

# Fourth World POPS meet

**3-9 June 1997**

## Aqaba, Jordan

There were about eighty skydivers attending the meet with a further seventy camp followers. We had jumpers from twelve countries - Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Israel, Jordan, New Zealand, Switzerland, the UK and the USA. Our Jordanian hosts, represented by Major Samih Janakat, excelled themselves in their effort to make the meet a success. The drop zone had been built from scratch at the Aqaba International Airport.

The first day of the meet was blown out, well "sandstormed out" would be closer to the truth, and temperatures were always close to 40 Celsius - 105 Fahrenheit, but we survived thanks to endless supplies of cold bottled water.

The first jump of the meet itself was a fun jump from the C130 into the Wadi Rum - see below, and we had two further free Herc jumps onto the beach. During these jumps it was possible to see four countries - Jordan, Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

In spite of variable winds, from zero to 29 knots, there were no serious injuries and all the competition rounds were completed, and we were honoured by the crown prince presenting the awards at the final banquet.

Most people found time to visit the impressive ancient city of Petra, many also travelling to Jerash and the Dead Sea. Glass bottomed boats and scuba diving were also popular in the Gulf of Aqaba, and arm of the Red Sea.

The local people were most welcoming, and it was common to be presented with a glass of hibiscus or cinnamon tea by a shopkeeper with no obligation or pressure to buy. Our favourite haunt was a spice shop in the souk.

Whilst everyone had different experiences, everyone I spoke to agreed that it was an excellent meet, and the Wadi Rum jump in itself justified the trip.

I think that everyone will join me in thanking Mike Allum, World Top Pop #1, for all his efforts in bringing us together for this excellent meet

## The Wadi Rum

I was one of eighty skydivers, in small groups, jumped from the tailgate of the C130 Hercules, two and a half miles above the dried up waterway in the desert known as the Wadi Rum. The view below was strange and beautiful, but so outside of my experience that at first it was

impossible to gauge the scale. The central dried waterbed was not meters wide but kilometres wide, the rocky bluffs surrounding it were over a thousand feet high.

After opening my parachute, I gasped breathless at the view, then shouted in exhilaration, my voice echoed by the shouts of other parachutists. The size only became apparent once I spotted the smoke from the burning tyre at our target and saw the toy buses waiting for us. I flew over and between the rocky ridges on my descent, then spiralled down to the waiting friends below.



As I packed my parachute on the floor of the Wadi Rum, parachutes continued to arrive, until even those who had opened at 12000ft had landed. Then the cry "Low pass!" was heard as the Herc approached at less than a hundred feet, pulling up and banking over above our heads.

Just as we were getting over the thrill of the jump, we were ushered on to a couple of dozen four wheel drive pick-ups for a ground level tour of the desert and mountains surrounding the Wadi, the drivers vying with each other to lead the way. Although this was clearly a standard tourist route, including the Bedouin camel troupe we came across - "Very good camel. You ride? One Dinar" - the beauty and peace of the desert was inescapable.

We returned and entered a Bedouin encampment, where we were entertained with singing and dancing and an excellent Arabic meal. One thing stands out in my memory As a group of us had walked out to watch the sun set, we heard the distant sound of prayers being sung as the camels were slowly brought back from the desert. This is a parachute jump and experience I shall never forget.

# Competition results

## Hit 'n' Rock

- 1st Pat Moorehead, USA, 5.13 seconds
- 2nd Tom Zukowski, USA, 6.78
- 3rd Tony Zuidema, Belgium, 6.88
- 4th Ted Rose, USA, 6.89
- 5th Jeff Chandler, UK, 7.20
- 6th François Dive, France, 8.48
- 7th Theo Fritschy, Switzerland, 8.50
- 8th Lisa Olsen, USA, 8.75
- 9th Pete Schmidt, Switzerland, 8.77
- 10th Husain Kraeem, Jordan, 10.15

## Accuracy (5 rounds)

- 1st Jeff Chandler, UK, 19cm
- 2nd Peter Schmidt, Switzerland, 24cm
- 3rd Husain Kraeem, Jordan, 26cm
- 4th Jim Patterson, Canada, 46cm
- 4th Tom Zukowski, USA, 46cm
- 5th Nofan Fukaha, Jordan, 51cm
- 6th François Dive, France, 52cm
- 7th Karl Poruben, USA, 54cm

