






AZBurners Town Hall Meetings – 2011



Phoenix – Tucson – Flagstaff

1st Annual AZBurner Town Hall Meetings

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1st Annual AZBurner Town Hall Meetings

Introduction

The idea of initiating Town Hall meetings within Arizona was born from the Regional Summit held in San Francisco over the weekend of April 1st 2011. Newly installed Regional Contacts Scott Platsky aka 'Scotto' & Ben Overbaugh aka 'Chromie' as well as Ginny Platsky aka 'Wildchild', Rachel Taccariello aka 'Tacky', Craig Cooper aka 'Coop', Roger Ripps aka 'Panther' & Renae Bellah.

The Town Hall concept has been successfully implemented within several other regions and produced significant community involvement and amazing ideas that were transformed into community projects.

Since Arizona had never had a Town Hall & Scotto & Chromie had never run a Town Hall Meeting, our goals were to bring together community members in the three distinct regions of the state (Phoenix, Tucson, and Flagstaff) initiating a dialog between the community and it's Regional Contacts. The format would be a sort of 'State of the Region' address as well as a Q & A period in which those that attended could converse openly about their community concerns.

The dates for the three Town Hall Meetings were set:

Phoenix – June 4th – Hosted by 'Walter the Bus'

Tucson – June 11th – Hosted by 'The Drawing Studio'

Flagstaff – June 25th – Hosted by 'The Lumberyard'

Combined there were 71 AZBurners that attended the 1st Annual Arizona Town Hall Meetings. Here is a summary of what was discussed at each of the three meetings held in June 2011.

Minutes recorded & transcribed by Ginny Platsky aka 'WildChild'

Submitted by:

- Scott Platsky aka 'Scotto'
- Ben Overbaugh aka 'Chromie'
- Co- AZ RC

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Phoenix Town Hall Meetings – 6/4/11

- 40 Attendees – 11 Burning Man VIRGINS!!!
- Many of the attendees are new to AZBurners - part of the "[Walter Project](#)"
- Introductions of everyone in the room and what their involvement, if any, has been with Burning Man and Arizona Events.
- Review of Goals
- Discussed Regional Contacts 'Scotto & Chromie' and their roles – They are the direct liaison to Burning Man.
- Discussion about the [Announce List](#). The Announce list is only to announce AZ Burner events. Only the RC's can post on the Announce List.
- Discussion about [Saguaro Man](#) - It was a success! - The AfterBurn report will be available on line for everyone to see the beginning of July.
- In being a Burning Man sanctioned regional event you tithe part of your profits to one of the following organization [BRAAF](#) (Black Rock Art Funds), [Black Rock Solar](#), or [BWB](#) (Burners Without Borders)
- It was chosen this year to give the money to [BWB](#), to continue to support these people in all they volunteer and build when communities are in a time of natural disasters.

Money funded to:

- [BWB](#) - \$400
 - [AZ Core project](#) - \$600
 - [Tunnel Of Questionable enlightenment](#) - \$400
 - The Arizona Art Fund - \$2700
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- Discussion on changing Decompression from its traditional camping weekend to a one Day Party, as is done in some other states.
 - If Decom is to be a Camping Weekend – Dates - Oct 6-9th - Tickets should go on sale on July 15th
 - Gateway Ranch where it had been in the past is no longer available - Other areas Available Witch Wells or Double Dolphin farm

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Phoenix Town Hall Meetings – 6/4/11

Rangers overview given by Corinne and Blank

- AZ Rangers are going with the name [Heliotropic Rangers](#) who are our AZ Regional events Rangers
 - Rangers are our Friends.
 - Heliotropic rangers need more volunteers aka Rangers, we do not have enough to be able to cover all shifts at our own events.
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- Discussion about perimeter rangers for the [core project effigy burn](#) on Thursday night on the Playa....you do not have to of had ranger training to do this. We need 26 for the Thursday night burn. You must be sober to do this and no drinking while working perimeter for this burn.
 - Discussion about [Rebar Bender](#) to be held July 30th in Flagstaff.
 - Discussion about LLC (Limited Liability Corporation) vs. 501 (3) C (non profit status)
 - Meeting ended @ 5:15p with time left over to visit the [Walter Bus Project](#).

