

FEEDBACK REPORT – 2012



Note: This is a compilation of the feedback received from Feedback forms submitted during & after the Fair, via email, a couple of postings from the OCF Fan page on Facebook immediately after the Fair, and some references from OCF Discuss as cited in one of the respondent's notes. It also includes responses from the OCF Fan page to an editorial in the *Register Guard*. I included these because they related directly to events at this year's Fair and initiated discussions about the OCF photography & video policy and the public's perception of Fair. The responses are recorded as submitted with minor corrections for spelling and syntax without negating the respondents' intentions. Personal names have been included when celebrated and omitted when negatively criticized. The coordinators, committees, and management will receive relevant information with respondents' contact information.

AAAA

I was dismayed at the number of times dancers literally "occupied" the area in front of the stage and displaced those of us who were sitting there. Frequently, much -- or even all -- of the audience was forced to stand in order to see the stage. Not only is this sense of entitlement rude, but it has harmful consequences. First, for those of us who are hearing impaired, it completely blocks us from seeing the signers. Also, some of us cannot stand throughout the whole performance and need to sit. When the dancers occupy the area in front of the stage, they make the performance painful for us or force us to leave early. Please don't get me wrong. I love the fact that there are so many dancers and I love the energy and enthusiasm they bring and spread. But they frequently made the experience painful for some of us when they completely took over the area in front of the stage. Dancers should stay in the back or some other area where they do not displace and seriously inconvenience others. With all of the attention to accommodating people with various disabilities, hardships, etc., the lack of attention to this insensitive rudeness was very disappointing. I hope the festival organizers will address this issue before July 2013. Thank you

ADMISSIONS

Even though I have a wristband, because I didn't get there til Fri afternoon, I needed to go thru the search line. No problem with that, but I was offended by the person sitting up in the chair who repeated, 'we need to search for glass, alcohol, weapons and grenades.' I understand mentioning the weapons in hopes everyone will understand the seriousness of having weapons, but to have to add the grenades. Is that really necessary??? It wasn't a very friendly welcome to the OCF. Over the top and insulting to me. I couldn't figure out if the speaker was serious or poking fun (in an odd sort of way) at the airlines or ??? I found it offensive. Loved the faire otherwise!

AMBIANCE

- Loved the new kids way. Only wish there were more mallets for new metal music thing there and maybe a couple more things for the kids...seems a little empty.
- I love the parades.
- Thanks for the foliage dusting on the River Path. Makes the dragon SO enjoyable when de-dusted. Keep it up!
- Trail sprinklers, long ago I remember little kids doing that job. The dust was thick!
- Bear, the Shady Lane Path Foliage waterer is to be commended for keeping the greenery dusted & happy.
- There were some (I'm guessing) ambience folks who kept bringing their giant puppets in front of Main Stage during shows. Not good. Can't see through them, and I didn't go to shows to see the puppets. And, I was dancing and kept being shoved and losing the groove as they pushed their way through the crowd. Keep 'em out from in front of the stages please!
- Let's Do This at Fair -- from Lincoln Center Out of Doors festival – US Premier of Polyglot Theatre: Tangle http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BAYcG4cSkL8&feature=player_embedded
- There are so many light toys, etc. at night that I didn't need my flashlight at all. In fact, I needed to shade my eyes several times. Nice to see some "bendy guy" action though!
- My main topic of criticism is amplified entertainment along the paths. Frankly, it's bull shit or, as the say in Jolly Ole . . . shite! I won't bother you with my long arm of creds, although I'd love to, however, do any of you remember John the Cymbalom player? Remember when Moz swallowed rattle snakes and ice cubes? When Sue played her fiddle and the woman storyteller (Damn! I forgot her name) also stood

along the paths, gathering crowds, in the dust, in the cacophony of sounds, all weekend long, including the days - without any amplification? Did I fail to mention ole bubble brains?

Who's running this show, anyway? There is no reason one's act ought to be attended, in such a complex condition as ours for those three days, if the act can't overcome the same odds as others in the same space. What's that? You think I'm full of air that's only expressed as a f*^t? Honestly, go back to your own neighborhood and crank it up. Have fun. When you're at the Fair, enjoy the work, the pleasure will find you, no worries. Hell, you wouldn't even be there if you didn't know that. Perhaps you didn't see the 'r' in "Country" Fair?

Turn the damned amplifiers OFF along the ambient pathways.

- As a volunteer for 25 years at OCF, and Ambiance Coordinator, I agree with all the comments here (*OCF Discuss*). Amplified sound is a place I had hoped we wouldn't go, except on solar stages and Main Stage during Fair. Late night amplification until 3 a.m. isn't what a lot of us would like to see. In addition, no one is checking decibel levels either. I also put rovers out on the path during Fair to make sure performers are complying with the Wandering Performer Guidelines, which includes no amplification. We do see it and try to control it. One thing I saw this year is vendor booths "hiring" their own music group and providing plug-in for amplified sound. I will be bringing this up with the powers that be. Many performers who are approached about amplification (baby boxes) will tell us they are "grandfathered" to have amplification. I will be discussing these issues so we can be definitive in what Fair truly is from a path performance standpoint. The late night stage shindigs have been discussed over and over. Some do, some don't, there is a real split on this issue. I encourage all of you to send a message to OCF regarding your experiences and feelings on both of these subjects.

BIKES

- Can the OCF provide more bike racks? Please? Thank you all. :) At least make it more visible.
- Need more bicycle parking racks. Arrived at 11:30 A.M. Friday and only one place left that was hard to get to. Otherwise, had a good time. Thanks!
- Hello, thank you for the Fair! I bicycle to the fair. The bike parking is really awful. Fabric on the structure is too low to the ground and impedes movement and worse after the first layer ties up to the rails. The outer bikes become a tangle that is difficult to extract first or last bikes from. Thank you for your consideration.
- There's not enough bike parking. On Friday early in the day all reasonable bike parking was already full and bikes were tipped unsecured into the brush near the designated parking. I wanted to bike out myself, but my experience having trouble finding a secure place to stow it last year left me to reconsider. At the same time parking prices and fuel prices are higher and environmental impacts more concerning, never mind my relentlessly expanding girth. I recognize W 11th is not a good place to bike; I take the back roads, but in the end people do bike and in the most general sense it is a mode of transportation that is appropriate for the Fair and society at large. Bike parking is a very simple amenity for those of us who do bike. I really hope to see improved bike parking next year. Beyond that, I hope the Fair can advocate for improved bike access between Eugene and Veneta. Thanks.

BUS

- Will-Call is at OCF. Will-Call is for folks without tickets. Bus will not admit those without tickets therefore those wanting to get their tickets at OCF Will-Call cannot get there.

- I had an unpleasant experience a few years ago when a Portland security firm handled the LTD station duties. The gentleman gave me extra scrutiny knowing I was a 'male' just starting real life transition as a woman. He tore up my ticket, and I appreciate you all replacing the Sat ticket with a Sunday one. I waited until this year to come back as I feel more comfortable after 2.5 years of hormones and some surgery. But, I just wanted to emphasize that it does not take much intolerance to ruin the Fair experience. Warm regards.
- Bus driver took the "scenic route" to Fair at 10:20; took us nearly an hour to get to Fair. Was she lost?

CARTOGRAPHY

Please put the smoking sections on the Peach Pit map and our Info maps!

CHILDCARE

- Mellow space no longer has a gate and it would have been nice to keep that since some who need a mellow time are wound out and likely to bolt.
- Baby changing stations should be available at all childcare areas. It is advertised.

CIGARETTE SMOKING

- Finally, more cans in the smoking areas.
- Why is there a smoking area in the children's loop? Kind of an odd message....
- If this is supposed to be a "drug-free" event, why do you encourage smoking with all the "smoking areas"? There are far too many of them and they should not be right in the middle of the walkways where the smoke bothers everyone and the kids can see.
- I LOVE the Fair! I've been coming to the Fair for 23 years and I have been blessed with camping inside the Fair for 2 years. Many vibes remain the same, but there is a growing problem and concern that seems to go unchecked and is getting worse. Cigarette smoking is not confined to the smoking areas any longer. People are gathering in rest areas and quiet corners, along the paths and turning them into smoking areas. Where is the Fair Security? It's horrible to have to walk through clouds of smoke, and these areas are supposed to be 'rest' areas for us to take a "breath". Each year, there are more and more smoking areas. I counted 9 non-designated smoking areas with a minimum of 15 people at each one. VERY disappointing! At night, smoking occurs EVERYWHERE along the paths and in Chela Mela meadow, mostly by young people. I hate to say it, but it really does call for some security staff to rein in this problem. It's going to be a very, very sad day if the Fair burns to the ground b/c of someone's irresponsible habit. I pray this never happens! Pleeeeease, have your security staff ask people to move to designated areas, and consider posting signs in these rest areas to discourage smoking. This is the ONLY problem I encounter at this lovely, magical place and it's a big one! Thanks for your consideration. Happy and Healthy Faire!
- The only factor that was unpleasant was the amount of cigarette smoke. In such a crowded venue where the dust, cooking smoke, and other smells are inevitable, the cigarette smoke was over the top and overwhelming at times I wonder if there is more that can be done to discourage the cigarette smoke.
- The cigarette smoking on the paths and in camping areas has gotten out of control. While strolling at night I came across many LIT butts on the ground. I thought about bringing altoid tins to give as gifts to smokers but I am afraid that might encourage more smokers to smoke in non-designated areas. People were polite when you asked them to not smoke, but it happened so often I got tired of being the "bad guy" and asking people to stop.

