

Fear and Loathing in Old Town

(Or the minutes of the General Meeting April 18th, 2001)

By Steve Martin

It was a weird night in the ancient neighborhood filled with so many ghosts of San Diego's past. The venue, a restaurant called Rockin' Baja Lobster was located in a dark corner of Old Town under the shadow of one of modern man's great edifices, Interstate 5. On the schedule for the night; a presentation by two Nurses from Scripps hospital about skin cancer, and a booth from ALLEN INSTRUMENTS demonstrating their products. It turns out that Allen Instruments representative, Mike Hart is a low key but brilliant businessman. Mike's strategy for the evening, pick up the bar tab for the 37 Surveyors in attendance. It took everyone a while to get settled. The nurses, Lucille Spratley and Gilda Baslee had a table set up with brochures and free samples of sunscreen. Mike Hart worked the crowd one at a time from his miniscule booth tucked in the corner. The servers made many runs for various beverages, all on Mike's tab. In fact, the servers had a hard time keeping up with the demand and were looking a little harried. You could feel the mood of the crowd change while more Surveyors showed up and the servers kept running. At one point Greg Shriver stood up and gave an unsolicited, but resounding endorsement of Leica's new reflectorless, robotic Total Stations. Dinner was delayed, because of the demand for drinks but what the heck, when you're having this much fun, who cares about eating? Eventually dinner did arrive and it was good to cleans the palate between tastings. The Nurses started their presentation amongst the raucous roar of the room. They passed around some medical photos, which would have caused mere mortals in a lower state of consciousness to loose their lunch. Questions were answered, ribs were taken, yeah, the crowd was into it. This was not just some mundane dinner meeting; it was a collective experience shared by mighty Surveyors and visiting professionals. Alas, with the program finally finished in the wee hours, Scott got up to do the business meeting. He started out by announcing that CLSA had finally changed the password on their site. The new secret word,

"CHAINS". The cleverness of this was lost on

the crowd whose mood had become subdued. Scott, sensing something was amiss, decided to call the meeting due to the late hour. Allan announced the next meeting and we struggled to adjourn this monster. Jas, ever vigilant, said something or other about the agenda for the State Board meeting, but the fear of delving back into business after such a night as this was beyond the crowd at this point. So it was off to the bar for some comfort and friendly banter before reentering the reality of the workweek. So closed this Chapter. What could be in store for our next adventure?

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

May 2, 2001

Attending: Allan, Dave V, Dave A, Jas, & Kevin Byrne

Vice President's Report

Allan reported that the June "meeting" will be the Padres ball game vs San Francisco Wed June 20. Details will be emailed in advance to guarantee a ticket or contact Allan at 619-446-5309 at least two weeks prior to the game. Probably will purchase 25 tickets unless there is a big interest.

Treasurer's Report

Steve reported via email prior to the meeting that we have 168 paid members and 5 lifetime members for a total of 173. New members include Mike Ing of PhotoGeodetic; Pete Vandenberg of Hunsaker & Assoc. and Chris Hejtmanek of Project Design Consultants.

The General fund has a balance of \$4028 and the Education fund has a balance of \$2908 with an additional \$3239 in the Education CD account. Steve has a receipt from Lonie for travel to the State Board meeting. We came out about \$100 ahead this last meeting, which helps make up for some of what we were short last meeting. Steve would like to thank the many firms who support their people in attending the meeting. Steve would also like to thank Mike Hart for hosting the bar at the April General Meeting and making it such a lively meeting.

Note: This meeting was abbreviated due the lack of a quorum



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