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Tucson Town Hall Meeting - 6/11/11

- Meeting started @ 3pm - 15 people in attendance
- Introductions around the room
- A history of AZBurners is on the web site for people who are new to the group
- Art Fund – Robert Tait aka Mr. Mom Spoke
 - Encouraging people to do art by funding the art supplies to make the art happen.
- The ticket prices for the AZ Regional Saguaro Man were a tier system that helps the New AZBurner Art Fund.
- AZ Burner Art...in venues that are not necessarily burning man, giving back to the communities we live in for public art pieces.

Chromie

2011 Goals for AZ

- We can throw a great party! We have that down.
- Giving back to the community by volunteering ...soup kitchen, St Vincent de Paul's. Etc
- Community View of the RC's Roll- the Region Contacts are a liaison between you and The Burning Man Organization

Scotto

- Thanks to everyone for coming
- There was a discussion of the AZ Burners List. Where it is and most on going things are posted. Spoke of the Announce list where only the RC's can post.
- The information is also on www.azburners.org and the various discussion lists Yahoo group, [Facebook page](#), [Facebook group](#).
- Talk about volunteering as a group outside of Burning Man but as AZBurners & as Arizonans.
- The difference between the phrase I vs. We – and what is best for the community.

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- Discussion about Gary & Grover stepping down as RC's after 10 years. Also stepping away from the regional event formally known as toast!
- Saguaro Man – How and why the name got changed. Toast was an LLC. So as Gary stepped down it was time to change both the venue and the name...Saguaro man won in the on line poll.
- [Saguaro Man](#) - Co leads Scotto and Tacky - The tiered ticket system - Capping at 300
- Saguaro Man AfterBurn report with detailed financial disclosures – Posted beginning of July
- Discussion of AZBurner Art fund
 - To recognized as an Arizona Regional Event you tithe 10% of your profits to one of these organization
 - A break down was given of Funding that SM helped
 - [BRAAF](#)-Black Rock Art Fund
 - [BWB](#) -Burners without Borders
 - [Black Rock Solar](#)
 - We chose this year [BWB](#) – to continue to support these people in all they volunteer and build when communities are in a time of natural disasters.

Money funded by SM this year

- [BWB](#) - \$400
- [AZ Core project](#) - \$600
- [Tunnel Of Questionable Enlightenment](#) - \$400
- The Arizona Art Fund - \$2700

Discussion began about Decom

- Public vs Private land
- Public land we may have to have police in attendance - Private land does not.

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Tucson Town Hall Meeting - 6/11/11

- We have as regional events, which are for AZ Decompression and Saguaro Man, always been lucky to have gifted to us private land for our events.
- We were recently up to look at another piece of private land in Ash Fork. A beautiful sight no access road because of deep wash to the camping area. This could be a spot in the future but would not be ready to be funded, for the work it needs, in time for this year.
- The Jump to public land anything south of Tucson includes Boarder Patrol problems.
- Witch Wells is gifted land for Decom.
- The date for Decom is Oct 6-9th - With tickets to go on sale on July 15th for a flat rate of \$35.
- As with SM there will be no tickets at the gate so on one has be responsible to handle money.
- Tickets thru Event Bright worked
- Smiles let us know that Black Rock Ticketing is a nightmare with the projects he has worked on before.
- Space Vixen & Mr. Mom -Looking for public space, looking for new choices in location.
- Mark – Looking for the availability of private land.
- Commercial Ventures vs AZ burner events.
- Why not share the property that WPE uses?
- Are the commercial ventures or for profit tagged by LEO, and attended by ravers who have no idea of burner ethics.
- Is the drive too far for decompression...?
- Don't cap something if it in the middle of no where
- More Decom discussion...draw more people in the community if a place is closer to the PHX and Tucson area.