- I highly object to having Peace Park turned into an unofficial smoking area and that Security has reinforced this by smoking there in mass numbers (up to seven at one time) rather than doing their job and stopping this behavior.
- Shady Grove smoking area is too close to booths for comfort of dancers at stage and vendors. That is not nice.
- I hate the cigarette smoke right next to the drum circle & dancing. All the smoke goes into the dance space. Yuck! Otherwise, perfect Fair.

Please protect us from SMOKE. Please, please, please! Vulnerable people – babies, alter-abled, elderly, immune-compromised, recovering, allergic, etc – should be able to freely access food, water, restrooms, assistance, rest, and information without being expose to cigarette smoke at all. Thank you for considering solutions.

- Please create a place NOT in public for consumption of cancer sucking smokers. Shady Grove – the cigarette smoke is drifting all weekend into my booth 710. I do not smoke. It is also drifting into Info Booth as I write this complaint. I have rights not breathe cancer.
- It's time to eliminate smoking areas! Make people go outside if they want to smoke. Smoking spot near drum tower made the drum tower an unpleasant place to be. Also, we camp near an "ok to smoke" spot near WC Fields, and me and my 10-month-old baby were breathing in the fumes all day long. Yuck. Why do we make space for this horribly unhealthy habit?
- Cigarette smoking continues to be an issue. At the midnight show, I finally had to leave. Saturday night it was so bad I had trouble getting across from the hub past the Sauna and into the Fair.
- Too much cigarette smoke. Would be nice to try to cut down on this.

CONSTRUCTION

- New kid's loop is wonderful. Thanks to Kirk, David, Steve, and all who did the work.
- I would love to be part of the construction crew again, be more involved in some way as I was in the 80s.
- WC Fields stage fence next to a tree – six or seven kids climbed up onto the fence & into the tree during the Nanda show, breaking off a post. I think that the old fence there should be rebuilt with high seats around the tree. It's rotten anyway.
- Could we get some kind of seating in WC Fields? I see so many Fair Guides used as seats to cover up the dust and then thrown out. Also too many acts in there that need more space. Nanda should be on main stage.
- The new Gypsy Way is nice and wide, but doesn't have much there. Perhaps more benches and tables and a few interesting booths?
- Really need some sort of seating at WC Fields. Too many Peach Pits getting used for seating and then thrown away. Plus, isn't big enough especially for acts like Nanda. Seating would fit more folks in there.
- Kudos on the new herinals! Please make the next set a bit wider to accommodate costumes and how about pegs for hanging things.

CRAFTS/CRAFT INVENTORY

- Please include booth business names in Peach Pit directory. Shoppers can't find booths by company name. Big loss of sales. I found it difficult.
- I feel the majority of crafts booths sell items lacking diversity of aesthetic. In that, it is obvious every year the same vendors are here selling lower quality or lower relevance items I have seen these last 22 years. While I appreciate the OCF adding new makers, I feel disappointed in seeing so many of the same things. In particular, I think the OCF needs to update its offerings in a bigger way year to year, more

based on beauty and style of what is made and sold in the booths and less on time a crafter's been here. Feel free to contact me to talk about this more in terms of specifics.

- Regarding the jewelry classifications in the *Peach Pit*: I don't like that there are only 2 classifications under the jewelry heading- beaded & metalsmithing. So, my booth is listed under accessories along with, books, canoe paddles, umbrellas, masks, dolls, buttons & other non jewelry items. Please go back to a plain jewelry heading with no specifications where all jewelry can call home & where all jewelry booths can easily be found. Thanks for listening!!

- IMPORTS No, no, no! They have no place in a handmade crafts Fair!

It belies credibility that we still allow the presence of imports at the Fair. If you want an example of behavior that goes against guidelines and Fair mission statement, this is a blatant example.

Crafters put in hours and hours of work, to say nothing of the fact of their talent, to create unique handmade items.

The presence of imports at the Fair, ANYTIME, (before, during, after hours) and ANYWHERE (example at the "not"-Barter Fair), cheapens the Fair, undermines, and disrespects the real live artists and crafters who actually—yes, truly, and with their very own hands and brains!—make their items, pay booth fees, set up booths, and sell their work at Fair as per the Guidelines. If you don't think this takes talent and a lot of hard work, try it!

Imports, like canned music, are a product of the mass-produced mentality. Like canned music, they have no life of their own. And, no business being at the Fair.

I've been a crafter at the Fair since 1976, and I have to wonder how all this import business got started here. It feels a lot like somewhere along the line someone or someone's started talking out of 2 sides of their mouth.

I wonder if we continue on this path, might we someday have some little cart set up somewhere along the path selling Taco Bell burritos?

CREW SERVICES

- Crew Services is a hard-working, crucial crew that keeps everyone happy, healthy & hydrated. Not a super big deal but I never saw them once during all my shifts and my baby and I got mighty thirsty, had to abandon my post a couple of times to run & fill up my water.
- Crew Services was hit or miss, mostly miss.
- Please, let's resolve crew services to the Sticker Booth. Lunch was not delivered to all of the participants on Wednesday (even 'tho Justin from Booth Registration) called it in. I think he finally went in to QM and got enough for his crew. Lunch was finally delivered to the rest of the booth after 4p.m. (I had left already having been out there from 8:45 to 3:45) Thursday service was much better. It would be good if the crew services delivery people would tell each group at the sticker booth that food had been delivered; the message isn't always passed down the line....

DOGS

E6 In my 32 years as a vendor I have never, NEVER, seen dogs at the fair. Well, maybe a legit service dog. I saw six dogs at least, and with mostly young people. The younguns looked scruffy but not disabled. The dogs were not outfitted like service dogs and some were barely under control. I asked one young woman, she said he was a service dog. She wasn't disabled and was with a guy with a guitar. They were both walking right along. I don't think they were vets either..... I think these kids are camping somewhere out there, have dogs with them and can't leave them...the kids also maybe homeless.....I complained to security. One guy was on the bus with a dog on Sat evening and the same guy came by my booth with a different dog on Sunday. The fair has to do something about this before it gets out of hand. I remember the alcohol abuse years. Thanks, good fair.

ELDERS

- I am 76; the altered services have made it possible for me to keep coming to keep to the fair. The passenger bikes, van and golf cart were invaluable for me. All the riders went out of their way to meet my needs Thank you very much. Keep up the good work.
- The pedi-cabs for elders were a definite assist – most welcome. In fact, we almost counted on them, and it made a real difference. Please keep them coming.

ENERGY PARK

- The Energy Park info kiosk is my favorite structure at the Fair.
- I have been and am actively involved in the electric vehicle industry. Maybe you already have this, but I did not see it.

ENTERTAINMENT

- Love Friday night movies.....sweet!
- Nanda should be on Main Stage. Everyone keeps saying they're so great, but then they come back and say they couldn't get into WC Fields again, but they can't believe I haven't seen them, because they're so great.
- My request is that the entertainers and the rest of the "fair family" not be so out there about the real fair that happens after the "guests" are removed from the premises otherwise known as being swept. From the perspective of a fair family wannabe that is condemned to forever being a "guest" can I tell you what it's like?

It's like standing at the gates of Heaven and looking between the bars knowing that there's no chance in Hell that you'll ever be able to be inside.

Every year I look forward to the OCF, it's the highlight of my year. I love everything about it. The money for the three-day pass does not come easy for me but I make it a priority. I go to the fair and throughout the weekend I am barraged (or at least that's how it feels) with reminders that I am not invited to the real party that takes place after the sweep. This year I heard something from almost every performer there. "I'll be playing tonight at the Blue moon stage at 11 pm". "Does anyone want to help me out and maybe I can help you avoid the sweep?". "I enjoyed meeting several of you last night in the Saunas". I understand why everyone can't get a wristband. I read the book. I'm just wondering if there couldn't be a little more sensitivity for those of us that are destined to be forever swept like the dust from your feet at the end of the day. What do you say?

- RE Time slots for performers. I realize entertainers should be grateful for any time they get. However, one hour (which ends up about 45-50 minutes) I feel, types of shows, should be extended to 1.5 hours.... Or possibly for 2 hours. I refer specifically to Solvox who has performed for about 4 years. Sunday venue is ok – draws people out, but less than one hour just doesn't do it. The crowd is just being warmed up (and moved). Just my opinion.
- Thanks for having Patch Adams speak all 3 days. This is the first year (my fourth year coming here) that I bought the 3-day pass, and I loved hearing Patch Adams do three different talks.
- Stage Left Vaudeville Show – excellent fun! "Occupy this". Humboldt Variety Ville – Super! The Fremont Players – awesome!
- Main Stage Saturday night is so hard to hear & see – so why not have it "filmed" and projected on a few big screens so everyone can see it? Maybe a few speakers so we can hear it. Some folks aren't tall (my son) and so we miss out. Thanks!

- Music & entertainment on big placards at Info Booth (next to them) for that day
- There is more music, vaudeville and spoken word than I can possibly see. Wish there were more repeats so I had some chance to see more of it!
- About stereo/I-pod music: One of the beautiful things about the Fair is that everything is happening in REAL TIME; the ambiance of the sounds created HERE in the NOW :) Additionally, there are so many GOOD live musicians everywhere sharing their gift with us. It feels disrespectful when someone pulls up with their huge speaker; thusly changes the reality from Here & Now to Then & Whenever. Just a thought, but it would be nice to keep the Here & Now ambiance.
- Great music this year at Shady Grove
- Stages are way too amped. I am a young (under 30) person who is not a fan of the over-amplification. At booth 932, we can hear Youth Stage, Spirit Tower, and of course, WC Fields. Sometimes, we also hear Front Porch, Blue Moon, and on Saturday night, even Main Stage.

