






ARIZONA DECOMPRESSION 2011



AFTERBURN REPORT

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Introduction – Arizona Decompression 2011 - AfterBurn Report

Introduction

Arizona Decompression was held outside Sanders, Arizona on October 6-9.

In all the things I control as a Co-Lead, as a Regional Contact and the personal things I believe I control in the Universe...The one thing I do not have control over is Mother Nature.

It is my sincerest apologies to all that purchased tickets for Decompression and did not get to make the trek because of the adverse weather conditions...There was not much we could have done to make it easier to get to the location via the dirt road - Navigating during the daylight was easier than attempting it at night; but with a 5 hour drive from Phx that made that very difficult.

Regardless of the adverse weather conditions and road issues - those that did make it to the site had an incredible time.

Arizona Decompression circa 2002-2010 was held at Gateway Ranch outside Flagstaff. There is no doubt that it had been an awesome site for our annual Post-Playa weekend camping gathering. We sincerely thank Mark & Kismet for offering their land for so many years. We certainly enjoyed being part of the growing and ever changing scenery of your property. The bond between you both & the AZBurner Community runs deep and will be everlasting.

We strive as a Community to be 'Leave No Trace', but no doubt there has been long-term disruptment to the ecosystem that is Gateway Ranch because of our 9yr presence; we were respectful of the need to find an alternate location for Decompression 2011 when they made their own decisions about the use of their land. Again we thank them so much for all they have given the AZBurner Community over the years. Best to you both; The [Star School](#) and the wonderful projects you create from your hearts.

Tickets for Arizona Decompression 2011 went on sale July 22, 2011 with a single ticket price of \$30. When sales ended on October 4th – 79 tickets were sold.

A full [financial disclosure](#) is listed here-in this AfterBurn report.

Introduction – Arizona Decompression 2011 - AfterBurn Report

Special callouts to Event Leads:

- Event Co-Lead - Toni Oertel aka 'Tigress'
- Insurance/Financial Consultant - Robert Tait aka 'Mr. Mom'
- Gate/Greeters – Scott & Toni Oertel
- LNT – Gayle Hoyer
- Rangers – Corrine Vivers aka 'Hermione'
- Fire Safety - Ron Martinez aka 'R-Jag'
- Land Owners (Witch Wells) Jerry Meixner & Virginia Farley

Thank you all for all the work you put forth to make a very successful Decompression. I hope to work with you all again soon.

Scotto

- Co Lead Arizona Decompression 2011
- Co AZ Regional Contact
- Burning Man Lifer/Geek/Zealot

Choosing a Location – Arizona Decompression 2011 - AfterBurn Report

Finding a new location to hold a weekend camping event requires planning. On May 28th we visited land outside Ashfork, Arizona (Family member of long-time AZBurners). The land itself was awesome and could accommodate large numbers of campers, but the Ingress/Egress to the site was quite less than ideal and was ruled out as an option.

With only a few short months to plan Decompression after a successful Saguaro Man in early May 2011, with the Ashfork property ruled unsuitable, I decided that our best option for holding Decompression would be to return to Witch Wells outside Sanders Arizona (The site of TOAST! 2002-2010).

During the [Tucson Town Hall](#) meeting in June 2011, it was suggested that maybe our annual Decompression should be a Warehouse Party and not a camping weekend. A Poll was held on the AZBurners & AZBurners North Yahoo Groups; when concluded had 73% voting for a camping weekend. Decompression was then scheduled for October 6-9 @ Witch Wells with tickets to go on sale July 22, 2011.

Many in our community have voiced concern over the location choice of Witch Wells, primarily because of its distance from Metro Phoenix and thus even further for those living in Tucson & points south. Many have requested that we move away from utilizing our Private Land options and have events on BLM or State owned land.

I understand the concerns that have been voiced, YES, the private land options we have available to us are all in the Northern part of our state; thus the distance/travel time can be prohibitive to those that live in Tucson & even Metro Phoenix. I am not convinced that distance alone should dictate where our two Regional Events (Saguaro Man & Decompression) are held. Saguaro Man has a permanent home @ Double Dolphin Farm outside Snowflake (as long as Arthur, Sunshine & Pyro Dave will have us there). As mentioned in the [introduction](#) we needed to find a new location for Decompression 2011.

I feel we are indeed lucky to have as many private land options as we do. Pursuing BLM/State Land requires permits, deposits, and the very real possibility of having to have Law Enforcement personnel on site, doing what LEO's do, and maybe even having to pay their salary as they do what they do. I for one as Co-Regional Contact just do not see that as our best option for a Decompression location, regardless of driving distance. In-fact we are looking at an additional private land option for Decompression 2012, but YES, it is in the Northern portion of the state.

That is not to say that any among us or groups of people could not produce an event on said BLM or State Land at anytime anywhere in the state. That person or groups of persons would/should get proper permitting – insurance - ticketing and all that goes with running a successful event. Invite AZBurners and Regional Burners; have the party of a lifetime, it just will not be called Decompression.

Enough said...

Co-Lead Notes – Arizona Decompression 2011 - AfterBurn Report

Co-Lead Notes

Notes from Scott Platsky aka 'Scotto'- Decompression Co-Lead

First thanks are to Jerry & Virginia for allowing us to use their land; we certainly hope to be back there again soon...You are both such wonderful hosts & friends.

