



Alchemy

THE GEORGIA BURN



Alchemy 2008 Event Report

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Event Summary

Troy Cobb / aka Runaway!, Event Lead

2008 was a year of growth and maturing for the Alchemy event and organization. We grew from 374 invitations sold in 2007 to 656 invitations sold in 2008, an increase of 1.75 times. That near doubling of our size also resulted in significantly more ticket-related issues, more interactions with law enforcement, and our first serious injury. Luckily for the organization, we also matured significantly this year. The teams were, on the whole, much better organized and better prepared. The experience we had in 2007 also allowed us to focus on better preparing for emergencies. This included creating radio event codes with very clear procedures for each team involved. The time spent working through these codes and procedures was well spent as we needed to use three out of the five event codes during the event, and each time the various teams responded perfectly, knowing exactly what they needed to do.

Notable Issues

There were several notable issues at the event this year.

Noise Complaints

On Friday evening around midnight, we received our first of two visits from the local law enforcement regarding neighborhood noise complaints. LaFayette has a noise ordinance restricting amplified sound after 11:30pm. Our increase in size this year, and the unfortunate placement of a sound camp on the top of the hill between the main field and the landowner's house were the difference in 2008. We had the sound camps reduce their level somewhat. The police returned about an hour and half later and threatened to shut us down completely if they were to return. I went to the road to identify the loudest camps asked them to reduce their base level further. On Saturday we spent some time working with the sound camps to find suitable levels that did not create base reverberations at the main road and successfully avoided any noise complaints that night. In 2009, we need to ensure that no sound camps are placed at the top of the hills. If we do that, I believe we will be able to avoid noise complaints without having to restrict sound levels.

Other Police Encounter

Early Saturday morning there was another police visit attempting to locate one of the Alchemy participants. This event is covered in detail in the Ranger section of this report.

Code Adam

On Friday of the event a "Hobo Event" was reported, signifying a lost child. The gate was immediately closed and all teams mobilized to find the child. The child was found and the event ended within five minutes.

Severe Injury

A participant, Chandler Harris, injured himself on Burn night by apparently coming in contact with a lit tiki torch. Several other participants assisted in extinguishing his flames and notifying our First Aid team. Bubba John, one of the First Aid Team leads and a First Responder, was on the scene within two minutes and provided supportive care while EMS was called. The local EMS responded quickly and transported Chandler via helicopter to a burn unit in August, GA. One of the participants who assisted Chandler was burned while helping to extinguish the flames and he left event to go to the emergency room for treatment. Unfortunately, Chandler succumbed to infection and died on December 6, 2008.

The teams responded quickly to the injury and were able to provide the appropriate level of supportive care. Rangers were able to lead the EMS and later the police investigators onsite and direct them appropriately. The professionalism and responsiveness of all the involved teams and team leads was truly impressive.

2008 Innovations

In/Out Policy

Alchemy has always been about innovation and that continued to be true in 2008. One of our innovative approaches was about the In/Out policy. In the prior year, the stated policy was a flat no exit and return. However, we did make a couple of exceptions for extraordinary circumstances. This year, in an effort to put allowing exits in the hands of the community themselves, we instituted a two-part policy. The first was that an exit/return would be



allowed if you purchased another tier 2 invitation. Of course this was always the case – if you had a second ticket you could return and check in as if you'd just arrived. The more innovative approach was the use of our In/Out tokens. Each participant received a token (a laser-etched dog tag). If a participant wished to leave and return free of charge, they simply needed to collect 15 tokens and present them at the gate. The tokens were valuable schwag this year and no one took advantage of the policy. However, I do believe it was a success as it places the responsibility for approving a participant's reason for leaving in the hands of the participants themselves, rather than in my hands.

Effigy Bar

Another innovation was the Effigy Bar. It was a community-run and donated bar in the base of the effigy. The bar was organized and run by Chw, who did a great job of

keeping it stocked and clean. I believe that the Effigy Bar created an additional reason for participants to visit and spend time on Effigy Hill, which provided a way for them to connect more closely with the Effigy and Temple. I believe that connection is essential for the cathartic release associated with the burning of these structures.

Effigy Build

A third innovation was that we pushed hard to ensure that the Effigy was complete prior to the gate opening. Most regional burns work on the effigy throughout the event, providing participants an opportunity to contribute in that way. I prefer the Burning Man model, wherein the effigy is always present for most participants and becomes a signature part of the landscape. This makes the absence of it that much more poignant after it burns.

Connexus

We also built a new central information center, called Connexus. Connexus was envisioned as the one-stop-shop for information related to theme camp locations, scheduled events, messages between participants, mobile art registration, and volunteer signup. It also became a perfect location for lost and found. I believe the idea is sound, but we'll do better next year at organizing it ahead of time, obtaining volunteers to staff it, and ensuring that the volunteer signup needs of each of the teams are better represented there.

Art Fundraiser

Instead of simply donating funds directly from ticket sales decided by just a few participants on a jury, we decided to put funding for Alchemy art directly in the hands of the community by hosting an Art Fundraiser. Alchemy LLC provided the funds to run the fundraiser (about \$800). The \$10 admission fee for each participant resulted in two \$5 "art shares" that they could distribute to artists of their choice. The event was wildly successful, raising more than \$1800 in funds for artists. Clove organized the event this year and discusses it in her Art Team section later in this report.

Invitations

In 2008, we established two tiers of invitation sales at \$35 and \$45, with the final set of invitations will-call when there was too little time to mail the physical tickets. Generally this system worked well with some major exceptions.

During the initial series of invitation sales, I did not have our system automatically email an additional message to the purchaser asking them to look out for the invitation coming in the postal mail. As such, many either misplaced or did not receive their invitation and did not notice this fact until just before the event. (In some situations, people were still trying to find their invitation after the event had begun) I corrected this oversight later during the process by having an automated email be sent with more information.

In 2007, will-call tickets were tracked by the name of the purchaser. This caused problems because many tickets change hands in the final days before the event and keeping track of names was very difficult. This year, will-call tickets were claimed with a unique code for each ticket that was emailed to the purchaser. On the surface, this was a better answer, however many yahoo mail users did not receive their will-call code via email because yahoo was considering the emails to be spam. So, many arrived at the event without the code and with only the paypal receipt as evidence. I spent hours on the first day of the event leaving site to find a usable wi-fi network and transferring tickets or dealing with ticket questions.



In 2009, I believe that we need to change the process in several key ways:

1. Have a computer at the gate with a wireless network card allowing real-time adjustments of tickets
2. Provide a self-service interface on the website whereby each participant can retrieve their code if they don't receive it
3. Allow each invitation to be represented by EITHER a code or a physical ticket, that way people who have lost their tickets may still attend with their code
4. And finally, if we do #3 above, then have a master list of all tickets and their codes and check off each one as they arrive

Financial Summary

656 total invitations sold
200 at Tier 1 at \$35.00 each
456 at Tier 2 at \$45.00 each

Alchemy LLC.
2008 After Burn Financial Summary
Report thru: November 2008
Fiscal Yr Ends: April

Gross Income	\$27,520.00
Insurance Cost	\$925.00
Land and equipment rental	\$2,606.53
Operating Expenses	\$12,640.94
Art Fundraiser	\$879.01
Capital Expenditures	\$3,206.82
Open Payables	\$3,824.88
Pre-Paid 09 Expenses	\$733.78

Detailed financial reports are posted monthly on the alchemyfestival.com website.

2009 Plans

Organizational Improvements

Co-Leads

In 2009, I would like to see us continue to find co-leads for each of the team lead positions. This should reduce the load on any one person and provide continuity should someone find themselves unable to continue.

Media Team

I believe that we can better utilize the media team throughout the year, helping to train members more thoroughly on how to update and maintain the website.

Co-operative Ownership Model

As a matter of expediency, I am currently the sole owner of the LLC. However, I feel that the assets owned by Alchemy LLC are best regarded as assets of the community. As such, we instituted an open election of a board of directors last year and will continue to do so in the future. In 2009, I would like to take that a step further and consider a cooperative ownership model of all assets. In this way, anyone who participates in Alchemy-related events (the burn, a town hall meeting, an art fundraiser, etc) could become a cooperative owner of Alchemy, LLC. This ownership would provide the right to vote for Board members, and would provide a proportional ownership stake should the assets of the organization ever be liquidated.

Event Plans

Theme

For the first time, Alchemy will present a theme for the event.

