

# **BC Rangers Lifetime Review & 2016 Annual Report**

## **Introduction**

As we have never done one of these before, this document will include a summary of our activities and progress to date, with a focus on 2016, and as well, a projection for 2017.

### **Rangers 101**

Regional Ranger organizations such as BC Rangers & Northwest Rangers are volunteer groups within the regional Burning Man communities, and are modeled after the Black Rock Rangers. <http://rangers.burningman.org/>

Rangers are participants dedicated to preserving the safety, welfare, and quality of experience of the Burning Man community. We volunteer some of our time as non-confrontational peer mediators, encouraging and facilitating communication. We promote awareness of potential hazards, and carry radios to quickly relay information in case of emergency. We are not security guards, babysitters, nor fun-police, we are simply available, and only assist when needed.

### **BCR History**

BC Rangers was formed in 2014 by members of the Vancouver & Victoria regional Burning Man community, to support our regional events, and are supported by the Greater Vancouver Interactive Arts Society and Kindle Arts respectively. As our events grow, so grows the need for Rangers. Our mission is to make training more readily available, and to draw together a network of Black Rock and Regional Rangers to support our shared communities and local events. BCR maintains a year-round roster of capable rangers, facilitates regional training, shift scheduling, and communication with ranger volunteers.

## **Leadership Team**

Ranger Kazmira serves as Director and maintains internal records, official communications, website & social media, stores supplies/inventory, writes reports and happily herds cats for training & events.

The Regional Coordinator roles were created in 2015 to share the workload of organizing all training, event teams, and ranger-related activities in Vancouver and Victoria. Kazmira and Yonder served for Vancouver, with Rangers Viress and Got A Match serving Victoria. With immense gratitude, we are retiring the overtaxed Regional Coordinator role, to more mercifully distribute the workload to an expanded BC Rangers Leadership Team.

For 2017, this new Leadership Team will serve our combined region, consisting of members from both Victoria & Vancouver. Each member will lead one facet of BCR responsibility, and work closely with each other, to build an integrated and supportive Leadership Team, to serve Victoria, Vancouver, and maybe beyond. We expect this team to require five to seven volunteers, to serve in positions such as Communications Coordinator, Events Liaison, Training Coordinator, Social Planner and Quartermaster. Role descriptions & details for these and other roles (such as Lead, Trainer, Mentor etc), can be found here:

<http://tinyurl.com/BCRoles>, and applications for all roles can be made here:

<http://tinyurl.com/BCRleadership>.

## **Event Ranger Leads**

A Ranger Lead is responsible for coordinating ranger volunteers for a particular event, and works closely with that event's Producer & Production Team. In 2016, Got A Match served as Ranger Lead for three events in Victoria: Springle, Otherworld, and Default Diversion. Rangers Flourless Cake and Hardpack co-led Rangers for Burn In the Forest, and Kazmira led rangers for Dustcovery in Vancouver.

As of 2017, Event Producers may request that BC Rangers appoint a Ranger Lead for their event, or request assistance with reviewing and vetting Ranger Lead applicants. Ranger Lead applicants are also very welcome to connect with us to discuss role responsibilities, training, and mentorship. Contact a BC Rangers Events Liaison at [liaison@bcrangers.ca](mailto:liaison@bcrangers.ca)

## **Training**

In Ranger training (both Black Rock and Regional) we emphasise the importance of having a "not about me" attitude, because as Rangers, it's not about us - it's about the participants. We try not to interfere with anyone's experience, but rather, we are simply available, and prepared to assist if needed.

Likewise, as Trainers rangers in leadership roles, we understand that it's not about us either: It's about the Rangers who will be walking shifts, and it is our responsibility to provide them with the tools they need to be successful in their role. We aim to train & guide capable rangers who will grow into experienced Leads, Trainers and Coordinators, to support our regional events as well as our year-round community.

## **Regional Training**

2016 was the first year that BC Rangers facilitated all regional trainings offered in both Vancouver and Victoria. Once again, Limbic Media provided an excellent venue for our two trainings in Victoria. Four trainings were held in Vancouver: one at The Hive, one The Egg, and two at the home of Rangers Yonder & Kazmira. Rangers Bzkrk, Flourless Cake, Got A Match, Hardpack, Kazmira and Yonder facilitated a total of six regional ranger trainings, resulting in a record-breaking 94 regional rangers trained in 2016.

## **Black Rock Ranger Training**

As there are not yet any Black Rock Ranger Trainers in BC, in order to host a BRR training, we must coordinate to invite trainers from Seattle or elsewhere, and have a minimum of 10 registrants. 2014 marked the first year that Black Rock Ranger training was available in BC, resulting in a very well attended training in Vancouver. Trainers came again in 2015 to facilitate BRR trainings in both Vancouver and Victoria, which were also well attended. Since that first training in 2014, 17 rangers continued the path to become Black Rock Rangers (10 Van/7 Vic).

2016 was unfortunately an anomaly, in that both the Victoria and Vancouver dates were cancelled due to low registration. We have some unproven theories about why this may be, and so we are not discouraged, and we intend to try again to bring BRR training to BC for 2017.

## **Other 2016 Training**

In addition to the standard 4-hour Northwest Rangers Regional Training, we hosted one Green Dot Training (facilitated by Ranger Mockingbird from Seattle) in Vancouver, and an

experimental “Safety Day” in Vancouver, in conjunction with the Burn In The Forest Safety Team. Safety Day presented a full day of training modules, including Radio Protocol for non-rangers (aimed at BitF Leads & participants who expected to use radios), an informal overview of ICS (Incident Command System) emergency response protocol facilitated by Rangers Bzkrk & Skookumchuck, and finally, Yonder facilitated our first ever Khaki Training for experienced rangers wishing to serve as Khaki at BitF. Overall, this event was very successful, and we plan to develop Safety Day into an annual offering, with more modules, for both Vancouver and Victoria.