Spirit Tower Saturday evening (last show of the day) music sounded good, but the bass was sooooo loud! I was listening from my booth. It reminded me of those super-obnoxious cars that come thumping through my neighborhood from time to time.

Please make it a priority to enforce sound levels. There is no need for our small stage spaces to be amplified so much. It doesn't help or add anything.

- Great to hear you on the radio again, Jenny !!
- Interesting idea to have history on Friday night. Great to see/hear from some of our originals, but the movie was kind of hard to see.
- We need a designated dance stage with live musicians, perhaps in the new crafts lot.

ETIQUETTE

It was my first time trying camping coordination and thank goddess it all went smoothly. Remembering to smile and trying to help relieve existing camper stresses instead of introducing additional stresses really helped our crew keep the magic alive.

FAIR VIRGINS

- Love LOVE loved it! First year!!!! Thank you!!!
- Thank you for another magical journey!
- My best friend and I experienced our first fair adventure this year. It was AMAZING!! Probably the most fun I've ever had. Thank you!! We definitely plan on coming back next year.
- Was my first visit... What an amazing experience! I will see you next year!
- Thank You, it was my first year & I love the tribe that introduced me!
- Was fun to bring new people this year and see it anew through their eyes...love the love we experience every year!!!!
- This place and festival has renewed my hope in humanity. This is seriously one of the most beautiful, inspiring, and enjoyable experiences I have ever had. This has been my first year, and I absolutely intend to return every year from here on out. I completely understand the desire to kick out the public after dark, but I think it makes people feel very much like outsiders and not welcomed into the community. Perhaps, if volunteer opportunities were a bit more accessible it could remedy that disconnect. But, otherwise we've been met with only love & light and wonderful people. The amount of creative energy that is contained within this space is inspiring to say the least. So, thank you so much for the experience. Happy Fair and I'll see you next year!

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Hi there, I went to the fair for the first time ever on Saturday and had a great time. I wanted to thank you for having the "family rest area" which I was very grateful for; my infant and I rested there. I would like to make a suggestion for future fairs. Perhaps there could be one or two areas set aside for nursing moms? Aside from a very public chair marked "breastfeed in public!" at the midwifery booth, I couldn't find anywhere secluded to nurse my son. I ended up turning my back to the fair in the family rest area to do it, and changing his diaper there. I know there was a changing area in the kid zone but we weren't in the kid zone at the time that he needed the change. Anyway, thanks for considering my suggestion!

FAR SIDE

- We camped at FarSide. How come we have to use a cart to get things set up and take down. I get it; no cars driving, but having carts up there and have use of them only in FarSide and out parking lots.. Thanks.
- Far Side crew was AWESOMEAWESOMEAWESOME! this year, none of the seriously agro encounters had in the past, I have DMV disabled car sticker & have been harassed several times in the past by Traffic and Far Side crews. Not this year! Totally helpful & calm crew out there this year. THANKS!
- Surely there are some circumstances where people should be let out of Far Side & Back in. My hubby had to go to his "real job" Saturday & had trouble being let out. (he is a labor union lawyer by the way & it is illegal to keep someone from their job).

Then upon return, despite showing the DMV disabled sticker & explaining about my limited mobility & having an infant he was stonewalled for a solid hour until someone called quartermaster....

FARTS

Why doesn't the FARTS shuttle run during Fair? It would be great if the shuttle ran during Fair, even with a reduced schedule.

FEEDBACK

- Please put as many feedback forms in each booth rep's packets as there are crafters in each booth. I didn't even know about these forms until this year.
- Because of a post I made on FB, I was asked to pass along my comment directly to the Fair (my comment was along the lines of 'if leaving a comment for the Fair at Odyssey, don't count on getting a reply').

Last year (honestly...could have been the year before) I left a comment card at Odyssey because of the quantity of dogs I was seeing at the Fair. I am a strong believer in assistance canines and know they can be an incredible companion/helper for people....but my 'impression' was things had gotten out of hand. Therefore, I wrote my comments and also put my e-mail address, the card asked for it if you wanted to receive a reply to your comments. Many months went by and I never received a reply, so I contacted the Fair. I did receive a prompt reply and was informed that all cards are read. Quite a few months after that, I did notice that the board was reviewing our Guidelines pertaining to assistance dogs and changes were made (not that I saw much of a change this year. I DO understand there is really only one question you can ask someone who may have an assistance dog...I understand what we are up against).

So that is the background to my leaving a message and what was it was about. Sooooo....what is my gripe/complaint??? The Fair comment card specifically asked for a means to contact me 'if I would like a reply. That reply never happened...I had to contact the Fair and even after my contacting them, I never received a reply concerning my comment (BUT the subject was addressed.) I have no doubt there are many cards and comments left during the Fair....but if the Fair cannot follow through when a reply is requested, why ask for a means to communicate back?? Having been on staff for many years, I do feel I have a bit better understanding than the public on just how large the Fair is and the huge job it is for everyone...but would they be as understanding. Many thanks for what you do.

I wonder if perhaps we have different interpretations of the feedback form. Although names & contact info are requested, I do not consider that a request for a response -- unless someone specifically requests a response. Rather, contact info is collected for the coordinators to follow up if necessary. Additionally, I checked back several years and do not recall receiving your initial feedback. Thank you for your comments.

FOOD

- Very nice to have some new food booths.
- boo hiss on the new regulation (I'm sure not your call) of not using my plastic washable plates at food booths. It makes me sad that we have to waste so much paper.
- I ate mostly near the main stage at several vendors. The only one that was great was Frisco. Several other vendors' food was just plain lousy. The pizza, meatball and sausage sandwich vendor food was expensive and barely sufficient. The vegan "truck stop" food was served very slow and the Philly sandwich was just plain awful, bearing no resemblance to an actual Philly cheese steak. The chicken, rice, and yakisoba noodle vendor served overcooked uninspired food. And what's with none of the Pad Thai vendors not having fish sauce on the side??? That is a critical ingredient and/or condiment to this dish.

HOSPITALITY

I wish hospitality were open earlier/later so folks with small children could make it over there. I also wish there was hospitality up near Alice's, again, so Fair Family with small kiddos had better access. Otherwise - onward and thank you!

ICE

I love that I can buy block ice from the reefer (chit/card paid for at the history booth). Thank you so much for this improvement.

INFO

Music & entertainment on big placards at Info Booth (next to them) for that day

IT

On Wednesday at the Sticker Booth, the A—E staff line was peopled out to the edge of Maui while the F-L line had only a few people and the M-Wristbands line had a quarter of the people that A-E had. The VSB/IT crew can easily determine the total number of passes registered for each crew and thus create books that are more equally distributed. Or is there more to this puzzle?

MAIN CAMP

- Wonderful, peaceful faire this year, given all that we had to do to get it together, i think that Site and Main Camp did VERY WELL...
- How about some dialogue between Operations, Security, Traffic & Craft Committee regarding: 1) Junk Yard Dog Full-Load Teddy procedure 2) Permanent parking on Tuesday, Pre-Fair 3) Booth needs in general & where collaboration would ease anxiety & build trust.
- Seems like an ever-increasing number of motorized carts going through the 8.

MISC

- Whoever is responsible for booking the music at The Ritz deserves a medal!!!!!!!!!!!! SO. COMPLETELY. WONDERFUL! :)
- I think the event could use a couple more ATMs. The machine out front frequently had a 30-minute line and folks were getting dehydrated and agitated standing in the sun for that long.
- I tried to download the Entertainment schedule. For some reason I got just a few pages of *Peach Pit. Fair Family News* doesn't have Yurt info so wasn't complete enough for our booth.
- I had fun making arts & crafts at the tables near Blue Moon Stage.
- Please! Reduce crowding by extending the Fair from 3 days to 4, 5, or 6 days. Thank you!
- It needs to go on for at least two weeks :)
- Going to miss the Barter Fair. I bet one of the neighbors will add it to their campground and make money off of it. (Note: the Barter Fair task force is considering viable alternatives to its present format and location Contact them *at ??????*)

PATH PLANNING

- We are aware that Path Planning is moving towards recommending that our loop (L73) be opened to flow through traffic. We understood this would take place when we moved from Strawberry Lane years ago. We still need this to take place. The dead end is not working for us! Less traffic = less \$\$, fewer sales. Thanks.
- We need a designated dance stage with live musicians, perhaps in the new crafts lot.
- Gypsy Way was OK but sort of barren.
- love the new kid loop
- LOVED the new kids loop and second childcare location. I loved how spacious the paths were and the proper spacing of intriguing activities with plenty of space between.
- Just what is the rest area by the arc park/"mushroom park"/six-pack about? Is it a rest area? When I cut through to go to the six-pack I always feel like I'm traipsing through someone's booth, but I think it is a public rest area. That's my neighborhood, and I haven't figured it out for the 3 or 4 years they've been there. How would anyone know? I'm certain it would be appreciated if there was an indication that it is available. We have a "rest area" in our booth and people are so grateful for a chance to sit down.
- We like the new Info booth now facing public better to see & use.

