

The Bar: Our favorite watering hole

How privileged we are to be able to put out a hand on a hot, hot day, and have someone place a cold beverage into that outstretched hand. How lucky we are that during an evening sail someone might spike that beverage with some adult spirits, and add an extra ice cube or two. We have a very special group to thank for these treats - our bartenders. This one will be short. (Deep sigh of relief, I know.)

As if we didn't already have the only ship that sails, and one of the most beautiful mutant vehicles on the Playa (thanks Greg), with some of the best DJs around (thanks Casey et al), Greg, who doesn't even drink, also saw fit to provide us with one of the best watering holes at Burning Man. Who hasn't enjoyed an iced beverage, non-alcoholic or not, while travelling the desert on our own little oasis?

What many don't understand is that this tiny sink stocked with liquids is legally a bar in the state of Nevada, with all the attendant rules, regulations, and punishments of an actual bar. If we don't abide by these rules, we face stiff penalties, and probable jail time. Again, this is a real bar, with real legal ramifications.

Just like the Bay Area, there are undercover officers in the desert, making certain that the bars are carding for underage drinkers. Just like here, there are heavy fines and penalties if bartenders aren't carding. And just like here (but not true in other parts of the states), the driver of a motor vehicle cannot be within arm's reach of an open alcoholic beverage.

With that in mind, the bar is open ONLY under the following circumstances:

- Someone cares to stock it - that's drinks, ice, and whatever else you lovely donating volunteers care to provide.
- The bartenders are sober. That's right, you have to be sober.
- The bartenders card people. If they don't appear to be as old as the hills, or at least as old as I am, you should card them. Under 21 does not get served. There are undercover police out there trying to get YOU, the hapless bartender, to break this law.
- The bartenders refuse to serve drunks. Honestly, I'm tired of looking around for someone to help me deal with drunks on the ship. They're a hazard to themselves and to others, and are sometimes just flat out unpleasant. Don't serve them.
- The bartenders clean up the bar when they leave the ship. They don't shut it up, and leave all the garbage and mess for the morning. They clean it when they leave the ship.

I'm sure I've forgotten things, but I really don't care about the bar, so I really don't know all the details. With that in mind, we're going to create a group of people willing to tend bar, and willing to abide by the rules. If one of this group is not on board, keeping an eye on the bar and the people around it, the bar will not open.

Be good to your bartenders, as they're good to you. Help them enforce these rules.