

## Lakes of Fire Afterburn Report 2010

Lakes of Fire: A Spaced Oddity, the second annual Great Lakes Regional Burn was held June 24 – 27, 2010 at Willow Ranch in Lacota, Michigan. A collaborative effort by the Burning Man Regional communities from several states and provinces surrounding the Great Lakes including Ontario, Michigan, Indiana, Chicago / Illinois and Wisconsin. 967 attendees of all ages enjoyed the community celebration of art, fire and participation creating our own version of Burning Man in Southwest Michigan. The event was capped by the burning of the Bacon Beacon a two story wooden lighthouse that built on the watery theme started with the inaugural burn's S.S. Bacon boat effigy.

2010 was a year of growth in art projects, theme camps, volunteer involvement, and overall attendance. XXXX art projects, workshops and theme camps registered and provided interactivity for all participants. Overall attendance grew by 77% (from 546 to 967 on site); advance ticket sales reached the cap of 1000 adult tickets 3 weeks before the start of the event. We were grateful that friends and cohorts from regions as far away as Texas, Missouri, California and Florida attended and contributed to the event. We moved to Black Rock Tickets on-line ticket sales and used scanners and a laptop at the Gate. Other than issues with PayPal holding 50% of our funds until after the event, we were overall pleased with the change in the ticket system.

Parking areas were reworked and additional camping space was carved out so we could handle the growth. Unfortunately access to the back section of the property and several camping areas was hindered by huge amounts of rain that turned portions of the site into mud and swamp right before the event. DPW did a marvelous job trying to keep roads passable, wood chipping pathways and marking off the inaccessible areas. Placement reacted on the fly recreating theme camp zones as needed and moving personally guiding people to show them where they could camp. Art cars cooperated and found new routes to circle the site. Volunteers offered use of their 4 wheel drive trucks to get the heaviest stuff moved through the less accessible areas.

The land owner, Bim Willow, again expressed strong support for the event and has invited us to return in 2011. The local township passed an ordinance in support of our event in 2009 (in lieu of fire permits which they did not have) and supported us with permits for our effigy burn and approval of a pyrotechnics permit as well in 2010. We appreciate the cooperation and good will that we are developing with the local community. One of the local vendors, Mr. Grocery, provided ice to us at just above his cost. Ice sales profits will be contributed back to the local community.

One participant was ejected from the event on Sunday, theft issues especially wallets and iPods were noted, but no other significant issues were handled by Rangers or Medical volunteers. Participants again embraced the 10 Principles and working together as a community to self-police. We had zero law enforcement interaction at the event.

The event has banked a profit of \$12,075 to invest in future events, creating art grants for next year's event, site down payments etc.

The Board of Directors will begin meeting again in October and the Team Leads will resume meeting in January 2011 to launch the third edition of Lakes of Fire. Conversations and plans have already started brewing now as we are all excited by the event. We expect some change in the volunteer Team Leads for 2011 as some leads transition into new or different roles heading into our third year of Lakes of Fire.

We are again collecting a Things That Rocked and Things to Improve list. Suggestions are welcome. We are exploring sending a post-event survey to ticket purchasers.