

Alchemy

The Georgia Burn

2013 Afterburn Report



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Event Information

Alchemy is one of two Burns held annually in Georgia. 2013 was our seventh year, and the first in which none of the original leadership was involved in the organization or execution of the event. It took place between October 17th-21st, at Cherokee Farms, in Lafayette, GA. Alchemy is hosted and overseen by Alchemy, LLC, along with its sister burn, Euphoria, which is held in the spring.

This was a very transitional year for Alchemy, and in many respects was a make-or-break for many in the community in regards to intention, sustainability, and philosophy. In 2012, Alchemy was the largest regional Burn in the United States, with an attendance approaching 3500 participants. In 2013, we took a step back, choosing to focus on quality of experience, and mindfulness of presence, instead of sheer impressiveness of scale. Many felt our community had grown too large, too fast, with the Principles being diluted amongst the incredible influx of new participants. Alchemy was scaled back in population this year by almost a third. In addition, many challenges presented themselves due to the lack of institutional knowledge by the Event Lead Team (ELT).

Disclaimer: This report was submitted to the Alchemy, LLC Board of Directors for review. Due to strict time restraints, the normal review process between the Board and the Event Lead Team had to be forgone. Therefore, this report contains a few changes made by the Board that were neither reviewed nor approved by the Event Lead Team.

Here are some of the statistics from this year.

Event Stats:

- Ticket Cap: 2500
- Tickets Sold: 2351
- Tickets issued: 2351 regular tickets + 50 scholarships + 28 Lead Tickets = 2429
- Ticket Price: \$72.25
- Participants onsite: 2,334
- Gross income from regular tickets sold: \$169,859.75
- Event Teams: 19

Volunteers Stats:

- Total Volunteer Shifts: 1398
- Total Shifts filled pre-event: 1039 (74%)
- Total Unique Volunteers: 507 (20.3% of participants)
- Volunteers working with multiple teams: 198 (7.9% of participants)

EMS/Fire Safety Stats:

- Six scheduled burns: Staff, Foodigy, Temple, Effigy, Tardis & Thunderfuck
- 37 pieces of Fire Art inspected (1 rejected)
- 8 unattended fires extinguished

Ticket Sales

With a ticket cap of nearly 1100 fewer invites than 2012, it was known from the outset that executing a smooth ticket distribution to participants would be a challenge. Thundertix, a third party ticketing company, was utilized to assist in the sale of tickets. Tickets were sold in three tiers of 783, 784, and 784 tickets respectively. Despite the best efforts and hard work of our internet team, when ticket sales went live for tier 1, the massive influx of users caused our system to crash, and ticket sales had to be abandoned for that day. After regrouping and consulting with representatives from ThunderTix, tier 1 sales were re-instituted at a later date, and things ran smoothly from there. All three tiers sold out in less than 2 hours. Many people were initially unable to acquire tickets, but most were able to find tickets on the secondary market before the event began. Thankfully, the ELT did not encounter any significant instances of scalping, nor was there a noticeable increase over years past of people attempting to enter the event without tickets.

This year, 50 scholarship tickets were awarded to participants who took the time to submit an essay to the ELT stating why they wanted to attend the Burn, and how their attendance would benefit the Burn overall. Over 100 letters were received, and the ELT chose the 50 they saw as being most likely to benefit or improve the community. Aside from these scholarship recipients, every participant at the Burn was required to pay for a ticket, including the ELT, Team Leads, and Board of Director members.

Financials

<i>Organization / Base Infrastructure</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Actual</i>
Land Use	\$ 13,000	\$ 12,500
Security	7,600	7,600
Gate Staff	2,400	2,400
Gate scanners	1,574	1,624
Medic	5,500	5,500
Schwag	2,800	2,080
EMS County Liaison	1,200	690
Golf Carts	8,700	11,924
Portable Potties	9,470	9,470
Radios	2,817	3,888
Main Sign	200	214
Tickets	600	189
Pageant	3,349	3,348
Team Lead Schwag	1,000	1,030
ELT/Org Expenditures	1,900	2,531
<i>Total Organization / Base</i>	<i>\$ 62,110</i>	<i>\$ 64,988</i>

<i>Team Budgets</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Actual</i>
Art	\$ 829	\$ 537
Center Camp	1,024	767
Connexus	621	614
DMV	1,096	600
Effigy	11,700	12,529
EMS	1,500	2,403
Fire Conclave	543	694
Fire Safety	1,693	626
First Aid	351	195
PET	492	546
Lamp Lighters	1,821	1,379
LNT/LOOL	909	1,180
Placement	1,759	1,313
Rangers	2,094	1,988
Volunteers	100	0
Temple	1,620	1,511
Public Works	6,500	5,057
Tear Down	450	752
Sound	1,000	515
<i>Total Team Budgets</i>	<i>\$ 37,104</i>	<i>\$ 32,206</i>

<u>Summary</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Gross Ticket Sales	<u>\$169,860</u>	<u>\$ 169,860</u>
Expenditures		
Infastructure Expenditures	62,110	64,988
Team Expenditures	37,104	32,206
Risk and Proficiency	<u>10,002</u>	
Total	\$ 109,216	\$ 97,194
Amount passed to the Org	<u>\$ 60,644</u>	<u>\$ 72,666</u>

The above is an incomplete picture of the expenditures and income for this year's event. Additional tickets sales to critical volunteers were sold by the Board that were not included in our budget and are not accounted for in the above totals-- This was a nominal amount. Much of the event's expenses are also paid by the Board and are not included above-- including, but not limited to, significant costs like insurance, ticket processing fees, credit card fees, legal/accounting fees and taxes. We also anticipated that we would have budget run-overs (which we only minimally incurred in actual) and allowed for a ten percent reserve to cover these overages (Risk and Proficiency). All of these factors together helped us to determine what to set the ticket cost per participant in relation to our event's budget and our anticipated contribution to the community's organizational costs.

