

April 1999 Rider Memo

DATE: APRIL 30, 1999
TO: ODYSSEY 2000® REGISTERED RIDERS
FROM: TIM KNEELAND & ASSOCIATES, INC.
RE: UPDATED MEETING SCHEDULE AND OTHER STUFF

Odyssey update

WHEW! THIS MEMO IS BEING MAILED JUST IN TIME, EVEN BEFORE APRIL ACTUALLY ENDS. WE HAD HOPED TO GET THIS IN THE MAIL WHILE ON THE ROAD, BUT IT SIMPLY WASN'T POSSIBLE.

TK&A FULLY REALIZES THAT MOST ODYSSEY RIDERS ARE ANXIOUS FOR AS MUCH INFORMATION FROM ODYSSEY WORLD HEADQUARTERS AS WE CAN SEND OUT. HOWEVER, PREPARING A MEMO EVERY TWO MONTHS IS EXTREMELY CHALLENGING FOR US, ESPECIALLY SINCE WE ARE TRAVELING SO MUCH. IT TAKES MANY HOURS OF EVERYONE'S TIME TO WRITE, EDIT, CRITIQUE, REWRITE, COPY AND MAIL THIS TO OUR GROUP OF ODYSSEY RIDERS AND STAFF. SO, IF WE ARE LATE OR A MEMO IS A LITTLE THIN, WE APPRECIATE YOUR UNDERSTANDING.

Just got back on Wednesday, April 28

KAREN-ANN AND I JUST RETURNED FROM OUR FINAL CHECKOUT TRIPS THROUGH CHILE, ARGENTINA, SOUTH AFRICA AND SWAZILAND. THESE TRIPS WERE EXTREMELY PRODUCTIVE AND WE WERE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT WE HOPED TO ACCOMPLISH, AND MORE. WE HAVE COMPLETED OUR DRGs, MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR HOTELS AND CAMPING, CONFIRMED ACCESS TO FOOD VENDORS TO PROVIDE DINNERS AND BREAKFASTS, ETC. READ ON FOR MORE SPECIFICS ABOUT OUR EXPERIENCES AND OBSERVATIONS.

South America-Chile & Argentina

WE FINALIZED ODYSSEY'S ROUTE FROM SANTIAGO, CHILE TO SAN CARLOS DE BARILOCHE, ARGENTINA. AFTER WE ARRIVED IN SANTIAGO, KAREN-ANN AND I MET ANGEL (OUR DRIVER FROM OUR PREVIOUS TWO SOJOURNS INTO SUD AMERICA) AND PICKED UP A RENTAL VAN FROM HERTZ. THE FIRST TWO DAYS WERE SPENT NAILING DOWN THE DETAILS OF GETTING INTO AND OUT OF SANTIAGO. OUR WORK PAID OFF. WE WERE ABLE TO SCORE A HOTEL RIGHT NEAR ALL THE ACTION, EVEN THOUGH THE WEEKENDS ARE EVIDENTLY PRETTY QUIET IN DOWNTOWN SANTIAGO. OUR HOTEL IS MODEST, BUT WORKS WELL FOR OUR NEEDS.

MANY DEVELOPING NATIONS ARE "PLUMBING" CHALLENGED AND OUR HOTEL IS NO EXCEPTION. IN MANY OLDER BUILDINGS, THE PIPES ARE A LITTLE NARROW AND CAN'T HANDLE ANYTHING EXCEPT HUMAN WASTE. SO, YOU MAY BE ASKED TO PUT YOUR USED TOILET PAPER INTO A BASKET NEXT TO THE TOILET. SOUNDS ODD, BUT IT'S RELATIVELY COMMON IN MANY PLACES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. HOWEVER, YOU WILL BE HAPPY TO KNOW THAT YOU WILL ENCOUNTER TOILETS SIMILAR TO YOUR OWN. AND, IF YOU ARE LUCKY, YOU MAY EVEN FIND A BIDET OR TWO TO USE.

