

2018 Saguaro Man AfterBurn Report

The AfterBurn report is our opportunity to re-cap and take a hard look at Saguaro Man; the good the bad and the not so pretty. It provides an overview of the AZ Burner organization's operations, our objectives, and the obstacles we overcame along the way. Our hope is that this report will help provide a context for understanding the organization and people behind Saguaro Man.

Saguaro Man is an event produced with and by the AZ Burner organization and community, that includes 50 department leads that work year-round, over 250 event volunteers, and thousands of participants who have taken responsibility for making Saguaro Man happen in Arizona, over the years.

Saguaro Man 2018 enjoyed its 8th year at Double Dolphin Farm outside Snowflake, Arizona on May 9th-13th. A two-week ticket presale was offered to volunteers, with a \$10 discount. Our Main Sale of tickets went live on February 1st - we SOLD OUT in 72 hours!

It is official, Saguaro Man has outgrown our current event location. Fear not, we will be back to Double Dolphin in the future, after the land has replenished.

Theme:

Blossom

The Saguaro Man 2018 (aka Dusty Man) theme was Blossom, and Blossom, we did! We started a Lead in Training (LIT) program to get more leads into each department, to handle our growing event. We ended up with 50 department leads and LITs. There were 285 volunteers. Fifteen of those worked overnight for Gate/Greeters, 15 worked overnight for Heliotropic Rangers, 82 worked two or more shifts. On-site Medical Services were provided by in-house volunteers. We also added crisis support, resulting in having 16 medically certified personnel volunteer at the event. Our newly formed Department of Public Works (DPW) crew was up and running, in full force. The new Fire Arts Safety Team (FAST) was fully staffed and ready to work the burn perimeters. Apache County went into stage II restrictions, right before the event, and Saguaro Man did not burn any art at the event.

Temple:

Saturday morning, less than 12 hours before the temple would have burned an event lead, brought a participant suggestion up at the daily Leads Meeting. Matthew G asked if we could hold a ceremony, others wondered if we could spin LEDs. We all agreed to do everything suggested. With much scrambling, our communal effort brought together a ceremony that looked like it had been rehearsed for weeks. By the time 'Tophat' finished singing Amazing Grace, much of the community were in

tears. Our first Temple Burn/Not-Burn will not soon be forgotten. A special thank goes out to Desert Rose, "Eek", and Shameless.

Art:

Shelley 'Conchita' Tait and LIT Heathen John Cheney oversaw the Blossoming of the SaguArtery. Having a physical location for the SaguArtery along the road, made it easier for artists to check in, and allowed walk-by participant education. Having the structure fully in place on Work Weekend, the SaguArtery will be more of a destination, a gallery of art from past regional events.

Most artists signed in and out, and all seem to have complied with their Leave No Trace (LNT) obligation. A special thanks to Royce, Juanita, Aunt Phibia, Sunny, Chad, and Nate. Our volunteer base was available to aid artists with installation, power and LNT responsibilities.

The Art department wants to encourage participants interested in propane art and/or cross-pollination of art projects with other Regionals, to reach out for support.

There was an error in the Temple donation link that caused funds to not get solicited with the ticket sales. The error will be corrected and tested before the start of the 2019 ticket sales. The Art department is working with Widget Girl on a formal process for temple artists to submit proposals for the next year. The timeline is to be extended to allow for more planning and earlier funding for Temple projects.

A structural integrity volunteer position was created and already has a lead who will aid with structure and safety compliance, for large-scale art projects.

Art Grants:

The AZ Burners Art Fund promotes artistic expression by providing financial support for art projects at AZ Regional Events. The goals are to attract a wider range of artists, inspire creativity, and foster diverse works of art that reflect the values within our community. In 2019, AZ Burners would like to expand grant opportunities for community endeavors, outside of sanctioned events.

AZ Burner Art is funded through revenue from Saguaro Man and AZ Decompression. Distributions from this fund go towards materials and assist the artist with taking their imagination and talent from the drawing board, to fruition. The Art Committee is responsible for receiving submissions from artists and making decisions in the disbursement of funds.

Funded 2018 Art:

Synthetic Siren; Suffocated

a.k.a.chic

Harmonia

Wall of Lights

Temple Obelisks
Paint the Wall
The Mad Potter
Giddy Up!
Beyond the Looking Glass
Tie Dye Wonderland
Flower Power Blooming Teapot
Enlightened Men
Shack-To-Hell-U-Ride
Temple Obelisk
Wood Carved Signs
Tree of Skepticism
Wishing Well
Hammock Sphere
The Fall of the House of Usher
Saguaro man Dead red
VUe
Steampunk Flowerhouse

Medical:

"Man down, under the Man Down!"