Event Teams, Structure, and ELT Responsibilities

The organization structure was fairly similar to past years: The Board of Directors (BoD) selected a number of applicants to form the Event Lead Team (ELT), whose duties included:

- Working with the BoD to set the event capacity and ticket price, based on an estimated event budget
- Recruiting Team Leads and setting a communication system
- Building the pre-event calendar and milestones
- Managing communication with the community
- Arranging vendors and making purchases
- Writing the Afterburn Report
- Working with the Emergency Management Services teams to build a plan for a safe burn

The Alchemy Event Lead Team was comprised of Shawman (Shawn Gillas), Safari Anna (Anna Stroup), and Captain (Cory Glenn). The ELT had a fourth member, who resigned approximately 3 months before the event, due to personal reasons. The ELT faced many challenges from the outset, as they were selected and assigned responsibility over the event at a date later than normal or ideal, due to the withdrawal from leadership of the last remaining veteran Event Lead in the spring. Indeed, the holding of the event itself was still in question in March of this year. Despite this, Team Lead call-outs were quickly held and leads chosen, and event parameters were set. The first Team Lead meeting was held in June. Goals, intentions, and timelines were set, and the Team was off and running. The ELT met with Team Leads approximately each month leading up to the Burn in order to assess progress, foster a sense of teamwork and motivation, and to inspire creativity. Team Leads are the participants who do the majority of the work during the event, and as such, the ELT felt it important to encourage and oversee their plans and hard work whenever possible in the run-up to the event.

In an effort to be more hands off the BoD assigned David Stabler to be the liaison to the ELT team for the board. Having this one point of contact was helpful and kept things streamlined. David was an immense help with the insurance and the procurement was largely due to his efforts. The ELT feels that one of the reasons David was an effective liaison is specifically because he has not held the ELT position in the past.

Pre-Event Preparation

Contracts and Vendors

A crucial function of the ELT is to arrange the numerous contract services and vendor negotiations for the event. Below is a list of services appropriated or negotiated by the ELT.

- Portable Potties
- Radios
- Golf Carts
- Wood Delivery
- Gate Staff
- Security Team
- Land Use
- Insurance
- Heavy Equipment
- Schwag
- Pyrotechnics
- Print Ticket
- TL hoodies

Survival Guide

This year's survival guide was written by the Public Relations Associate, Mike Alberghini, who was chosen by the BoD to handle communications and information output. The structure of the survival guide returned to its traditional format, after creatively deviating in 2012. Its goal was to assist in the education of virgin participants, as well as to inform returning community members of any changes from years past.

Budgeting

The ELT was a new team. Much of our Team Lead's were new leads. We all started the planning process late. And we had major increases in expenses that we anticipated, like insurance. We also decreased the ticket cap and number of tickets sold. The overall budget needed to be determined concurrent to choosing team leads. All of this combined with a need to set ticket prices as a number one priority meant for a difficult budget process.

In the end, we:

- Referred to past year's budgets
- Drew on our experience as team leads of Alchemy, and roles at other Regional Burns
- Allowed for a 5 fold increase in insurance costs
- Planned on extra measures to increase the safety of the participants
- Listened to preliminary requests of Team Leads and increased the budget for many items, ie Golf Carts and Radios
- Created a Risk and Proficiency fund to allow for unexpected expenses
- Allowed for increased organizational costs
- Arrived at a tentative total budget needed for the burn

Our budget was kept very much controlled. We had several unforeseen expenses, which was anticipated, but not more than our allowance. Our Team Leads were excellent in their expectations, and worked within their allowances quite well. Some Leads requested extra funds for unexpected expenses, and rarely did the ELT feel it necessary to deny these last minute or on-site requests.

The ELT considered itself stewards of the community's trust in disbursing the burn's funds. Every decision we made was made from the eyes of "ourselves as a participants". We looked at each expenditure as one would out in the community, and attempted to judge our decisions from everyone else's point of view.

Procurement

Procurement of goods for teams was decentralized this year, with more responsibility being given to the Team Leads than year's past. Pre-paid debit cards were issued to multiple teams with monetary amounts based on their proposed budgets. Team Leads were tasked with obtaining their non-Amazon goods, while the ELT made online purchases for all teams, as well as larger local purchases, such as those for Effigy and Temple building materials. Overall, this system presented numerous unforeseen challenges which in hindsight created more problems than it was able to solve. See the section titled 'Issues and Suggestions for the Future'.

During the Event

Event Leads serve several important functions throughout the event (and work weekend). As the name would imply, the ELT guides the entire event, including everything from being the vision-keepers of the event to handling emergencies and other unforeseen issues. They are the first on-site, and the last to leave. The ELT organizes and leads daily Team Lead meetings, makes last-minute purchases (APW also does this), deals with ticketing issues, and are basically the catch-all for anything that needs to get done. But above all other functions that the ELT serves on-site, the most critical is as the escalation point for any issues that individual teams cannot handle (or are outside of any team's prevue) and as the decision makers and leadership in emergencies and incidents of all types. Overall the ELT was able to handle all of its responsibilities during the event with great success. There are always a few areas of improvement, and those are noted in the 'Issues and Suggestions for the Future' section, but overall Alchemy 2013 was a resounding success.

