

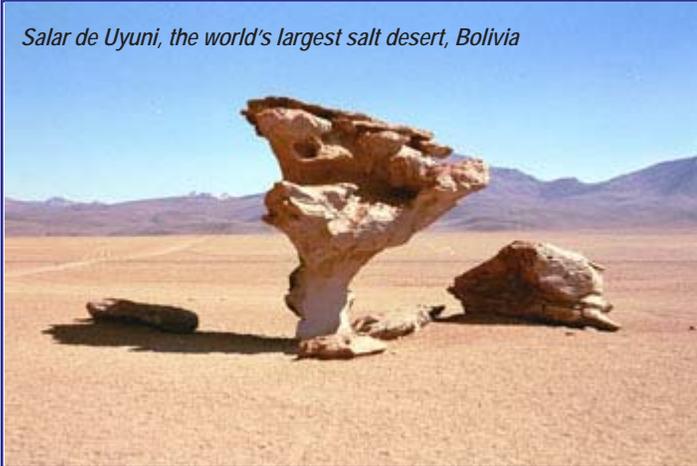


The Wanderer

LOS ANGELES COUNCIL OF HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL USA

FALL 2007

Salar de Uyuni, the world's largest salt desert, Bolivia



Kids celebrating Holi, a Spring festival, Nepal



Scott Stoll (right) sharing a traditional meal, Egypt

2007 Spirit of Adventure Award

**Let's celebrate!
October 21, 2007**

See page 4



Women planting rice, India



A lizard in the Outback, Australia

**ALL HI-USA MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO
THE ANNUAL MEMBERS
PARTY!**

**Location: HI-Santa Monica Hostel, 1436 Second Street, Santa Monica
Parking: Public Structure #6, across the street from the hostel**

**Sunday, October 21, 2007
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

11 a.m. - Volunteer Awards & Elections
11:30-12:30 p.m. - Reception
12:30 p.m. - Spirit of Adventure Presentation

This year's Spirit of Adventure Award recipient, Scott Stoll, will present photos, tell stories and answer questions about his travels. Tours of the HI-Santa Monica hostel, light refreshments and raffle door prizes will be offered. Join us in getting to know Los Angeles area HI members. Admission is free.



For more information or to answer any questions, go to lahostels.org or call (310) 393-3413.

**WORLD TRAVEL 101
BUDGET TRAVEL WORKSHOPS**

***Please go to our website at lahostels.org
or call (310) 393-3413 for the current schedule***

World Travel 101 Workshops are geared toward the first-time traveler planning a trip abroad. Admission is \$5 for HI members and \$10 for non-members. All workshops are held at the HI-Travel Store in Santa Monica and begin at 11 a.m. Please call ahead to reserve your seat. Workshops are subject to cancellation.



**The Mission Statement of
HI-USA:**

“To help all, especially the young, gain a greater understanding of the world and its people, through hostelling.”

The HI-USA Vision:

“That hostellers become caring world citizens who are catalysts for intercultural exchange and understanding and who are stewards of the earth.”

Board of Directors

Leslie Kennedy, President
Jaime Leslie, Vice President
Cara Riley, Treasurer
Aimee Wyatt, Secretary
Tony Stanton, Member-at-large
Suzie Doran
Ann Henry
Donna Morris
Stephanie Pham

Board Interns

Jennie Balbach
Kam Mar-Havill

Wanderer Staff

John Estrada
Erin Hamant

The Wanderer is a publication of the Los Angeles Council of HI-USA with offices located at 1434 Second Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. (310) 393-3413

Founded in 1934, HI-USA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

www.lahostels.org

Girl Scout Weekends Cultural Kitchen Program



- ◆ Learning important educational lessons through participation in the Cultural Kitchen Program while having fun enjoying the cuisine of another culture.
- ◆ Enjoy the youth hostel experience at HI-Los Angeles South Bay, located along the coast in San Pedro with a great ocean view.
- ◆ The weekends at the hostel are reserved exclusively for Girl Scout Troops.

To participate in the GS Weekend program you must reserve your space with a deposit, and upon receipt of your payment you will be sent a program description and directions to follow. The program consists of four meetings of fun activities that will help your girls earn the Discover The World patch. Your first meeting will be an orientation to hostelling and will get you started on a path to discovering new cultures. The package will include sheets with questions about your focus country for your troop to research. Through your research you will learn about the people, geography, cuisine, government, lifestyle, and culture of the country. Your troop will decide the manner in how they will share what

they have learned with the other GS Troops participating in the program. This can be in the form of a skit, songs, dance, a presentation on a story board, or any other creative way you want to share. There will be many other things to do with your free time while visiting the hostel so be sure to save time to explore the area!

Girl Scout Weekends begin after 10:00 a.m. on Saturday and check out time is no later than 10:30 a.m. on Sunday.

