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Spokane Wedding Bells

Megan and David's Wedding Weekend



Spokane was the site of the spectacular wedding of Dave Gillingham and Megan Rehwald on September 6, 2015. The weather took on an ominous tone with rain falling (off and on) for most of the weekend, but luckily it stopped just before the beginning of the wedding. Which was really good considering it took place outside in a lovely valley next to the famous Spokane Flour Mill.

Friends and families arrived from all directions -- Robert and Karla motored in their RV, Francie and Lyle chugged along by train, and the rest of the Riel clan flew in by plane. On Friday evening, we all met at the Davenport, a graceful old hotel built over a century ago and which has hosted

many famous gatherings over the years. This year it would add the Rehwald/Gillingham wedding to its lists of spectacular social events. Most of the wedding party and a good portion of the guests stayed at the Davenport, while others stayed at nearby hotels or in Robert and Karla's case, a KOA RV park about 13 miles away.

Friday night was the start of the festivities with unofficial bachelor and bachelorette parties starting the fun (the real ones being held weeks before). Other (AKA as older) groups met up for dinner in a range of venues. Francie, Lyle, Margaret, Bud, Robert and Karla went to the Power House restaurant which was one of the buildings that carried its past history of a coal burning electrical generation plant into its future as a center place of commerce and culinary delights. This was just one example of older buildings (many from the early 1900's) that have been re-purposed into functioning businesses that add to the charm of Spokane. In this case we sat above a micro-brewery in the main restaurant which had many of the steam plant's original equipment making up the décor. The food was great and we had a lively discussion on our Riel childhoods.

After dinner and/or "other" parties the different groups met up at the piano bar for what can only be described as "a really good celebration". There are plenty of good stories on what went on but none of which we will be reporting on here.

The next day was the bridal party practice to make sure that everything was picture perfect. This took place in the morning and while those participating in the wedding had to be there, the rest of the party people from the night before were glad to have a little extra time to sleep in.



The afternoon included a trip to the Idaho's Coeur d'Alene Lake and the quaint downtown area for shopping and eating. The original plan had been for a day at the lake with water and jet skiing, followed up by plenty of sun bathing. However, the weather decided it would be better if we found a nice bar to hole up in and have lunch while tasting some more local ale. If you're a Riel what tops lunch almost as good as Ice cream dessert? Why shopping of course! And how convenient that the bar we ate in was part of a shopping mall? To be fair it was Bob Gillinghams choice of bar because he saw that it was decorated completely with bicycles. The main lighting was made out of bike wheels and the tables all had bike parts imbedded in them.



Later that night it was time for the rehearsal dinner which was at Anthony's (not related to our Anthony's in San Diego). The restaurant is situated on a river complete with waterfalls which could all be seen via large picture windows. The rain did hold off enough for many of the guests to enjoy the view of the falls from the balcony but the pre-dinner gathering had to be moved indoors due to the scattered showers.



After a fabulous dinner Listy and Birdy played a 15 minute movie depicting Megan and David's lives. Then after a few toasts and speeches it was time for what has become a Riel tradition, "The Song". Once again the Riel Clan demonstrated to all that they cannot manage to carry a tune. Fortunately the performance is more about



“The Song” sung to the tune of California Girls

Well the couple met in Spokane
A cap and gown's what drew him there,
But the things that she said, they got right into his
head
Dave saw a life he'd like to share.

You-know-that Megan's a great beauty,
And she makes him feel all right,
And Gonzaga girls, well the way that they kiss
He couldn't even put up a fight.

We wish they both have long and amazing lives,
And that love is there for them and it always thrives.

You know that David loves the Chargers
And he bleed in blue and gold
And though Meg-an is supportive,
She'd rather craft, so we've been told.

We've been all around this great big world
And there's been so much to see,
Yeah, but we couldn't wait to get back in the states
To see their pal-ace in Santee.

We wish they both have long and amazing lives,
And that love is there for them and it always thrives.