Post-Event

The ELT has a number of responsibilities following the event:

- Oversee Teardown team and the clean and timely departure from the property
- Ensure all vendors and contractors have been paid in full
- Reimburse any Team Leads for out-of-pocket expenses
- Close the books and create an Income Statement for the event
- Collect and aggregate Team write-ups and create the Event Report

Innovations and Improvements for 2013

2013 was a year of many changes for Alchemy. The ELT sought to solve various issues from years' past, ranging from minor annoyances to existential threats to the event itself.

Three new teams were established in 2013 to better serve the event as it progresses in population and nature. These teams were Tranquility Base, Sound Team, and Teardown Team. Tranquility base technically operated under the financial umbrella of Rangers, but operated autonomously. Sound Team was formed in response to numerous and escalating off-site complaints from nearby residents of excessive noise caused by the event. Teardown Team was instituted to combat the burn-out of volunteers that was evident after the conclusion of the event in 2012. Further details of each of these teams' responsibilities can be found in the team-specific reports in section VII.

Members of the ELT and Team Leads resolved to increase awareness of fire safety by simply talking about it. Making the community conscious of the issue was the first step in increasing mindfulness, and this method paid off wonderfully. The Fire Safety Team also instituted a pyro inspection requirement for all fire art on-site. Nothing could be lit, other than a burn barrel, without the Team's inspection. In addition, a plan instituted at Euphoria 2013 to construct and position fueling stations for fire performers was expanded. Alchemy this year featured over a dozen custom-built and illuminated fueling stations where performers could store their flammables and fuel their props in safety. Partially as a result of these combined efforts, the ELT is proud to announce that there were zero fire-related injuries at Alchemy this year.

The Sound Team was a great asset to this year's burn. Their effort pre-burn and onsite directly related to reducing our off-site sound complaints to essentially zero. We had zero official sound complaints, and a minimal number of neighbors whose complaints were addressed with minimal efforts by our community. The sound team took a proactive stance in determining the root causes of the past sound complaints and addressed them before issues arose this burn. The team was a resounding success.

The ELT and associated volunteers also sought to streamline and reorganize the on-site shipping container where most of the infrastructure is held. Many thanks go out to Tunna Kerosene, Sarah Griffith, and others for their efforts in organizing the container for future ease-of-use.

Also new to Alchemy this year, but carried over from Euphoria '13, was the 'Lighters of the Loo' concept, in which many of the porto-potties on-site were illuminated using rope lights. This greatly assisted in keeping the portos clean, making for a better experience for both participants and our porto-potty provider. Many participants stated that they had never encountered portable restrooms as clean as those at Alchemy this year.

Issues and Suggestions for the Future

Insurance

Like 2012, Alchemy this year required event-specific insurance. This became a serious headache due to policies enacted by many insurance companies regarding the coverage of Burn events in general. Obtaining insurance for the event was the responsibility of the BoD liaison, David Stabler, who may provide further insight into the intricacies and difficulties of this arena.

Dissemination of Information/Institutional Knowledge

This year presented a unique challenge to the ELT, insofar that none of the members had previously led or organized any Burn in Georgia previously. As such, many decisions were made without having the foreknowledge and experience present in previous years. It is recommended that future ELTs be coached or consulted at greater length by veteran organizers. Whether this responsibility falls on the incoming ELT, or the BoD/veteran members is up for debate.

Timeline

It is the opinion of the ELT that their position should be assigned at least 9-10 months before the event, and Team Leads be assigned 8 months prior to the event. This was unfeasible this year due to unavoidable circumstances.

Money Issues

The ELT suffered much trouble in a well-intended effort to bestow more responsibility upon Team Leads by issuing pre-paid debit cards for individual purchases for teams. Giving unfettered access to the event bank account to each team's Leads is not an option, yet making every purchase for every team is a daunting and Orwellian concept as well. Ideally, TLs should be able to make purchases for their respective teams using monies from the parent bank account, while not having unlimited access to the total balance in the account. The ELT would also ideally be able to view account activity in real time to determine if TLs are making responsible and timely purchases for their teams.

A burden we did not wish to bestow on our team Lead's ended up created larger problems-- monthly reporting. The daunting task of compiling and accounting for all expenditures was made much more difficult by doing it after the burn, and one of the primary reasons this report is later than we wished! In the future, how ever much a burden for the Team Leads, it would be smoother for everyone to have each person that makes an expenditure to report it monthly and provide the receipts. This would keep the details fresh in everyone's minds, allow for the collection of data before it is lost, and relieve post-burn overload.

Onsite Daily Meetings

It is the opinion of the ELT that the traditional practice of holding mandatory Team Lead meetings at 9 am be reassessed in future years. The responsibilities of each team vary widely in their hours of operation, and many TLs are catching up on much-needed rest during the mid-morning hours. While gathering all TLs in one place is a valuable tool to maintain moral and sense of purpose, it is recommended that the TL meeting be pushed back to approximately noon, or modified so that those teams whose presence is not expressly required by exempt from attendance.

Establishment of Protocol and Timelines

The ELT feels that for the event to continue to operate in an increasingly effective, issue-free manner, that an ELT handbook be established that relays institutional knowledge and outlines suggested timelines for the completion of obligations and milestones. The 2013 ELT proffers it's acquired knowledge and experience in crafting this manual for future leadership.

Build Week and Post event Evacuation of the Property

Numerous issues arose as a result of participants remaining on-site after the event concluded. This issue was magnified by the amount of volunteers signed up with Teardown team, and the fair weather which encouraged some to stay on-site. Some of the issues that arose can be avoided by adhering to a strict 'No Exceptions' rule for participants remaining on-site after dark on Monday night. Only those signed up with Teardown team prior to the end of the event should be allowed to remain on property.