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Tucson Town Hall Meeting - 6/11/11

Other topics

- Rangers - We need more AZ rangers....also need people to do perimeter for the AZ core project on playa. You do not need ranger training to do perimeter for the AZ core project. 26 people needed for Thursday the night of the burn...you must be sober and committed to working the whole evening.
- Community Art Projects...is there a conflict of Flagstaff vs. Phx vs. Tucson
- Recommendation that Smiles lead the AZBurners community Art Projects.
- Discussion on LLC vs Non profit 501 C (3)
- An LLC will have to pay taxes
- Non profit can fund raise and the fundraising can be tax deductible for the people donating money – tickets to events do not count as donations.
- With a non profit it will cost as much to pay an accountant to keep records of all that is required to maintain yourself as a non profit.
- LLC already has a local burner (Mr. Mom) willing to keep the books as a volunteer, a gift.
- Better to cover your ass as soon as possible and become an LLC, then can look into up grading to a non profit in the future as AZ burners community becomes larger.
- Incorporate in NV was a suggestion. But was felt it was better to get the LLC in Arizona.
- The meeting ended @ 5:30 p

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Flagstaff Town Hall Meeting - 6/25/11

- Meeting Started @ 3:15p - 16 people in Attendance
- Beginning Comment – Chromie - BM Tickets will not be available a gate, so if you have not gotten yours yet, you might want to get them
- Go around with introductions...Names, times to BM, or different AZ burner Events.

TRAINS!!!!

Chromie

- Official Regional Events
- Using Trade Marks: Burning Man , Decompression
- Saguaro Man needed permission from the LLC to be a regional Event.
- Regional Contacts are not required to participate in Official Regional Events.

Scotto

- Saguaro Man - Excellent Event!
- To be an official BM event what needs to be done
 - 10% of profits go to one of the following
 - BRAF – [Black Rock Arts Foundation](#)
 - BRS – [Black Rock Solar](#)
 - BWB – [Burners without Borders](#)
- Co Leads for Saguaro Man – Tacky & Scotto
- Discussion about Name Change from Toast
- Saguaro Man Books totally public to AZBurners.
- At site running the event was less intense because of all the time put in to event planning and Strong leads in Gate, Rangers, LNT, Art, Insurance and financial consultant, Fire safety, onsite placement, center camp dome designer builder and landowners
- Saguaro Man after burn report will be available online beginning of July

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Flagstaff Town Hall Meeting - 6/25/11

Summary

- ~\$14000
 - ~\$7000 spent on event
 - \$2700 to AZ Art Fund
 - \$400 to BWB this was chosen because it impacts people going thru devastating natural disasters..earthquakes, floods, etc.
 - \$600 to the Core Project- AZ presence at the Burn
 - \$400 to the Tunnel of Questionable Enlightenment
 - \$2900 to Administration – Radios-Snacks etc for TH meetings etc.
 - \$2000 left over...seed money for Decompression Potties Etc.
 - 37 comp tickets – guests of Landowners and Leads and Rangers
 - 288 Paid tickets.
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- Being a burner is not defined as going to Burning Man but going to AZ burner events.
 - How did just tickets on line go? - Excellent – no money at gate made it easy for people running gate to just check ID's.
 - One of the most difficult things to deal with people is Cash, keeping The Will Call list in order was well worth the time.
 - Info was all in the book and transferring from shift to shift was easy.
 - Comment...Gate and Greeters should be closer. Having them so distant people did not always stop at greeter's station.

Discussion Decompression

- Still waiting on the polls - Warehouse party or weekend camping event
- Poll closes 7/30 – Decision Decompression Camping Weekend or Warehouse Party
- If Camping weekend - Decompression Date Oct.7-9,2011
- Official Events needs the presence of Rangers
- Question can AZ Decom and SM do scholarship tickets...Sirius would be willing to run this if is possible.

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Flagstaff Town Hall Meeting - 6/25/11

Chromie

- Ranger- Info - Rangers are our friends- they are trained conflict defusers
- MORE RANGERS NEEDED
- AZ Rangers are known as [Heliotropic Rangers](#)

R-Jag –Fire Safety Lead

- Talked about being a first responder and what that entails
- Events should also include Radical Self Reliance
- Promote that everyone should have a First Aid Kit and a Fire extinguisher.
- Take care of each other and take care of self!