As they start their life together,
We have just this one request,
While 2 or 3 kids would be a lot of fun
We think 5 or 6 would be the best.

Before we stop this singing,
Let's save Dave a little strife,
If at first you do not succeed
Try listening to your sweet wife.

I wish they both have long and amazing lives,
And that love is there for them and it always thrives.

Congratulations!



the words and heart, and not the voice. A copy of the song is shown in the sidebar to this article.

The wedding day began with hair and makeup for the bridal party. Francie was in good form and just to make sure, Bud delivered champagne and orange juice. Hmmm do the hair styles get better or worse after mimosas? Since Robert doesn't need a long time to get his hair done, he and Karla decided to take a trip to the top of Mount Spokane. Yes it was still raining but by the time they got to the top, the rain had turned into snow flurries. It was fun walking in the snow even if it didn't stick to the ground, but soon enough it was time to return to the “flat land” for the big event.

The wedding theme was an apple harvest and the ground floor of the flour mill was decorated with love and care to carry out the theme. There were baskets of apples, and huckleberry cider at all the tables. Even though the rain had just stopped the brid-





al party still had to deal with the wet grass during the pre-wedding pictures. Megan took it all in stride and one might even say she enjoyed every minute of it.

The wedding kicked off about 5:30ish and was extremely touching and very personal. Megan and David exchanged rings and pledged their love. Then family members and friends were asked to pledge their support for Megan and David's vows of love. Finally, those words we always love to hear... "May I present Mr. and Mrs. David Gillingham" were spoken and they made their way down the aisle through a shower of, not rain, but soap bubbles provided by the guests.



Finally it was on to the reception which included a wonderful dinner of pastas with chicken and/or salmon. After dinner came the heartwarming toasts from both the best man and maid-of-honor. There were also the traditional dances between Megan and David, then Megan and her Dad,

then finally David with Listy. The wedding party then decided to do a round of shots to officially start the dancing.



The dancing was great and everyone had a wonderful time. We thank the Rehwald's for their hospitality and all the effort they put into making the decorations. But most of all we wish Megan and David a wonderful life together!



Margaret Presents Keynote to Global Educators in Brasília, Brazil

By Bud Mehan



Margaret presented a provocative keynote address on the value of action research for K-12 educators at the annual meeting of the International Education Resource Network (iEARN) on July 28, 2015 in Brasilia, Brazil. She captured the attention of the audience with a captivating story of the actions of the elementary students of an iEARN teacher. This first grade teacher helped her students discover the gradual pollution of their local pond by saving the kids photo journals each year. Once they realized that the birds were not nesting because the island was shrinking and the water was getting polluted, they decided to take action. First they presented their work to kids around the world. On their advice, they presented their findings to local elected officials—and asked them to care about this problem. After a well-received presentation with data and charts, the Parks and Recs Committee (Pullman, WA) decided to make the restoration of

the pond a bud-

get item. Margaret informed the hundreds of educators in attendance that this project by first and second graders had all the hallmarks of successful action research: they studied the problem, framed a plan of action, kept data on their efforts and “published” their data in the form of classroom booklets for the next group of students to take over the project. These kids, Margaret said set an example that iEARN teachers can follow.



Margaret’s time in Brazil was not entirely devoted to this international gathering. Her PA (personal assistant, aka Bud) arranged a week’s stay in a hotel overlooking the Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro for the week before the conference.

Rio was everything visitors and the tourist books say about this resort city. The miles-long Copacabana and Ipanema beaches teem with people all day and all night. Local music, endless soccer and volleyball games, sand castles, food and drinks delivered to sun-bathers in various states of undress prevail.

Side trips included a trek to the “Cristo”—the Christ the Redeemer statue—designated one of the 7 Wonders of the Modern World, Rio’s Lagoon, Botanical Garden, and Corcovado—the 710 meter peak that overlooks the city. Margaret unfortunately, did not have time to



take the tramway to Sugar Loaf Mountain; something about vertigo on the part of her PA. The same malady plagued the intrepid travelers in Brasilia, where Margaret's friend took them to the top of the local TV tower for a grand view of the city. The PA position may be open.