Build Week and Tear Down should be managed with accounting of who is on property and what their role is. A method of approved volunteer tagging, like a wrist band, should be implemented. And Team Leads should account for each member on their team. The majority of the issues during Build and Tear Down were caused not by those working, but by others.

Providing for onsite firewood for theme camps

Alchemy was expected to be colder than normal this year (and it was!) because of the later weekend in October. The ELT felt that we needed to help insure a supply of firewood, while maintaining our no ins/outs policy and minimize commerce in the burn. The Farm could supply the wood, but could not process the prepayments orders. Our solution was for a community member and ELT, Anna, to take the orders and collect the payments for the camps prior to the burn, then pay Smokey himself by check.

The order and payment process went smooth-- Many camps were eager to help keep their fellow burners warm. Fulfillment was difficult. The Farm was not prepared for the amount of orders at the last minute. It required multiple days of hard volunteer work of two burners to help gather and deliver it all. Half Beard and MichaelG kick ass! They are largely responsible for helping to keep many burners warm during our burn in many ways!

Some suggestions that may make future wood order process smoother. Orders should be placed with Smokey well in advance-- at least a month, ideally more-- so the wood can be prepared onsite and not purchased from off site sources. Camps should be responsible for picking up their own wood once onsite, if for a cord or less. Camps placing large orders, when moving of wood is not practical, placement should coordinate with Smokey for the wood to be placed within the camp borders.

Team-Specific Reports

A.P.W.

“There was Whiskey and we built some shit. Sparkle went shopping, Tunna lost the keys, Uber forgot how to talk and something was burned down. The End.”

APW was led by Tunna, Sparkle and Uber and at Alchemy, the team oversees all infrastructure needs before and during the event, and is responsible for proper maintenance and storage of infrastructure post-event . Public Works works with all other teams as well as the Event Lead Team to identify and procure needed materials. Additionally, they are responsible for building or organizing the building of all structures (except the Effigy and Temple) and setting up other infrastructure items on-site, as well as overseeing the physical inventory and maintenance of all owned items. During the Burn the Team provides logistic and supply support to each Team, manages the Motor Pool and Radios and is generally fairly mean to anyone who wanders into their area.

Pre-Event Planning- Communications between APW Leads needs to improve. We accomplished quite a lot through very few interactions. Communications with ELT also needs to improve.

The pre-event Inventory was a huge success. We were able to account and list all stored items and begin an SKU system with bar codes. We are still working on getting the database setup.

The on-site storage container was organized and a row of shelves were installed. All Team assets were accounted, bar coded, separated and stored in specific containers, marked for that Team. (additional on-site storage may become necessary, soon.)

Next year: We are going to finish the inventory system. We also need to have a detailed list of needs from Team Leads before the event. Load out this year was less organized than we would have liked. The new system worked... but it has it's bugs. More preparation and discussion between Team Leads and APW could have solved many of these issues.

It might be a good idea to allow APW to look at individual team budgets to determine how much, if any, overlap in resource occurs(...we have enough zip ties for every Regional Burn in the U.S. to use.)

On-site Build: Build went great. APW had a massive showing of volunteer support and everyone was on point and engaged. APW Build Crews are Rock Stars and should be treated as such. APW had enough Volunteers to have 2 four person Build Crews and a 2 person Inventory Control Team that monitored the in/out of structures, tools and Team equipment. It is recommended to use this same method again next year.

Having a large group of individuals who have done this 5+ times can make this process relatively simple if the Teams are properly matched. The only significant issue was with build was the lack of tooling. APW has a lot of tools, just not enough for every Build Crew. There were issues performing certain tasks because the tool was being used elsewhere or Alchemy did not own one. The result is negative workflow or someone using their own. Which should not happen. Alchemy is at the point there we can provide tooling so our Volunteers do not have to wear and tear their own equipment.

Next Year: Every year APW would like a crop of fresh Volunteers and a mix of Veteran Builders. There is a need of a more solid way to pass along the knowledge of Building our Burn. Mixing these crews and splitting them into small groups designed to perform specific tasks is an easy hands on method.

During the Burn: Again, APW had a massive showing of Volunteers. (TIMMIES!!!)

APW had 78 overall shifts for this event. Of those 36 were Timmy shifts. All shifts were filled. In fact, there were only 8 vacant shifts for the whole event. APW also only had one real “no show”. (cough.. Puzzle... cough)

APW did have 11 on-site walk up Volunteers or “Not-a-Timmies”, though. So, this team was well stocked with muscle.

One of the complaints from previous years was Volunteers showing up and APW not having a workload for them... bored Timmies are dangerous. So, this year APW divvied up the work load a bit differently and staggered it throughout the day. The length of the standard shift was reduced from 4 hours to 3. It seemed to do the trick. APW had semi-continuously productive Timmies all day. SUCCESS!

Next Year: Certain positions will become applicant only. Build Weekend Volunteers, APW Shift Leads and Dispatchers will be selected and will not be filled by random Volunteers. APW would also like to develop a better Radio/Golf cart protocol for Sign in/out procedures. A first step to that is going to 24 hour coverage for Dispatch. APW is also going to expand the length and scope of the Shift Lead position.

Post Event/Teardown: Creating a separate, Team of Volunteers for Teardown was/is a fantastic idea. Teardown went smoothly and APW was able to re-inventory items as they went back to storage. Another post-event inventory will have to be done before Euphoria.

The last off property was Wednesday night. As of yet, we have heard of no complaints from the Land Owner.

