

HOWLER

Howler is a member of the DPW Fence crew, which sets up and maintains the perimeters and boundaries of Black Rock City. He has been attending Burning Man since 2003 and began working for ESD in 2013. In 2015, he met Just George and Cowboy Carl, the DPW Fence managers, who brought him into the crew. Howler is dedicated to pounding T-stakes and setting up fences. He starts his days early with a workout in the Ghetto, using the gym equipment he brings to the playa every year, followed by lectures. Although not very social, he enjoys the energy of others and moments of laughter, like the 4:20 Spire.

This written ‘chat’ interview was conducted online by “Flo”, Flore Muguet, a French anthropologist, in 2021. Flo’s questions have been omitted to improve reading flow.



I’ve gone to Burning Man since 2003 as a participant. I started working ESD in 2013 for a couple years. When I met George and Carl in 2015, they adopted me. I work for them always after this. I love to participate and help DPW make Burning Man. It is a privilege to be able to be in service to the experience that is giving so much to me and the world. This work is so meaningful, so important: for inside me, for the outside world, for all the things.

I wake up at maybe 5:30 am every day. I go run, go to the gym, eat oatmeal, meditate, listen to my studies, go to the morning meeting, go to the fence meeting, go to pound stakes all over playa all day. I love pounding stakes very much: being in my body, fulfilling human purpose. Then I finish the day, eating so much food in commissary. So many good foods! I love very much having free food at the buffet every day, then doing my reading before going to sleep.

I love build, trash, and fence: the whole community is very exciting! I am not allowed to pound fence today, and I don’t like this. I don’t like to watch another person do what I love to do when I can’t do it. I like days



Photo credit: unknown. Year: unknown.



Fences on a truck. Photo credit: Flore Muguet, 2018.

when there are not enough people that are pounding stakes, so then I get to pound for many hours without stopping. But also, it is nice working a whole team together today.

Sometimes I go to other events, sometimes not. I’m not a social person so much. But it is good that I’m around other human beings: feeling the energy of other people is good for me. I like laughing. The 4:20 spire makes me laugh so much! Silly humans.

My relationship with Cowboy Carl and Just George is like finding \$20 in my pocket after doing laundry. You know you were missing something,

“My relationship with Cowboy Carl and Just George is like finding \$20 in my pocket after doing laundry.”

and you know something can be adding your life, but don’t remember what it is. Then it is coming back your life, and you go, “Ahhhhhh, this!” Even though is not helping your life so much, is always nice to have this thing back.

DPW is many things. My life is committed to the process of deconditioning from past societal structure. DPW is one of the closest areas I find in the world that I can start to move away from normal conditioning. It is nice having a safe place to be able to express different parts of myself without needing to isolate from all other human beings. Every year I’m transformed: I’m emotional, I’m tired, I’m angry, I’m worn out, and always, I’m returning to my life energized. I feel like the best man I have ever been.

We are like Buddha. Chop wood, carry water. Simple, simple.



Photo credit: Flore Muguet, 2018.