Brasilia is interesting in a different manner. It is a thoroughly modern city, completed only in 1960 and designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site as Brazil's capitol. Centrally planned, with clean lines and lots of open spaces, the city is divided into 4 zones. The government zone is composed of stun-

ning buildings—many of which were designed by world famous architects such as Oscar Niemeyer, Joao F. Lima, and Icaro Castro Mello. Living spaces were built in multistory units, laid out symmetrically in neighborhoods. The buildings were constructed on stilts and the land under their units belonged to everyone as commons. Here you would find playgrounds, and parks and walk ways. Between sets of building were commercial and social services with stores, churches and schools. Rational planning does have limitations, however: lack of public transport and the absence of a human scale. It is difficult to walk from place to place. And traffic jams are common, but no worse than we experience in LA.





Katy Attends Burning Man 2015

By Katy Riel

The end of August can only mean one thing for me, Burning Man. Last year's burn was a family experience, going with Brian and the boys, but this year it was a little different, I got to go with my best friend Nikki. This was her first burn so I got a little taste of what Brian went through last year taking three virgins. Nikki was more prepared than I was last year for my first burn and I am still impressed at that.

Last year had taught me a lot and because of that, prepping for this year was way more efficient but still started early. Nikki and I both started getting things together in early March, right after we confirmed that we both had tickets. I swear getting tickets is the most stressful part. If you have ever been to Comic Con you can probably relate, you register for the sale and then wait in a state of panic until the clock strikes 12:00. I was even more of a wreck because I was at work and could not use the computers there for personal use. My lovely mother took on the responsibility for me, and I could not be more grateful for that. I called her on my break to make sure she was all set to go, she double checked that Nikki was in fact going to get her own ticket and she only had to get one. I confirmed as much, but she said she was going to buy two just in case. Saying that even if Nikki got hers, someone else in our camp might need one and at the very least she could sell it back to STEP.

I called her again at my lunch to see how things went, and she told me she had good news and bad news. I am pretty sure my heart stopped. Good news was that she got the tickets, bad news was that the vehicle passes were sold out. I let out a breath, vehicle passes are easy to come by so I wasn't worried. I called Nikki who told me she didn't get a ticket that by the time she got to the sale everything was sold out. She was ecstatic that my mom had gotten two. We were all set.

Even though we have six months between getting tickets and actually going to the event, it never feels like enough time. In fact, I am going to start prepping for next year right now. We got almost everything we wanted to do, done and as the date drew nearer we got more and more excited and stressed. We were trying to figure out the best time to leave and what we needed for the trip there and back. Entertainment was something we talked about a lot. We decided that we were going to go old school; only CDs. Keep in mind, that neither of us had purchased a CD since high school. We also downloaded a few audio books, which turned out to be a good idea because CDs that are over ten years old, well they skip, a lot. But we did get to listen to some classics like Totally Hits (the first one) and "Now That's What I call Music" numbers 1, 8, and 9.



Our first bit of playa magic happened about a week before we left. The weekend before I was packing any getting things ready to go, which included cleaning my car out enough to transport my things



to Nikki's. I decided that if I was going to clean my car I should probably wash it to, but it was hot out and I didn't really have the time so when I stopped for gas, I purchased a car wash. Arco was running a contest, buy a car wash and get entered in a weekly drawing for a \$100 gas card. Monday morning came and so did a call from Arco saying that I had won. That gas card ended up paying for about three quarters of our gas for the whole trip.

Our drive up was pretty uneventful. Which was a welcomed change from last year. We ended up leaving at the perfect time. We left Saturday night at nine and hit Reno just as the sun was coming up. We hit traffic just outside of Wadsworth about eight in the morning and from there we spent the next seven hours getting to gate road. It wasn't that bad though, the longest time we spent in one spot was about 30 minutes.