Next Year: Rinse and Repeat. What ever APW did, do it again... it worked. Finding a dedicated TearDown Lead is the key. Maybe take some of the pressure off and select 2 or 3 for the task.

And Hype. Lots and lots of Hype about Teardown. Make everyone aware of it.

Wrap Up: APW will be altering itself a lot over the next year. As this ORG grows, so will the Team tasked to manage its resources and events. Alchemy Public Works is rebuilding itself. We need dedicated, determined, durable, knowledgeable and terribly crazy individuals to make that happen.

We would like to start focusing on a year round team of APW members. This Burn proved that that is possible to achieve.

Connexus

Connexus was led by John Stewart in 2013. The duties of this team is primarily to function as an information center at the event. Specific duties include: gathering information from other team leads for public display at the event and creating the ways to display that information, ensuring technological items not handled by APW are stored and protected at the event, present a map that shows camp placement and infrastructure, keep, catalog and distribute lost and found and to set up an optional way to register children (Tag and Release) for parent's peace of mind.

This year Connexus made the placement map and schedule of events all electronic. This made updating events and information much easier and less prone to accidental damage from volunteers and attendees. An electronic system to claim lost and found was also devised and is now online. Connexus Heralds garnered over 50 volunteers, resulting in the completion of the Effigy burn perimeter, 20 for the other burns (Tardis and Foodigy) and approximately 75 volunteer slots were filled that were either abandoned or no-shows.

2013 also saw the use of the Tag and Release program contract considerably. Only four families elected to use it. Though the cost of operating this are minimal, it does beg the question if the community still desires this option for their children or not.

The Connexus budget came in over way what would have been the actual reported budget due to not factoring in schwag and t-shirts for the team. The original budget excluded these items because there were supposed to be gifted by a private business in the Atlanta area, but that fell through at the last minute. The budget shortfall was largely compensated, (within \$25 of the reported budget), by donations of office supplies.

Unfortunately, John was the only Team Lead for this section and had to leave the burn early for a non-shift related medical emergency. I did not have a co-lead and had a high no-show rate with Shift Leads. John believes the following consequences stemmed from the confusion that came thereafter:

- Three 14-gallon trash bags were left at the Connexus site, which LNT ended picking up. This was originally to be carried out by John.
- The printer, originally purchased by the Org, was sent with my effects to John, personally. It will be returned to the Org, but the chain of custody on this item was broken due to a mix-up.
- Lost and Found was largely unsorted. It took him approximately a month after the event to claim it all, which, combined with the hospital visit, resulted in a late start beginning to return items to attendees who have stepped up to claim the items.

To the extent that the singular Team Lead could not close out duties, ELT Anna deserves a major amount of credit, as does the volunteers who stepped up to hold the fort together to extent they did. Catilin Payne, one of the volunteers, took over 16 hours out of her burn after already volunteering 8 to largely replace John. Despite the LNT and printer chain of custody hiccupst, an admirable job was done by this person and the community should give her thanks. A big thanks also goes out to Sunshine Davidson, who stepped up to claim the cast majority of Lost and Found in John's stead and held it until he could retrieve it and begin disbursing.

D.M.V.

DMV/Parking Team was led by Justin and Dawn. The goals of this team were to take and vet applications from the community for Mutant Vehicles and Art Cars and to assist disabled Alchemygors with any mobility issues. This team also handled the design and layout of the parking lot.

Parking: Participants will drove to their campsites, unload their gear, then drive from Effigy Field to the parking lot. A volunteer the parking lot entrance directed to the first row in the field. At the end of the rows another volunteer will point the vehicle to the next available isle. Yet another volunteer directed the vehicle to the next available parking spot in that row (at a slight angle, facing the main road).

On Saturday, before the burn, volunteers pulled up the tape and stakes between the rows. This created natural rows vehicle can now pull forward, turn to the left, and drive back to the road. This took about two hours for four people.

DMV Registration: There were some technological issues with getting all of the requirements and the application form for DMV registration on the website. In the end it was all posted about a month before the event. Onsite registration was also available to those who did not submit before pre-burn registration closed.

As soon as a new submission was received, it was checked for consistency against the listed requirements. If it sounded good it was approved upon an on-site inspection, if it was not, the applicant was told why and asked to reapply once the issue was resolved. This worked mostly well, though you can never be too clear. Checking in with unresponsive applications can save a headache.

Alchemy 2013 had 41 total pre-registered Art Cars and Mutant Vehicles pre-approved and 13 walk-up registrations.

Volunteers: The original plan was to have two people working DMV registration and two in the parking lot. It was quickly apparent we needed more people in the parking lot. People need help parking. If someone isn't telling them what to do it's chaos. It is suggested that Parking should allot at least four people to the parking lot, three designated as the In-Action states and an extra. DMV registration should have one and can even close after midnight-one AM, but parking lot needs to be well staffed 24 hours a day from Thursday till gates close Saturday.

DMV/Parking had 54 total volunteers. There 70 volunteer shifts available, with 37 filled pre-burn.

Special thanks goes to Duane Edmonds, for providing so much assistance. Also, our volunteers ROCKED! Thank you to all of them.

Comments: This year's descriptions and regulations for vehicles were modeled after Burning Man's. The regulations are pretty tough and adjusted them for our climate. DMV also took out other things that would not apply to our burn. After seeing burns for several years at Cherokee Farms DMV thought we could raise our standards for vehicle art. There were a great many submissions....And only a handful of problems.

To address those we suggest more public information earlier reminding people the requirements are tough, and even if you use a handicapped license you will need to meet all requirements for an MV/Art Car.

Center Camp

Center Camp was led by Tyler Glenn, Flash Harris and Todd Dawson. Center Camp works to provide a neutral community space for participants to express themselves however they see fit.