8th H.P. Schmidt, Switzerland, 58cm

9th Bent Jakobsen, Denmark, 70cm

10th Hassan Azaida, Jordan, 74cm

## **4-Way Scrambles (3 rounds)**

1st 13 points, VanBiers, Cornils, Patterson, Facer

2nd 11 points, Chandler, P. Schmidt, Hannford, Janssens

3rd 8 points, H.P. Schmidt, Turner, Hillis, Kazmirer

4th 7 points, P. Moorehead, Stockings, Neuman, Fergie

4th 7 points, Hitchen, Marshall, Gardner, S. Pandelus

Parachutists  
Over  
Phorty Society



## 4th POPS World Meet

Hosted by  
Royal Jordanian Para Club  
Aqaba, Jordan

June 4 through 9, 1997

***Hit 'N Rock, Accuracy, RW Events & Boogie***

**Islander BN2B, Casa 212 and C-130**

POPS membership required to compete

Travel package available includes:  
roundtrip economy class airfare to Amman,  
continuing to the seaside resort of Aqaba,  
14 nights accommodation in 3\* hotel (double occupancy), breakfast daily,  
From NY JFK: \$1,165.00. From Chicago O'Hare: \$1,250.00  
Special airfares to JFK or O'Hare Airport from your home airport.

Above prices apply for travel on or before May 31;  
for travel on or after June 1, add \$235. to JFK and \$200. to O'Hare prices.

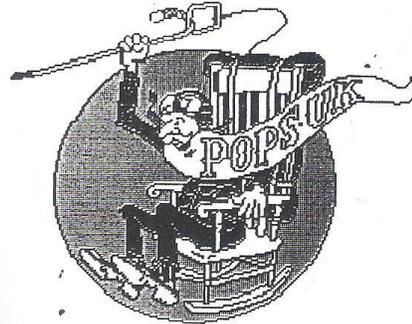
**To reserve call: Royal Jordanian Tours at 1-800-758-6878**

Jordan & US taxes not included. \$50. deposit to reserve.

FFI: Send a SASE to Alicia Moorehead  
3350 St. Francis Place  
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# Parachutists Over Phorty Society

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## 4th POPS World Meet a Success

"This meet was terrific," reported U.S. Top POP Alicia Moorehead of the Fourth POPS World Competition and Boogie. The event was held June 4-9 at Aqaba, Jordan.

The championships attracted 150 people from 12 countries, including Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Israel, Jordan, New Zealand, Switzerland, the U.K. and U.S.

Top competitors were Pat Moorehead of the U.S., who won hit-n-rock with a time of 5.13 seconds. Tom Zukowski of the U.S. was second, and Tony Zuidema of Belgium was third.

In traditional accuracy, Jeff Chandler from the U.K. took first place with a score of 0.19 meters for five rounds. Swiss jumper P. Schmid was second with 0.24 meters, and "Husein" of Jordan was third with 0.26.

Competitors also participated in a 4-way RW scrambles event. A mixed team—with Vanbiers, Cornils, Patterson and Facer—won the event with 13 points in three rounds.

"In the days preceding the competition, practice and fun jumps were made from a CASA and Islander on the Aqaba International Airport, the site of the meet," Alicia Moorehead reported. "Gusty winds sometimes caused all but the bravest to sit in the shade of the team tents and watch the landing entertainment."

The Royal Jordanian Army provided a Lockheed C-130 Hercules. Moorehead said the POPS were given three free jumps from the big tail-gate transport.

"Eighty skydivers from 12 countries boarded the tailgate airplane and, 30 minutes later, exited at 12,500 feet over the Wadi-Rum desert, some of the most spectacular and exotic mountains and desert in the world: the desert of Lawrence of Arabia," said Moorehead.

"Waiting on the ground were 24 four-wheel-drive desert vehicles to take jumpers and families on a two-hour trip through the desert, which included the obligatory camel ride. The evening ended in lounging in Bedouin tents situated around a huge bonfire, eating a specially prepared meal."

The competition frequently took a back seat to other activities.