Girl Scout leaders who want more information on the program or if you would like to volunteer with the program contact Stephanie Rizzi at 310-393-6263 x23 or email her at sarizzi@lahostels.org.

GIRL SCOUT WEEKEND DATES & FOCUS COUNTRIES:

January 12 & 13, 2008
February 9 & 10, 2008
March 7 & 8, 2008

South Korea
Chile
Greece

April 26 & 27, 2008
May 17 & 18, 2008

Egypt
Japan



Touching the Horizon

The 2007 Spirit of Adventure Award

Scott Stoll's typical day appears to be like any average camper's desire to commune with Nature, away from the hustle and bustle of the city. Waking up just before sunrise, the birds are chirping and the wind is rustling the leaves of a nearby bush. Stretching out the stiffness from the night before, Scott puts some water on the fire to boil; coffee is coming soon. After a nice breakfast, he packs everything up, purifies enough water for the day and then explores the surroundings.

However, this is no average camping trip and this routine became the norm for roughly four years as Scott embarked on his journey. From 2001-2004, Scott set out on a personal quest to bicycle the circumference of the world. Since the age of four Scott has loved the sense of freedom that riding a bike gives a person. It was this sensation, and his first cross-country bicycle journey in 1997, that revealed to Scott how much he loved to go to places on his bicycle and to meet people along the way.

It is this adventurer's unequivocal spirit and enthusiasm to understand the world and its people that moved the Los Angeles Council of Hostelling International USA to announce Scott as the 2007 Spirit of Adventure Award recipient.

"I define bicycling around the world as cycling the circumference of the earth (40,077 km or 24,855.34 mi as measured around the equator), without treading the same ground twice and visiting as many cultures and phenomena as practical," explains Scott. Additionally, he planned his route around avoiding specific weather conditions (like inhospitable temperatures and seasons), war zones, and the familiar problem of over packing.

"I lost 65 pounds of fat and gained 15 pounds of muscle. Those pounds really melted off after eating a salmonella sandwich in Guayquil, Ecuador and cycling over the Andes Mountains on nothing but bananas and Coca-cola," Scott Stoll on his before and after photos.

Scott took over a year to plan, immunize and hammer down preparations. He departed with over 200 items in tow. He estimated that the entire trip would cost him a little over \$30,000. A large sum that he saved up by bringing packed lunches to work, not going out with friends on the weekends and investing his funds.

The first 15 months of the trip were shared with his friend Dennis while the rest of his trip was spent independently, splashed with experiences of remarkable people and great suggestions. Scott averaged 50 miles a day but did go as far as 116 miles in six hours and as little as 21 miles in seven hours. His journey racked up a little over 100 flat tires. He also suffered most imaginable ailments, such as salmonella, giardia, dengue fever, boils, strep throat, conjunctivitis, prickly heat rash and then some.

Visiting 50 countries on six continents over a period of 1,461 days, Scott began his trip in San Francisco where he lived. The map on the next page features the route that Scott took. He started down Baja, then through Mexico, Central and South America. He flew to Europe working his way from Spain to the United Kingdom and then through Central and Eastern Europe. Next, he visited Israel, Egypt, India, Tibet and Nepal as he made his way through Southeast Asia. He then went to Australia and New Zealand just before finishing his journey in east Africa, traveling through Kenya, Tanzania,



Right: Around the world in 1,461 days, 4 years, 25,752 miles, 50 countries and 6 continents: meet Scott Stoll, the 2007 Spirit of Adventure Recipient.

In 1997, Scott Stoll warmed up for his around the world trip by bicycling from San Francisco to Washington D.C.

From 2001-2004, Stoll cycled the circumference of the world, starting in San Francisco and ending in Cape Town, South Africa.



Zambia, Zimbabwe and ending in Cape Town, South Africa.

When asked what his favorite moments were Scott states he most enjoyed the unexpected invitations to share dinner with local families. As for best location Scott loved the road up to Everest Base Camp, towering high above the scenic Himalayas. His only complaint was conquering boredom and loneliness and getting up some nasty 36% grades. As for his worst day, that was probably spending the day in a Zimbabwe prison.

Not only did Scott's perspective change when he took his definitive trip around the globe, his physical appearance did as well. He transformed from the inside out, losing 65 pounds of fat and gaining over 15 pounds of muscle.

Scott now has resumed his former life as a graphic designer and resides in Scottsdale, AZ. He just can't stay put though, "I just can't imagine working in a cubicle under florescent lights 12 hours a day again." This September he left his bicycle at home to take a three week trip to Bali, Indonesia, inspired by "a giant case of island fever."