Out of the 72 performance/workshop slots, 55 were filled.

No volunteers were necessary for Center Camp, but APW was a big help in getting everything needed, when it was needed.

Art

The Art Team was led by Dani B this year and the goals of this team are to fund and support artist whose projects have been deemed of interest by the community and to increase the awareness of art at Alchemy.

The Art Team took a step up with a \$15,000 matching grant given by the ELT. 24 projects were funded by the community and organizational donations in 2013 and this is more than any other year. However, one artist was unable to bring his project to Alchemy and will refund monies received.

While there were no volunteers assigned to this team, Art wants to thank Lucas of the Light and Buttercup for all their assistance.

E.M.S.

EMS was lead by Patrick and ME. The goal of EMS at Alchemy is to be head of all emergency services for Alchemy and functions as oversite people for the emergnecy service teams including Rangers, Fire Safety, First Aid, Gate, Check Point Charlie, LEO and Security.

There were also over 20 people were caught and turned over to police or their moms for breaking in.

The addition of a third paid medic was amazingly helpful for us, as well as the new cop and help from Sound Team.

Effigy

Effigy Team was led by Mak Livefire, Keen Zero and Evans Manrique. Effigy Team was comprised of a designer, foreman, 4 journeyman, secretary, cook, (for build weekend), 18 volunteers and 6+ artists.

This year's effigy materials included 745 2x4s, 145 sheets of plywood, 180 sheets of OSB, 135lbs of screws. There were 15 official days of build time (pre and onsite) and the final structure dimensions were 44' x 44' 24'.

There were over 600 man hours put into the effigy this year and 2 volunteers showed up for the first pre-build day, 8 showing up for the second pre-build day and 10-15 volunteers onsite for build weekend.

Effigy would like to give special thanks for Keith, Waterfall, Juice, Rob, Machete, Marian, Andrew and Brian.

Here's a photo of their wondrous creation.



Fire Conclave

Fire Conclave Team was led by Patrick Spidey and Co-Lead was Jordan Proper The goal of Fire Conclave is to organize/choreograph the fire conclave performance before the effigy burn.

This year, Conclave had 40 volunteers and 25 safeties. The performance structure was changed somewhat: instead of each performer going across consecutively, they were organized into four prop-specific waves. Time was also allowed for spill-over, (12 minutes were planned for, with an allowance of 3 extra minutes). They were well within the time constraints.

Pre-performance briefings, organizing and fuel dumps were handled by Patrick Spidey and was assisted by Patrick Murphy who organized and placed the safties.

There enough safeties and fuel dump volunteers to make Conclave work this year.Special thanks go to Jordan Proper and Onionman, who did a fantastic job handling the fueling and spinning off of excess fuel.

Suggestions for next year: Having a visual representation, (whiteboard), at the meeting to better describe the process, as well as a live dry run around the effigy itself would be a great improvement. Also, instead of having the next wave of performers in the rear row move to the front and light after the previous wave of performers have extinguished and begun to exit, having the next wave enter in the rear. Front and back rows would switch (current wave is now up front and previous wave is now in the rear), followed by the rear row exiting would be a much more efficient way of organizing the conclave. It would be seamless, more aesthetically pleasing and a much better transition. Instead of doing a 50/50 (white gas/lamp oil) mix for the first wave of smaller wicked props, a 75/25 mix would be better. The first wave had some issues getting their props lit due the the higher percentage of lamp oil in the fuel mixture. A higher percentage of white gas will ignite quicker, and thus the lamp oil much more rapidly, which simultaneously allowing for a longer burn than if only white gas was used.

Fire Safety

Fire Safety was led by Patrick F.and the goal of this team is to monitor fire-related art and ecents and to provide inner perimeter for all scheduled burns.

36 out of the 37 pieces of fire are were approved after inspection and 6 scheduled burns were manned, (Staff, Foodigy, Effigy, Tardis, Temple and DAMM Camp).

This year's incidents included 8 unattended ground fires were extinguished, 6 ground fires were extinguished. 7 fire extinguishers were utilize, two 20# CO2, one 20# ABC drychem and four 10# drychem, but there were no related fire injuries that were reported.

Out of the 44 volunteers who signed up there were only 4 no-shows, approximately 10%.

Special thanks and recognition go out to Sean Anderson and Cat McEachern for their invaluable assistance.

First Aid

First Aid co-leads were Karrin Duncan, Michael Greenfield, Amy Willmore-Cochran and Robin Everitt (preburn only). First Aid functions to provide basic first aid to burn attendees and basic supplies. The level of care was limited to what can be done without training, (i.e.: applying bandaids, giving out ice packs, etc...). First Aids also works with the paid medics to assure that participants were seen by the medics, when needed.

Goals of this team are to encourage participants to be more radically self-reliant in the future and to encourage the proper LNT. The former was achieved by asking about what kinds of first aid supplies participants had brought with them and encouraging them to bring more in the future so that a stop at First Aid is unneeded. The later was achieved by making participants responsible for the MOOP that they created while at First Aid.

This year the tracked number of “broken burners” that utilize First Aid and EMS dropped by 40% from last year. There were also no major injuries this year.

First Aid utilized a new online video training for the volunteers. The recorded preburn training was available for anyone who could not attend training in person. It is suggested that this method be used in the future. Also, First Aid created a spreadsheet of approved shift leads and their qualifications. This made tracking leads much easier. In the past there was some confusion with the schedule when trying to determine that all shift leads were approved.