SINCE WE WILL BE VISITING MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA BEFORE ARRIVING IN SOUTH AMERICA, YOU WILL WELCOME THE "FIRST WORLD" FEEL OF MOST OF CHILE AND ARGENTINA. SINCE THE BEGINNING OF ODYSSEY, YOU WILL CONTINUE TO PEDAL ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE ROAD. YOU CAN DRINK THE WATER. THE FOOD IS EXCELLENT AND MANY CULINARY TREATS ARE FAMILIAR TO THE USA. THERE ARE MANY SMALL STORES ALONG ODYSSEY'S ROUTE. THE SERVICE STATIONS USUALLY HAVE RELATIVELY CLEAN RESTROOMS, EXCEPT THEY MIGHT BE SHY ON TOILET PAPER, SO ALWAYS STOCK UP AND CARRY A PERSONAL SUPPLY OF YOUR OWN. THE ROADS WE ARE USING ARE ALL PAVED EXCEPT FOR ABOUT 30 KILOMETERS OF DIRT AND GRAVEL AFTER YOU CROSS THE ANDES AT THE SUMMIT PASO INTERNACIONAL CARDENAL ANTONIO SAMORE AT 1308 METERS (4290 FT) ELEVATION. MANY OF THE BUSIER ROADS HAVE A SHOULDER. THOUGH THE ROADS AND SHOULDERS CAN BE ROUGH AT TIMES, OVERALL THEY ARE IN FAIR TO EXCELLENT CONDITION. THE TERRAIN IS BEAUTIFUL, BUT NOT EXCESSIVELY DEMANDING, EVEN THOUGH WE WILL HAVE PLENTY OF HILL WORK BEFORE WE BEGIN OUR MODERATE CLIMB OVER THE ANDES. BUT MOST OF ALL, YOU WILL FIND THE PEOPLE ARE GREAT. WE MET DOZENS OF FRIENDLY PEOPLE WILLING TO MAKE OUR ADVENTURE THROUGH THEIR COUNTRY A MEMORABLE AND ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCE.

EVEN THOUGH WE ARE ONLY TOUCHING A SMALL SECTION OF ARGENTINA, WE HAVE CHOSEN AN AREA MANY BELIEVE IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PART OF THEIR COUNTRY. SOME CALL THIS AREA OF PATAGONIA, THE "ALPS OF ARGENTINA". BARILOCHE LIES ON THE EASTERN END OF BEAUTIFUL LAGO NAHUEL HUAPI, A LARGE LAKE

IN SOUTH AMERICA'S ENORMOUS LAKE REGION. NOT TO BE OUTDONE, OF COURSE, IS THE FRIENDLINESS OF THE PEOPLE IN ARGENTINA. TANGO, ANYONE?

WE HAVE ATTACHED A COMPLETED SOUTH AMERICAN ITINERARY TO GIVE YOU A FEEL FOR OUR OVERNIGHT LOCATIONS ALONG THE ROUTE. THOUGH IT IS STILL POSSIBLE THESE DATES COULD BE SHIFTED A LITTLE, IT'S VERY UNLIKELY AT THIS POINT. WE HAVE GIVEN THESE DATES AS "FIRM" AND MADE LOGISTIC COMMITMENTS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, OVERNIGHT COMMUNITIES, MIDDAY CHECKPOINT LOCATIONS, FOOD VENDORS, ETC. ALONG OUR ROUTE.

South Africa & Swaziland

AFRICA IS AN AMAZING CONTINENT. THOUGH IT HAS OVER 4 DOZEN COUNTRIES, WE FEEL THAT SOUTH AFRICA AND SWAZILAND (FOR TWO NIGHTS) ARE THE BEST PLACES TO SPEND OUR TIME IN AFRICA, IN SPITE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S CONTINUING PAIN AS IT EVOLVES FROM THE INJUSTICE AND CRUELTY OF APARTHEID. WE ARE BUMMED ISRAEL, EGYPT, TANZANIA AND KENYA CAN'T BE INCLUDED IN ODYSSEY 2000®, BUT THE POLITICAL STATE OF EACH COUNTRY JUST DOESN'T MAKE THEM REALISTIC AT THIS TIME.