We did eventually get to the greeters and they had us get of the car, they welcomed me home and Nikki made a playa angel and rang the "bell". Because the winds had been so bad, she actually hit the stand that normally holds the bell. We drove into camp and were welcomed by those we would be living with for the next week. We got camp set up fairly quick and changed out of our default clothes, then set out to explore the city.

The city was bigger by far this year being some eight square miles, where last year it was only five. Unfortunately, Nikki hurt herself that first night that made riding her bike unbearable, so we walked everywhere. Which wasn't a big deal, it just meant it took longer to get anywhere and we would have to leave earlier for any

workshops we wanted to go to. We did a lot together but also did a lot on our own as well. My first burn was a blast but I felt like I was following Brian a lot because I didn't really know what there was to do and I didn't want to miss anything, but Nikki is fearless and didn't want me to feel like a tour guide or a babysitter. So we decided that if there were things we wanted to do that the other didn't, it was fine and we would always meet up later. We both had other friends out on the playa and enjoyed time with them as well.



A few things we did do together were a massage class and a workshop on how to make sock monkeys. Now, I did this last year and it was one of the things that was on my HAVE TO list. While making mine, I decided that it was looking more alien than monkey, so I decided to honor Brian (who couldn't come this year due to school) by making it into a Space Monkey, which is his playa name. Space Monkey came everywhere with me for the rest of the week and it was almost like Brian was there.



I think it was Friday that Nikki and I decided to explore the playa, see some art, go to the temple, and visit the Man one more time before they started prepping him for the burn. It had been so dusty the last few days that we thought this would be our best shot, as it was clear when we left. I know it's the desert and it's supposed to be dusty, but really this year was bad. Burners that had been coming for 10+ years said it was the worst they had seen. The previous days we had constant white outs that lasted over five hours. We completed the maze

around the man and started for the temple when the winds started to kick up again.

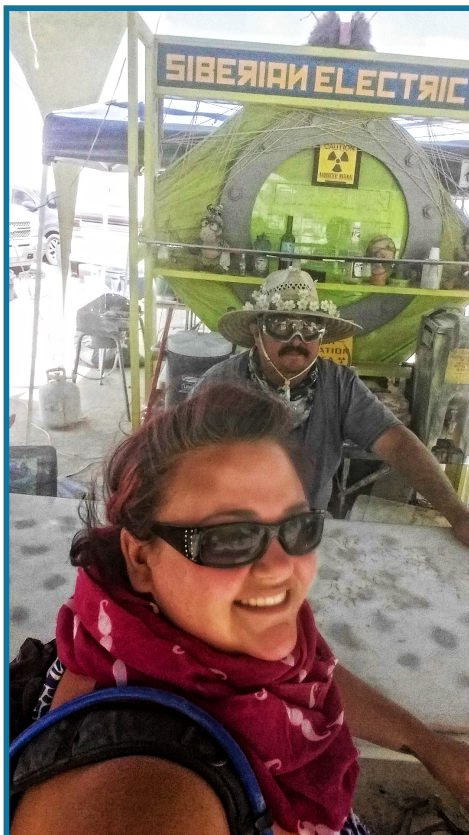
The Temple of Promise this year was beautiful. Just as magnificent as last year, and just as emotional. I was able to write what I needed and found a special place to write Brian's name on the temple just as he asked me to. Just after this, Nikki and I found each other again, and the winds really picked up. Later that night we found out that they were 45mps with gust in the 60s.

We started out to see a few art pieces that caught our eye while walking in and made it to the first piece just as the first of the white out hit us. We did as we were supposed to, stay put. But after 45 minutes or so we decided to embrace the dust and try and head for camp. We had to stop a lot, and even met up with a group that was throwing a white out party. They gave us beverages and food and then we were back on our way. All in all, we were out there in the dust for about five hours.