PEACH PIT

- Please include booth business names in *Peach Pit* directory. Shoppers can't find booths by company name. Big loss of sales. I found it difficult.
- Please put the smoking sections on the *Peach Pit* map and our Info maps!
- Make an additional flier that only has the stage schedules and a map in it. Lots of people just want those few pages – you'd save a ton of paper.
- Please have *Peach Pits* available before Friday morning so our booth can schedule their work hours.
- Ritz sauna is never given in entertainment or cleaning times. Without knowing cleaning times you have to wait for hours! Why isn't this place not important? It has the most visitors and the highest prices; but us fans do not care. I am the performer on the baby grand piano – every year.
- Regarding the schedule in the peach pit:I find it very hard to read. It would be great to also list times and locations under the entertainers description as well so if you want to see baby gramps you can look up his listing instead of scanning the calendar for his name. How can I volunteer to help with the paper? I have 19 years experience designing calendars and books. Love the fair! I have been gong since 1989. Thanks,

PEACH POWER

Parking – you might consider preferred parking for people driving electric vehicles (plug-in hybrid/battery electric vehicles) This could also include portable charging units. Talk to me if you are interested.

PHOTO ID

Pass checking was good this year. Both checkers and checkees had good humor and were helpful for the most part. I do think that we could save a lot of time checking Photo IDs if we had cubist IDs. That way both sides could be checked at once.

PRE-POST

- Monday is always a hectic day, many exhausted folks just trying to get done... Pre-Post Security has always provided some form of traffic control, in particular, for the MAMMOTH U-Haul trucks which load up at Pooh Corner... these trucks have to swim up-stream on Chickadee, past the Sauna, and through Sesame Gate... this year there were NO radios apparent on ANY security folks on the ground! This year i saw more anger, yelling, near fights over the inability for Pre-Post to enable the flow of traffic in both directions in this vital and congested path... ALL ONE WAY is great, except for the exceptions, and there were a number of LARGE exceptions this year... on Monday, Post-Secuirity MUST have radios.... and maps... the SHIRTED young man giving directions at the Junction did not know where ArcPark was... he told me that i needed to exit at the Sauna and go back to the meadow on left-bank..... Come on folks, little pieces as if radios make such a difference in the exiting of this exhausted family on Monday.
thanks for your consideration
- I am very uncomfortable driving through the Fair en route to my booth, and then finding my way back out, but still I find myself having a "Sympathy Panic Attack" on behalf of the folks who might not know what to do. Where are the traffic people at the major intersections? Who would guess to exit past the Sauna, and then how to get back to the road and the parking lot? (I'm talking pre-Fair) I have been to the Fair for 32 years and the map remains a mystery to me, as I do not have street signs to serve as a visual aid.
- Food equity was better for pre-post this year – at least for my shifts. Thank You!

RECYCLING

- I was amazed at the lack of litter and other signs of a crowd that are usually prolific at public events.
- Closing the trash and recycling bins early on Monday was a bummer. I try not to bring or create extra trash, but I couldn't even find a place for my compost on Monday. Monday is our major pack up and get out day so it would be nice if they stayed open a bit longer to make sure everything got to a place it could be taken care of instead of dumped.

SAFETY

We were putting up a chain post-fair and someone stopped by and mentioned that they had tripped over one and really hurt themselves the year before. Nothing short of a light will really make them safe, but perhaps we could use something more visible than the dirty, drab grey fabric we use today. It seems like a safety issue. Also, a couple of the paths around the meadow were pretty uneven. I'm not sure how we made the paths in the 8 so nice, but it would be nice to make them a little less treacherous. Thanks for reading.

SANITATON

Using bar soaps for the public to use by the bathrooms is pretty unsanitary. Bar soaps hold and grow bacteria, and when thousands of hands per day touch them, it becomes a health issue. Are there simple solutions to these problems before Fair begins? I personally bring my own now. However, (for \$20) the public should not have to.

SANITATON --Open/Closed

- Because there was a lot of construction around X-Ray Park this year, at least one of the 6-pack doors was left open for construction crew for the two weeks prior to Faire... and it was not until Tuesday, pre-faire when someone came along and screwed all the doors shut, and put CLOSED signs everywhere, that we found the "tidie-whities", two this year, in the bushes in X-Ray and behind the 6-pack... Last year,

Charlie, i believe, put a Honey Bucket in X-Ray Park AFTER we found "tidie-whities", and not-so tidy messes in our booth construction space and, again, in X-Ray Park... PLEASE, construction is construction, we are a group of people, Staff & Boothies, working TOGETHER to put this show up... it is totally UN-FAIRE to allow the Main Camp construction folks the ability to use the 6-pack the 2 weeks prior to Faire and deny the same RIGHT to Booth construction folks... [Just for the record, i am Staff, Water Crew but my Faire Home is on the Upper River Loop where we build our decks every year...]

- Thanks for having some toilets open at the six-pack Wednesday. Good signs, (star)Shut, (star)Open.
- Having the Main Stage toilets (Politics Park) open on Tuesday was a major improvement as many of us, particularly food booths, begin in earnest by Monday.

SANITATON –Dirty/Clean

- I worked at the fair in a crafts booth on Wooten Way, first I want to say the Honey Buckets were absolutely EXCELLENT this year!!! The cleaning schedule kept up with the usage and it was a pleasure to use them every time!!! Good Job,
- Honey pots....A bucket of water splashed inside a few times a day to freshen them up.
- Wow, clean toilets this year! Let's hope the "deep sea" rescue event is a 1-time thing. Ugh.
- The bathrooms by the Youth Stage... just down the way from my booth have smelled incredibly horrible for the entire Fair (Fri-Sun). We are constantly either breathing shitty fumes or spraying nice smelling things to cover the smell. Need help cleaning? New toilet location? A long row of Honey Buckets is a stone's throw away and do not smell at all.... What can be done? I'm gagging.

SANITATON –Toilet Paper

- For the last two years I noticed the toilet facilities close by to my booth and by the child playground, were all out of toilet tissue for hours at a time during the afternoon.
- To take all the toilet paper away on the closing Monday seemed pretty disrespectful and it should be provided to us who are busy trying to get out of there by Monday evening.
- Please review the selection of toilet paper vendors - the cheap, poor quality and inevitable result of bits and drabs or paper ALL OVER the facilities was DISGUSTING! Get a clue!!! Don't do this EVER again, have the person or persons in charge take the rest of this, and use it at THEIR house for the rest of their lives!!!!
- Toilet Paper was way too thin! Seemed like a health hazard to me & my gang. We had endless jokes all weekend about the wimpy t.p. Really, it was so hard to get enough to do a proper job.
- I am always very impressed with how smoothly the Fair runs. This is a minor issue but I noticed it several times. There was something weird about the 1-ply TP. It stuck to my privates unlike others I've used. I am sure that factors including recycled content and cost are considered, but just want to say that I thought the stuff we had this year was of inferior quality. I heard a few other ladies mentioning it too.
- This year's t.p. is, ahem, diaphanous. It's nearly as impractical as the current incarnation of Strike Anywhere matches which will often not strike anywhere. I'm aware that OCF is a destination for a great many fairies, but the rest of us need t.p., too, and we end up using more than you computed for which is why the portacans by The Ritz had a self-appointed monitor who pointed to the three or four stalls that still had paper. See if you can get a good deal on Marathon (at Costco). Label says it's made in America and it holds together well.
- If I need to use half a roll of toilet paper to wipe my ass, it's not really saving paper.

- The t.p. in the outhouses is the worst I have ever seen. Please, please negotiate with the outhouse suppliers to provide better paper.
- Wow – this year’s t.p. is by far the thinnest tissue --- Eeks! It’s not conserving when you must pull ten feet of t.p. off to wipe once, if you are even able to pull it without it shredding square by square. It makes peeing a 20-minute process.
- You cannot recycle toilet paper! Crazy hippies.
- One complaint – the tp. How did they spin cobwebs into toilet tissue? OMG. Aside from the obvious uncomfotability of trying to wipe with cobwebs, I imagine (and see) more toilet paper mess around the poopers. Thank you for all you do. Coming prepared with hearty tp for myself next year :)
- I am probably the thousandth respondent to the toilet paper issue. I heard so many complaints about that incredibly thin single ply paper. To be actually useful required 5-6 feet. The joke was calling it rice paper. Anyway, we are charging lots of money for both booth folks and the public, and to go on the cheap with the toilet paper does not speak well.
- You probably don’t need to hear more about the toilet paper, but what a mess that was, eh?

SANITATON –Women’s Urinal

- Women's urinal in upper river loop six-pack took some skill development, but turned out to be a great plus to my fair experience. However, we really do need very large, bold, clear signage about what to do with toilet paper.
- Herinals – Awesome. Suggestion: a playful-yet- clear little sign on each individual herinals that says something to the effect that toilet paper goes in the above hole. By having the sign on the herinals, the lady will see it as she squats. :)
- More herinals with child level options, as women are invading the “standing room onlys” Viva la revolucion!
- I attended this year on Sunday with my 10-year-old niece. We both loved the convenience and speed of the women's urinals. Please keep up the good work! That was a great idea! Thank you for a fabulous fair
- Kudos on the new herinals! Please make the next set a bit wider to accommodate costumes and how about pegs for hanging things.
- I see from last year’s report the women’s urinal...sorry I missed it.
- Hooray! Hooray! For the (library vicinity) women’s urinals!!! Finally! See, democracy does work!