SOUTH AFRICA AND SWAZILAND ARE AWESOME PLACES AND WILL GIVE YOU A WORKOUT. ALTOGETHER, WE ARE SPENDING 31 DAYS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND WILL COVER 3231 KILOMETERS (2007 MILES) IN THIS TRUE TRANS-SOUTH AFRICA BICYCLE JOURNEY. OUR ROUTE TOUCHES MOST OF THE DIFFERENT GEOGRAPHIC AREAS FOR WHICH SOUTH AFRICA IS FAMOUS AND ALLOWS ENOUGH TIME TO TAKE A SAFARI THROUGH KRUGER NATIONAL PARK TO VIEW ITS MANY VARIETIES OF WILD ANIMALS.

SOUTH AFRICA HAS ABOUT 43,000,000 PEOPLE, COVERING AN AREA BIGGER THAN TEXAS WITH A COUPLE OF OTHER STATES THROWN IN FOR GOOD MEASURE. SOUTH AFRICA IS DEFINITELY "FIRST WORLD" IN IT'S ACCESS TO SERVICES, RESOURCES AND FACILITIES TO MAKE OUR TRIP RELATIVELY COMFORTABLE. OVERALL, THE ROADS ARE GREAT, MANY WITH ADEQUATE SHOULDERS, EVEN THOUGH THEY DRIVE ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE ROAD. FOR MANY, THIS WILL PROBABLY BE YOUR FIRST LEFT-HAND SIDE OF THE ROAD PEDALING EXPERIENCE. NO PROBLEM, THOUGH, IT' EASY TO ADAPT. FOR ME, IT'S MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO REMEMBER TO LOOK TO THE RIGHT BEFORE STEPPING OFF A CURB TO CROSS THE STREET.

IN SOUTH AFRICA, MOST OF THE CARS ARE OWNED BY THE RELATIVELY AFFLUENT WHITE MINORITY, REPRESENTING ONLY 13% OF THE POPULATION. AS ACCESS TO GOOD JOBS AND INCOMES IMPROVE, MANY MORE BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS ARE EARNING ENOUGH TO BUY THEIR OWN PERSONAL VEHICLES. WALKING AND BUSES, HOWEVER, REMAIN THE PRIMARY FORM OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE. EVEN ON THE QUIETEST OF ROUTES, YOU WILL BE SHARING THE ROADS WITH PEOPLE WALKING, OFTEN LONG DISTANCES, TO AND FROM WORK, SHOPPING AND SOCIAL OBLIGATIONS.

YOU CAN DRINK THE WATER AND CAN USUALLY FIND FAMILIAR FOODS IN SMALL SHOPS, RESTAURANTS AND STORES. LOTS OF COCA-COLA EVERYWHERE, BUT NOT AS MUCH COKE LIGHT (DIET COKE), BUMMER. SOUTH AFRICA HAS SOME WELL DEVELOPED CAMPING FACILITIES, FROM SAFARI CAMPS TO LARGE CARAVAN PARKS. MOST HAVE EXCELLENT AND CLEAN ABLUTION (BATHROOM) FACILITIES. MOST CAMPGROUNDS EVEN HAVE SEVERAL CHALETS OR BUNGALOWS FOR RENT. IN FACT, WE WILL USE A FEW OF THESE TO AUGMENT OUR OTHER SANITATION FACILITIES. AND, ALONG MUCH OF OUR ROUTE, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO FIND ENOUGH PHONES TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS AT HOME.

THE PEOPLE IN SWAZILAND ARE EXTREMELY FRIENDLY, MAKING IT AN ENJOYABLE PLACE TO VISIT. SWAZILAND IS A POORER NATION THAN SOUTH AFRICA AND HAS ABOUT A MILLION PEOPLE LIVING IN AN AREA THE SIZE OF MASSACHUSETTS. SIMILAR TO SOUTH AFRICA, YOU WILL FIND PLENTY OF HILLS TO CLIMB AND DESCEND. SWAZILAND IS RUN BY A KING AND POLYGAMY IS WIDELY PRACTICED.