Alchemy 2009 - Shock and Awe

October 1 - 5, 2009

The term "shock and awe" was originally coined to describe a military doctrine technically known as rapid dominance, whereby overwhelming power and spectacular displays of force are used to paralyze and demoralize an adversary, leaving them exhausted and incapable of resistance. In 2009, Alchemy will reclaim these words from their military usage and employ the concepts of "shock and awe," not to demoralize, but to empower; not to paralyze, but to move you. Webster's defines "awe" as an overwhelming feeling of reverence or admiration produced by what is grand, sublime and extremely powerful. Many find those same feelings aroused by the power of the burn. In 2009, we set for ourselves the challenge of taking that an evolutionary step further, by exploring our own limits and our ability to surpass them together. What shocks you? What leaves you awestruck? Fire at will.

I hope that the theme will serve two main purposes – inspire participants to express themselves in ways that help create a unified art experience, and inspire organizers to present their teams’ efforts within the context of the theme. It is certainly not meant to limit the ways in which participants can express themselves, but instead provide a suggestion that may help trigger everyone to explore the concepts in a more directed manner.

Ranger Team

Joshua Bardwell / aka TryMe!, Team Lead

Volunteering

The major issue last year was getting enough volunteers and getting them to show up for their shift. This year, I attempted to address that issue in several ways.

I requested that volunteers attend one of two orientation sessions, one of which was held before the event, and one of which was held at the event on Friday morning. Original policy had been to not let anybody work who didn't attend one of the sessions, the idea being that the sessions, and especially the on-site one, would be a place to check in with volunteers, confirm which shifts they were volunteering for, and communicate information like where to check in for shifts. All of this was stuff that got in the way of people volunteering last year.

The first orientation session was held at a work day, and the only people who attended were organizers who were already there for the work day. The second orientation session, held on Friday morning, had approximately five attendees, two of whom were Abby and Amsterdam, who were working the shift that morning. Basically, the message that the volunteers seem to have sent is that they wanted to volunteer as rangers, but they were not interested in coming to these two orientation sessions.

In order to allow people who didn't come to the orientations to still volunteer, I did on-the-spot orientations for each person who showed up to volunteer, but who hadn't been to an orientation. Obviously, this solution won't scale!

In total, approximately 25 people volunteered as rangers, and of those, perhaps half actually showed up and rangered a shift. However, this number is skewed somewhat by the number of organizers who volunteered. Only approximately five non-organizers showed up to ranger. It is unclear to me what the block is between the people who send an email to say, "I'd like to ranger," and them actually showing up to ranger at the event. Obviously, all burns have some amount of not-being-able-to-implement-your-plans, and that probably accounts for some of it. Certainly, removing the orientation requirement would make it easier for people to volunteer, but I'm very resistant to just opening up rangers to anybody who walks up, without any orientation or vetting process to make sure that the person is right for the job. Rangers can easily be interpreted as authority figures, and I want to be sure that people who are volunteering as rangers are managing that interpretation in a way that is consistent with my conception of what a ranger should be. Many people step right up and do a fine job, but I think that procedures need to be in place to catch the few who wouldn't be a good fit--those who think that rangers are security personnel or bouncers, which they're not.

The next way that I attempted to get more shifts filled was to shorten the shifts from 8 hours to 6. I think this worked really well, especially having the option of leaving the 3-9 AM shift un-covered. One volunteer stated that even a six-hour shift was pretty long, and

mentioned that one burn he goes to does 2-hour shifts, which allows people to tailor their schedule more precisely. This should be something to consider for next year. The challenge, I think, is that it ends up involving a LOT more checking in and checking out of people, so that procedure would have to be streamlined in some way, and I'm not convinced that it wouldn't create more problems than it solves.

Radios

The new "Cobra" radios that were purchased this year were awesome, and were miles better than the ones we had last year.

Incidents Worth Mentioning

Medical Incident Saturday Night

The medical incident on Saturday night has been thoroughly documented in other forums, and so I will only recap it briefly here. On Saturday night, a man became inflamed, probably by coming into contact with a tiki torch. There were no witnesses to the actual inflammation. Four people saw him, knocked him down, and put him out. They notified organizers of the incident, and appropriate steps were immediately taken to get him the medical care that he needed. Ranger team's primary role in the incident was to direct ambulances and police vehicles in to the scene. After the injured man was evacuated, I stayed behind to liase with the law enforcement officers on the scene and to keep attendees away from the scene.

Shia

A second incident that is worth mentioning is that Shia, Laughing Hawk's ex-girlfriend came onto the property without a ticket. She had told him by phone that she intended to do that, and so people who knew what she looked like (Pete and Laughing Hawk) were on the lookout for her. I really think this situation was a good example of the "inverted pyramid" organizational structure at work, as the people who were closest to the situation took on and were granted the power to deal with it, resulting in minimal involvement from others in the organizational structure. Laughing Hawk was the primary contact point for Shia. This meant that the person who was "rangering" her was someone who knew her intimately and who had an established relationship with her. This kept the situation from becoming one of "us vs. her" and helped avoid escalating it unnecessarily.

When Shia arrived on site, Laughing Hawk suggested, and others deferred or agreed that the best way to handle the situation was to see if anybody had a gift/sale ticket for her, so as to allow her to remain in the gate. This decision could easily have gone the other way. Honestly, if I had been the first one to find her, and if Laughing Hawk had not been involved, I probably would have simply ejected her, but Laughing Hawk felt that showing her kindness and inviting her in was the right way to go, and I trust his judgment enough that I didn't want to try to disagree. I confirmed with Laughing Hawk that he would go to the gate and purchase a gift/sale ticket for her. Just to be clear for the record,

this wasn't a gate sale. People who had extra tickets were just leaving them at the gate, and then when a buyer came along, the gate would call the seller to the gate to complete the transaction. It was a person-to-person transaction that just happened to be occurring at the gate.

Shia parked her car on a driveway that belonged to a neighbor, and the neighbor complained. Once we realized that it was her car, I told her that she needed to move it or it was going to get towed. She said that she had lost her keys, and Troy and I decided that a two-hour time frame was reasonable. I told her that in two hours the car would be towed if it was still in the driveway, and good luck finding her keys. Approximately 2 hours later, we contacted Smokey by radio to inform him that he was welcome to tow the car if it was still there, but I don't know whether that happened or not.

Erin covered the lead position for Friday evening and night, and she reported that there were several notable incidents. The following entries are from her report.

Noise Ordinance Violations

Noise ordinance violations x2, of which we were made aware of by Troy Cobb. Upon notification, rangers on duty visited camps with considerable noise output and requested a decrease in volume, specifically bass. Requests were made of all subjectively loud camps (including center camp) on at least 2 occasions, with some camps such as "The Philosophers' Stoned" and their adjacent theme camp, requiring more attention. A suitable volume was finally agreed upon and no more complaints were reported.

ATLPsy v. SCIENCE!

At approximately 4:00 a.m, 10/04/2008, Scarlett with Connexus requested ranger intervention for a "resolution." Specifically, event participants had been approaching the DJ's at PsyAtlanta insisting that their volume be reduced significantly or cease completely. Erin and Keith then returned to PsyAtlanta to act as moderators in the event it should be necessary. No direct complaint was lodged against the DJ's during our time present in this camp. However, an "emissary" from the offended people did come and speak to us, voicing the same request. It was determined that PsyAtlanta would offer a 10% reduction in volume for the time-being and, if necessary, more conversation could be had later that morning. No more was heard on the subject.

"Sparkle Event"

At approximately 5:00 a.m., the gate attendee radio'd for ranger assistance as there was a "sparkle event" at the gate. I arrived shortly thereafter and spoke with an Officer Hall, who was relaying a message from a woman that was at that point in time at the Gordon County Jail. Her name, as best I can remember from what was written on the notes that the Officer gave me, was Shia, last name unknown, and she had requested John Laughing Hawk reach her at a number, which was also written on the note. The officer insinuated that she may need to be picked up from the police station. Officer Hall then left the

property. A subsequent effort was made for approximately 40 minutes to locate John Laughing Hawk without success. This task was passed off to the next shift on duty at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Suggestions For Future Consideration

I would very much like to find a way of recognizing those people who have consistently stepped up to ranger, and who have admirably and excellently executed their responsibilities as a ranger. These would basically be people who I (and, preferably, the Event Lead too, because I don't want it to be a unilateral decision) have no doubts about in their ability to ranger, people who I would be happy to hand a radio and a sash to and just walk away knowing that whatever they do, it will probably be the right thing. There are people like Preston, Abby and Amsterdam, and Erin (and no, that's not an exhaustive list, just the few who immediately came to mind), who I feel are unreservedly welcome to step up as architectural members of "Ranger Team," and I'd like to recognize that and invite them to do so. I don't want to turn it into some kind of a "cool kids club," so the exact form of recognition should be carefully considered.