That night on the BMIR (Burning Man Information Radio) we were all informed that winter had come early to the desert and that it would be around 30 degrees that night with a 40% chance of rain. If it had rained, it would have snowed, and that would be a first for burning man. It didn't snow but the Twisted Swan (our camp and bar) did turn on the fire place that they have used strictly as decoration for the last 10 years. Nikki had a bar shift that night and so I stayed to keep her company, and sit next to the fire. We ended up not leaving the bar at all that night and I am glad we didn't. We met so many wonderful souls that night from all over the world. We finally closed the bar down at three in the morning.

Nikki and I both slept until about noon the next day and when we finally got up, we packed up camp and decided to walk around the city for the next few hours until we got ready for the burn. I had this strange war of emotions that whole day. I was ready to be home, take a real shower, sleep in my bed, and snuggle with my pup but I also didn't want to leave this place and the over powering feelings of peace, exceptance, family, and love that the city just emanates. We got ready for the burn and walked out to playa. We had to leave right after the burn and we didn't want to have to fight through the partying proud so we stayed back and found a great place to watch. It was a different experience from last year, but still just as magical. We watched the Man burn for a while and then started towards the car.



Exodus was very painless. We hit pavement in under 30 minutes and other than needing to fill up a tire with air, we were on our way home. We stopped at Denny's for food let me tell you a salad has never tasted so good. Again the drive home was uneventful and now we both believe that it is Just Brian who is cursed with hard travels.

I am beyond grateful that I got to share this trip with Nikki and while I know she won't be able to go again with me next year, I know we will make this trip together in the future. I'm already counting down the days for my trip home next year.



On The Road with Katy

Burning Man Update #1

Last year while on our way to burning man we stopped at Walmart and the boys bright me back a coke with the name "Meg" and thought it was hilarious. So in honor of that I bought a coke with Bubba's name on it so he can come too!

Burning Man Update #2

Well loyal listeners, it's the time of year again and Nikki and I are officially on the road to Black Rock City! Only a little later than planned but we wanted to make sure we had everything we needed. Stay tuned listeners it's bound to be an exciting drive.

Burning Man Update #3

Well loyal listeners we have been on the road for 4 1/2 hrs. and have just had our first sighting Burners. You can recognize them by their slightly dust covered clothing that they just pulled out of boxes from last year. Also, the music selection had been great. The CDs are awesome. Too bad we didn't bring our diskmans because they were shock and skip proof!

Signing off, your copilot Nikki

Burning Man Update #4

Well loyal listeners, Nikki and I have both slept (ish) and we arrived this morning in Reno with the sun. We've gassed up one last time and will now start the journey into Black Rock City with 70,000 of our closest friends!

Burning Man Update #5

Loyal listeners... one word... Traffic!!

Burning Man Update #5

Well listeners we are at a complete and udder stand still about 15 miles outside of Gerlach. And so the wait in line begins.

So now I ask you, my faithful listeners, what would you like to challenge us to do?

Burning Man Update #6

So we are moving a little too quickly to start a party in line so listeners, it's time for the road to burning man's "Ask Us Anything"

What would you like to know?

Disclaimer

Both of our BS meters are full at the moment so we are going to do our very best to make up an entertaining answers to all questions

Burning Man Update #7

ATTENTION!!!! WE CAN SEE GATE ROAD!!!!
That is all.

Burning Man Update #8

Well loyal listeners, it's that time! Nikki and I are signing of for the next 8 days. We are just about to enter and I will lose cell service. Thanks for coming along with us. Talk with you all later.

Love,

Katy and Nikki

Burning Man Update #9

Well loyal listeners it's been a week and Nikki and I are on our way home. The Man just burned and we are slowly making our way out of the city. When we turned the car on today the low tire pressure light was on so we are going to stop on Gerlach and put some air in the tire before starting the journey home. Stay tuned!

Burning Man Update #10

VEGETABLES!!!!!!