Asked about his future plans, Scott's trip around the world has posed a new challenge: the need to integrate and exemplify all the different points of views and cultural lessons he learned. "I really want to surround myself with a strong community of friends and family. This is

Bottom: The fruit and vegetable markets in Tanzania



one thing missing in America that I found almost everywhere else," explains Scott. He wants to display these ideas in his graphic design work and finds now that clients are drawn to him because of his accomplishment in cycling the circumference of the world. Scott will also be publishing a book, "The Wheels of Life," based around his experiences abroad.

For more information about Scott Stoll, visit his website at www.theargonauts.com. There are journal entries from his four year trip, photo albums separated by country, information to help other adventurers take big or small cycling trips, and details on how to purchase his book.

Editor's note: In 1991 the Los Angeles Council of Hostelling International USA established the Spirit of Adventure Award. This annual award recognizes an individual, regardless of age, who has demonstrated outstanding enthusiasm in his or her search for unusual travel. Primary considerations are given to the manner and spirit in which the person undertakes their travels, his/her ability to give an interesting presentation and his/her experiences in hostels.

The Programs Committee of the Los Angeles Council has selected Scott Stoll to receive the 2007 Spirit of Adventure Award. The award will be presented to him at the Council's Annual Members Meeting & Party on Sunday, October 21 (11a.m.-2p.m.) at the HI-Santa Monica hostel. See page 2 for the details.

Please join us as we honor and recognize Scott Stoll for his Spirit of Adventure. He will give an exciting presentation about his four year bicycle trip around the world. For more information, call (310) 393-6263 or visit our website at lahostels.org.

CELEBRATE THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF HOSTELS!



Hostelling is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2009. HI-USA is working with hostelling supporters worldwide to promote the multi-national issuance of postage stamps commemorating the Centennial of Hostelling.



The hostelling movement was founded in 1909 in Germany by a schoolteacher named Richard Schirrmann. Today there are about 4,000 hostels serving 32 million overnights annually in 82 countries. In the United States alone, there are 75 hostels serving one million overnights annually. Since its beginning, hostels have promoted cross cultural understanding to overnights that exceed 1.2 billion. It is a significant contribution to building mutual understanding, locally and globally.



Various countries have in the past issued postage stamps in connection with youth hostels. Now is the time for a US postage stamp commemorating the Centennial of Hostelling. Send your message of support to the United States Postal Service. A Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee advises the Postal Service on issuance of commemorative stamps, so a heavy volume of support is important to make our stamp stand out amongst the rest.



Please visit www.openingdoors.org and support HI-USA today!



HI Travel Store

The World is at Your Feet



- Hostelling International membership cards, valid in over 4,000 hostels located in 80 countries around the world
- Rail Passes: Eurail Global Passes, BritRail Passes, Point to Point tickets and Reservations -- all issued on the spot!
- Informative budget "World Travel 101" resource workshops
- International student & teacher ID cards (ISIC, ITIC, IYTC)
- HI members receive a 10% discount on books & equipment purchases
- Travel packs, money belts, electrical converters, travel guides, maps & more!
- Competitive international student & youth airfares through STA Travel

****BARGAIN RAIL DISCOUNT!****

BritRail Off-Peak Promotion:

Gets you 20% off the BritRail Consecutive and Flexi Passes and BritRail England Consecutive and Flexi Passes, in First and Standard Class (adult passes only)

SALE: From 9/1/07-2/15/08. Valid for travel until 2/29/08.



1434 Second Street
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Mon-Fri, 10:00 - 4:00
Sat, 9:00 - 5:00 / Sun, Closed

(310) 393-3413
lahostels.org

Support Hostelling International by keeping your membership current or by making a donation!

Your HI membership card is valid for 12 months from the date of purchase. Your membership card gives you a 10% discount on the purchase of travel books and gear in the HI-Travel Store.

Membership fees and donations from individuals and organizations help to support our educational programs and hostels. We are a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization and all donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law. We welcome your gifts.

YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT HI-USA HOSTELS & PROGRAMS WITH A DONATION OF \$ _____

MEMBERSHIPS: PLEASE CHECK THE BOX BELOW AND FILL IN YOUR INFORMATION

Payment can be made by check or money order or by completing the credit card information below (Visa or MasterCard only)

Adult - \$ 31 (\$28 + \$3 Shipping)
AGES 18-54

Senior - \$ 21 (\$18 + \$3 Shipping)
AGES OVER 54

Youth - FREE
UNDER 18 YEARS

First Name: _____ M.I. _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Home Telephone: (____) _____ - _____

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp: _____ Signature: _____

Mail this form to: HI-Travel Store, 1434 Second Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401

The Wanderer
Los Angeles Council of
American Youth Hostels, Inc
1434 Second Street
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Nonprofit Organization
US Postage PAID
Santa Monica, CA
Permit No. 103

OR Current Resident