SECURITY

- My security crew boss, Richard, (Dragon Crew 2-7pm) is fantastic! Due to a glitch, my husband and I ended up working same shift & had no childcare since family also works same time, Richard made sure I had a nice shady spot behind Blue Moon so my baby could hang out with me during my shifts. Baby is now certified Shook Twins fan :)
- I’d like to thank the uptight security bitch who told me i needed to ask permission to photograph people.
- It’s understandable that you felt frustrated with a security person when you were told to gain permission when taking photos. It is wonderful that you consider that she was having a bad day and did not intend to harsh your experience. We are all, always, negotiating how we exist together in the world. Thank you for sharing and I hope you will feel comfortable engaging in a thoughtful, heart-centered dialog if you ever have a similar experience again.

- Security has the hardest job out there, helping to keep a bunch of nutty people letting it all hang out safe and comfortable. Get over it
- Enforcement of existing guidelines is the problem. There are many other instances of folks just doing stuff anyway that the Guidelines say should not be done, but nobody tasked with assuring that they're not done. I guess that's why we call them guidelines rather than rules. I'm blessed with one deaf ear, so sound isn't my personal bugaboo... but visible plastic bugs the shit out of me.
- Who ever decided to station an OCF family volunteer near the front entrance, whose only job at the time was to stay seated and proclaim excitedly, "EXIT ON YOUR RIGHT!!," towards selected individuals then arriving into the Fair, should contemplate over how the perception of feeling welcome at the Fair is greatly diminished almost instantaneously. That is all. P.S. His proclamations seemed to echo verbally amongst other OCF family members in the area, as well. Insatiable desires.
- I have observed security(I'll refrain from naming names,) refusing- though not in so many words-to ask for very loud amplified sound, to be turned down- not off, just down- at 3 am. They didn't say so, but it was perfectly plain, they wanted to hear it.
- Amplified sounds at NIGHT are totally out of bounds and reason. "Guidelines' needs to be enforced. How I long for the days when after hours we could hear each other and use our own voices to sing together. C'mon OCF, enforce the guidelines and so EVERYone can enjoy???

SIGNS & BANNERS

Please. More street signs: suggest that some of the booths take it upon themselves to post their address... More signs than just on the corners, especially the short loops/trails.

SITE

- I do how ever have one complaint; the bark chips hurt my little toes with all those microscopic slivers. I am still trying to find them to pull them out, and i was wearing sandals.
- More bark – cooler, cleaner, smells good and comfy under foot.
- Love the barkmulch on the trail!! Looks good, smells wonderful; keeps down the dust!
- The bark chips kept the dust down!
- Love the bark-o-mulch in front of our booth. Much improvement of dust problems. We'd like to see it extended wider and more widespread on the path. Good improvement!
- Please, please, please! More sand under “mister spot” in Shady Grove (right by Info Booth)
- Shady Grove-Shady Lane could use the “big dips” on the ground filled in. Soooo uneven that a person could twist ankles!
- PLEASE, if possible clear the fallen trees out of Flaming-O Road in Far Side, completely impassible with baby/stroller/alter-abled & made hike out of camp an arduous process every time.

SOUND & RECORDED MUSIC

- I really appreciated that Main Stage on Thursday and Friday nights wasn't drowning out our end of the fair. I extend my deepest gratitude to whoever was responsible for holding the noise levels down.
- Sure do miss being able to hear acoustic music – Maybe we can dedicate the riverside to acoustic only and turn down Main Stage and Hoarse Chorale slightly.
- Stages are way too amped. I am a young (under 30) person who is not a fan of the over-amplification. At booth 932, we can hear Youth Stage, Spirit Tower, and of course, WC Fields. Sometimes, we also hear Front Porch, Blue Moon, and on Saturday night, even Main Stage.

Spirit Tower Saturday evening (last show of the day) music sounded good, but the bass was soooo loud! I was listening from my booth. It reminded me of those super-obnoxious cars that come thumping through my neighborhood from time to time.

Please make it a priority to enforce sound levels. There is no need for our small stage spaces to be amplified so much. It doesn't help or add anything.
- Crowded? It took just as long to run from Kesey's Creamery to the Drum Tower (through the Junction) in 1980, as it does today. Dense consensus or not, there is absolutely no need for amplification along the paths or anywhere other than on stages that have over a 100 person capacity. It's not about projecting your act <<<LOUD>>> enough, it's about projecting an act that is appreciated by a gathering audience of reasonable amount for the space allotted.

Excuse me? What's that you think? I haven't got a what? Say that a little louder would ya? I can't tell you don't agree with me. But what the hell, I don't want to listen anyway. Ooops! I misunderstood, you [do] like my show but can't hear it for the crowds trying to get by you, so you'd like me to use the mic? Well, that's a wonderful compliment, but the twit standing next to you (and I can [definitely] hear her) is screaming for me to "pull" the audience 'in', like off the path and toward my 'staging area'.
- **Recorded (canned) music** should not be used as entertainment at the OCF. This includes canned music as part of an event before or after hours, in or out of the 8.

Canned music goes directly against the Fair's Guidelines and Mission Statement. For some reason this fact is being ignored. Allowing it to continue undermines the Fair's integrity. That puts us on a dangerous and slippery slope.

The Fair is about many things, and includes valuing our artists, crafters, food vendors, entertainers, and musicians. It offers real live people making real live art the opportunity to showcase their creative gifts. It's about being an alternative to the mass-produced market. Canned music, on the other hand, is a PRODUCT of the mass-produced marketplace. Compared to live music, it's dead. As such, it doesn't belong in the context of the Fair.

In the same way that we value, protect and nurture the Fairs living green environment, we need to value and protect the living, diverse, wonderful, talented musicians, entertainers, and crafters who are here because of the Fair's Mission Statement.

Our musicians – on stage, along the path, forming an impromptu group in front of a booth, with their friends in a campsite—distinguish our Fair from the others, making it the extraordinary event that it is. We should be celebrating them!

It's a whole lot easier to use a ready-made product, be it music, entertainment, craft or food, than to put in the countless hours and hard work it takes real live human beings to create music, entertainment, art, craft, or food. If you don't believe me, try it! Perhaps we are too lazy and comfortable to bother.

Canned music has no place at the Fair. Fair is the place for makers of real, live music, whether along the path, in a booth, or on Main Stage. That's the mission. That's the magic. Let's stick with that.

SOUND -- After Hours

- I have observed security(I'll refrain from naming names,) refusing- though not in so many words-to ask for very loud amplified sound, to be turned down- not off, just down- at 3 am. They didn't say so, but it was perfectly plain, they wanted to hear it.
Amplified sounds at NIGHT are totally out of bounds and reason. "guidelines' needs to be enforced. How i long for the days when after hours we could hear each other and use our own voices to sing together. C'mon OCF enforce the guidelines and so EVERYone can enjoy.???
- Now - My favorite part; Criticism - bypassing 'critique' and going straight for the juggler.
How about we develop a gated, suburban community of manicured micro lots and decibel monitored air space(d)?
For what purpose has the amplified audio entertainment (and it [is] undoubtedly, entertaining to thousands) been allowed(?) to continue? Just a question.
Phun gate is out of control after dark - till 0400 or later. The gate keepers don't even attempt to reduce the ultra loud screaming, tiddlywink activity. OK, OK that's probably a strictly personal complaint. Sorry. Am I going on too long?
- The sound pollution after 12 pm was loud and it was very difficult to get any sleep, music kept going until dawn this year and it wasn't mellow easy to sleep by music, Why does the fair allow Canned electrified music after 12pm??? Why does the fair not patrol the music situation after midnight?? As crafts booths you want us to be there all day with our booth yet we can't get any sleep at night with the Raves going on at the horse stage. Fun is great, music is great but loud canned music until 3 to 4pm is not appreciated at all. It was worse this year than last. May I suggest that you schedule only live acoustic mellow music to be played after 12pm as a solution? Thank you! It was a great fair!!!
- Neighborhood noise modification? I do understand and appreciate that this is the fair and entertainment is relative. That said, I was awakened at about 4:00 a.m. by some amplified hillbilly music from booth 958. Can we please have some quiet time! Can the Fall Creek Boys take it to the parking lot or somewhere away from where vendors are paying to camp. Can there be a balance of after-hour festivities and Quiet Time. Could we ask for quiet time after the bars close – 2a.m. – 3a.m.? Is the Fair selling too many booth camping passes and encouraging ALL NIGHT partying that has nothing to do Fair profit. Is the party all day not enough? What is the rationale for amplified 24/7 noise at the expense of just a few hours sleep? Please advocate for some peace.
Could there be an all night concert stage at some remote location in the parking lot?
P.S. When the band quit between 4:15-4:30 a.m., one musician was inviting anyone with an instrument to carry on playing music. I am tempted to bring a boombox next year and if I am awakened after 3a.m., it will be music wars! Help! Truly, it doesn't matter what type of music is playing; we need some quiet time.
- Please – no amplified show on Hoarse Chorale Thursday night. Staff and booth people complained as they have a long day on Friday. T show creates extra work for recycling – as beer cans & cigarettes are left behind. Thursday is a work day for crews in the eight and this show makes our tasks harder.

- Saturday night we really, really need a quiet area where you can hear acoustic music and not have your ears assaulted by boom boxes and fear for your eyes being damaged by inadvertently pointed lasers. I so miss the night ambiance. Its starting to feel like a rave-beer hall instead of a family party.

-

SOUND -- Neighborhood Dispute

Disco Party seems un-fair. What with all our own musical abilities. Really? Do we need to be blasted with recorded music into the wee hours on Saturday night. I'd so much rather hear the sounds from the midnight show. Maybe the booth rep et al could follow the creative example of the silent rave.