Burning Man Update #11

Well loyal listeners, we are about half way home and we've both napped so I guess it's time for some stories from the playa. The first one I'll share will make some of my burner friends shake their heads at me. I unfortunately had a sparkle pony moment. I know, how could I? Well dinner had always been when the sun hit the mountain, and so we showed up early to make sure we got some (we had been cutting it close the last few days). We had been sitting there for a while and noticed no one was cooking. We spoke up only to find that dinner had been two hours ago! Now what! We had only brought snacks. Two of our camp mates Random and Huffle Badger took pity on us and fed us the most delicious sandwiches ever. They were so good! One things for sure, we didn't miss dinner again.

Burning Man Update #12

We are almost to a freeway we know, the 15! In honor of that, here's a picture of Nikki and I while waiting for the Man to burn.

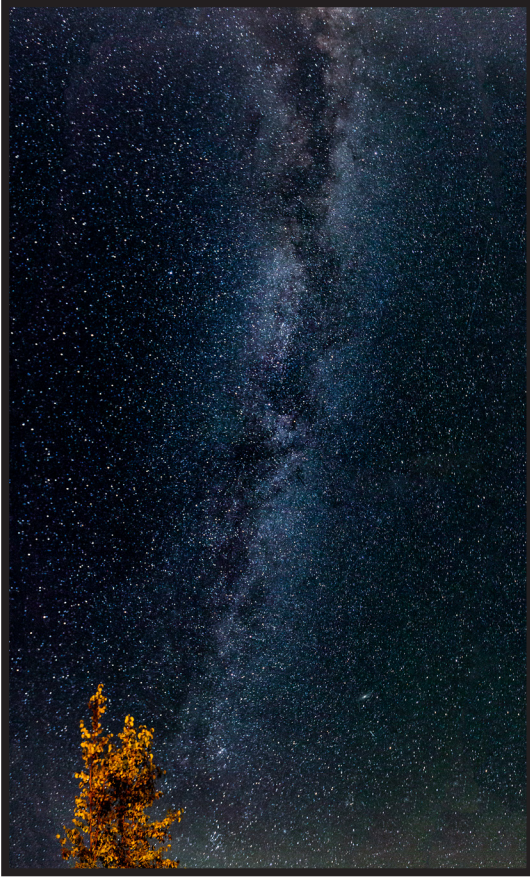
Burning Man Update #13

Well listeners, I am home, I am showered, and I am now going to relax with my puppy. It has been a pleasure sharing our trip with you! I hope you will all tune in next year.

Signing off,

Katy

The Milky Way and Northern Lights



As many of you know, after the wedding Margaret and Bud accompanied Karla and I on a visit to Glacier National Park, which is only about 5 hours away from Spokane. So on Monday we made our way to Glacier.

Karla and I have been there plenty of times in the spring but never in the fall so we were looking forward to seeing the changes in the park. Margaret and Bud have never been there so everything would be new to them. Unfortunately the rain that had plagued much of the wedding activities was still in play when we got to the park. So the first few days were cloudy and a bit wet.

But we made the best of it and toured the park, even driving over to the east side via the “Going-to-the-sun-road”. We did some hiking (getting a little wet) saw some bears (from a safe distance) and in general had a good time.

I spent some time with Margaret showing her how to use her camera

in something other than the automatic mode. I introduced her to long shutter speeds for getting that silky look in water and a variety of other techniques. One of my goals was to do some night photography which I had read up on and wanted to practice. OK let's face it what I really wanted to see was the northern lights but you have to be really lucky to see them because there are no real predictions for when they might happen.



So on our last night there (the day was a beautiful and sunny) we noticed that the milky way was spectacular, so out comes the camera and I start taking shots. Then in one of the shots I notice a green haze, sure enough we were just getting a bit of the northern lights on the horizon.

The pictures you see here are long exposures with the ability to gather even low light sources, so that's not what it looked like to the naked eye. All we saw was a slight glow (maybe green) above the horizon. However after processing them it was clear these were the northern lights. The local news reported the lights the next day, so I guess some times it really is better to be lucky than good!