On one day, "an early halt to the competition was called so that the competitors

could dirt dive for the second free C-130 jump," said Moorehead. "After a cooling two-hour dip in the hotel pool, the POPS were bused to the DZ where we, once again, boarded the Hercules. This jump was onto a beach resort south of Aqaba. All aboard agreed it was one of the most spectacular sunset loads they've ever made."

The meet continued the next day, but was again interrupted—with no complaints from the jumpers.

"An early halt to the competition gave the competitors time to cool off and dress up for the evening festivities," said Moorehead. "Former Jordanian Prime Minister Abdul Kareem Kabariti provided a feast and drinks for POPS, pilots, families and boogie jumpers at the Coral Beach Hotel overlooking the Gulf of Aqaba. Another fantastic sunset of fun." □

## A Short History of POPS

by Alicia Moorehead

Worldwide there are 14 chapters of the Parachutists Over Phorty Society. The first of these organizations was formed in the U.S. in 1966 by a few of the "old timers" in the sport.

In the 60s, of course, almost all of the sport parachutists in the U.S. and other countries were in their 20s and 30s and many still in their teens. Most of these jumpers were veterans of World War 2 and the Korean conflict who brought their love for jumping straight from the field of combat to the cornfields and deserts of America.

In the 70s, the growth of POPS really took off, and now approximately 500 jumpers per year are reaching the age that allows them to join POPS at the regular competitions, boogies and big-ways.

The first POPS World Meet was held in

Australia in 1989. Three years later, the second meet was held in the U.S. at Skydive Orlando in Florida, hosted by long-time POPS members and supporters Jimmy and Wilma Godwin.

The Third World Meet was held two years later in 1995 at Centro de Paracaidismo de Costa Brava in Spain. Over 125 competitors attended and a World Top POP—Michael Allum of the U.K.—was selected to coordinate future world POPS events. Allum served strictly as a volunteer, as do other Top POPS from around the world.

Although the structure of the various POPS organizations varies now and then, the basic reason they were formed remains the same: fun, travel and camaraderie.

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## POPS Plan for 1999 World Championships

One month after running a successful world championships in Jordan, Parachutists Over Phorty Society is already charging forward with plans for the next one.

POPS is a loose international organization of thousands of enthusiastic skydivers, many of whom have the time, money and inclination to travel widely. Members must be at least 40 years old, have made a parachute jump, and have paid the one-time dues of \$20.

The association runs a world championships every two years, the site of which is selected by a committee of POPS leaders from 12 countries.

Last month in Jordan, the organization elected U.S. Top Pop Alicia Moorehead to a two-year term as World Top Pop.

Moorehead's primary duty will be to plan the Fifth World POPS Championships, scheduled for 1999.

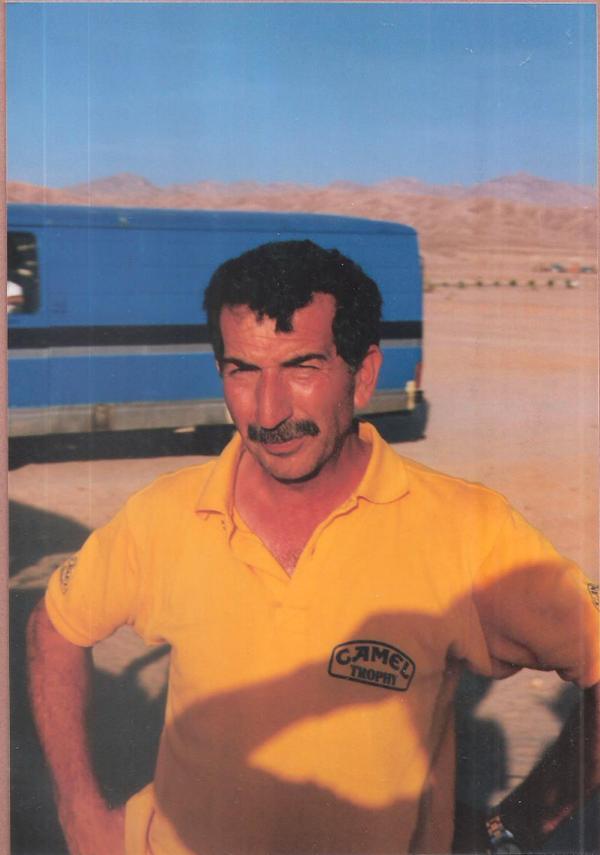
She's looking for input. "I'd like to hear from any POPS member, parachuting organization, government or drop zone that may have ideas regarding this important event," she said.