ON THE BACK SIDE OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN ITINERARY, YOU WILL FIND A COMPLETED SOUTH AFRICA & SWAZILAND FINAL ITINERARY. THOUGH IT IS STILL POSSIBLE THESE DATES COULD BE SHIFTED A LITTLE, IT'S VERY UNLIKELY AT THIS POINT. AGAIN, WE HAVE GIVEN THESE DATES AS "FIRM" AND MADE LOGISTIC COMMITMENTS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, OVERNIGHT COMMUNITIES, MIDDAY CHECKPOINT LOCATIONS, FOOD VENDORS, ETC. ALONG OUR ROUTE.

Poverty and crime

UNFORTUNATELY, AS YOU HAVE PROBABLY READ, SOUTH AFRICA HAS A FAIR SHARE OF POVERTY AND CRIME. IF THE MEDIA WAS YOUR ONLY SOURCE OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE COUNTRY, YOU'D PROBABLY THINK EVERY VISITOR IS GOING TO EXPERIENCE SOME TYPE OF CRIME. THIS SIMPLY ISN'T TRUE.

IN OUR THREE TRIPS TO SOUTH AFRICA (TWO TO SWAZILAND), WE HAVEN'T HAD ANY PROBLEMS AT ALL AND HAVE MET DOZENS OF FRIENDLY AND VERY HELPFUL PEOPLE, EVEN WAY OFF THE BEATEN TRACK. HOWEVER, POVERTY IS COMMON AND WILL BE OBVIOUS ALONG OUR ENTIRE ROUTE. SO ARE HIGH FENCES AND THE WICKED LOOKING BARBED WIRE USED TO SECURE PROPERTY AND HOMES, ESPECIALLY IN THE NORTH AND EASTERN AREAS OF THE COUNTRY. THOUGH INTIMIDATING, PEOPLE WORK, LIVE, DRIVE AND PLAY THROUGHOUT THIS MARVELOUS LAND EACH AND EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR.

Precaution for South Africa (everywhere, for that matter)

SINCE PETTY CRIME IS THE MOST COMMON PROBLEM ONE MIGHT FACE DURING ODYSSEY, WE RECOMMEND YOU TAKE SOME BASIC PRECAUTIONS. WE THINK IT IS WISE TO ALWAYS PEDAL WITH ONE OR TWO OTHER PEOPLE. KEEPING A CLOSE EYE ON YOUR VALUABLES MAKES GOOD SENSE, EVEN IN AMERICA. LOCKING YOUR BIKE AND REMOVING YOUR VALUABLES FROM YOUR BIKE BAGS IS ALSO REASONABLE. PERHAPS EVEN LEAVING ONE CYCLIST TO WATCH YOUR STUFF WHILE YOU ARE TENDING TO OTHER BUSINESS IS A GOOD HABIT TO GET INTO. IN GENERAL TERMS, USE COMMON SENSE AND REMAIN AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS.

Odyssey meetings

BEFORE KAREN-ANN AND I LEFT FOR SOUTH AMERICA, WE UPDATED OUR 1999 CHECKOUT TRIPS TRAVEL SCHEDULE FOR FINALIZING ODYSSEY LOGISTICS. UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAD TO CHANGE THE ORDER OF THE BOSTON AND CHICAGO MEETINGS AS WELL AS THE DATES FOR MIAMI, BOSTON, CHICAGO, WASHINGTON D.C., SAN FRANCISCO AND BURBANK. THE FOLLOWING CHART TELLS THE STORY OF OUR NEW SCHEDULE:

<u>CITY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
DENVER, CO	MAY 16 (SUN)	1 TO 5 PM	FOUR POINTS HOTEL 3535 QUEBEC ST. DENVER, CO 60207 TELEPHONE: (303) 333-7711
BOSTON, MA	JUNE 5 (SAT)	1 TO 5 PM	DAYS INN SAUGUS-LOGAN SAUGUS, MA 01906 TELEPHONE: (781) 233-1800
CHICAGO, IL	JUNE 6 (SUN)	1 TO 5 PM	HAMPTON INN 3939 N. MANNHEIM RD SCHILLER PARK, IL 60176 TELEPHONE: (847) 671-1700
WASHINGTON, DC	JUNE 12 (SAT)	1 TO 5 PM	HAMPTON INN DULLES SO 4050 WESTFAX DRIVE CHANTILLY, VA 20151 TELEPHONE: (703) 818-8200
SAN FRANCISCO, CA	JUNE 26 (SAT)	1 TO 5 PM	S. F. NORTH TRAVEL LODGE 326 S. AIRPORT BLVD SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94080 TELEPHONE: (650) 583-9600
BURBANK (LA), CA	JUNE 27 (SUN)	1 TO 5 PM	HILTON BURBANK AIRPORT 2500 HOLLYWOOD WAY BURBANK, CA 91505-1019 TELEPHONE: (818) 840-6483

THE FIRST TWO MEETINGS IN PORTLAND AND SEATTLE WERE GREAT. ALTOGETHER, WE HAD ABOUT 50 PEOPLE AND MET 30 OR SO ODYSSEY RIDERS. OVERALL, EVERYONE ENJOYED MEETING EACH OTHER AND HEARING ABOUT WHAT'S COOKIN' IN ODYSSEY MANAGEMENT'S HEAD.

HOWEVER, THE "ATTENDANCE" FEEDBACK WE HAVE FOR A COUPLE OF THE OTHER MEETINGS IS STILL A LITTLE LIGHT. IF YOU THINK YOU CAN MAKE ONE OF THE REMAINING MEETINGS, PLEASE GIVE US A CALL (1-800-433-0528) OR EMAIL (TIMKA@AOL.COM), UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU ALREADY HAVE. THANKS!

UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAD TO CANCEL THE MIAMI MEETING. THE NUMBERS WERE ALWAYS LOW FROM THE BEGINNING. THEN, WHEN KAREN-ANN AND I NEEDED A COUPLE OF EXTRA DAYS IN SOUTH AFRICA, THE NUMBERS DROPPED TOO NEARLY ZERO. SORRY TO THOSE WHO ORIGINALLY WANTED TO COME TO MIAMI, BUT THANKS FOR UNDERSTANDING OUR TRAVEL DELAYS.

Wheeling Hawaii 99™

ABOUT 12 ODYSSEY RIDERS ENJOYED THE BEAUTY AND WETNESS OF THE JUST COMPLETED WHEELING HAWAII 99™. THOUGH WE HAD UNUSUALLY HEAVY RAIN, SPIRITS REMAINED HIGH. WE EVEN HAD A CHANCE TO WORK WITH OUR SHOWER TECHNOLOGY AND HAVE A PRETTY GOOD HANDLE ON HOW IT'S GOING TO WORK DURING ODYSSEY.

Wheeling Washington

THE LAST TK&A RIDE BEFORE ODYSSEY WILL BE WHEELING WASHINGTON 99™. AS YOU RECALL FROM OUR OCT. 98 MEMO, "TO LESSEN THE FINANCIAL BURDEN OF PARTICIPATION IN WW99™" YOU CAN TAKE \$200 OFF THE GOING RATE FOR YOU AND ONE FRIEND. YOUR FRIEND'S REGISTRATION MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE SAME ENVELOPE AS YOURS AND YOU MUST ATTACH A NOTE ABOUT THIS OFFER. THIS OFFER IS NON-RETROACTIVE AND CAN'T BE USED WITH OTHER DISCOUNTS."

SO, IF YOU HAVE THE TIME, AND WANT TO GET A FEEL FOR HOW ODYSSEY IS GOING TO RUN, PLEASE JOIN US ON ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL RIDES IN NORTH AMERICA AND ENJOY SIX FERRY RIDES TO BOOT.