Unfortunately, once again our Saturday night was "lost" when at 11:30pm the booth began their "disco ball party" and the sound swept away everything else. For the past seven or eight years we have offered a candlelight and wine tasting party at our booth from 9pm-ish to about 1am. It is open to all Fair family who drift in, visit, and then go on to experience other Saturday night events. It is our way of thanking the Fair for all they give to us. The booth rep says that she also hosts her party to celebrate her heritage and to thank the Fair. My memory is that for a few years it was no problem and we could pass her booth and hear the music but it faded as we left. But, for too many years the sound has just overwhelmed everything else. Although we have talked to her, and the DJ that she has hired – we have gotten very little response that has actually helped. This year at 11:30, our party ended as our guests had to shout at one another and then were hardly being heard – and that was inside our booth. Other neighboring booth reps and I went over to the party booth to ask the DJ to turn down the sound. It was very uncomfortable and the booth rep came out and we walked back to our booth where she agreed to keep the sound where it was, which was somewhat lower and end the party at 1:30am. It actually continued until 2am ending with for the first time a lovely, jazzy song that was quiet and beautiful. Then, when it ended, for the first time, I heard Main Stage announce it was 2am; they were closing! Another neighboring booth person has mentioned the decades we were able to go to bed and lay there listening to Main Stage. It was wonderful! Since OCF artisans must camp with their booth and stock, and need to be present and ready to wait on our guests all day, I hope the OCF will reconsider these party permits within the Eight. Please restrict the Eight to artist performances that support our mission statement to "support art!"

Re After Hours Noise -- Please do not issue any permits for electrified, amplified and especially canned, recorded music that is not on a stage. The only exception is if there are headphones provided so only those wearing headphones can hear the music. There's been recorded disco music blared near our booth on Saturday nights for a number of years now, and there's no way I can sleep through it. I've moved my bed out into our truck in the craft parking lot to get some sleep. There's also a beautiful Saturday night party in our neighborhood that's ruined when the disco starts up.

Let's emphasize acoustic music at our wonderful Country Fair. In the 22 years I've been a crafter there, the number of amplified stages and permits has increased a lot. There's a unique magic in coming upon acoustic musicians playing in the dark along the path that is so special. Let's emphasize that! That is a very special legacy to leave for future generations as the outside world become more cyber/digital and less earthy.

And remember there are hundreds of us crafters who've worked hard for months to make fabulous works of art for this Fair, who work hard during the day at the Fair keeping the magic flowing and need to get some sleep at night!

RE VQ Goal 4 – Support artists and entertainers. Amplified canned music does not support our entertainers, many of whom were able to stroll our paths at night, creating beautiful ambiance in pockets throughout the Fair

but are now blasted out of entire neighborhoods. It breaks my heart to see management showing such disregard for our OCF musicians and entertainers as to sanction amplified, recorded music with permits that go against our guidelines.

This is also unfair to the surrounding booths that may be having their own small parties which come to a sudden end when the amplified music begins. We have a quiet party at our booth on Saturday night to offer our friends and the Fair the ambiance of our lantern garden but the disco party at a neighboring booth disrupts it before it can even get started.

Dance parties are a wonderful thing. They fill a need. And there's definitely a demand for them.

I am in support of dance parties. But they don't belong in the 8.

The 8 is lined with booths. We can consider the camping areas behind the booths as if they were people's homes. They've even paid rent on them! (Booth fees.) Some of these booth people may have young children who need to sleep. Or they themselves might need to sleep in order to be able to work next day! Yes, it's possible – even at the Fair!

Folks who live in these small booth camps might also like to sit together and carry on conversations in the evening. Maybe someone in the booth is a musician—a fiddler, a saxophone player, a harmonica player. Maybe more musicians will drop in and begin jamming. There could be storytellers, too! There's magic in all this. A quieter kind of magic, but magic nonetheless.

In my neighborhood, some booth craftspeople even go so far as to transform their booth into a beautiful place where friends, neighbors, and strollers are welcome. They serve beverages and snacks, and create a lovely place with a special ambiance where people can converse, relax, meet neighbors, regroup, replenish, and feel peaceful. This is another kind of magic of the quieter sort.... Also much needed and appreciated by others.

So think of the 8 as a primarily residential area, where people can experience magic of the quieter sort. It's really not an appropriate place to hold a dance party..... even if there were the space for it (which there isn't).

A better location for a dance party would be in a place such as the newly evolving Crafts Lot. It could be wonderful! A dedicated place with enough room for dancing. A stage. And most important: LIVE MUSIC.

TINKERBELL

- One missing detail was a Tinkerbell phone list for each phone at the Sticker Booth. The tink by Entertainment did not have one. The problem was easily resolved by asking the good folks at Registration or Troubleshooting, but why bother them needlessly.
- Tinkerbell @ Circus Info not operational. We need to figure stuff like this out before the Fair opens.

TRAFFIC

- Thank you to the traffic crews for making my exodus out of the 8 on Monday smooth by keeping the roads one way. I really appreciate it!
- I am a Senior with a Senior ticket on July 13th at 11:40 I was at the front of the drive way into the parking lot on the North side of the Fair, the person with the Senior Parking Pass refused to give me one (he said)the lot was full and I would need to park in the general area, he was Very Rude!! .. I can't walk that far. I still love the Fair and have only missed one year. Best Regards to everyone else....
- Traffic left the row indicator signs in Out-of-Site up ALL DAY MONDAY.... THANKS...

TRAFFIC -- Tuesday Parking

- After I was allowed to park in the "Crafts Lot" There are at least 50 other vehicles parked there. On my way out of the lot, a Traffic volunteer came by on horseback and I was told he was in charge of what happened in that lot. He shouted from horseback that everyone parked in that lot would be towed. When I asked when, he said right after his meeting, the tow truck would be on it's way.

I moved my car after an extra 45 minutes of B.S. I went to track down the Traffic volunteer. I found him. He refused to tell me his last name and started yelling at me. He asked me if I was going to report him. I said yes, as soon as I knew his name. Again, he refused. He asked me my name. I gave it to him.

Another Traffic volunteer also refused to give me his name, and her reason was because I was threatening "her family." She said I was yelling at her, which I was not. Yes, I'm upset. Yes, I'm protecting myself from an angry male, who walked up to me and got within 2" of my face. That's when he refused to give me his name.

At last, a different Traffic Coordinator was kind and gave me a piece of paper to write on.

What I told the first person was: "If those cars aren't towed, I'm reporting him for being a power person passing misinformation to the crafts family.

- This year I came out to the fair to work on my booth the Tuesday prior to the event. I was stopped at the sticker booth and told I had to park west of the sticker booth. I am 60 years old and have been under continual treatment for herniated spinal disks for 2 years... I explained this to the guy at the gate and still I was told to park half a mile from the figure 8! I protested but was told that was the law. The guy refused to budge on enforcing his understanding of this policy.

I honestly came close to leaving the fair for good, but decided to just carry my tools and go to work. As I walked to the figure 8, I passed acres of empty parking space. As I got close to the gate, I carried my cumbersome tools past literally hundreds of parked cars. HUNDREDS OF PARKED CARS! I noticed people unloading their stuff, leaving their vehicles, and walking to the nearby loops. I walked to my booth and left my tools and made a second trip to get the rest of the tools. Back past all the parked cars I walked, enraged at the stupid nature of such a policy.

Unfortunately, this is not the first time this experience has been inflicted on me. It also happened a couple of years ago. I have been told the policy was to prevent people from leaving their vehicles in those parking spaces for the duration of the fair. I was told the fair needs these spaces for alter-bled parking. I support such a reasonable goal!

The obvious solution to this problem is to tow the cars that violate the parking rules. Then you charge a lot of money to the offenders to get their car back. This is to make it clear there will be repercussions from such anti social behavior, and make the people who create the problem will be responsible for cleaning up their up their own mess. But instead of dealing with the problem, somebody seems to think it is a better solution to punish everybody. This kind of thinking smacks of a "Kill them all and let God sort it out" mind set. It is further infuriating that it is obviously randomly enforced! LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF CARS!!!

I am sure that it would cause problems for the first year, to tow vehicles in violation of parking rules. Impassioned pleas like "But I need my car close to the gate so it doesn't feel lonely!" would undoubtedly ensue. But the cars would be gone and the problem children would pay to clean up their own mess. But from then on the problem would get better. The cost of towing would be off set by the payment of impounding fees. The hassle of dealing with angry people would at least focus on the nature of the problem and on fixing that problem.

that is contained within this space is inspiring to say the least. So, thank you so much for the experience. Happy Fair and I'll see you next year!

- I just have to throw this in...just in case...is there any crew, vendor, or performer that could use some help from a 50 year old woman who lives in Medford and could drive up a few times before the fair if necessary and is especially available during the event? Could you make a suggestion? I really would like to be adopted into your fair family. It could help with the post fair depression. Just sayin.

WATER

- I wish to request a water bottle filling station to be added to the single straw bale water fountain at Spoken Word / Ritta's area fountain. We have suffered some 12 years with just one drinking fountain to serve the many thousands who need water. It's time for an upgrade, please???
- Sprinkler (at Shady Grove) did not work most of the time.
- Feel totally dissed by water crew's inability to make hand wash work behind the Dragon this year. Jeez, we eat back there. Prior proper planning, y'know? Kudos to crew services Smiley for making the best of a bad situation.
- Missed having water for the sink behind the Dragon.
- I would like to see hand-washing stations that children can reach. I can barely reach the faucet at the (library) six-pack. Kids just don't wash their hands, and isn't that something we would like to encourage?
- The hand washing facilities didn't get up and running until late Thursday or early Friday. Having them up and going by early Tuesday or Wednesday would sure be convenient and sanitary.