In the burn incident on Saturday night, one unanticipated outcome was that several times during the investigation, an apparently-intoxicated person wandered up and attempted to enter the scene or interact with a police officer. Obviously, this situation is undesirable. In each case, I personally redirected the person, but it would have been better if the person had not even gotten close, because we really want to minimize interactions between attendees and police, and observations of attendees by police. In the future, a procedure should be set up so as to maintain a loose perimeter around any such scene until law enforcement is off the site. One stated goal of ranger team is to intervene in situations where attendees might otherwise come into contact with law enforcement, and this is the simplest and most direct example of that that I can think of.

Regarding the noise ordinance violations, strongly suggest that next year camp placement take into account the propensity of sound to travel. Sound camps should not be placed at the top of the hill or near the front of the property. Further details should be coordinated between Placement / Site Layout team and Music team next year.

Regarding the noise-related conflict between ATLPsy and camp Science, I think this was at least in part because ATLPsy had to be moved at the last minute and ended up being placed in what had been designated as a "quiet" area of the site. Science had reasonable expectation of quiet, and ATLPsy had reasonable expectation of being allowed to play. In the future, I suggest NOT HAVING A DAMN QUIET AREA WHAT THE FUCK THIS IS A BURN THERE ARE NO QUIET AREAS! That way, people who want quiet can come prepared with ear plugs, whatever, and/or camp further out in the trees or whatever. But hey, that's just me.

Buy more of the "Cobra" high-powered radios for next year. Ideally, everyone should have access to them. I got to use one of last year's radios a few times, and the difference between them is night and day.

The growth between this year and last was manageable, but if it continues, I think that some fundamental things might need to change for next year. For one thing, I think that next year might be the first year where it might make sense to have an actual BRC ranger trainer come out. I definitely felt my own limitations in giving orientation to new rangers, and I am concerned that next year might be the first year where just, "Here's what I think, go have fun and do your best," is inadequate. The problem will be if we invite out a trainer and then nobody comes to the session, so that would suck. At the very least, we could invite the "recognized" rangers from the earlier paragraph.

Fire Safety Team

Rebecca Cobb, Team Lead

Expenses:

- 3 fire extinguishers
- 1 piece mdf board (4'X8')
- wood to create fuel wall stand
- bucket for white gas
- glow sticks

Donated items:

- 3 containers of white gas
- several fire blankets (which were returned to owners)

Volunteers:

- Silver suits - Bubba John, Lo and Eli
- 6 fire performer spotters
- 3 external watchers (1 with fire blanket, 2 with extinguishers)
- 1 fuel dump guard with extinguisher
- me

Overview

Fire Safety Team involved two main components for Alchemy 2008: preparation and execution. Items involved in preparation prior to the event included permitting issues (contacting local authorities, requesting necessary permits, and presenting fire plan); fire plan preparation; and planning.

1. Permitting Issues.

The Burning Man Project requires that any Burning Man sanctioned event have all the proper permits and licenses in place. After discussion with local authorities, including every fire department in Walker County (including volunteer stations), the Sheriff's Department, the Emergency Response center and 911, it was determined that there were no permitting requirements for our event. All local authorities were given a copy of our fire plan, and were aware that our event was occurring. The Chief Deputy of Emergency Services for the county came to the site on Thursday of the event, and toured with Troy and me, so we could discuss our fire plan and emergency response plan. He was very pleased with the plan, and told us he would dismiss any emergency calls to his call centers unless the calls were made by our staff or the land owner.

2. Fire Plan Preparation.

I prepared a fire plan for use during the event, and as a reference for local authorities. It is attached hereto, and can also be found online at <http://www.alchemyfestival.com/wiki/index.php?title=FireSafety>.

3. Planning.

Planning requirements for Fire Safety Team included fire safety for conclave, proper fuel storage during conclave, fire safety for the effigy burn, fire safety for the temple burn, and emergency response. I had to determine how many volunteers I felt were necessary, and then gather those volunteers, both before the event and during the event.

3a. Fuel Storage.

We provided two types of fuel for fire conclave: white gas and lamp oil. We provided one bucket for the white gas. I assume someone brought another bucket for the lamp oil. All fuel was stored behind a 4'X8' fuel dump wall, 100' from the effigy. The wall area was lit by a hanging light, and the white gas was denoted both in writing on the wall, and by a purple glow stick in the fuel bucket. The fuel wall was constantly staffed by a Fire Safety Team volunteer with an extinguisher. All spinners were encouraged to "spin off" before entering the 50' effigy perimeter.

3b. Volunteers/Effigy Burn Safety.

I decided that I wanted no fewer than 3 people trained and prepared to be in silver proximity suits, and that I wanted no fewer than 4 conclave spotters, as well as 2-3 external watchers with extinguishers and 1 fuel dump guard. I reached this volunteer goal and exceeded it. Additionally, there were two, 250 gallon water buffalo containers at the top of the hill, in case of emergency.

3c. Other Effigy Burn Safety Concerns.

Our perimeter was set using the guidelines of the Burning Man Project, which uses this formula: $\text{radius} = 2X \text{ height of structure to be burned}$. Our effigy was 24' tall, so we used a 50' perimeter to be safe. Our perimeter this year was marked with a blue rope light. I feel like this definitely helped our Ranger Team maintain the perimeter. The inside, "no man's" perimeter was marked with glow sticks at a 20' radius. No one was supposed to go inside this perimeter, with the exception of the 6 final torch bearers who lit the effigy.

3d. Temple Burn.

I made very few fire safety provisions for the temple burn, as it was not a dense, tall structure. I knew it would burn very slowly and would pose very little hazard to the crowd. Fire extinguishers were still in place from the effigy burn, as were the water buffaloes.

Statements of Ways to Improve

There were a couple of areas that I feel need to be improved next year regarding our Fire Safety Team. I feel that the biggest issue was the complete disregard the fire performers had for the established 20' "no man's" perimeter. If our effigy had been fueled with volatile fuels, we would have had a big problem, as the fire performers were all walking right up to the effigy. I do not feel like having people that close to the effigy at that point was safe, and I do not feel like we were entirely prepared in the eventuality that the effigy had been lit accidentally at that point. In the future, the established inner perimeter MUST be kept clear.

Additionally, I failed to bring lamp oil for the conclave, as I promised to do. This was simple oversight on my part. Alchemy can decide in the future whether or not to provide fuel for conclave.

Finally, we need pumps and hoses for the water buffalo containers to be useful. We had one hose, and could have used the water through gravity draw, but in the future, a more powerful way to use these would be good.

Statements of Achievement

Fire Safety Team was fantastic. All volunteers were extremely responsive and eager to help. The fire safety plan was a huge success with all local authorities. Thankfully, no emergency response was required for any scheduled burn events. All in all, everything went pretty much exactly to plan, and there were no incidents to report.

Continuity

I created the Fire Safety Team wiki at this address:
<http://www.alchemyfestival.com/wiki/index.php?title=FireSafety>

First Aid Team

Lovelace Linares / aka GBear, John Everett / aka Bubba John; Team Leads

Summary

The Alchemy first aid team this year was co-led by me, Lovelace Linares, and John Everett. We met informally at the two team lead meetings that were held between our being accepted as co-leads and Alchemy. After some discussion, we agreed that our mission would be to provide basic first aid and to act as a bridge between injured parties and the local emergency response system when necessary. In an effort to align participant expectations with this mission, we decided to change the name of the team from “Medical” to “First Aid”.

Team members were gathered via emails sent to the Alchemy Talk list. Volunteers were asked to have at minimum a valid first aid certificate from the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, or a comparable certifying body; however, in the interest of radical inclusion, volunteers without this certification were asked to dispense supplies only. If an injured person needed care, volunteers without certificates were asked to radio for John or myself to come administer such care. We had a total of eight volunteers, including the two co-leads. The other six’s names were Malece Howard, Sarah Davenport, Erin Condon, Derek (of camp Detoured Souls), Niki, and Mike. The first four volunteers expressed interest and signed up for shifts prior to the event, while the last two were recruited by John on site.