Dan McKay FAQ's about Lloyd's of London Insurance policy

ENCLOSED IS A TWO PAGE "FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS" SHEET DAN HAS PREPARED ON INSURANCE ISSUES AND OUR LLOYD'S POLICY. DAN ESTIMATES THAT ABOUT HALF OF YOU HAVE CALLED WITH QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS. IF YOU HAVEN'T, AND YOU HAVE THEM, PLEASE GIVE DAN A CALL AT 1-800-942-0283.

Insurance payments

THANKS TO THE MAJORITY OF ALL YOU ODYSSEY RIDERS OUT THERE WHO HAVE SENT IN THEIR INSURANCE PAYMENTS. IF FOR SOME REASON YOU HAVEN'T, WE NEED TO RECEIVE PAYMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. AS YOU CAN APPRECIATE, TK&A IS NOT IN A POSITION TO SUBSIDIZE ANYONE. THANKS FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING.

Is Odyssey a go with 239?

OF COURSE IT IS. THE CURRENT NUMBERS: 226 FULLY PAID AND 13 ADDITIONAL ADVENTURERS MAKING THEIR FINAL PAYMENT. AS WE HAVE STATED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, TK&A WOULD HAVE GONE WITH AS FEW AS 10 PEOPLE, ONLY IN A SCALED DOWN VERSION. ODYSSEY IS GOING TO BE A BLAST AND WE ARE NOT GOING TO MISS ANY OF IT!

Odyssey mailing list correction

POOR AL LEVINE, OUR VERY FIRST REGISTRANT FOR ODYSSEY 2000®, AND WE SCREWED UP HIS ADDRESS. FOR SOME REASON, WE INADVERTENTLY GAVE HIM AN ENTIRELY NEW IDENTITY. EVEN THOUGH THIS MEMO WON'T BE CORRECTING INFO ON THE RECENTLY MAILED RIDER LIST, WE FELT WE SHOULD TELL YOU NOT TO CONTACT THE AL WE LISTED, INSTEAD, CONTACT THE REAL ODYSSEY AL LEVINE AT 215 PROSPECT RD, CENTERPORT, N.Y. 11721 PHONE 516-261-2578. SORRY AL!

Biographies

WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR ADDITIONAL BIOGRAPHIES. UNLESS WE HEAR OTHERWISE, WE PLAN TO POST A FEW OF Y'ALL ON OUR WEBSITE. IF YOU HAVEN'T SENT US YOUR BIO AND PHOTO, PLEASE DO. THERE IS STILL TIME. AN ELECTRONIC IMAGE OR PHOTO ARE BOTH OKAY. HOWEVER, IF YOU SEND AN ELECTRONIC IMAGE, WE'D ALSO LIKE A REGULAR PHOTO IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

Burbank meals

SOON, WE WILL BE MAKING A FINAL COMMITMENT TO THE BURBANK HILTON HOTEL FOR THE SIZE OF THE ROOM IN WHICH TO HOLD OUR DINNERS BEFORE AND AFTER ODYSSEY. IT LOOKS LIKE WE ARE GOING TO BE A LITTLE SHORT ON NUMBERS FOR THE 700+ ROOM FOR THE FINISHER'S BLOWOUT ON DEC 31, 2000. EVEN THOUGH THE FINISH IS OVER AN ODYSSEY AWAY, WE NEED TO GET THE COMMITMENTS NECESSARY TO

RESERVE THE LARGER ROOM, OR ALLOW THE HOTEL TO SELL IT IF ANOTHER INTERESTED GROUP SURFACES. IT'S ABOUT A \$30,000 DECISION, SO PLEASE RESERVE SOME DINNER RESERVATIONS IF YOU HAVE THE INTEREST. IF EVERYONE BROUGHT JUST TWO GUESTS, WE'D BE IN GREAT SHAPE. DON'T KNOW WHO TO BRING? NO PROBLEM, JUST RESERVE A COUPLE OF SPOTS AND DECIDE LATER. YOU NEVER KNOW WHO YOU MIGHT MEET.