VIDEO/PHOTOGRAPHY POLICY

Discussion on FB OCF Fan Page July 16 Heading "Thank You, Thank You, Thank You"

- Just for your info, in a public setting there is no reasonable expectation of privacy you could photo anyone including the security
- This photographing rule won't get in the way of the Fair's request for photos for the archive project? I must say, I really don't appreciate the rude way in which some folks tell you that you cannot photograph at Fair. I expect a little more from Fair Family - this has happened to me too.
- I'm not attempting to discount anyone's negative experience concerning Fair photography but there are a few things I'd like to try to make clear.

While the public may be invited to purchase tickets and attend, I don't believe the Fair is a public place. It's private property and the public, as well as the Fair Family, are invited to participate and enjoy while following a substantial but important set of guidelines.

I don't believe the guidelines are or necessarily should be considered rules. I'm very nearly positive that the guidelines say you should ask permission before photographing any person on the property. They do forbid capturing video or audio unless you are part of those particular professional staffs.

While it isn't a rule, it's a suggested consideration to ask permission before photographing anyone, anyplace, anytime; at the Fair, not at the Fair, in your own yard or in your underwear.

This is a sermon I make every attempt to practice personally.

Secondly, the Fair is supposed to be, and for the most part is, a place for everyone to go to enjoy, to be comfortable being themselves, to express themselves however they feel appropriate in an effort to benefit as many other people as possible.

Photography is one of the ways I do just that and the Fair is without question my favorite time and place to practice that art. It is absolutely unFair to harsh another person's mellow by photographing them without first asking them if they are comfortable with your doing so.

I witnessed such an experience and if you're still reading I implore you to please consider that while you have every right to take photographs every other person has the right to not be photographed by you or I and they do deserve the option.

I was seated at a friend's booth and while enjoying a chat I sensed she was suddenly uncomfortable. I considered that maybe I should have myself a shower due to having neglected doing so for a number of days in a row. Before I could make a joke about it, another person I know, who did not acknowledge me at any point, said to her more or less, "You don't mind if I take your picture do you? Because I'm taking it anyway. Besides, it's your fault since you're so pretty and you're dressed up for the task."

It's amazing how quickly someone can lose another's respect.

I don't appreciate being told I can't photograph either, particularly when I know that it's within my right to do so. It's also very hard to appreciate or empathize with another person's pain when they go about correcting a correction by calling others names. Whether or not she is an uptight security bitch, your argument would be more valid had you mentioned in this public forum that some hard working volunteer became a bit testy with you for taking pictures; some hard working volunteer who probably desperately needed a sandwich.

You can blame her for being angry for considering what you were doing rude and against the "rules", you can blame the people who, through no fault of their own become uncomfortable when a

camera is pointed at them, or maybe you could be upset with yourself for not having smiled and said, "You're beautiful. Would it be okay if I took your picture?"

Thirdly, negativity breeds negativity.

Fourthly, this was such an awesome Fair! Thanks to everyone who works, anonymously and without thanks at times, to make 400 acres of swamp into the baddest music, art and love festival this side of 1969.

OCF FANS ON FB RESPOND TO Register Guard Editorial Commentary, "No more Oregon Country Fair Visits"

and open critique on the Oregon Country Fair ("Give Country Fair visitors some room to breathe," July 23).

- Ahhh, our differing realities and perceptions?!? Write back, telling the Register Guard about all the positive things you saw! There is a book named "Excuse Me Your Life is Waiting" by Lynn Grabhorn, which contends that it is actually demonstrated through "Science", that the vibrations you put out tend to attract the same vibrations back to you. Just saying.
- She came in with preconceived notions about what the fair was all about instead of just going with the flow, taking it all in, and letting the magic of the fair happen. How dare someone move to Oregon and tell us how to run a festival after going for ONE day! Being part of the crowd, experiencing new things, and yes, getting lost a little, is all part of the fun. To think that any festival can be everything for everybody is naive, and a bit self-centered.
- There will always be negative people in the world that will never be pleased about anything. If the fair were so bad, we would not have the turnout we do every year. Cafe Lafayette has a crew of folks who have been on the team for over 20 years, plus their children. These folks come from all walks of life, nurses, bank tellers, lawyers, etc; that ole biddy needs to expand her horizons. FYI most the same gourmet foods at the Saturday Market, are the same food vendors at the Oregon Country Fair. Yes! The fair may not be for everybody, but it is for most... (HAPPY PEOPLE)...
- Somehow, I just slightly doubt that she actually saw "active sex" happening in broad daylight. Been part of the Fair for a good part of my life, there definitely aspects I don't particularly like but for the most part the Fair is my favorite place in the world. Too bad that woman had such a horrible time, really feel bad for her, oh well there are probably places better suited to her tastes for fun...
- To each their peach.
- I too doubt the active sex bit. But, alas, I have heard similar complaints about the crowds, smoking, heat and lack of places to rest. The fair certainly isn't for everyone, but we can always improve the experience!!!
- The Fair has never been an event without controversy. One person's FAIR is another's nightmare. Always told fair virgins to go "find "their" fair", most do, some just get lost. Clearly, this woman couldn't appreciate or comprehend the magic and mystery of what the fair is and why we keep going back for more. Yes, the crowds are stifling, the dust is choking, and you can walk forever to find a shady place to sit. But if that is all you've found, why did she come in the first place? Perhaps she was thinking COUNTY Fair. It's a shame she had such a negative adventure! Sure, most of the things she cited might be experienced. But they are greatly dwarfed by the immeasurable magic you experience when you open yourself up more to all that is the Fair. Some folks live for experiences like NASCAR races, Disney World, NYE in Time Square....me I live for traveling 3500 miles to be in Ground Zero of The 8. Dust and all.

- Everyone craves connection and the visceral feeling of being a part of something. I might have a similar experience to Patricia if I were to go to a Ducks Football game. "To each their peach," indeed.
 - Nobody ever said that the Fair was for the faint of heart!
- I didn't attend this year-but I have always enjoyed my time at the fair! Perhaps it is possible that it has become so popular that the venue no longer sustains the fair's population. But the fact that attendance is high would indicate to me that it still is a much beloved event. It may not be for everyone but I have such fond memories-and we made it a family event taking our youngest and dancing with her to the drum circles-and oh, how she would delight at the costumed people-especially the giant butterflies on stilts!
- Did I hear we sold out on tickets? It's kind of a blessing that this person has chosen not to attend in future. It can get a bit crowded in the 8 at peak and I think it's very sweet of this person to volunteer not to come with her sour energy. It's okay if the Fair isn't everyone's cup of tea. Stay home if you don't like it. I like it
- This brings up an ongoing issue at country fair. It really is two different fairs. One for the day-trippers and one for people with a camping pass. At this point in time, I believe that there are approximately as many people with camping passes as there are day-trippers on any given day. What this produces is a dichotomy of the haves and have-nots (remember the Sneeches?) We folks with wristbands often have the attitude of "when will these people leave and let us get on with our party". I am certainly guilty of this sentiment at times myself. While we are in the wondrous throws of the fair, it is easy to forget that half the people around us are not going to get past the sweep and stay the night. The gloriously dusty path and all that goes with it will be their OCF experience. The day-trippers are also the people who in the large part actually pay for the fair. I feel that more should and can be done for these folks. More parks and shady areas where they could get a respite would be a good start. I really like the openness of the new kids loop and hope it stays that way. Hopefully this will also be included in the future plans for the craft lot (I know... a whole other can of worms). Just remember that during the craziness of Saturday afternoon what do we do? We run to catch one or two shows and maybe a bite to eat and then scurry back to our camp to get away from all of those people. The day-trippers have nowhere to hide and I think in the ethos and the morals of the fair that we can and should accommodate them as well.

C'mon people, to say this viewpoint is invalid is BS. It's a day-trippers perspective and it needs to be respected. And the overwhelming feeling that pass-holders are somehow better than day-trippers needs to end. If it weren't for day-trippers, pass-holders would have no reason to be there.

- Love it, . Thank you for the larger vision and the reminder that the Country Fair is more than just a party.
- I truly agree as well... I grew up one of those unwashed little scraggly kids that ran through the crowd and stayed late with my family to help run a booth, but in my early 20's had two kids and haven't been a wristband holder since then... but this fair I got the opportunity to help once again, and was able to stay and play after the sweep passes... There is definitely a have and a have-not mentality with the people who have and don't have wrist bands. But as someone who knows the fair like the back of her hand (from growing up with the fair), there are rest spots and drinking fountains all over the place. It's just hard to see them or know that they are just on the other side of the path sometimes. You have to know already where to look or go. I think that is one thing that the "day passers" have the biggest problem with. most of them don't know the fair, so they pass by three drinking fountains before finding one... or likewise walk half way around the 8 looking for a shady spot that was just on the other side of the path...
- I don't think I have EVER considered myself a "have" or those who pay daily admission as "have nots". I consider myself a "host" and those who pay daily admission, a "guest"...and always act accordingly. And

no, just so you know, there are plenty of people with passes who pay a large portion of what the Fair runs on...we are called "crafters" and we pay large booth fees, pay for all the camping passes required by those who help us or our family members, and also pay countless hours of our time pre-Fair making our wares and hours during Fair showing them and, in our particular case, providing 10 hours of free juggling lessons per day of Fair...often to entertain those many "guests" who just want a way to JOIN us in our revelry and FEEL part of the WHOLE...so we give that to them if they happen by our cart. I've heard crafters described as "commercial", etc. This year, while I will admit to having earned enough to cover the \$2000 in investment (materials, booth and pass fees, food and drink for my camp and crew, etc, etc, etc) and even a few hundred to cover the cost of going to the Ritz and buying food from other Fair family, after all was said and done, we didn't really make money. What DID we do? We made FUN!!! We made kids and their parents SMILE and PLAY!!! We made the FAIR!!! (oh, and just in case you all sigh and write me off as "a vendor"...I also have been one of the White Bird crew for 20 years. One of the "haves"? And I make sure my kids DON'T go hang in camp until the paying public "goes away"...the Fair is what we are there for and we LOVE the shows, the costumes, and the general hubbub of the night in full swing!) I hope we can all remember that we are responsible to be hosts for our big event and if we make it our job to make even ONE new person's day, then the magic will continue to grow!

