

# RAT 2022 After Burn Action Report

Bruce Cooper, RAT Lead

[Renewables for Artist Team](#) (RAT) goals for the 2022 Burn have been met. We started with creating educational content which can be found on Burning Man Hive. From there we solicited artists who desired to get off the generator and onto solar to power their art projects. The final step was to be available and provide artist solar tech assistance on playa as needed.

**This year** we had a number of artist requests for RAT's assistance but due to artist budgets and life events we finally ended up assisting 12 projects. RAT solar mentors sit down with the artist to discuss their project's power needs. Typically the artist power budget starts out large but utilizing RAT's Solar Estimator it was possible to get the load down to budget numbers acceptable to the artist. The larger the load, the more panels, batteries and charge controller(s) which equals a larger budget. It was interesting to watch artists become more energy efficient in order to keep the cost and complexity down.

**There were very few solar related issues.** Most were mechanical in nature. Artists solar success was contributed to project burn-in prior to reaching the playa. A "burn-in" is the running of all systems for enough time to verify proper function.

## **Listing of RAT supported art projects:**

**Empyrean Temple, Renzo Verbeck** – Originally, due to time constraints, budget and equipment considerations, solar was not going to be used. RAT developed a proposal of powering up just the southern portals of the Temple using an off-the-shelf contained system. A donation for the complete solar system was made and the Temple team approved the installation. With cooperation from the Temple lighting team, RAT was able to install the solar powered generator, construct a panel racking system and install all the panels. Prior to the Temple burn RAT disassembled the system to be sent to 360 for continued use. No on playa issues with solar

**Tinkle Drum, Bibi Blienkendaal** – Issues with drum load wheel bearings. No solar issues

**IntraNurture, Sylvia Adrienne Lisse** – was in need of metric battery nuts. RAT assisted in finding the needed nuts. No on playa issues with solar

**SpaceCats, Ayda Keshtkar** – This project was burned. The electrical lead had concerns about the power production. RAT inspected the system and all appeared to function normally. No on playa issues with solar

**Glee!, Berley Farber**– No issues but the system was built on playa. A RAT member did assist Berley with the build.

**Ripple, Josh Vermetti** – All solar issues discovered during burn-in. No issues on playa. RAT did supply some wire to the project

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**Harmony Strand**, Cynthia Fleischmann – Did have a mechanical issue that was fixed on site. No on playa issues with solar

**Friendship Cube**, Lindsey Fielding – No solar issues but was concerned about having enough battery reserve so another battery was brought. No on playa issues with solar.

**Planetary Possibilities** - Diane Ebrill – Burn-in at home revealed the need for a different panel configuration. No on playa issues with solar

**Bouncing Infinity Gadget**, Sarah Gonsalves – Mechanical issues did plague the conveyor system. They did add an additional battery to the solar system to build in reserve. *There appeared to be an attempt to unbolt the cabinet door that held the solar control system. The **thief of solar** equipment is concerning with unattended art on the playa.* No on playa issues with solar

**Colors of Nostalgia**, Alena Starostina – no solar issues.

**Chilopod**, Lawrence Grown – An expensive off-the-shelf solar generator system was purchased but they did not install it. Instead a generator was used due to time constraints, thief concerns and inability to get insurance. The system was used for camp power instead.

## Lessons learned:

- Discussion on chief concerns with artist
- Use of reflective tape on solar panels and art to prevent art car, bike or pedestrian collisions.
- Daily 09:00 radio morning meeting
- Work on a way to reach and educate more artists on using solar. 12 into 1200
- Give a RAT radio to the ARTery for ease of contact
- 1 radio in the MRU. One charger or spare batteries to help maintain equipment control
- Promote the use of more reserve power batteries and panels for white/brown outs

## **RATs Spending for 2022 Burn**

Currently RAT is funded by its members with limited budget support from BWB.

Spare parts, \$574

T-shirts \$219

Banners, Stickers, Business cards \$149

Radios \$1425

Total \$2348