Another change this year is that First Aid experimented with going back to a model of one shift lead and one volunteer on shift at a time. Going into the burn 71 out of 77 shifts were filled. Unfortunately, there were many no-shows during overnight shifts. An added volunteer should be added to night shifts in order to protect against this.

First Aid would like to thank the paid medics. They were once again fantastic with participants and they are incredibly rewarding to work with. It should be noted that in the future, volunteers from each of the teams should adhere to the advice and expertise of the paid medics, so they can do their job.

Lamp Lighters

Lamp Lighters were lead of Thandor and Ash and their goals were to fill, light and hang lanterns around the event to aid in navigation during the high-profile evening processional. Lamp Lighters also assists Fire Conclave during effigy lighting.

A large scale project of upgrading the lantern-pole feel is underway. Due to the scale of this project, completion is expected by Alchemy 2014.

There was a wide-scale no show rate with volunteers who signed up before the burn. As such, the majority of the volunteers were recruited onsite. There was excellent turnout from theme camps working in groups.

Special thanks go to Ashta Monogue, Alexander Stadler, Kurt Gunther, Owen Dean and Cary Nicole Yahr Davis.

Leave No Trace and Lighters of the Loo

LNT and LoL were led by Ean Loire and Matt Chaney. The Leave No Trace team is responsible for continuing education about LNT philosophy and technique. The team organizes volunteers each day to conduct MOOP (Matter Out Of Place) sweeps and offer MOOP bags to participants. The team instructs their volunteers to discuss and distribute LNT philosophy and technique with volunteers. At the end of each volunteer shift, the team records the amount of MOOP removed from the event and disposing of the collection accordingly. The LNT team is also responsible for creating a MOOP map at the end of the event to share with the community how much MOOP was left on site and where the problem areas were on property.

The Lighters of the Loo team is responsible for installation and maintenance of LED lighting for the portapotties. Additionally, the LoL team provided propaganda, including potty use guidelines, to display in the portapotties. All propaganda was removed by the team at the end of the event in keeping with LNT philosophy. The Lighter's of the Loo received full budget approval, and lighting was supplied via rechargeable batteries. The propaganda was submitted by participants.

This year's LNT volunteers had a team identity, known as the MOOP fairies. Volunteers contributed handmade tutus and fairy wings to wear during their shift. This generated recognition for the volunteers and led to verbal praise from participants as the volunteers worked their shifts. All costume materials were donated to the team or personally provided by the leads. The team had a ten foot sculpture, originally created for the Euphoria event, known as the MOOP monster which served as a meeting place for the team and a reminder to participants to practice the Leave No Trace principle.

Approximately 77% of the volunteer shifts were covered:

Day/Shift	Number of Volunteers signed up	Number of Volunteers that showed	Amount of MOOP collected (in increments of 14gal bags)
Thursday Noon	18	12	6
Lighters of the Loo	11	6	
Friday Noon	20	35	30
Friday Four PM	20	14	10
Saturday Noon	19	18	20
Sunday Noon	25	8	8
Monday	10	2	50+

MOOP Locations:

CAMP CALLOUT

(large amount of moop from single camp)


-
- Camp Fuckit 
 - The Nameless City Misuse of property + left wooden chairs!
 - Knotley Crew Left wooden pallets!
 - Area 51 

SHARED SPACES

(and areas including multiple camps)

-
- Showers 
 - Parking 
 - Potties 
 - Effigy Hill 
 - Connexus 
 - Center Camp 
 - Back Pocket 
 - Seige Lands 
 - Roswell 
 - The Lake 
 - Silent Hill an old metal lamp post & 
 - Deep End 
 - Hollow 
 - Ragnarok 
 - The Ghetto 
 - The Burning Fields 
 - The Bone Yard - Green Star for having very little (the least) MOOP, Though it should be noted that no area was MOOP free 

Honorable Mention

-
- C I R C L E Camp - Green Star for being very thorough with their MOOP sweep, as well as volunteering for an LNT Faerie shift as an entire camp! 

MOOP Map - Alchemy 2013

For side-by-side comparison list and "camp callout" see next page...



Special thanks goes to ALL ONE CIRCLE Camp! Not only did the majority of the camp show up for a shift together, but they contributed supplies. Also, Tim Wheelock (the Temple lead) both worked a shift and took the lead on the MOOP Map's creation.

Cassy of Burner Beach donated amazing tutus!

P.E.T.

Principals Education Team was led by Kirsten, Owen, Lucas and Jenny and the aim of PET is to greet and educate burners to the 10 Principles upon entering the burn grounds, as well as throughout the event.

Volunteer coverage was approximately 90% with 97% of shifts filled preburn.

PET would like to thank David Tyberg, who picked up a secondary lead shift after one of the leads cancelled at the last minute. Thanks to Katie Maifield, who worked PET as a shift lead for 8 hours. Thank you to all the teams who helped out pre, during and post burn!

Placement

Placement teams consisted of two co-leads, Lillie and Tumbleweed, who performed all the necessary registration planning, oversight of the theme camp submissions process and helped plan and lay out the measurements for registered camps within the Alchemy city.

88 total hamlets/theme camps/sound camps/logistical camps, plus 3 art projects required placement this year. Last year Alchemy had 74 registered theme camps, so there was an increase, even though attendance was larger.

Registrations:

3 Art Projects

6 Logistical Camps (APW, 1st Aid, Center Camp etc...)

9 Hamlets (introduced this year, hamlets were a way for groups of people who want to camp together, but were not at the organizational level of a theme camp to request placement. Hamlets were not eligible for early entry.)