We didn’t have a team meeting at any point. I instead opted to meet with each volunteer individually at the beginning of each shift to explain our mission, show them the basic documentation, and make sure that they knew where everything was. Next year, I think that it would be a good idea to have a checklist for the team lead to make sure that all pertinent information is communicated and that nothing is left out.

There are a couple things that next year’s team lead will need to be sure to discuss with volunteers. One volunteer recorded an injury and treatment that was obviously meant to be a joke, so it needs to be made clear that our log is a legal document and should be treated as such. Another volunteer thought that she was doing me a favor when she “put the radio away”, causing the first aid tent to be without a radio until I realized it was missing and replaced it; it needs to be emphasized that the radio is to stay in plain sight on the first aid table for anybody to use. I didn’t find that radio again until Sunday morning.

I will also be revising the log book, specifying that people print legibly and creating separate spaces for the injured and first aider’s first and last legal names. Many people used only first names, many names were illegible, one name was omitted, and one injured used a pseudonym. In addition to these improvements, I will be adding a column for the

In terms of response, we did everything right. After the flames were extinguished, EMS was called immediately. Smoldering clothing was removed; all but the worst burns were cooled with lukewarm water, and the injured was kept conscious and talking until the paramedics arrived.

Police determined that the injured ran approximately 90 feet before the passersby were able to extinguish the flames. A simple reminder to participants in our survival guide or through some other medium might help future participants to remember to stop, drop, and roll if their clothing ever catches fire. Of course, it's easy to forget such simple things while in a panicked state, but a friendly reminder wouldn't hurt and might possibly make a difference. Also, it is not known whether the tiki torch falling was a factor in igniting the clothing or if the falling occurred afterwards, but it wouldn't hurt to advise people to use metal tiki torch stakes to secure their tiki torches, particularly when the ground is hard.

The person who was sent to the ER was one of the individuals who helped extinguish the flames using his bare hands, causing him to sustain a second degree burn.

I want to write an article or two for next year's survival guide, emphasizing prevention and response. While not everybody can or will be on the first aid team, we can all learn a little from this year's incidents, and in the spirit of radical self-reliance, I'd like to continually empower our participants through education. Topics inspired by this year's event include a suggestion to wear boots at night, using tiki torch stakes, what to do when you or someone else catches on fire, and information about burns and burn care.

All together, we had 20 separate injuries/requests for care. This doubled the nine that were recorded by last year's team, which is proportional to the growth we experienced with this year's event. I expect that injuries and requests for care or supplies will increase proportionally along with next year's event.

In summary, the first aid tent ran smoothly this year with only a few minor glitches. Even the major incident which occurred was handled smoothly and professionally.

Art Team

Clove Tolbert, Team Lead

The art team started meeting in early March, to start making plans for the Art Fundraiser. The team met 4 times before the fund raiser date: March 15, April 21, June 2 and June 12. The art team fluctuated members a bit, but most noticeable were Tunna, Keith, Charlee, Lee and Lovelace.

Art Fundraiser

The fund raiser itself was held June 21, 2008 4pm until well past midnight at the Blue Tower Gallery. We would like to thank the staff of Blue Tower for all their support and helpful efforts in helping us to get this off the ground, including thanking Jason for personally requesting flyers for the event to give out at other gallery openings.

Instead of using the money from the previous year and granting that directly to artists via a blind jury grant process, the Alchemy board chose to hold a fund raiser, in hope to raise more money than would have been available to gift otherwise.

We raised approximately \$1846 in funds that went directly to 6 artists for 7 installations! It is more than twice the funds that were available for granting! Not only were we able to help more artists, but we also involved the community in the process of deciding what art they wanted to see at this year's Alchemy Festival.

We held the party at Blue Tower Gallery in Atlanta. www.bluetowergallery.com

As each person came into the door and paid their donation of \$10, they received 2 art shares (tickets) that served as votes. They were also able to purchase more "shares" in \$5 increments. Throughout the night, they were able to view the art installation ideas and talk to the artists. There were mailboxes set up so that they could then cast their shares towards the installation of their choice.

The Art Fund raiser was a glorious success! Not only do I think we established or rebuilt bridges in the community, but we introduced a lot of the area's burner community to their artists. We received a lot of positive feedback from artists and community alike, that appreciated our method of creating and distributing money to our artists.

Art at Alchemy

After the fund raiser was over, there wasn't much to do in preparation for the actual festival. About once a month I would send out an email to our artists, to check in and get status report on their projects.

Approximately two weeks prior to the event an email went out requesting contact for placement and info on needs, like power and such. Email communication continued up until opening day of the event between the art team, Mike and the artists. Mike took care of placing the artists in an area that fulfilled the most of their needs. His help is greatly appreciated.

We had a multitude of installations at Alchemy this year, including the 7 installations who received money from the fund raiser, 5 art cars, and more than 5 other installations. I tried to get around to each installation or talking to the artist, but admit to missing a few. I fell unfortunately ill mid afternoon on Sat, and it kept me put in one place most of the rest of the weekend.

Things I would suggest doing differently at the main event next year:

- Beginning at the first of the new year with planning the fund raiser, and staying focused throughout the planning stages.
- Trying to get more consistency in team members and their level of available participation.
- Team lead able to be on land by at least Wed.
- Radio on art team member/team lead throughout the event. Not picking one up until Sat AM made communication with artists more difficult.
- Planning of placement with Theme Camp lead (or person doing site layout) earlier than 2 weeks before the event to appropriate space and needs for artists.
- Team lead visit each installation and keep a picture history journal.
- Working more closely with media team in ramping fund raiser.

Things I would suggest doing differently at the Fund raiser:

- More prior planning.
- Accruing more volunteers and setting teams up more ahead of time by task need.
- Setting one person to be in charge of financials with one other person as secondary witness. (the less hands, the less confusing)
- More hype more often.
- Requiring the artists to register their submissions earlier and have a solid deadline, and staying firm to that deadline.
- Mailbox system out, another system in. The mailbox system failed mostly due to placement and advertisement.
- Also, I feel that instead of trying to keep track of a cap for each artist, we instead just allow the community to gift to their artist of choice whatever they desire. Leave it up to the artists to utilize their funds how they can, and if they have leftover, request that they donate it back to the art funds.

OR

- Set cap and at the end of the night, once money is separated down to each artist, put leftovers back into a fund for the next year's fund raiser. No artist receives over their requested amount and the money above and beyond that earned get accounted into funds for other art events, etc.

Leave No Trace Team

Lee Watts, Team Lead

Summary

The main focus of the LNT Team this year was on educating our participants into understanding the reasons why we push LNT philosophy and the practical ways to make that possible. There was a focus on getting information to the lists, publishing in the newsletter, contacting the theme camp organizers and being willing to talk about it whenever possible. We succeeded in our educational goals and the proof of that came at the end of the burn when we had little to clean up. We also were better about LNT during the event as the sweeps of the property were not overwhelming. Even after burn night there was less trash than we had seen the prior year.

Items that were purchased/gifted

Paper lawn bags- gifted. These were very helpful in the burn scar recovery because the nails and screws did not poke through the bags. It also allowed us to collect burnable garbage in a way that did not have us emptying them out into the burn barrels and fires. Wagons- gifted. These were not used in the way that they were originally intended to gather the collections from the line sweeps, mostly because we didnt collect that much trash.

Signage- purchased and made. We had a couple of signs at Center Camp and at the potties. I would like to see more permanant signage, OSB or metal to put out every year educating people on site about LNT and what they can do to help.

Garbage bags- purchased. Lots and lots more community garbage than I would have hoped. This is something that we need to find a solution for next year.

Rolling magnet- purchased. We need a couple of more of these (although I think that there were some from last year that were not packed in the boxes)- without a doubt the most helpful item in the arsenal.

Items possible for next year

Metal bucket for collecting nails and screws from the burn scars
One more metal rake

Staffing

Staffing prior to the burn was good. Volunteers that helped to come up with creative ideas and lists of LNT items. There were only 6 people, including myself. At the burn the commuinity did step up when we needed help with formal line sweeps. There were also lots of people who were cleaning up after themselves and other participants as they went. Organizing line sweeps at set times every day didnt really seem to fly as people get really involved in what they are doing and it wasnt that.

Wendi was a real asset to the team this year, she took control of the whole area from Area 51 to Bacon Camp and made sure that it was clear before she left. I have to give massive kudos there. And to Danielle who swept the effigy hill on Sunday morning and got a good deal of the crap off the hill.