Trailer

ENCLOSED ARE A COUPLE OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF OUR NEW GEAR TRAILER. WE PLAN TO GIVE IT A GOOD WORKOUT ON WHEELING WASHINGTON AND THEN BUILD THREE ADDITIONAL VERSION 2.0 EDITIONS. WE THINK EVERYONE WILL ENJOY HAVING A PERSONAL PLACE TO KEEP THEIR STUFF FOR MOST THE YEAR. IF SHIPPING SCHEDULES ALLOW, WE WILL LIKELY HAVE 2 TRAILERS WITH US DURING MOST OF ODYSSEY. THE EXCEPTIONS WILL PROBABLY BE CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CHINA/VIETNAM STAGE.

Potable water

AS PROMISED, TK&A PLANS TO MAKE POTABLE (SAFE TO DRINK-NOT NECESSARILY GOOD TASTING) WATER AVAILABLE IN COUNTRIES WHERE THE WATER ISN'T SAFE TO DRINK. IN ACTUALITY, THIS WILL OCCUR IN ONLY A HANDFUL OF PLACES. FOR EXAMPLE, WE WILL LIKELY NEED TO PROVIDE A SOURCE OF POTABLE WATER IN BAJA, CENTRAL AMERICA, RUSSIA, CHINA, VIETNAM, THAILAND AND MALAYSIA. IN THESE AREAS, WE WILL USUALLY HAVE SOME AT CAMP, IN OUR VANS AND AT MIDDAY CHECKPOINTS.

WE ARE STILL WORKING ON THE DETAILS OF HOW TO SUPPLY THE WATER. A LARGE WATER TRUCK, A WATER TRAILER, AND BOTTLED WATER ARE SOME OF THE POSSIBILITIES.

ONE IMPORTANT ASPECT OF ALL WATER IS TO BE AS CONSERVATIVE AS POSSIBLE AND NEVER WASTE IT. AND WHEN YOU HAVE THE CHANCE TO RESTOCK, DO IT! PLAN TO CARRY A WATER BACKPACK AND AT LEAST 2 LARGE WATER BOTTLES. THREE SOURCES OF WATER ARE THE MINIMUM IN ALL CONDITIONS.

Don't forward TK&A emails

PLEASE DON'T FORWARD ANY EMAILS YOU RECEIVE FROM TK&A TO OTHERS. IT IS TOO EASY FOR OTHERS TO TAKE THE MEANING OF A MESSAGE OUT OF CONTEXT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING.

Watch www.odyssey2000.com

IT'S A NEW LOOK, SO CHECK IT OUT. LOTS OF USEFUL LINKS TO ODYSSEY COUNTRIES AND RELEVANT INFORMATION. WE WILL BEGIN POSTING SOME ADDITIONAL ODYSSEY INFO AND A FEW PICTURES ON OUR WEB SITE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. KEEP AN EYE OUT. A SPECIAL THANKS TO LES, TK&A'S ARTIST.

Rider Rumors-You are kidding, right?

ODYSSEY IS NOT GOING TO ISSUE A UNIFORM TO BE WORN FOR 366 DAYS. WE WILL, OF COURSE, PROVIDE AN OFFICIAL ITEM OR TWO OF CLOTHING. THEN, ON A FEW SPECIAL OCCASIONS, WE WILL ASK EVERYONE TO WEAR THESE ITEMS. THE ROSE PARADE COMES TO MIND.

Bags...Bags...Bags

BAGS ARE AN INTERESTING TOPIC IF THERE EVER WAS ONE. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO REMEMBER IS THAT YOU WILL BE RETRIEVING, TOTING, PACKING AND STORING YOUR PERSONAL GEAR AND CAMPING EQUIPMENT AT LEAST 270 DAYS (EVERY RIDING DAY PLUS THE FLIGHTS FROM ONE STAGE TO THE NEXT). THAT'S NEARLY 9 MONTHS OF SCHLEPPING YOUR BAGS.