Of the 79 purchased tickets, which included [six dogs](#), 48 people + six dogs were on-site. There were attendees from Arizona, Colorado & travelers all the way from Virginia...

The adverse weather conditions made for an interesting event. More thanks than I can give go out to Scott Oertel. There was not a second thought in your mind to be out in the rain when we first arrived and do what needed to be done, erect shade. Throughout the weekend you were always there to lend a hand.

Many Many thanks to Toni Oertel for Co-Leading the event with me, you are awesome and so enjoy your enthusiasm and Do-Ocracy spirit in all things community and AZBurners.

Since my own bedding & clothes were strapped to the top of the Suburban, of course with the rain came wet bedding & clothes. Thanks to WildChild, my wife, friend and life partner for being able to see the humor in all and roll with the punches. Thank you for believing in me and standing by me.

Working with vendors can sometimes be a daunting task, but when you find service providers that go above and beyond; Kudos are certainly in order. Thanks to Blue Hills Environmental for bringing the Porta Potties on-site in a torrential downpour; you gave us a lemony fresh place to...well you know what you do in Porta Potty...

High praise to Ramon from St. John's for coming thru with a wood delivery at the last minute, when our original firewood delivery fell thru. Without you our Decompression experience would have been quite different as the temps dipped in the low 20's Friday night.

There was no formal Art – No effigy to burn – There was No OONTZ...But even as Mother Nature unleashed Rain, Mud, Hail and that Hard Freeze; we were kept warm by Fire, Pot Luck Dinners, Sr. Steve's Balls, The Zombie Bar, new friends, old friends and the love of all things AZBurners & that piece we all look and strive to have in our lives each and everyday COMMUNITY!!!

Co-Lead Notes – Arizona Decompression 2011 - AfterBurn Report

Notes from Toni Oertel aka 'Tigrezz'- Decompression Co-Lead

When we arrived at Area 51 it was cold, raining, and muddy, but that didn't stop us!

Scotto and Scott were our saviors in setting up the structure out in the mess of weather. Airman saved us shortly after that with the fire pit, and wood! The porta potty guys were awesome for trekking it out there, plowing through the mud even after they got stuck!

It rained all day Thursday so we decided to have gate at the structure so we could be by the fire. Very relaxed gate, since population topped out at 48. However, even with the short number of folks, and just I-pods and phones used for music, a great time was had. I definitely enjoyed it, being still somewhat new to AZ being able to get to know folks better on a more personal level rather than just by name.

I look forward to burning with everyone again!

Toni Tigrezz

Financials – Arizona Decompression 2011 - AfterBurn Report

Financials

Revenue	
Ticket Sales (79 Total)	\$2,370.00
Expenses	
Land Use Fees	\$0.00
Event Insurance	\$350.00
Ticket Processing Fees	\$137.46
PayPal Processing Fees	\$85.50
Porta Potty Rental & Service	\$850.00
Firewood	\$400.00
Event Gasoline	\$100.00
Signage (Plywood/Hardware/Paint/Brushes)	\$109.98
Lights/Toilet Paper/Starter Logs	\$204.71
Total Costs of Event:	\$2,237.65
Total Event Revenue:	\$132.35

Moving Towards the Future – Arizona Decompression 2011 - AfterBurn Report

Moving Towards the Future

Looking towards 2012: We will continue to pursue Private Land locations for future Decompression events; which at this time are located in the Northern part of the great state of Arizona. I acknowledge that these locations create long-travel times for those who live in points South of Metro Phoenix.

Event Radios: Post Saguaro Man 2011 we purchased 6 additional radios for use at our Regional events. Kudos goes to Shawn aka 'TGaps' Vermillion for taking the time to program all the radios between 3 channels for Event Leads, Gate & Rangers. There are still two radios that are in need of repair (broken knobs) but at this time it is not necessary to get them fixed as we have enough in current working order.

Keeping multiple radio batteries fully charged is a logistical challenge and I have not been impressed with the battery life of the current 1500mAh in use. These radios also can be used with AA type batteries. I will be doing a side by side experiment to see if using rechargeable or one-time use AA batteries work better and produce longer use times.

AZBurner Art Committee & Art Fund: Major kudos to Conchita and the Art Committee who worked diligently post Saguaro Man 2011 to get an online Art Grant Submission form in place to give potential artists a way to request monies. With a very short window of time between the online form being available and the submission deadline for proposals because of our annual trek to Northern Nevada, there were only two grant proposals received. One of which was funded but did not make it to Decompression.

The Art Committee is currently finalizing the dates for a Theme and the Art Grant process for [Saguaro Man 2012](#) scheduled for May 3-6 @ Double Dolphin Farm outside Snowflake, Arizona. Look for announcements soon.

With distributions from Saguaro Man & Decompression 2011, the remaining balance in the AZBurner Art Fund is \$2,520.76. With Decompression showing a profit of only \$132.35 no additional monies at this time from the AZBurner working fund will be added to the Art Fund balance. Future profits from events like Saguaro Man will add to the available funds in the AZBurner Art Fund.

Conclusions: Despite mother natures best attempts to damper our spirits, those that attended Decompression 2011 had an amazing time. Look forward to even better things for 2012.