Suggestions for next year

I actually think that the LNT staff should be a primarily pre-event department. Focus on continually educating participants, theme camps and team leads because that is the way we will make the biggest difference at the event. At the event, LNT should be rolled into APW. As take down happens that is when we have a real opportunity to clean up. Have someone on the APW team specifically focused on LNT for the duration of the event, organizing line sweeps as needed, going behind theme camps, etc. Seems a good use of APW staff.

Volunteer Coordination Team

Scarlett Ross, Shannon Joiner / aka Chwdog; Team Leads

Overview

The Volunteer Team coordinated the volunteers before arrival on-site via a collective spreadsheet as well as on-site as part of Connexus. In order to facilitate volunteer needs and burner needs, the Volunteer Team created an oversized site map that hung at the Connexus shade structure and became a central piece to the burn experience. A collective Volunteer notebook was created that held information about who was in charge of each team, volunteer sign-up sheets, and procedures for Teams that were stationed at Connexus. Overall the Volunteer Team successfully manned Connexus and met the needs of the event. There is plenty of room for improvement.

Pre-Event Meetings & Planning

Each Team Lead meeting was attended by Scarlett prior to the event. At these meetings I took notes on the developing needs of the Teams as I saw them and asked for clarification of responsibility for obtaining volunteers. Many of the Team Leads secured their own volunteers. Rangers (Joshua Bardwell) and Fire Response (Rebecca Cobb) were very vigilant about sending their volunteer information to be included in the overall spreadsheet, but individual scheduling was done by these Team Leads. Sign-up sheets were developed for Connexus and Registration (Claudia Muzyka) closer to the event. Scarlett also attended a planning meeting for the Art Fundraiser and assisted in the volunteer coordination for that event. Much of this had already been done by the Team Lead (Clove Tolbert). Requests were sent out via email before the event to call for assistance at the door, with child care, and with clean-up.

Implementation

Using the schedule sign-ups for each team, volunteers were directed to appropriate areas during the event. The list of needs was fluctuating. A clear, concise way of noting needs by each team on-site would be helpful to the functioning of the Volunteers. Staffing on Thursday and Friday consisted largely of Scarlett, Michi, Pauli (and the baby), as well as a few volunteers who wandered by and then stayed. These names are recorded in the Connexus book. On Saturday an active effort was made to man the Volunteer / Connexus area and some of the burners stepped up to the challenge. While the original intention was to have Connexus close in the evenings, many people continued to need direction or information late into the night as arrivals pushed through the door until 2am or so. Future scheduling should include a late-night shift similar to, but not necessarily, the overnight shifts of Registration. The Department of Mutant Vehicles (Puck) was expected to need volunteers at Connexus (and a schedule) but ended up needing only a radio and very sporadic coverage, which Puck handled on his own.

Volunteer coordination was stationed at Connexus and largely became responsible for this area. Registration did a fantastic job of directing people to Connexus and the site map (aka "Tapestry of Wonder / Knowledge") became the core tool we used to direct people

in their quest for camping, theme camps, friends, quiet camps, and generally around site. Connexus became a hang-out location for burners as they wandered the site looking for interactive things to do. While the expectation was that people would utilize the Connexus map as they came on-site, it turned out that many people would wander through Connexus throughout the event (especially at night when the landscape changed) and use the map to find their directions in the dark to the more active camps, around obstacles like the lake, and toward “that camp we heard about around the fire.” One concern was that the map was not to scale. The map itself was hung on the pavilion wall with Velcro and stayed exactly where it was placed. The map might have been easier to read if it was hung in correspondence to the site (i.e. it was painted with East up, so place the map on the Eastern side of the pavilion). Placing pinned labels for camps on the map gave a sense of the city developing and became one of the first ways that people felt integrated into the experience of Alchemy. I would suggest separate color tags for theme camps and individual camps next year as well as a distinct color tag for art installations to attract attention to these community pieces.

For best visibility, the map definitely belonged inside under the lights and that might be the best place to put the large “Unofficial Schedule of Events” board. On the outside of the pavilion it was not as easy to read at night. The “Note to...” boards and “Announcements...” boards were used by participants to good effect to find friends and meet up. A light on the “Connexus” sign would be wonderful, but in and of itself the sign was fantastic and placed (on the leading edge of the structure from the road) just perfectly. Overall, more decoration, a theme, or some activity (like the art project of the butt tins) would go well in Connexus. The volunteers created their own little world and invited people in. Perhaps this could translate into a living room atmosphere. The shade structure for Connexus was comfy and cozy with some borrowed music from the sound camp behind us and a table for the art project of creating “butt tins” with paint and small metal tins. This was a great introduction to some of the principles of the event, the participatory nature, and gifting. To whoever brought those tins/paints by – Thank you!

The Connexus Book holds promise for gaining a grip on the interaction between the Teams and the volunteers. Volunteer sign-up sheets were placed in this book by Volunteers, Connexus, Registration, Rangers, Center Camp, and DJ coordination. These sheets allowed volunteers to check when they were supposed to work, where they reported, and if any help was needed during a particular time period. Sign-up / Team instructions were placed by Volunteers and Rangers. The Connexus book should include information / FAQs from the various Teams. Many of the questions like “How do I volunteer for Rangers?” or “What do I do about my art car / parked car?” or “How do I help APW?” could have been answered without seeking out the people already working. The Connexus book did not this year but should in the future contain: list of teams and their leaders, registered theme camps, local emergency phone numbers, and radio etiquette/codes.

Lost and Found is an area that temporarily got assumed under the Connexus structure. As a central and frequently checked location this makes sense. In the future, plans to keep

Lost and Found at Connexus should include some way of securing the items (a box would work).

Fiscal

The spreadsheets of Volunteers, sign-up sheets, and Team instructions were maintained online and printed before the event at no expense. This may not continue and a small budget should be considered for printing costs. (Estimate: \$5)

The map of site was created with a donated tarp and paints. Next year if a new map is created a budget should include the cost of these items. (Estimate: \$40)

The Connexus notebook was purchased for \$30.94 and consisted of: 2 3-ring notebooks, plastic sheet protectors, index cards (for map), safety pins (for map), and a Volunteer Coordinator On-Duty vest. Pens and an organizational pocket were donated.

Total items donated: \$50.00

Total items purchased: \$30.94

Estimate of future needs: \$50.00

Goals for 2009

2009 should be a sparkling year for the Volunteer Team with a few changes. Early positioning of a strong Team Lead with both people and organizational skills will make a tremendous difference in the Volunteer Team's effectiveness. An early estimate of basic volunteer slots needed for Registration, Connexus, Rangers, Center Camp, and other Team needs will allow the Volunteer Team to create and maintain schedule sheets that will greatly increase consistent coverage of core areas. Volunteers should be recruited for Connexus from all teams and integrated into a single Connexus schedule. A FAQ from each team lead on their area, volunteer requirements (like Basic First Aid to work in the First Aid tent), and projects during the event they would like assistance with might be helpful. Combine the Volunteer / Connexus Team Lead positions or have these people work closely together.

Fire Conclave Team

Pete Audano, Team Lead

This year's Fire Conclave was great. We had a whole lot of fire talent, and everyone put on a fantastic show.

Rebecca, who led Fire Safety, took care of arranging fuel and safety for the Conclave. She had every once properly placed before it began, and as far as I know, there were no notable safety incidents during the Conclave. Age Ginsburg assisted Pete Audano in leading the Conclave on burn night. Age was a first time burner, but a great organizer and leader.

Led by Lamplighters from Center Camp, we made our way up the hill in burner fassion with drummers and Chanti out front swinging her stuff. We took a spin around the effigy, and soon after, the Conclave began.

There is a first time for everything, a first kiss, a first burn, and every fire dancer has a first fire dance. We decided to honor that by giving our first timers the opportunity to start the Conclave. We lit them up first and let em' burn! It must have been an amazing experience for them.

After about a minute of the first burners, we began the rest of the Conclave and sent fire dancers around. It got quite a bit more chaotic than we had hoped, but that's how these things sometimes go. We danced for seventeen minutes and stopped the Conclave to raze the effigy in flames.

The lighting ceremony began with some of our key volunteers setting off the outline of the effigy in an effort to recognize them for their hard work. The volunteers were Robert, Lee, Tunna, Erin, Scarlett, and Bubba John. Keith allowed Zooks to light the main fuse in the back, which ultimately burned the effigy down. Every one of these burners helped build Alchemy into what it was this year. Thank you!