SO THEN, HOW DOES ONE MAKE THIS A MANAGEABLE PROCESS? TK&A GENERALLY RECOMMENDS YOU LOOK AT PURCHASING TWO BAGS FOR YOUR GOODIES, PERHAPS USING ONE FOR CAMPING EQUIPMENT AND ONE FOR PERSONAL GEAR. IN FACT, SMALL WATER-RESISTANT BAGS CAN BE VERY HELPFUL IN ORGANIZING YOUR PERSONAL AFFECTS. PURCHASE BAGS THAT ARE TOUGH AND UNIQUE LOOKING OR FIND A CREATIVE WAY TO IDENTIFY YOUR BAGS. WE ALSO SUGGEST SEWING YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER TO THE INSIDE OF YOUR BAGS. THOUGH WHEELS MAY BE HELPFUL AT TIMES, MOST BREAK EASILY AND CAN BE A HASSLE ON ROUGH, UNEVEN GROUND OR FIELDS.

Bikes

STAY TUNED. NO DECISION YET.

Toilet paper

IT'S AMAZING HOW WE TAKE IT FOR GRANTED. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NOTICED A DEFINITE LACK OF IT IN PUBLIC FACILITIES, ESPECIALLY IN DEVELOPING NATIONS. SO, ADD IT TO YOUR CHECKLIST OF WHAT TO CARRY WITH YOU. DON'T WORRY ABOUT STOCKING UP BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE STATES, HOWEVER, SINCE IT IS USUALLY AVAILABLE IN SUPERMARKETS AND LARGER STORES IN MOST COUNTRIES.

Washing up

AS A MEMBER OF A CLOSE KNIT TRAVELING COMMUNITY, EVERYONE OF US WILL HAVE TO BE VERY CONSCIENTIOUS ABOUT KEEPING THEIR HANDS CLEAN, ESPECIALLY AFTER GOING TO THE BATHROOM, NO EXCEPTIONS. TO MAKE IT EASIER TO KEEP CLEAN, WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU ALWAYS CARRY SOME SOAP (OR SOME TYPE OF NON-WATER HAND CLEANER), PERHAPS TUCKED INSIDE A PLASTIC BAG.

Olympic tickets

IT LOOKS PRETTY FIRM THAT ODYSSEY 2000® WILL BE IN AUSTRALIA FROM SEPTEMBER 17 TO OCTOBER 3, 2000. SPECIFICALLY, WE ARE PLANNING TO BE IN THE GREATER SYDNEY AREA (AND THIS IS NO SMALL TASK) FROM THE AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 21 TO THE MORNING OF SEPT. 25.

FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING TICKETS FOR THE GAMES, WE HAVE INCLUDED AN EVENT SCHEDULE AND A WEB PAGE FROM CARTAN TRAVEL (WWW.CARTAN.COM). THE QUESTION IS, CAN YOU COUNT ON THE SEPT 21 TO 25 DATES? EVEN THOUGH TK&A FEELS EVERYTHING IS STILL SUBJECT TO CHANGE, IT'S PROBABLY A REASONABLE RISK TO TAKE. IF THINGS DO CHANGE, YOU WILL HAVE TO SORT OUT (AT YOUR OWN EXPENSE) HOW YOU CAN GET THERE EARLY, LATER, ETC.

Keep in touch

TIMTKA@AOL.COM, 1-800-433-0528, 206-322-4102, FAX 206-322-4509, WWW.ODYSSEY2000.COM. TIME'S A FLYIN'.

Enclosed

SOUTH AMERICA AND AFRICA "FINAL" ITINERARIES (CONFIDENTIAL)
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DAN MCKAY FAQ'S ABOUT LLOYD'S OF LONDON INSURANCE POLICY
COUPLE OF GEAR TRUCK PHOTOS
INFO ON THE SYDNEY OLYMPICS AND SECURING EVENT TICKETS
REVISED ODYSSEY BROCHURE
COURAGE CLASSIC BROCHURE-AN EVENT WE DO FOR MARY BRIDGE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL