

Black Rock Beacon Lakes of Fire Edition June 24-27, 2010



It's the experience that counts!

Lacota, MI--A chance meeting with Cooky, founding regional rep for Michigan, turned into a fruitful discussion of all Burning Man activities in this state over the last decade. Any encounter with Cooky must first be described as calming - she has a big picture view of what's going on and why.

Cooky recently voluntarily stepped down as regional rep to open up space in the community for change. "Communities constantly evolve only if there is change."

Having accomplished all she set out to do as a regional rep, Cooky felt it was time for the community to evolve further with a new rep. Final interviews were held in February at the annual regional event in San Francisco and Doxie has been recently named to step up to the plate. Cooky will still be around and may participate in the global evolution of regionals at the Burning Man organizational level. Look for Cooky at the Blues Bar in Gigsville on the playa.

Cooky summed up Lakes of Fire: "It's not the event, it's the community that springs up and creates experience and the place to have experiences. It's the experience that counts."



Effigy Burn - Poochy's crew hits a home run



Photos by Paul Pottorf and his trusted assistant Debbie.

Happy camping - It's volunteering!

A Lakes of Fire experience like any other Burning Man event is all about the gift culture - not gifts of stuff but gifts of self and of creativity! Here are some volunteers caught in action. Some were moving too quick to get their names.

Left to right: Caz; Debbie Norris, the Volunteer Coordinator at the Gateway regional in St. Louis gives time to Gate at Lakes of Fire; and look at that smile on the fire crewman's face!



Possible Annual traditions!

When some part of an event is overwhelmingly successful on the first try there is a clamouring to keep the good times rolling. These are a few of the events that took place this year that bear repeating.

2010 Lakes of Fire may go down in history as the Body Painting year! Everyone was getting in on the action. Here Captain Pinecone, Hoolia and Andres demonstrate a threesome!



Avi from Green Star Bar at Parking Camp served up hundreds of freshly made taco shells on Friday evening. With all the fixin's lined up in an ice-filled self serve salad bar, people knew they were getting the good stuff. Avi was supported by the rest of the team in Parking Camp with Sarah doing yeoman's work on the meat. Judging by the love Avi was getting on the front lines, this Friday night taco event will be repeated.

Alex from the Sundae Peeps at Firewater Lounge camp served up the beast from a pig roast. Crowds made swift work of the tasty morsels, gorging themselves. A special treat that could be repeated but this reporter observed that the clean-up crew may need to be appointed before everyone's belly is full! Alex was observed standing over the carcass and the required clean-up while everyone else was laid out by the feast! Hopefully folks step up to the plate to make this an annual Friday tradition.



The Tick town Parade in its second year was bigger and better than ever with floats added! With a larger group of young children at this year's event, the parade was very popular. The two young protesters on this float, Hot Wheels and Bull Dog were making the most of their front seat!

Tea bowls were being fired at Rakuville. A firing kiln was going full tilt to keep up to the demand. Participants glazed their bowls in the afternoon and returned to witness the Raku firing process in the evening. A big hit!



Honourable mentions or repeat performances:

LoFers Pizza was serving up pies not only for all comers but hosting the volunteer appreciation event. Its already in the annals of Lakes of Fire as a stellar contribution with their all-natural cob oven built in 2009 and now a permanent fixture at the site - just bring some toppings and they provide the basics for a pie that exceeds all expectations.

Firetown Stage was bigger and better this year putting it on the list of must attend venues. With the schedule in the WhatWhereWhen, you can pick your favs or just drop by and pull up a piece of grass.

FreakEasy is a must experience! As is the fire spinners performance at Firewater Lounge. Enuf said!

If you didn't risk venturing into the forest this year, you missed out on the second annual Midwest Mayhem stage - dance music loud and dangerous.

coffeecUP is fast becoming an institution. That first morning cuppa is so vital to waking the body to another fun

BLACK ROCK BEACON Staff: Sorrily missed Taymar (RichardGilmore, creator of the Bacon Calendar which was in attendance even though Taymar was busy working the Fringe in London. DynamoDeb (Deb Prothero) made observations in writing and an amateur effort at layout. Additional photos were supplied by Paul and Debbie Pottorf.