



Nudity, Heckling, Costumes and Whiskey: The Burning Man Ultra

BY CHERIE YANEK, RD

Burning Man is known for a few things: dust storms, art, nudity, radical self-expression, dance parties, wild costumes, creativity and in general, debauchery. Thankfully, the Burning Man Ultramarathon contained all of those things, in one way or another, this year.

The Burning Man Ultramarathon (alternatively called the Black Rock City 50k) is held in the middle of the Burning Man festival. It's hard to describe Burning Man as it's held in the desert in the middle of nowhere (literally – nothing exists in this particular spot the rest of the year). It is a temporary community based on The 10 Principles: gifting, de-commodification, participation, radical inclusion, radical self-expression, radical self-reliance, communal effort, civic responsibility, leaving no trace and immediacy.

There is no exchange of money (except to buy ice and coffee), everything else is free. The ubiquitous art is interactive and the community is built in ways only achieved in a utopia. Hard to describe unless you go there – so you might as well go there and run our ultramarathon, which is a great way to see and experience it all on foot.

This year, the race was a bit more extreme than usual, with dust storms starting at around the 5:20 mark of the race until the end of the day. There were whiteouts, meaning runners had difficulty seeing the course. Most runners wore bandanas over the mouth, and goggles or tight-fitting sunglasses. Many of the faster runners were already finished for the day when the dust storms began, but were still hanging out at Camp Pink Lightning, eating a post-race feast of quesadillas, chips, guacamole and salsa, and beer. Runners also enjoyed great swag bags including totes, t-shirts, magnets, bracelets, stickers, champagne glasses with charms, patches, magazines, wreaths, necklaces and more.

The course takes place on Wednesday of the week-long festival in Nevada's Black Rock Desert. While the course is very flat, the terrain is on a sandy surface, ranging from hard-packed sand to loose dust similar to sand dunes. Runners start and finish at Pink Lightning Camp and run loops of 7.1 miles on Burning Man's Esplanade (basically, the Main Street of Burning Man). They run out in

“Deep Playa” alongside the trash fence with great views of artworks and sunrise watchers. Participants also get to listen to great music from the art cars, even taking a few dance breaks. Runners are given high fives, shots of whiskey, heckling, champagne at a champagne sunrise camp called Bubbles and Bass,

Arnaud Dumont ran the entire race naked, finishing in 6:22, while pulling a rickshaw behind him with a naked woman in it.

hugs, frozen blueberries, cheers and amazing support from other Burners. After four loops, runners do a short out-and-back and finish under giant pink lightning bolts.

Andrew Utas won the race for the second year in a row, followed 20-ish minutes later by Ryan Van Duzer and William Holleran. Australian Kay Hodgins won for the women, with second place claimed by admired artist Kathy D'Onfrio and third place by Christine Mosley.

There were several other notable performances this year. Kerry Winston Ward ran the entire race in the wrong direction, dressed as a Puritan, carrying signs that read, “This whole affair is inadvisable,” “I strongly disapprove” and “The end is not near ye fools.” He heckled runners, telling them they were “On the path to damnation.” Best of all, he made a video about the experience.

Arnaud Dumont ran the entire race naked, finishing in 6:22, while pulling a rickshaw behind him with a naked woman in it. He completely amazed those passing him; it's one thing to run an ultramarathon at Burning Man (and yes, it is considered to be a bizarre thing); it's another to do it while carrying a naked woman in a rickshaw while running naked.

Want to go next year? Get the full deal on the race at burningman50k.com and check out the information about the festival at burningman.org. Tickets are required for everyone. 🏃



William Holleran (right) and Brian Devine cruising along the desert course. [© Candy Camerden]

Burning Man Ultra

Black Rock City, NV // September 2

🏃 1,2* // 50k

Elevation gain: Flat | The course is on a sandy surface, ranging from hard-packed sand to loose dust similar to sand dunes. Runners travel loops of 7.1 miles on Burning Man's Esplanade. After four loops, runners complete a short out-and-back and finish under giant pink lightning bolts.