- Come on people aren't we above this bashing? Share the love. Write back in a positive way to same paper and tell about the beauty, the wonder, the music, the art and the love.
- We are day trippers who would love to get more involved! We have a lot of lifetime fair family friends and we absolutely LOVE the fair and appreciate all that all of you do. If we are fortunate then we shall get more involved and get to help, and soak up all of you great folks and the sacredness of the exquisite land at OCF next year!!!! THANK YOU ETERNALLY We love and appreciate you all!!!! Jodee and Steve:) Big Bearhugs and Radiant Rainbows :) ♥♥♥

KUDOS

- ***BEST FAIR EVARRRRR!!!!!!
- *****Thanks for a amazing, wonderful, inspirational, magical, fantastic, lovely, awesone, relaxing, loving, peaceful, healing event. (I'm 65).
- **I Love You ALL!
- Most relaxing and refreshing fair in decades. Yes, yes, yes.
- ***As it's been every time we've gone, this year OCF was BIG FUN, a magical journey, a kick in the pants!
- **Yes! Yes! Yes!
- Awesome sauce em.....
- Blessed to be present with each moment, person and experience. Thank you for being.
- *Thanks to everyone that makes this magical event occur for us all!!
- Thank you for a wonderful weekend. Nothing like the country fair to bring love back into ones heart. And ooooh how you appreciate a good shower after ;) ♥

- Was fun to bring new people this year and see it anew through their eyes...love the love we experience every year!!!!
- I loved it. This was my first year camping outside the fair and **second** time attending the fair.
- Great Fair, even better than my last time 17 years ago. Keep up the good work!
- best one yet (**4th** year)
- My 8th year I feel truley blessed for OCF thank you!!!!!!!!!! You are all beautiful beings.
- thank you all so very much for all you do for the fair. i am 27 years old and this was my **21st** oregon country fair. my two kids have gone every year since their births. this was the first year since i was 18 that i got the opportunity to work the fair, and in doing so get to stay and play after hours. i forgot some of the magic that only happens after dark. i am now more than inspired to make working for the fair a habit from this year... till forever thank you, thank you, thank you
- This was my **23rd** Fair (whoa! just realized that! give or take a few), my 12th as a member of a crew. Best ever, mostly because my son had his 1st birthday at Fair :) Thank you, see you in 2013 for my son's 2nd bday :)
- Thank you for a magik filled weekend once again, this was my **25th** year and it just keeps getting better. Cheers to another year so well done
- Thank you!!! I loved everything... always have, always will... **26** years attending!!
- loved it. The vibe this year was most certainly LOVE!!! **34** years and counting.

- Three cheers for ALL the enthusiastic, cheerful, and thorough crew members.
- Thanks for caring enough to want to consider our feedback. May God bless each of you. Have a splendid year!
- Hey, totally forgot to say that I had a very rejuvenating experience! Fair's like a great massage to me...it's healing effects continue long after. Thank you for all you do!
- Loving fair, especially appreciating all of the innumerable detatils that make the fair so amazing.
- I want to start by letting you know how much I absolutely love the Oregon Country Fair. I sincerely look forward to it every year even more than I do Christmas, my birthday, or any other event I can think of. I appreciate all the work that goes into it and I think you guys do an awesome job putting on an event of this magnitude year after year.

- Working at the Sticker Booth, I appreciated the Parking spreadsheet and map. They were a helpful aide when answering the question, "now where do I park?"
- The new sticker booth is lovely and spacious; the counters in the back of each section were a delightful surprise. The quick-fix construction to connect each section and prevent sneaker portals are great. I've dubbed them the hugging windows as I can give/receive a full-body hug rather than lean over the counter for a mutual slap on the back. The temperature inside the booth was very comfortable. I appreciate the extra electric outlets. I imagine bright flags flying from the points above each window or above the hugging windows – perhaps next year. Thank you, Construction, for including Sticker Booth participants in the design talks and incorporating our needs and desires.
- Holy Fair, Loved sleeping under the tree and hearing the different laughs. happy people every where. cant ask for anything better Thank you HAPPY FAIR. see you all soon. Peace Love Respect
- Fair makes my heart sing. I am blessed to be able to wander the 8 in the evenings with my beautiful wife. Magic around every bend. Leave your camera at home. Use your mind for capturing memories.
- I learned from many events that I attend where to go, who to talk with and to the degree I talk to them and share with them. Attending festivals is an art. I never let rude people get me down and ruin my day. The OCF is big enough to move onto other things. If a vendor or a person is short with me I move on pretty fast and do not focus my attention on the negative energy because there is others who will stop me and want to talk to me. I had some wonderful pleasant experiences just wondering around getting lost intentionally in the crowds seeing where the energy takes me. I loli gag it drives some people nuts because they have to walk around me but it also gives the positive ones who are not in rush to catch up with me and talk and I had some pretty profound conversations with people when I slow down and just look at what is around me. No need to hurry through the fair experience! I seen amazing people and heard amazing stories. I done amazing things and heard people say and do amazing things around me. I heard someone tell me that I was totally amazing the way I play flute, I drum etc. Just because one person may be a downer never ruins my day. The fair teaches you lessons of life and of experience. I generally walk the main through ways but sometimes I wonder to places I rarely go to see what is there but I keep moving on looking for a new lesson. The drum tower for me is the most powerful spot. The highest energy comes from that place when the place is filled with drummers and dancers, a feeling of raw spiritual energy unlike any other experience exists there, intoxicating.
- wonderful, peaceful faire this year, given all that we had to do to get it together, i think that Site and Main Camp did VERY WELL... and Traffic left the row indicator signs in Out-of-Site up ALL DAY MONDAY.... THANKS..
- I attended this year on Sunday with my 10 year old niece. We both loved the convenience and speed of the women's urinals. Please keep up the good work! that was a great idea! Thank you for a fabulous fair
- Let me begin by saying that the Fair seemed, from my and our perspective to have gone very well. To have a town larger than Newport or Florence live together in the woods for 3-7 days, and do commerce besides, is no small feat. Good job!
- I want to thank everyone for the best fair ever. I think that every year, and every year it is true. The new loop is just so beautiful and cool. The art is fantastic. The flow is improving with more space. It was well run, well organized and great fun. My only complaint is that it needed to be one more day long since I did not have enough time to do everything that I wanted to do. Could you fix that please. I think another day might do it for me.
- All the things that we talk about are nipping around the edges. The event is sound and works for most of us almost all of the time. I remember when the drum tower kept us awake all night which I thought

was the bane of our existence then. I like it best when it is not too loud as well. At night I have great ear plugs.

- I love my time there and making connections. Someone told me they did a survey and 15% came for the entertainment, 18% came for crafts and the rest came to see each other (don't quote me on the exact numbers since I am making those up but they were around those numbers). I believe that. It keeps me coming back. Thanks again for such a great time.
- It was so hard for me to leave this year after all the stuff going on in the world and the negative vibrations the OCF is high energy on amazing levels with totally amazing people sharing their amazing talents.
- I had the same 'time' I've ever had at the Fair—
 - Extraordinary - the individual portable lighting theatre
 - Encouraging - Staff smiled at me (mostly), even hugged me, if they felt it essential (*??)
 - Invigorating - I don't play that much anymore. I've forgotten how I love 3 hour REM charges more than 8 hour power draining 'sleep'
 - Encouraging - Well, that may be stretching it. Not too far though. That we still maintain this cultural representation with dignity and honorable direction (moreover), [is] encouraging, if not dynamically inspiring
 - Challenging - I want to know how Security keeps track of the chaos. Kudos!! How about a Rotating Golden Knot of Megaplex Fair Paths Pedestal Award?
- Thank for 2012. What a fresh drink of unfiltered water, full of minerals and gems, tweets and twerps, fun and folly, naked thoughts and nude bodies, musical weeping and disillusioned moments, joyous nuance, pleasant consistency, safe environment, questionable precepts, imp sightings and giants' embraces.
- Even though I could only stay for 4 hours Saturday, it was a GREAT fair! Thanks so much! See you next year!
- Great time! Hooked for life!
- Once again... I was sad to leave and delighted to have been! Thank you! See you next year!
- This was such an awesome Fair! Thanks to everyone who works, anonymously and without thanks at times, to make 400 acres of swamp into the baddest music, art and love festival this side of 1969. See y'all next week!
- Another great OCF, can't wait for 2013!

365.242 more days till next year!!!! (written on 7/16/2012)