### Training Growth Snapshot

We adopted the Northwest Rangers Training Manual for all BC Rangers regional training in 2015, and it has been very successful and well received. We continue to work with the Regional Ranger Network to revise our approach to best suit the needs of our rangers & participants at our events.

<b>VANCOUVER</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Trainings Offered	1 (BRR only)	2 (1 BRR, 1 BCR)	4 (BCR)
Rangers Trained	49	52	64
Rangers Volunteered	33	35	56
% New Rangers	33%	23%	34%
% Volunteered	67%	67%	87%

<b>VICTORIA</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Trainings Offered	?	1+?	2
Rangers Trained	8+	22+	30
Rangers Volunteered	unreported	unreported	unreported

Although we do not have any statistical information prior to the inception of BC Rangers, we have been keeping track of our progress wherever possible. Historically, we have not mandated that Victoria’s statistics need be reported, however, as it is a useful tool in measuring growth, we will be drafting a policy for this moving forward.

### Training Projections for 2017

Interest in ranger training is on a steady incline, with approximately 20 more participants each year. We would like to increase the number of Regional Trainers in Victoria (from 1 to 3), and offer at least three Regional Trainings, and hopefully one Black Rock Training in each city. We’re also developing a shorter module for regional rangers with 2+ active years experience, and formalizing a mentorship program. We also hope to increase our pool of Event Ranger Leads & Khakis (shift leads) by offering direct training & mentoring for these roles, as this is a critical need at our events.

### Financials

Although BC Rangers has not yet been officially formed into an independent legal entity (e.g. a non-profit society or similar), financial transparency is important to us.

Most of our expenses are generously reimbursed by our region's non-profit societies, the Greater Vancouver Interactive Arts Society, and Kindle Arts. Some expenses (such as trainer travel, webhosting/domain registration, etc) we have not negotiated for reimbursement, and so you will notice our financial balance for 2016 is negative. As it is unsustainable for us to operate out of pocket, we endeavour to minimize this practice moving forward, by improving our projections, and fundraising if need be.

### Radio Fundraiser

One of the things we all appreciate about Black Rock Ranger training, is the opportunity to practice with real radios, and we wanted to bring that benefit to our regional training as well. Ranger Bzkrk was instrumental in helping us choose an affordable model that didn't require licensing. These radios are not appropriate for use at events, but they are perfect for training.

As the cost for these radios would be very much outside our normal expenditures, we launched a GoFundMe campaign in March, hitting our \$800 goal in just two days, which allowed us to purchase twelve [Midland LXT600VP3 GMRS Radios](#) & shoulder mics. We used these radios for all 6 regional BCR trainings, as well as Safety Day, and we are incredibly grateful for our community's generosity and support. We look forward to training with these radios for years to come.

### 2016 Financial Report

<b>Expenses</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
T-Shirts	\$817.60
Radios	\$583.93
Training Venue	\$362.25
Laminates	\$292.50
BC Ferries (Trainer Travel)	\$209.80
Lamination Supplies	\$196.66
Patches	\$175.07
Webhosting (1 year)	\$120.00
LED safety armbands	\$97.93
HQ Refreshments	\$94.99
Go Fund Me fees	\$66.18
Lanyards	\$36.36
Buttons	\$32.48
Annual Domain Registration	\$20.00
HQ Kettle	\$15.00
Webhosting	\$10.00
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$3,115.75</b>

Income	
Source	Amount
GVIAS reimbursement	\$1,472.49
Kindle reimbursement	\$302.40
Radio Fundraiser	\$800.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$2,574.89</b>

<b>Balance</b>	<b>-\$540.86</b>
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## Feedback Survey

At the end of 2016, we published a feedback survey, and we are currently combing through the (largely positive) submissions, and taking steps to address things that need improvement. We appreciate the time you take to tell us your experiences, and your feedback helps us see our blind spots. We will continue to offer feedback surveys after events and at year end. Many thanks to everyone who submitted through the official survey, and we invite you to let us know how we're doing, any time:

[feedback@bcrangers.ca](mailto:feedback@bcrangers.ca)

## 2017 Preview

Still to come!

- BC Rangers General Meetings in Vancouver and Victoria
- New infrastructure with expanded Leadership Team
- New Trainers, Mentors, Leads & Khakis
- Schedule announcement for Ranger Training
- Information for volunteering to ranger at local events
- New BC Rangers personalized laminates, valid for all events supported by BCR
- New Website improvements with membership-style log-in feature for active rangers
- Centralized accessible documentation & resources for rangers, leads, etc
- and more!

## Gratitude

Once again, we'd like to offer our heartfelt gratitude: to those who rangered before us, to the past & present production teams & leads who dedicate countless hours to event safety, to GVIAS & Kindle, to our Burning Man Regional Contacts, to our extended family in Black Rock & Northwest Rangers & beyond, and of course, to the participants of this wild and wonderful community. We so appreciate your ongoing confidence and support, and we are looking forward to another exciting year with all of you.

## Stay In Touch

You can stay up to date with all our news & activities by:

- Visiting our website: <http://bcrangers.ca/>
- Visiting our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/BritishColumbia/Rangers/>

- Joining our Announce List (no spam!):  
[http://bcrangers.ca/mailman/listinfo/announce\\_bcrangers.ca](http://bcrangers.ca/mailman/listinfo/announce_bcrangers.ca)
- Contacting us directly: [contact@bcrangers.ca](mailto:contact@bcrangers.ca)