33 Sound Camps (over 100 watts of amplified sound)

37 Theme Camps

12 Villages (Also introduced this year, theme camps participate in creating villages with other theme/sound camps)

Placement received feedback this year about creating a designation for Food Camps. There were several large camps that were preparing and handing out food that would benefit from the ability to exit and re-enter without penalty up until the gate closes on Saturday, allowing them to maintain food prep. Placement suggests that if the next Leads want to do this, do not give this out to every food camp, only to those that can commit to high volume, (such as Rootpile or 3.14 Pizza from 2013)

40 people signed up to volunteer with Placement, 23 of which showed up for their scheduled shifts. However, by Monday of build week, volunteers had placed 95% of all registered theme camps, leaving Placement volunteers available to help other teams through the remainder of the build.

Thanks to our entire Placement volunteer theme, (those who showed up). The Monday team was invaluable, leaving Placement volunteers the remainder of the week to help other teams, which they were happy to do.

Rangers

Rangers was led by Jeff (Biggz) Simmons, Jennifer Mitchell, Corey (Ghostbuster) DeMontigny and Dusty Graham and Rangers works to ensure the safety of participants and the event while allowing everyone to choose their own adventure.

In 2013 three out of the four Co-Leads were new to Team Leading. Also, this year trainings consisted of two off-site pre-burn and one on-site Friday afternoon.

Volunteer Coverage:

Individual Volunteers	111
Total Shifts On the Schedule	170
Filled Shifts Pre-Burn and On Site	150 / 88.24%
Shifts Unfilled Pre-Burn	54 / 31.76%
No Shows Of Filled Shifts	31 / 20.67%
No Training of Filled Shifts	3 / 2.00%
Shifts Filled On Site Who Showed Up	9 / 6.00%
Shifts Filled On Site / No Shows	11 / 7.33%
Excused	4 / 2.67%
Shifts Cancelled on Sunday/Monday	5 / 3.33%

Sound

Sound was a new team in 2013 and was led by Andy “Fixxer” Owens and “Hasty” James Morris. Sound was created to avoid sound complaints from neighbors offsite, as well as place sound systems in a manner tha avoids as much camp to camp bleed as possible. This was accomplished through pre-event contact with every pre-registered sound camp and requiring a registrations of all sound systems over 25 watts on the property. This created a situation where everyone knew what was going on and why they may be told to turn down during the event. EVERY CAMP WAS SUPER COOPERATIVE! THANKSSOMUCH!

Approximately 25 out of the 32 registered Sound Camps showed and set up systems.

Volunteer shifts were 5 hours long and approximately 50% of volunteers showed for their shift. However, Keith “Tiny Hat” Rolland and “Joose” Joshua Berens stepped up to fulfill shifts almost every night of the event.

Thanks so much to Tiny Hat and Joose, without these two, Sound would have been screwed. They stayed on-comm most of the ent and played a huge role in crisis sound management.

Temple

Team Leads: Clayton Cathcart and Timothy Wheelock

Temple team did not submit a post-burn report, so here's a picture of their beautiful structure instead. Tim and Clayton did an excellent job of constructing this Temple in a timely manner during build weekend, sourcing their own volunteers, and they came in under budget on their project. Well done fellas!



Tear Down

Team Lead: Gypsy Dave

Teardown team did not submit an afterburn report, so the ELT will comment on what it observed to be successful and what needs improvement in the future.

Teardown team was created in response to an obvious need to disperse the responsibility of setting up and breaking down infrastructure amongst a greater number of volunteers. In 2012, a combination of poor preparation and inclement weather resulted in the responsibility of returning infrastructure to its proper storage areas to fall upon only three people. As this was clearly unacceptable and unfair to those involved, a new team, separate from APW, was created.

Teardown team operated on a budget whose only major expenditure was food items to feed its volunteers during their efforts post-event. This is an excellent incentive to provide volunteers who give their time for an unglamorous and sometimes grueling job. Thankfully, the weather was fair during teardown, which greatly improved participation and kept moral high. Teardown was successful at breaking down and effectively storing all infrastructure and inventory by Tuesday afternoon. The largest challenge that the team faced this year, and in the future, was keeping volunteers coordinated and focused on their goal. A strict policy of only allowing those pre-registered as volunteers to work with the team will help alleviate some of the issues of stragglers attempting to legitimize their presence on the property after the conclusion of the event by doing a minimal amount of work with the Teardown team.

Volunteers

Volunteers was lead by Seth Williams-Welch and this team worked to provide suppo for other team leads in compiling and implementing volunteer strategies and needs. Also, to help onsite with volunteer difficulties and deficiencies.

Total Volunteer Shifts: 1398

Total Shifts Filled Pre-Event: 1039 (74%)

Unique Volunteer Sign-Ups: 507 participants (20.3% of all participants)

Volunteers Working with Multiple Teams: 198 (7.9% of all participants)

• Team Coverage Statistics:

Burn Perimeter 66%

Connexus 50%

DMV 74%

Fire Safety 69%

First Aid 92%

Lamplighters 86%

LNT 78%

Placement 77%

PET 95%

Public Works 86%

Rangers 88%

Teardown 84%

Temple Perimeter 28%

Almost all Team Leads reported a lack of volunteers for later night shifts, particularly overnight 1st Aid and Rangers. This includes people that signed up for shifts and did not show.

There was also a very notable trend of smaller groups of volunteers taking on multiple shifts, some with as many as seven different teams. This show a large bulk of the volunteering is done by a small group of participants, only 8% of the total attending.

Suggestions for the future would be for Volunteers to interact more with Team Leads to keep better track of volunteers. This included volunteers who signed up onsite and those who did not show up for their shifts.

Also, finding more avenues through which to find volunteers outside of Facebook and the Alchemist.