1	Andrew Utas, 28	3:42:00	33	William Campbell	5:08:00	77	Blake Cronyn, 25	5:52:00	120	Sean Alderman	7:00:00
2	Ryan Van Duzer	4:02:32	34	Peter Clark	5:11:00	78	Celine Leymary	5:53:00	121	Jim Wolff	7:06:00
3	William Holleran, 28	4:04:00	35	Belinda Chin	5:13:00	79	Colleen Corcoran	5:55:00	122	Takashi Kita	7:06:09
4	Brian Devine	4:07:24	36	Jeffery Hasty	5:16:00	80	Alex Patriquin	5:57:00	123	Kate Fitz	7:07:16
5	Kay Hodgins	4:08:00	37	Will Thomas	5:16:00	81	Paris Rich	5:58:00	124	Joe Togoan	7:07:16
6	Gary Allen, 58	4:08:00	38	Gabrielle Porter	5:17:00	82	Richard Clabaugh43	5:59:00	125	Jay McDaniel	7:07:16
7	Jakub Pawlowski	4:09:00	39	Konrad Ribeiro	5:18:00	83	Brendan Law, 32	6:02:00	126	Roberto Muenger	7:11:20
8	Kerry Ward	4:14:00	40	Lara Goodwin	5:18:00	84	Sarah Rios	6:03:00	127	James Cunningham, 41	7:11:36
9	Michael Bushoy	4:15:00	41	Andy Bot	5:18:00	85	Tim Bell	6:05:00	128	Ni Tianhuld, 27	7:13:45
10	Winter Mead, 30	4:17:00	43	Brian Biros	5:21:00	86	Sean Hospodar, 24	6:06:00	129	David Seal, 68	7:14:07
11	Ben Raid	4:20:00	44	Lisa Zhu	5:21:00	87	Julien Kers	6:08:00	130	Jeremy Roberts	7:19:08
12	Bob Hearn	4:22:02	45	Ilya Budnevich	5:22:00	88	Mike Arov	6:11:00	131	Jenna Nordgren	7:21:35
13	Kathy D'Onfro	4:27:00	46	Joshua Consoli	5:22:00	89	Monica Houston, 27	6:12:00	132	Sean Warren	7:23:12
14	Paul Sluyters	4:27:00	47	Justin Dunlap	5:23:00	90	Kate Calderon, 31	6:14:00	133	Adi Andreeva	7:31:25
15	Adrien Conteras	4:28:00	48	Joe Beyer, 52	5:26:00	91	Hannah Yang	6:16:00	134	Seanna Haruko Harrington	7:39:37
16	Hjalmar Kristiansen	4:29:00	49	Brandon Solomon	5:28:00	92	Derrick Shriver, 45	6:17:00	135	Joe Barbera	7:47:00
17	Chris Zerger	4:31:00	50	Ben Fletcher	5:29:00	93	Ooscar Corripio	6:17:00	136	Kelynda Johnson	7:49:56
18	Sean Harrasser	4:32:00	51	Sara Poindexter, 25	5:31:00	94	Leanne Diss	6:19:00	137	Alix Txe	5:03:00
19	Barron Hanson	4:42:00	52	Cheryl Yanek, 36	5:32:00	95	Paul Spence	6:21:00	138	Naya Antink	8:15:59
20	Christine Mosley, 30	4:44:00	53	Margy Morris	5:34:00	96	Arnaud Dumont	6:22:00	139	Christopher Moss, 43	8:11:50
21	Trent Banks	4:47:00	54	James Thomson, 38	5:35:00	97	Caroline Brun	6:23:00	140	Phuong-Ha Ngo, 40	8:21:16
22	Steve Woo	4:48:00	55	Keith Bauer	5:35:00	98	Menachem Katz, 27	6:23:00	141	Michael Ollom	8:21:55
23	Michelle Spresser	4:48:00	56	Alicia Girvin	5:35:00	99	Micah Yospe	6:26:00	142	Joy Castaneres	8:23:42
24	Craig North-Matthiassen	4:55:00	57	Keith Blechman, 37	5:36:00	100	Steven C. Talkington	6:27:00	143	Henry Magalong	8:31:08
25	Julie Kheyfets	4:56:00	58	Adam Davis	5:37:00	101	Sean Ormsby	6:28:00	144	Bart Roman, 35	8:33:09
26	Allison Fisher	4:58:34	59	Erin Serrault, 34	5:39:00	102	Tony Pendolino	6:28:00	145	Ron Lane	8:35:41
42	Jeff Gentzler	4:58:35	60	Amanda Onken, 36	5:39:00	103	Caitlin Mencik	6:29:00	146	Aryeh Ohayon	8:38:45
27	Charles Harrison	5:00:00	61	Michael Wong	5:41:00	104	Rich Previte	6:29:00	147	Momoko Akiyana, 27	8:46:04
28	Henry Howell	5:00:00	62	Nicholas (Atlas) Kaniuga	5:43:00	105	Grant Marquart	6:30:00	148	Rosminah Brown	9:15:00
29	Jose Azcona	5:00:00	63	James Cherry	5:44:00	106	Stephanie Sher	6:31:00	149	Aaron Hicks	9:15:00
30	Leanne Seckinger	5:01:00	64	Pascal Egli	5:45:00	107	Matthias Darricarrere	6:33:00	150	Allan Kaplan	9:15:38
31	Christian Mercer	5:06:00	65	Edward Hsu	5:46:00	108	Alison O'Connor	6:37:00	151	Mike Miller	9:15:38
32	Peter Bergquist, 26	5:08:00	66	David Michael	5:47:00	109	Jesse Stromvick, 28	6:39:00	152	Janessa Link	9:17:37
			67	Josh Munk	5:47:00	110	Stefan Kaufmann, 28	6:40:00	153	Rebecca Grey	9:18:56
			68	Leah Klapproth	5:48:00	111	Chris Tschinkel	6:41:00	154	Tom Maddox	9:18:56
			69	William Heath	5:48:00	112	Douglas Hamilton	6:42:00	155	Michael White, 39	9:43:16
			70	Jon Dunn	5:48:00	113	Hannelore McElheny	6:42:00	156	Heather Tate	9:55:48
			71	Rory Campbell	5:48:00	114	John Kurtz	6:42:00	157	Alex Rose	8:07:32
			72	Char Kuperstein	5:49:00	115	Jessica Ghilarducci	6:42:00	158	BJ Timoner	10:34:00
			73	Steve Landis	5:49:00	116	Robby Rey	6:47:00			
			74	Jason Reuther	5:49:00	117	Charlie Gorichanaz	6:51:00			
			75	Tom Parette	5:50:00	118	Robert Velcheck	6:55:00			
			76	Kateri McLu	5:51:00	119	Darren Eveleigh	7:00:00			

*See page 36 for key

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