Side Note – by Sirius [FireFly](#)...community oriented towards art and healing will be in July...Not a burner event but burner ideals: **Date: 7/22-24, 2011**

Chromie

- Unofficial Regions Events
- 100-Daze
- [Rebar Bender](#) – In Flagstaff this year at Coops
- Holiday
- No Burners Left Behind

Discussion

- Difference of LLC or 501-3-C (non Profit)
- Leaning towards LLC until we become bigger
- Do we want to have a board for the LLC...and if we do will there need to be a Attorney on the board....
- Having a lawyer on LLC board
- You cannot represent yourself as an LLC member....but a lawyer on the board covers that.

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Flagstaff Town Hall Meeting - 6/25/11

Discussion

- Making a Northern Arizona Event and Making a Southern AZ Event.
- Separate Discussion....Community Art Projects for AZNorthern AZ, Phoenix, Tucson...Competition??? Or just fun rivalry!
- Grow with [Announcement list](#) ...just listing events...
- Volunteer coordinator....where can I volunteer at regional events...Sirius is interesting in doing this...Wanna Volunteer part of site...send list to Sirius.

Core Project

- Regional Effigies – On Thursday night 24 Effigies will be burned at the same time. All roughly around 25Ft tall.
- AZ Core project is one of those that will be there.
- Perimeter Burn – 26 people from AZ , you do not need to be a ranger to do this...requirements...you must be sober....and stay until it burns out and the perimeter drops.
- There will also be a community parade around all the effigies...you cannot be part of the parade and part of the perimeter people.
- Also we will need a clean up crew for after the burn see Admiral Fiesta for more info.

- Open floor to Community questions
- Chromie – talk about his art on the playa
- [FireFly](#) by Sirius
- Phx Burn by Richard Wizardry
- [Newbie event](#) July 16th...and Fashion show...gifting and getting of playa wear...take what you are ready to let go and find new things!
- [Rebar Bender](#) - July 30th...at coops in Flagstaff.
- Interesting Note...Scholarship Tickets at burning man you can only do one time!
- Wrap up....thank you to everyone who came....meeting ends about 5:15p

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Conclusions

Attendance

- Of the 71 attendees at the three Town Hall Meetings
 - 15 Burning Man VIRGINS!!
 - Additionally 30 attendees that had never been to an AZBurner function but had attended Burning Man
 - Welcoming the cast & crew of 'Walter the Bus' into the AZBurner Community

Forming a Legal Entity

- Significant discussion by the RC's & community members was dedicated to what type of Legal Entity would be formed within Arizona to be the 'Corporate' front representing AZBurners when signing Contracts, Permits & Insurance policies for Saguaro Man, AZDecom and other AZBurner sanctioned projects. This legal structure would be a liability shield to the RC's and other leads on projects in case legal action was instantiated.
 - Discussions centered around forming an LLC (Limited Liability Corporation) and 501 (3) C (Non-Profit)
 - Robert Tait aka Mr. Mom volunteered to assist

Core Effigy Project

- AZ-Based - [Carnegiea Gigantea](#)
- [2011 Circle of Effigies](#)
- Perimeter Burn – 26 people from AZ , you do not need to be a ranger to do this...requirements...you must be sober...and stay until it burns out and the perimeter drops. If interested - email your contact information to Carree Meyers at [fortunata.ragazza\(at\)gmail\(dot\)com](mailto:fortunata.ragazza(at)gmail(dot)com)

Heliotropic Rangers

- The AZ-Based [Heliotropic Rangers](#) are actively looking for new recruits
- Ranger Blank has stepped down as Lead and handed over duties to Ranger Herimone, Ranger Sista TurtleDove & Ranger Sol

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Conclusions

Regional Event Ticket Sales

- Inquiry as to instituting Scholarship Ticket option to Saguaro Man & AZDecom
 - Sirius volunteered to lead – May look to implement for Saguaro Man 2012

AZBurner Stepping up to Volunteer

- Sirius is volunteered to be the "on-event" volunteer coordinator, managing and assigning volunteers to various tasks needed during the event... Similar to how the Artery does with Volunteers and artists needing help at burning man.
- Smiles is the lead for state-wide community art projects.
- April Holle was volunteered to be the educational workshop coordinator. In this role, she will gather information on what types of workshops people want to attend, and then coordinate with those people to hold the workshops.