Over all, the procession and lighting ceremony went really well. Thanks to every one who enjoyed it! We hope we have something even more fantastic in store for you next year. Until then, may the fires of Alchemy burn within you!

Site Layout Team

Mike Alberghini, Team Lead

Theme camp work was done by three main people:

Troy Cobb, who set up the web registration system

Mike Alberghini, who managed the incoming registrations

Tom Rawls, who attended meetings in my absence and assisted in general planning

Theme Camp registration was a simple process:

1. Camp was registered via the website
2. Camp was added to a Google Spreadsheet
3. Camp lead was added to the Alchemy Theme Camps Google group

One trip was made to the site the weekend before the event to refresh my memory of locations and layout of the land. I spent the next few days roughing out a layout in my mind and on computer, then returned to the site two days before it started to place layout markers.

Costs were minimal. There were two packs of pink marker flags on site, purchased by someone else, which were plenty to mark the camps.

The most difficult part of my job was, not surprisingly, the theme camp leaders. :)

Camps would change their requirements often, changing their needs for quiet, shade, power and space regularly. We had a few cases where someone would try to convince me to move theme camps that they were not the leader of. For the most part, none of the camps were much of a problem. The friction seemed to come when two camps agreed to team up, then Camp A would want to change the location of both without consulting Camp B.

Improvements

Knowing the layout of this year can really help. Several camps asked to be placed in the same location as last year, and I didn't know where that was.

The markers were not difficult to see, but connecting them with caution tape will probably help to make the theme camp spaces easier to see, and keep others from camping in them.

It got cold, and the fire circles were popular places. I will try to locate those on the borders of multiple theme camps. We should communicate with the landowner and DPW

to see about adding extra fire circles. Also the possibility of a communal woodpile, or asking people to bring gift wood.

The Connexus Map was a great idea, but they didn't tell many of the arriving theme camp members to place their marker on the map.

I got to meet many of the theme camp leaders by just wandering into camps and introducing myself. Next time I will try to have a meeting before the event, and another on site to meet the theme camp leaders.

I will try to get a better feel for the topology of the site, and not place loud theme camps where they can be heard from the neighbors.

One thing Transformus does that I will try to adopt is coming up with names for different areas of the site.

I want to explore more of the site and find more areas in the western woods where camps can be.

The idea of a loud area and a quiet area didn't happen completely as planned, but I think it has merit. With some fine tuning, I think we can set up the site to be loud enough to have party areas and quiet enough for families with children and grumpy old people to sleep.

Alchemy Public Works Team

Jason Sanders / aka Tunna Kerosene, Team Lead

Special thanks to Bubba John, Red Hat, Puck, Kitty, Lovelace, Troy, Rebecca, Issa, Danille, Wendi, Robert, all the DJ Hippies, Justin, his GF, bald short roommate, young skinny guy that doesn't drink or do drugs, Joshua, Pete and anyone else who we might be forgetting who threw in when APW needed the help.

Work-Weekend: In Town- September 12, 2008

This day was scheduled to work on effigy projects, signage projects, bending light poles. Nothing specifically under the specific blanket of APW, but it was a good way to get a lot of building projects completed.

The supply drop of all the dimensional lumber was delivered to the site of the work day. This lumber included all dimensional lumber for the effigy, temple, potty screens as well as the additional steel poles for the lamp poles.

Completed on that day: effigy OSB slats cut and painted, lamplighters poles bent, supports for potty screen cut, signage completed.

Set-up – September 27 to October 2, 2008

All infrastructure was completed this year prior to the start of the event on Thursday.

Gate

The gate was set up at the second tree line just before getting to the parking area. Generator was placed on the other side of the tree line away from the tent.

- Physical Property for Gate
 - Shade structure- 1 with a back side
 - Lighting- icicle lights
 - Generator- we went through 3 generators this year due to mechanical failure and not training those who needed to use it effectively. Better training of central gate staff and someone on the APW staff who has ownership of maintaining the generators.
 - Signage- large welcome home sign from Art Fundraiser. Need a more permanent Gate sign like the Connexus sign.
 - Physical land gate- this was put up by APW this year. Would like to have the land staff put this up.
 - Chairs- 4

- Tables- 1
- Power strips- 1
- Extension Cords- 2
- Decorations- loan from this year's TL.
- Lanterns- we would suggest purchasing another set of the large lanterns like those at Center Camp for the gate. Easier to maintain than the icicle lights.

Center Camp

- Flags- used PVC for the flag poles zip tied to the structure poles. Worked okay, but we might want to research other options for securing them to the structure that is not single use. All flags and poles were put into the storage unit.
- Shade structures- 3, no sides, this year they were set up in a U shape in front of the stage.
- Lanterns- big on the ceilings, small on the lower roof support. We need another string of the smaller lanterns.
- Signage-hung from shade structures. Large sign in storage.
- White board- in storage.
- Several extension cords and 2 power strips

Connexus

Connexus was set up across from the port-a-potties facing the road. Wind sheer was an issue with the side on the back of the tent. Suggestion for next year would be to leave it open like the Center Camp structure.

- Structures- 1, with a long side.
- Chairs- 2
- Tables- 2
- Larger white board
- Signage- on landscape timbers would be better with something free standing so that holes dont have to be dug. Large sign in storage.
- White boards- were loaned.

- Decorations- all loaned.
- Lanterns- big set at peak

Potty Screen

Set up around the 6 potties in the triangle near Connexus

- All dimensional lumber labeled in storage
- OSB was burned
- Drop cloth- 6 at 6x9 and 1 at 12x15, burned at the end. Will need to replace. Leave off the 12x15 and add 3 6x9 to replace
- Spray paint of unknown amount. Don't leave lids on them, masking tape with colors on them. Lids became an LNT nightmare.

Lamplighters

There was no TL for lamplighters this year so much of the maintenance for the lamps and poles was handled by APW.

- Structure was a pop-up, in storage.
- Signage- in storage
- Lamps- storage, new bins need to be purchased for storage.
- Lifting poles- storage
- Carry poles- storage
- Rebar- need some new rebar, some were damaged. Should try to fix before we buy new ones. Better depth guide so that they don't get stuck so far in the ground.
- Poles- some were damaged, some were uneven, some were bent wrong.

Staff Tent/Med Tent

- Chairs- 5
- Structure- 1 structure, 2 sides, 2 ends, one of the ends moved in to create the med tent section.
- Use the structure with the writing on it for the Staff tent next year. Labeled on the bag.
- Table- 2, 1 in the med tent, 1 in the staff tent

- For next year:
 - Organization was a nightmare. Daily attendance to keeping it clean and organized. Better packing and organization of the tubs and such in the tent.
 - Better control of the building materials, ladders, power tools, etc.
 - Better system for radios and keys. Some place more organized.
 - Have some area that is specific storage for APW

Shade Structures

- Overall usage good, Connexus structure needs to have the back off of it or turned a different way as to not catch the wind.
- Anchors are necessary and 8” steel nails worked best and were cheap. Much sturdier than tent stakes or the screw downs.
- Some poles need to be repaired or replaced, some warped.

Fire Wood

- Wood was loaded to each fire every day.
- Burn Barrels: Need shorter wood, cord wood. Automotive drip pan and cinderblocks to catch the ash, something to sit around it to make the burn scar less.
- Bottom: 4 trailer loads over the course of the week, one every day of the event and for the staff shindig on Wed. Double or triple would be ideal, 2 loads a day.
- Effigy Hill: 3 loads to fill the bottom, this will depend on the size and design from next year.

DJ Tent

We use the large circus style tent that is already on the land. DJ Tent is set up across from the kitchen. This year the APW took down and moved the tent when it should be the responsibility of the land staff. Power needs for the tent were handled by the Music Team.

Effigy

- DJ Tent- pop up Alchemy owned, in storage. Needs to be set up for the effigy construction.
- Border lights- in storage.

- Need to get ground cover fabric staples for the border lights.
- Fuel wall- landscape timber and OSB in storage. Needs to be self standing, more permant and painted so you can see it.

Potties

- 2 near the DJ tent
- 2 and a handicap at the entrance to the back pocket
- 2 on the effigy hill
- 1 at gate
- 5 and a handicap at the triangle near Connexus

Event

Projects during the event were limited to fire wood delivery and helping out other teams, like the Lamplighters and the Effigy Team with on the spot projects. With more staff the overall work load would have been less on each member.

