

# The Bisbee Observer

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## Oddments

### Bisbee's a party town

By Karen Herberman  
*The Bisbee Observer*

Bisbee does some things really well; throwing party is one of them. Last weekend there was one heck of a party in Old Bisbee, the third annual Bisbee Pride Celebration.

There were events all over downtown. It all started Friday night at the Copper Queen Hotel, Adam Lamb, one of the main organizers for the celebration is the hotel manager, so it's no wonder the bash started there. The first night there was a jam packed street dance on Howell Avenue in front of the hotel – maybe 400 people. It was a great start to a fine weekend.

Organizers really did their job well, getting a large number of other Bisbee businesses on board as sponsors. On Saturday, there were outdoor events with open-air markets in the downtown parks. And indoor happenings all day and into the night in Old Bisbee. There was a lot of fine music of various types in the parks and in the bars. Sunday was a bit more subdued; I think the partygoers were ready for a bit of R&R after a really busy night all over Old Town.

Organizers predicted that the three-day event would bring about \$350,000 to town for local hotels, restaurants, merchants, especially for businesses downtown – the hotels were booked, restaurants were packed and shops busy. The party spilled over into other parts of town, too. In retrospect, "they" say the total probably was considerably higher than predicted. The word continues to spread about Bisbee and Bisbee Pride, and the party grows every year. This new local tradition is a win-win deal for all.

Many are not aware of the fact that the Bisbee Pride organization does more than just sponsor this annual bash; they contribute to a number of things around town. Since their founding three years ago, they have dedicated much of their energy to being a community service organization. They were in partnership with students from Bisbee High School in restoring the historic "B" on B Hill and they gave a substantial cash donation to the Bisbee High

School Arts Department. They help with beautification projects in Goar and Grassy parks and volunteer during the annual coaster race. They are far more than just a group of folks who love a good party, they participate in the community, too. See their Web site at [Bisbeepride.com](http://Bisbeepride.com) if you'd like to be a part of the action. They welcome new members/volunteers, those who celebrate community and sexual diversity.

There used to be a bunch of downtown parties. That idea seems to have disappeared recently. I remember years when it seemed like there was a party downtown every month, with food, arts and crafts vendors and lots of music. The streets were often closed off for dancing in the Copper Queen Plaza, the area by the downtown post office and convention center that was designed for that purpose. Most towns in the southwest had a public plaza for gatherings of all types. I think it's a tradition that should be revived.

We have a few citywide celebrations coming up — Fourth of July is always one of the biggest bashes with the various traditional events in Old Bisbee and Warren. Maybe the rain will hold off this year and we'll get to see fireworks on the Fourth! Many are already getting ready for that celebration. Brewery Gulch Daze at the end of the summer is another biggie. Let's see how grand we can make the fun this year.

Anytime a bunch of people come to town and leave having had a great time, it's good for Bisbee. They are our best ambassadors.

Bisbee is such a fun town to play in, it's a wonder any work ever gets done