There was one injury that required a trip to off-site medical services, during an art installation. The participant returned to the event. His injury is a clear message to everybody, to speak up if you think something isn't safe. If you see something, say something. If nobody listens, say it again. Find a Ranger, find a Lead, let us know. The Los Angeles Regional Contact in attendance has graciously extended an offer to some of our department leads to come to BEQuinox; LA's Spring Regional event, next spring, so we can learn new strategies for art installations, safety, and other event procedures. The Medical Team was a huge success. There was more organization and structure than we had anticipated. A special thanks to all of the Medical Team for volunteering. Medical Services treated 38 participants, nine of which related to dust irritation of the eyes and lungs.

Camp Crisis, a mental/behavioral health support camp was present at Saguaro Man and offered volunteer services to participants as necessary. Asylum lead a team of eight certified professionals, offering 24 hour support. Several participants received aid, and the response showed a continued need for mental health support at our events.

Volunteers:

It takes a village to build a city.

Volunteer coördinator Spinner worked tirelessly, throughout the year, to bring cohesion to each AZ Burner department. The Volunteer team rebuilt and streamlined our entire volunteer structure and held the first AZ Burner Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. There is a need for all department Leads to turn in the attendance sheets! This is how we determine who to invite to the appreciation dinner and who gets in the ticket presale. Our most important asset is our VOLUNTEERS. Please don't let them down.

The new Lead T-shirts were fantastic and brought us together, as a team. Each department will be required to determine their SWAG needs each year by the February Leads meeting. Increasing the time between the event and the appreciation dinner, will allow departments to submit amounts and sizes to the volunteer department.

Gate:

The only constant is change, and change, they did. Gate was rebuilt from the ground up, this year. As with all new endeavors, there were some growing pains. The Gate and Greeters department was managed by four amazing co-leads, Dr. Liz, Vixen, Armella, and Cheryl and staffed by over 50 individual volunteers. We processed 836 participants.

The new carport shade structures impressively withstood 50 mph sustained winds. The new orientation of the Gate structures was found more effective than in earlier years, despite the wind tunnel effect created by the space between the two structures. Using three lanes and actively directing traffic Gate was able to prevent vehicles from backing-up on the public road and maintain emergency access. The drawback was that there was no clear view of the entry gate to the event. Matt, Katherine, Ruvi, Connor, Joshua, and Leslie were VIP volunteers.

Due to a lost child, there was a Gate closure event that was promptly executed, and lasted of approximately thirty minutes. Gate plans to institute a 4-6 hour set-up shift on the day prior to the gate opening, and adjust lead shifts for next year.

Sound:

Sound Lead Serendipity was batting 1000, running the Sound Department this year. With the help of 3 amazing crew members, they had 24 hour coverage for the event.

The warmer weather this year, had a positive effect on sound monitoring. Warmer temperatures means the sound doesn't travel as far as it does in colder air . The decibel readers showed that everyone was in compliance. There were still some issues with RV's rattling. The bass vibrating through the ground will require is to look into our 'de-coupling' specifications for future events.

Stacking extra pallets underneath, can help.

Interaction with the sound camps pre-event, that included the sound policy and permit helped with on site compliance.

Art cars and participants with generators are required to abide by the event wide quiet hours. A ventilated crate or box built can dampen the noise enough, to be used during those hours.

Fire/not-fire:

Fire Lead 'FireJeff' spent time, effort, and money to put together a water trailer that we will be purchasing before AZ Decompression. He helped train fire personnel for the event and monitored the statewide fire conditions. Ember, the yellow fire truck was on hand for education and to water down some hot participants and the roads, for dust abatement. The participants were almost as dusty as the road. Fire restrictions due to dry conditions, were a challenge. As soon as Apache County went into a Stage II fire restriction, there was a decision to not have any art burns, and to only allow propane fires, in accordance with the restrictions. Most attendees abided by the restrictions and were careful about smoking. The few who were smoking, violating the county fire restriction, potentially put future event permits at risk.

This highlights our desire to increase interest and funding for propane art projects, allowed under stage II restrictions. Anybody who has been to the Colorado Regional Burn, Apogaea, can attest to the amazing propane art they have. Our Gate and Rangers switched to propane fires, as our event tries to up our game, in the Leave No Trace and environmentally responsibility arena. The message got out quickly, about the prohibition of wood fires. A big thank you to Matt (Big Rig) for reworking the community grill, to run on propane. Apache County is in the driest region of Arizona. If our community wishes to continue to Burn, we will be looking at all available options, including relocating our event to wetter, Southern Arizona.

Dust in the wind:

Yes, there was wind.

Yes, there was hours of blowing dust.

Sort of like Burning Man, but with a little extra grit. Maybe, veteran Burners should head to Arizona, if they want a real challenge.

Ron (Buddha), Arizona Regional Contact, spoke about his pride in the community, during the dust storms and how people largely pulled together. He remarked on the community feel as the dusty, dirty, windy weather created opportunities for participants to hunker down with some friends and enjoy their company, like at the big burn.

DPW:

It was Sunny and Do It for the win! Hands down, these two were MVPs of the event, from start to finish. The Department of Public Works held training classes on how to set up the carport shade structures and, spent countless hours painting and prepping the equipment, knocked it out of the park during Work Weekend, and hit a grand slam during the event. The reward was being given the undue burden of sorting, cleaning, and loading equipment for a few departments. This was due to a lack of communication, and the absence of a clear procedure for how event breakdown should take place. Moving forward, the policy is for each department to load their clean, packed up equipment at 10:00am Sunday. If they need to leave early, they need to make arrangements with DPW to load the equipment before they leave the event site. The new garages were a big improvement, from our well used structures. Next year the carport shade structures will be completely set up on Work Weekend and the tie downs attached to the poles, instead of the material. We now have an official Work Weekend Lead coordinator. If you want to hang out with the cool kids, be at Work Weekend.

Leave No Trace (LNT):

Desert Rose reported that the trash accumulation during the event was very low. Despite the high winds, people were very vigilant about LNT. A few surprised folks even found beautiful mushrooms, created by Serpico the event Co-Lead.

There was a question about the leftover art that did not burn, due to the fire restrictions. The land owner allowed the art to stay, to be burned after the fire restrictions are lifted. The road out to Concho Highway was clean on Monday late morning. Only 2 old beer cans were found. Way to go Participants!

There is a need for a clear procedure on what to do with hand sanitizer and equipment (tie-downs) left on the portos. Cobalt (Axinite) and James were on hand to help on Monday. People staying after the event is still an issue. Moving forward, only people possessing a permit are allowed to stay at the event site or be on the event site early. All permits are issued through the event producers, as the liability insurance rate is base on the number of people on site.

The arrangement to have a camp stay, in exchange for volunteering, worked out very well. Seven people stayed over Sunday night to do LNT early Monday morning. Camp location sticks are MOOP (Matter out of Place). Please make sure to remove all sticks from the event site.

Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV):

Richard headed up DMV. Spinner made great tags for the vehicles. There was one vehicle that was found operating without headlights, and one vehicle playing music during quiet hours; because of this and other factors our DMV leads would like to expand DMV to include educating participants about traffic control for personal vehicles. Once you are at the event, you are to park your vehicle and leave it parked, for the rest of the event. The loop road at Double Dolphin Farm is one way only.

Placement:

Changing the layout of the theme camps, and moving of center camp, made more room for open camping in the middle of Saguaro man. Nate lead up the Placement Department. Theme camps with similar values and events were placed near each other. Open theme camp spaces were reserved for camps that needed to move. Nate would like an artist group camping area, near the art. Placement did not have enough people working on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Placement needs volunteers that can get to the event, the day before the event starts.

Heliotropic Rangers:

Regional Leader WidgetGirl reported that the Arizona Regional event, Saguaro Man has a robust Regional Ranger program which integrates Black Rock and Regional Rangers into an effective group responding to their citizen's needs. By and large, Black Rock and Regional Rangers worked without distinguishing one from the other and with the staff and participants to resolve conflicts, emotional, medical, and substance issues. Black Rock City Ranger ROM and BRC Ranger ART of Green Dot training was facilitated during the event.

The overall relaxed attitude of both dirt Rangers and Khaki, made interactions with participants enjoyable, and for the most part, community-driven. Rangers possess a great deal of social capital at Saguaro Man. The Saguaro Man community appreciates and enjoys Rangers, treating them as burners, rather than LE or hall monitors. This symbiosis between on-duty Rangers and community was effective but low-key. Propane fire pit at HQ was an excellent participant interaction focal node. Emergency call boxes were tested this year at two points in the loop, to aid participants in reaching Rangers/Medical in emergency situations. In 2019 the boxes will include better signage and education efforts will be expanded, as well as placing locations on the map.

Green Dot resources at the event were extremely sparse. There is a need for increased clarity in the roll of Camp Crisis and protocol regarding how Rangers/Medical/Camp Crisis interact.

Medical operated on both their own, and Ranger channels. This allowed them to respond to Ranger requests without being asked, or asking. This has timeliness benefits, but without explicitly communicating their response to anyone, this lead to confusion between medical and ranger teams.

Code of Conduct:

The Arizona Burning Man Code of Conduct has been updated in 2018 with the addition of our newly established Camera and photo/images policy . Efforts in educating the community on incident reporting continue. If you see something, say something!

<https://azburners.org/resources/codeofconduct>

All submitted complaints received via direct communication or our online reporting system have been addressed by the Regional Contacts. Due to privacy and legal concerns, the outcome and actions taken are confidential. All incidents have been documented in our permanent records. Code of conduct violations may result in suspensions or bans from Arizona and other Regional events.

Safety:

In 2018, Arizona Burning Man established the position of Arizona Regional Safety Lead. Cobalt (Ranger handle: Axinite) initially worked as the safety lead, focused on task specific projects and establishing links to other Burning Man safety related groups such as FAST (Fire Arts Safety Teams) and regional safety leads. The Safety Lead created much needed checklists for leads and theme camps, and the Saguro Man Event Risk Assessment matrix. Erich will be shadowing Emergency Services Department (ESD) Leads this August on playa in Black Rock City.

Communications:

Richard, one of our Fire Leads, is well versed in emergency response and the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Based on this knowledge, he has offered some insights on how our organization can become more aligned with these standards. While I have incorporated several of his suggestions into the appropriate departments, others are outlined here.

Many of the recommendations hinge on information communications.

Shortcomings in information exchanges ranged from minor challenges like, what color the dog tags are, to critical challenges like, what a child (under 21) wristband looks like. Lead meetings that include an overview of the last 24 hours, also need to include a preview of what to expect in the next 12, 24, and up to 72 hours, including the safety plan, communications plan, organization assignments, contact information radio and phone, and the current weather report.

Radios and radio training continue to impede our communication efforts. Radio training will be a part of next year's Leads meeting. This will include instructions for using the radios in the wind. If all else fails, Leads can step into the tiny yellow port/o/office to use the radio. We are currently researching new radio options.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security offers FREE online FEMA training classes:

<https://training.fema.gov/is/crslist.aspx>

Financials:

\$77,805.97 gross, was gained from ticket sales.

\$68,400 for 720 Participant tickets at \$95 each

\$4,930 for 58 Volunteer early purchase tickets at \$85

\$0 for 66 dog tickets

\$0 for 65 kid tickets

\$220 for 44 Lead tickets at \$5

\$75 for 15 Medical tickets at \$5
\$80 for 16 Ranger tickets at \$5
\$0 for 55 Neighbor and community outreach tickets
\$1530 for 18 Lead Guest tickets at \$85
\$165 for 33 artist tickets at \$5
\$2280 for 24 Directed tickets at \$95
\$125.97 for 3 Directed tickets at \$41.99

Expenses:

\$5262 ticket vendor and payment processing fees
\$6500 Land Use Fees, Road Maintenance
\$2503 Insurance, Permitting, Printing
\$5106 Work Weekend, Gas Reimbursement, Food
\$703 Leads Meetings and Saguaro Man Newbie event
\$9038 Porta Potty Rental & Service, Ice Delivery, Tips
\$1751 Event supplies and Department expenses (Gate, DPW, etc.)
\$4690 Volunteer/SWAG
\$151 Medical Services/Supplies
\$1575 Fire Suppression/Supplies
\$3743 Generator, truck rental, Electrical Grid Support
\$1250 Fuel/propane/diesel
\$4000 Infrastructure rebuild
\$2,046 Temple Support

\$48,318.00 Total Costs of Event

\$29,487.97 Net Event Revenue

Year round:

\$353 Town halls
\$13256 Art Grant Fund - total in fund \$20,000.00
\$276 Burning Man Newbie event
\$500 28 days
\$500 Holiday
\$4600 Community outreach Walter the Bus, The Drawing Studio, etc.
\$3637 AZ Burners Without Borders total in AZBWB fund \$6,500.00
\$228 Overhead/office
\$6137.97 Working fund for AZ decompression

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