression Campout event. In the coming year we will be looking at a potential location outside Florence (Which would be ideal as it is located directly between the Phx Metro area & Tucson). More details on that option as they can be made available.

AZBurner Art Committee & Art Fund: We are deeply appreciative for the efforts of Conchita and the Art Committee who continue to come up with inspiring Themes for our Regional Events. The Art Grant Cycle went live June 1, 2015. Through this process the Art Committee did not receive any submitted Art Proposals but that did not stop Art from being created & displayed at the event.

The Arizona Art Fund now has a balance of **\$11,636.46** moving into 2016 for Art Grants for Saguaro Man & Decompression. There may be a disbursement to the Art Fund from the remaining balance of **\$1,852.46** in AZBurner Working Fund for additional Saguaro Man 2016 Art Grants after all end of year AZBurner expenses have been allocated.

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

The Art Committee has announced the Theme (Reverberation) and opened the Art Grant Cycle for [Saguaro Man 2016](#) - scheduled for April 27 – May 1, 2016 @ Double Dolphin Farm outside Snowflake, Arizona. Ticket prices have been set @ \$75 with sales starting February 1, 2016. Portions of the Saguaro Man profits will go to replenishing the Arizona Burners Art Fund for Art Grants for Saguaro Man & Decompression 2016.

Conclusions: Together as Arizona & New Mexico Burners each year we create our own distinctive Post-Burn experiment in community. Decompression 2015 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 2016. 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 2016.