Daily runs to town were made for ice, gas, kerosene and any other items needed for the central infrastructure of the event. These runs were made at 4pm every day and seemed to work out well.

- Gas- total almost 30 gallons
 - Effigy
 - Gate
 - Gator and golf carts didn't have to be fueled
- Kerosene
 - Lamplighter- 11 gallons, needs less next year.
- No white gas or lamp oil was purchased by APW.

Tear Down

Tear down began on Sunday and ran well into Monday night. APW will be working up a schedule for next year to facilitate a more productive and quicker take down. More staff dedicated to both Sunday and Monday take down would have made it easier as well. Organization of materials and such will also facilitate the take down.

Staffing

Staff before the event was non-existent. Staff during the event was whomever was on

hand. This is an area where APW can be improved. For next year the suggestion would be Co-Team Leads and at least 7 people beyond the TLs. 7 people for Set-up, 7 for during the Event, 7 for take-down. It doesn't have to be the same 7 people at each stage.

Expenses

Gas- \$93.56

Kerosene- \$44.41

Misc expenses- \$194.79

Items to be accomplished between now and next year

- Inventory/List of needed purchases
- Perform maintenance on current items
- Repack the tubs/ reorganize items
 - Boxes that are designed specifically for Christmas lights at the end of the Christmas season
- Some more consistent style of lampposts. Would need to find out from Adam how he did his. Is there a better way? Contact BM Lamplighters.

Suggestions For Future Events

- Permanent signage
- Lamplighters poles further from the street
- Something to distinguish the poles going up the hill from the rest of the poles- paint, taller
- All essential signage should be the jurisdiction of APW
- All items not structure need to be in one box for each station.

Effigy Team

Keith Prossick, Team Lead and Architect

What worked

Scaffolding worked amazingly well this year especially after we got all the parts for it.

We should continue this trend or even better get a more versatile solution such as scissor lifts or buckets so that it is moveable.

Pre-painting the OSB saved loads of time and even some more preconstruction could be done to ensure maximizing the time we had.

Lessons learned

We need to make sure we have all the parts for our equipment before setting it up and using it. Not only does it work better but it is less of a hazard.

While lots of help is appreciated the times when we had over 7 people we were less productive than any time we only had the core team. I would suggest limiting the build site to just those members dedicated to building the effigy and doing nothing else.

Summary

The first work on the effigy was done on the work weekend just a few weeks prior to. That day all the OSB was cut and painted and the material were cataloged.

Keith took the 6x6 home and later cut the prism into it.

Friday of the work weekend was load-up of the effigy material which went well.

Saturday, day 1 of the build, we got the scaffolding and worked out how to put it together. The colored boards were prepared and screwed together. We then constructed the super structure which was completely finished on day 1.

Sunday, day 2 of the build, we began by attempting to put the scaffolding 4 high rather than 3 high which did not work well because we didn't have the bottom locking nuts for the scaffolding or the cross boards.

We made a trip to the hardware store to retrieve the bolts and the boards. Once we returned we began putting the boards up. Everything was finished at the end of the day but the center and the bar.

We were 6 boards short for the center and we needed to dig holes to put in the bar.

Wednesday Keith put in the bar and the center piece and until burn night the effigy was

not built on.

Saturday, burn night, we shutdown the bar and began putting the remaining boards and loading in the wood, cut the boards.

Then we burned the bitch down.

Budget

All items were directly purchased by the LLC and/or receipts have already been turned in.

Effigy Bar

Shannon Joiner / aka Chwdog, Lead

Summary

The bar was an overall success. We had a number of volunteers, at least 3-7 a night, lots of booze and of course the two kegs. I personally had no budget or costs. Minus the bottles of booze I brought but that was a donation to the bar. Tunna did come with ice a couple of times, but I don't know who paid for them so I don't know what was spent on that (editor's note: the ice was donated by Alchemy directly). SCLibertine was a major help as well as a number of others that kept coming and helping whenever they felt. We probably had at least 30 different people behind the bar throughout the time it was alive.

Complaints/Issues

Over 50% of the people coming to the bar didn't know they needed or didn't bring a cup/glass. We did have a number of mixers but cola/juice was asked for a lot, that wasn't there, but we can plan better for that next year.

Thank you to everyone that donated to the bar, either your time, your booze or your personality. YALL ROCKED!!!!

Temple Team

Jonathan LaLiberty / aka Amsterdam, Team Lead

The 2008 Alchemy Temple crew consisted of Jonathan, Abby, Siryn, Unga Bunga John, Paul and Emily. We had one planning meeting in June at the Yacht Club in Little Five Points which was attended by the above listed and Clove and Tuna. We discussed the look of the temple and the initial design was pitched to the team and decided upon. In the weeks after the initial meeting, I constructed a mini model of the Temple from balsa wood and super glue. This model served as the blueprints for the real thing and gave the crew a visual of what it would look like completed.

The materials used for this project were 12 foot 2x4's and 2.5" screws. I had requested 90 2x4's and 2 (5lbs.) boxes of screws to complete the project. I completely over estimated the amount of lumber needed to complete the Temple by approximately 25 2x4's. I do not personally know the cost of those items as they were not purchased by me. I feel the project was very much a success and would not have been completed with out the help of the Alchemy board for financing the project and the labor of the volunteers.

The Temple Crew met at Cherokee Farms the weekend prior to Alchemy 2008 and assembled the temple, beginning at 8:00 am and finally stopping close to 10:00 pm. The Temple was fully constructed in that time. I know there is always room for improvement, but I feel that this project was pulled off almost perfectly and wouldn't have had it any other way. The only difference from the model to the final thing was the substitution of the "prayer wheels" from the model to the inclusion of wind chimes in their place. This was an oversight on my part, in that I could not find the materials we needed in the time I had allotted myself.

The actual burning of the Temple was perfect and exceeded my original vision. To see the community come together and burn their temple at sunrise was very moving. I want to personally thank the Temple Crew for all their hard, hard work in the weeks leading up to the event and during the event, putting on finishing touches and such. It was a pleasure to work with all of you and I would ask all of you back to do it again. The only improvements for next time would be to serve coffee in the morning and have more inner mass to burn next time.

Music Team

Justin Majors, Team Lead

Primary Focus

The primary focus for the Music team was handle issues regarding music at the festival at the “DJ Tent” and on the “hill” after the burn. Also the team should assist in any music related matters for the festival including but not limited to: theme camp music concerns, assist in site layout, music for conclave, assist with center camp music.

Team Mission

To provide a diverse range of electronic dance music to the Alchemy community from the community and to assist where needed regarding music.

2008 Team Members

Team Lead: Justin Majors

DJ Tent Decorations: Matt Chaney / Michael Pastrana

Music Assist: Scott Gant

Planning

Our first objective in planning was defining the primary focus of the team. The planning stages included the following.

1. Secure equipment for DJ Tent and Hill.
2. Organize community DJ's to play.
3. Decorations.
4. Backup plan for DJ's that do not show up.

Securing Equipment

To secure equipment, I sent emails out to the community and posted on community groups to see who would be willing to volunteer equipment. All of the equipment came from 4 people in the community.

Organizing Community DJ's

To organize DJ's for the community, I sent emails and posted messages on community forums calling for DJ's to email their information if they wanted to play at the festival. I used a google spreadsheet to keep track of DJ's that submitted information. From this information, I scheduled timeslots on multiple factors including requested time, type of music, and likelihood to show up for the shift. I then sent out the spreadsheet with timeslots and posted this at the DJ Tent and Connexus.

I planned on DJ's showing up for their shifts without anyone having to hunt that person down at the event.

Decorations

I personally knew two people that asked about doing decorations for the DJ tent when they heard I was team lead. I let them volunteer for this task and they handled the decorations on their own.

Backup Plan for DJ's Not Showing Up For Shifts

I created several mp3 CD's that would play roughly 6 hours worth of music before having to be switched. I tried to ensure that a wide variety of music was on these cd's to appeal to different people. This would facilitate my team not having to always check on the DJ Tent if a several DJ's did not show up for their shifts.

Implementation

Overall, I believe our team was able to successfully meet our focus and mission. We had music going at the DJ tent during most of the day and night. We had music playing after the burn to around 5-6am.

Challenges

1. Many DJ's did not show up for their shifts. I was not expecting such a large percentage of the DJ's that volunteered not to show up.
2. DJ's did not know where to go for their shifts.
3. It was difficult to verify that music was playing in the DJ tent all of the time.

4. The equipment volunteered for the DJ Tent was not available during the entire festival so equipment had to be moved around. This was a pain to organize.
5. The power cut off at the DJ Tent twice due to the extension cable loose connection.

Lessons Learned:

1. I highly recommend that the Music Team Lead have a walkie talkie and use existing volunteers to “keep an eye” on the tent to see if music is playing. If music is not playing, then the volunteer could radio it in to the music team lead.
2. Next year, I recommend that a map be sent out from the music team lead with the schedule to ensure that DJ’s know where to go to play.
3. I recommend that after sending out schedules that the team lead require a reply message from all DJ’s to ensure they received the email. If they do not reply they will not be scheduled.
4. Using a dedicate IPOD while plugged in as the backup music would probably be the best way to ensure music is playing. Setting up a few playlist that DJ’s can put on when they are done playing or volunteers can put on would keep the music going and take the stress of the team lead.
5. Insure that volunteers doing decorations are working on the decorations before the event.
6. Tape the extension cable to the power outlet and tape any extension cables that are connected together. We had two incidents of someone breaking the connection with walking over the cable. A little tape solved this problem.

Costs Breakdown

PA System and DJ equipment = volunteered
Decorations = \$140 (tape, paint, plastic wrap)
Generator for Hill = volunteered

Media Team

Issa Waters, Pauly Timperio, Robert Dukes; Team Leads (throughout the year)

From Pauly Timperio, regarding Connexus:

So, really not much to say about connexus, really just a few bullet points about how next year can be better. All said, it was a great success, I think.

- next year volunteer signups need could be an online application, something like transformus has
- the most common question was where can i camp. the borders of a theme camp were fuzzy at best
- people asked for a quiet place to camp. noobs.
- work more closely with themecamps, get listings, descriptions and schedule of events. perhaps even roam around to theme camps to gather information to post on events board

Lamplighters

We lost our Lamplighter lead during the months leading up to the event and were unable to find someone to step forward before the event. However, many pulled together at the event to make it happen, including several BRC-trained lamplighters flying in. I have found that the lamps at Alchemy are important to give a structure to the city. This year we doubled the number of lamps and poles and created a promenade-style path from Center Camp up to the Effigy. That path framed the effigy beautifully.

The following Lamplighter feedback is offered by Kathryn Craig / aka Kat, one of the BRC-trained lamplighters who stepped forward to help lead at Alchemy this year.

1. We experienced some difficulty filling lamps on the ground. It would be helpful to have a table upon which to set the lamps for filling and lighting.
2. Lamp prep was disorganized. A simple assembly line system would make this process go more smoothly. Again, a table would be ideal for this.
3. Ideally, lamps should be filled with only enough fuel to burn through the night. That way, they will burn out by morning and will not be hot during lantern collection. Two squirts of kero from a turkey baster seems to do the trick.
4. The rope we used for sashes kept falling off and getting lost. Robes were simple and functional, but the design can be improved. Kat and Twin are collaborating on a new robe design which will include fabric sashes and a flame design on the robe itself. Kat will donate all materials for this project. Anyone interested in helping put them together should contact Kat.
5. I want to put more into the ritual. Some of my thoughts: Have a prayer or focus of intention among lamplighters before the announcement. Ring a bell, gong, or singing bowl as the lamplighters walk out from center camp to the burn barrel to start the processional. This helps get everyone's attention and creates the mood.

Materials needed:

refillable butane lighters
turkey basters
cleaning rags
plastic tub for kero (e.g. dish tub)
extra wick
rubber kitchen gloves

All of this stuff is super cheap, so we shouldn't have a problem getting these things donated. When someone emails the Lamplighter lead prior to the event about volunteering, the lead can include in reply a request for donation of these materials.

Gate and Greeters

Claudia Muzyka, Team Lead

We here at gate had a wonderful experience. There were no actual meetings, although we did meet at most shift changes to go through training. I did speak to some of the volunteers prior to the event in person and over email, but I think the team would benefit from actual meetings before set-up in the future.

I feel that training should be able to be handled by the person already at gate during the shift change so that the team lead(s) doesn't have to be present for every switch. To meet that end, I think it would be good to have one team member who has attended meetings prior to set-up present for each shift change.

We had difficulties getting all shifts covered, especially over-night shifts. We have considered the idea of limiting over-nights. While calls were put out several weeks before Alchemy for volunteers, I believe it would be beneficial to begin earlier & at related events. Make sure contact information is exchanged with interested parties. Make extra copies of the sign up sheet for the team lead(s) and Connexus, including camp or area each volunteer is camped in and update them all frequently. I do not have all of the names of the volunteers who helped at gate on hand, but will get that information out as soon as possible. You guys & gals were amazing! Thank you for all your help & enthusiasm.

Another issue that we had was with willcall tickets and incomplete information. An idea that was brought up at the Town Hall Meeting was to have a computer accessible at gate. This will also require more reliable power sources at the gate, but it certainly seems a worthy idea given the number of issues we had with this.

Aside from the horrible luck we had with our generators at gate, the lighting and decorations worked extremely well. I might suggest that we add some kind of heater there in the colder hours. The games we had at gate were lots of fun for all involved, both those provided & those brought by volunteers! I think we should add even more of them and invite more people to play with us up at gate.

Center Camp Team

Kitty Hall, Team Lead

Center Camp was just what I felt it should be this year. It functioned as a venue for great entertainment, classes, and a community meeting and hang out space. Not everything was perfect, and there are some things I feel we can improve upon, but overall it rocked. Some of the high points were the great people who came out to perform for all of us.

Science the Musical brought a huge crowd and had everybody in stitches. Sugar Kayne's preborn show really set the mood; it was great to walk around center camp as everyone gathered psyched for the burn, with her music filling the air. Half Black Lit Shack was great as always, and lots of people commented on them. I loved seeing the people doing yoga or learning to juggle, and Lefty Williams was great. There was also lots of impromptu fun like ice cream making with liquid nitrogen and Karaoke. Then again, I might be biased, because I love Center Camp.

The set up with the three tents really worked. It allowed for several things to be going on during the day, one under each tent, as well as making the stage and center area the focus when it needed to be. I love the position of the staff/medical/and lamplighters in relation to Center Camp. It was great to not have the staff meeting in Center Camp, and also great that everything was close by. I also like that the lamp lighting equipment had its own place, but that lamp lighting was done at Center Camp. I know it was not planned that way, and that is just happened, but it felt right to me.

There were a few problems and changes I suggest for next year.

- MOOP- It was even worse than last year. My team and I picked up trash every day, and I know other people did the same. I think it looks really tacky, and it sad that the center place for the community is the least taken care of. Pick up your trash you damn dirty hippies, this is a BURN by Jove. We should brain storm on some way to make people more aware at Center Camp, maybe some wonderful artist out there has an idea.
- Walls- I liked how open Center Camp was, but at times it would have been nice to have a few walls. I am thinking only on the left and right outer sides to sort of define Center Camp a little more, and to break the chill. Brrrrrr....
- Art- It would be fun to put some art from our community up. Not necessarily big Alchemy art projects, but something would be cool. Like paintings and photos. I say we open up the space to be decorated a bit more.

Center Camp was a success, thanks to the participation of the community, the work of the Center Camp team, and Alchemy staff. Next year it will be even better.

Mobile Art and Parking Team

Robert Puckett / aka Puck, Team Lead

Mobile Art was a smashing success (sometimes quite literally) at Alchemy this year. Four art cars were registered: the Blue Beaver (returning from 2007), the Pink Pussycat, the World Land Speed Record Car, and the Pirate Ship (YAR!). Alchemy participants loved these, and they added a component of movement to the surreal landscape that is Alchemy. There were some problems with the size and maneuverability of the Pirate Ship. Low hanging branches, narrow roads, alien landscape, and a few lamp posts were obstacles to its smooth sailing. For next year, I recommend that we place lamp poles further out from the roads in order to accommodate these larger vehicles.

Parking also went well overall. There was some confusion as to whether the time of entry or the T+2:00 parking time was to be placed on the car. This can be clarified in the gate guide. The rule that all cars that are not mobile or immobile art must be parked is a good one, but we need better enforcement mechanisms. The main source of difficulty is in defining immobile art. Too many cars were parked within the festival with just a tapestry thrown over the window to qualify it as "art." I contend that only vehicles being used as sleeping quarters should be allowed the status of immobile art, and that we need to better communicate our expectations regarding their decoration.

Fozzie Bear needs to be in the Survival Guide and the Alchemist.