

Setting the record STR8...Careful though I will be using words that are just words they are not meant to marginalize anyone or put people in a box - these are my words - just grow up - put on your Big BOY/GIRL Pants - Comment if you want I will like/love them all - read on if you dare...

There are lots of rumors and chatter flying around the "I am a Big Deal" post I made last week on my own FB Wall about how I see myself and my place in Burning Man and how that influences or affects the camp I run and have run since 2001. I said it in the way I said it - I used a hot button word that made some people go bonkers - I chimed in here and there - Liked or Loved all comments or bashes or digs or what have you to the massive discussion; I am not recanting my words or changing them...But here is some additional information...

First lets quell some rumors - I did not catch Ginny in a tryst with another man - Things between Ginny & I are at the best place they have ever been. We are in LOVE! We are Poly - we had Poly stumble this year - but we are VANILLA when I look at how other people define themselves or the activities they participate in - It should be OK for us to be Vanilla and it is certainly OK for you to be what you are or do what you do.

Out of our total budget dollars I took \$1,000 for myself for running the camp all year long and as rent to our garage which houses the Poly gear all year long and to the invasion of folks that come by to do work for the camp.

I had a rough Burning Man dealing with LNT/Rangers/BLM/Playa Restoration on gasoline containment issues and the Gray Water spill at our tanks near the shower.

I had my own Poly issues I was dealing with...

And...I pushed a proverbial line in the name of Radical Self-Expression and made other bad decisions with that line being pushing even further during the event.

And thru it all I was the Benevolent Dictator doing all that I could to make sure that each of you had the time of your life.

For 50 weeks of the year I spend much of my volunteer time with Burning Man on the Meta Conflict Committee - we provide a safe space for women to report sexual assault - investigate those allegations and make recommendations to the larger Burning Man decision process to what should be done with possible removal of that person from their official role in Burning Man. I found myself in a dichotomy while trying to hold that space but condone a sexual event that I believe is incongruous with that space. These two worlds collided and I now see that the line that was crossed moves the Village of PolyParadise in a direction I do not want to go down. Because I condoned this event what stops the line from being moved again? Where does that end? The details of the event do not matter - I see the line was moved and I am not happy about that. I knew about the event before

Burning Man - in conversations with this camper I attempted to shape what the event was to become so that the line I felt I was moving was not moved miles but maybe just feet. Many of the things I feared around this event happened; again the details are just not important, the line appears to me to have been moved even further in a direction I am just not happy about. I have had a chance to chat with these campers and I appreciated the opportunity to convey my feelings and hope to still have these persons be my friend and still a Polycamper in the future but that will be their choice.

I do not ask if you are Poly when you join the camp but out of 240 campers I presume that less than half wear a Poly label in their life - I believe that the rest of them camp with us because of Community and our kick-ass kitchen. Lots of campers come up to me and tell me how awesome the camp is; I always say the thing you feel - the thing that makes you want/need to tell me how great the camp is or how well it is organized is the collective us. How do I Self-Actualize all of you to see that it is the collective YOU that makes the Village of PolyParadise what it is. But how the camp is seen by those that camp with us and the view of the camp from the citizens of Black Rock City appear to me to be on different paths and that will change as we move forward.

We have not any real rules of the camp in place; just be open to other people's lifestyle - As the camp turns 21 in 2019 it is time to make changes and thus have rules of conduct - what is permitted and what is not. I am not stifling what people can do within the space of Black Rock City and am not into making moral judgments about people's proclivities or KINK oriented behavior - but rules of conduct and behavior and what will be allowed in the space of PolyParadise are needed. YMMV.

People do tolerate others behaviors until given an opportunity to speak out - My post one week ago about 'Being a Big Deal' gave many folks that opportunity. I received several private messages about another event that takes place in camp; again details are not important. The comments were not to ban such an event or art piece but questioned whether it should be out in the public view. I attempted to have a conversation with those persons that brought the piece in question and found that they felt victimized in some way because - well it always was like this and NO I cannot separate the art I bring to being an exhibitionist. That is their right to feel that way, but just because it has always been that way does not mean that it will be that way in the future - What I asked was that it be placed inside a structure so that people could choose to view or participate but not be forced to view if that was not their thing due to it being in public view. They see things differently and that is OK - They are very angry at me that is OK. They or any other Polycamper may feel differently if they were running the camp and maybe not and that is OK too.

Other comments from my post a week ago centered around Consensual Hugs and that not everyone likes uninvited hugs - guess we need guidelines around that too.

The Poly Play Space did not make it to Burning Man this year - Our campers found other places to do what the KINK they do - This gives an opportunity for some change as the dome will be coming back in 2019 but with a different purpose. It will be an Art & Maker Space (PMS) Working Title "Poly Maker Space" but I am sure the name will change to something way more Art & Maker space extravaganza. More details to come as they get flushed out.

I also realize that we do not volunteer enough with the greater BRC - I cannot require this volunteerism and should not have to but will be looking to get testimonials from those in camp that do volunteer with BRC so that it makes it easier for those registering for camp to know what are the best places to do such volunteering.

PolyParadise will have some established rules of conduct for 2019 - At this time I do not know what they will be - As I mentioned last week I have reached out to several polycampers about rules for the play parties they attend - I need to look at these rules of conduct and see what can be incorporated into what our code of conduct will become.

You are all free to agree or disagree with anything I have stated - How I state it - the words I choose - the manner in which I put words into sentences & paragraphs - You are free to comment - You are free to bash or slash or dig on me and my word choices - the way I state things - the decisions I have made - my public statements about what I feel and how I see things - but do not judge me on what I have not yet decided will be - Wait till I post again and then comment - bash - dig or like/love what I believe is the best direction for the Village of PolyParadise as it turns 21 in 2019. Hope you will be part of that transition.

Burning Man Lesson #7

YMMV

Scotto

- Benevolent Dictator Village of PolyParadise
- Burning Man Lifer/Geek/Zealot