Moorehead can be reached at 3350 St. Francis Place, Long Beach, CA 90805. Telephone is (562) 633-1226. □



4th POPS World Meet, June 1997

Aqaba, Jordan



Major Samih Janakat ,Meet Director



Aqaba Airport, site of the meet



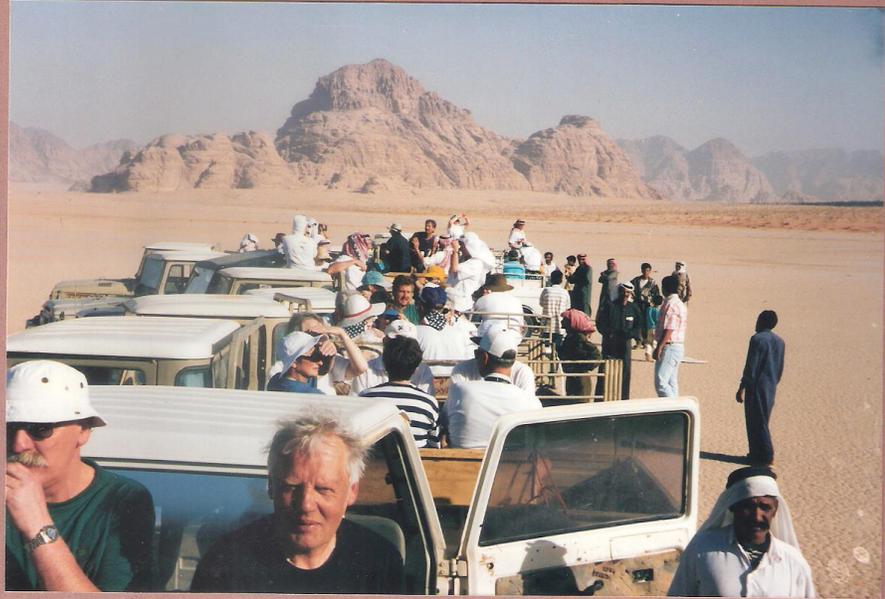
4th POPS World Meet, June 1997



Exploring city of Aqaba

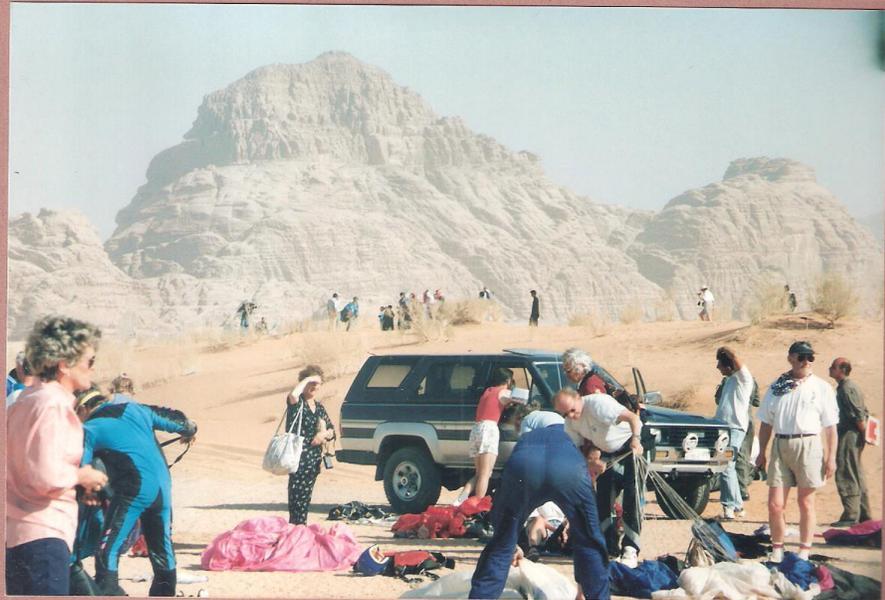


Happy hour at our hotel

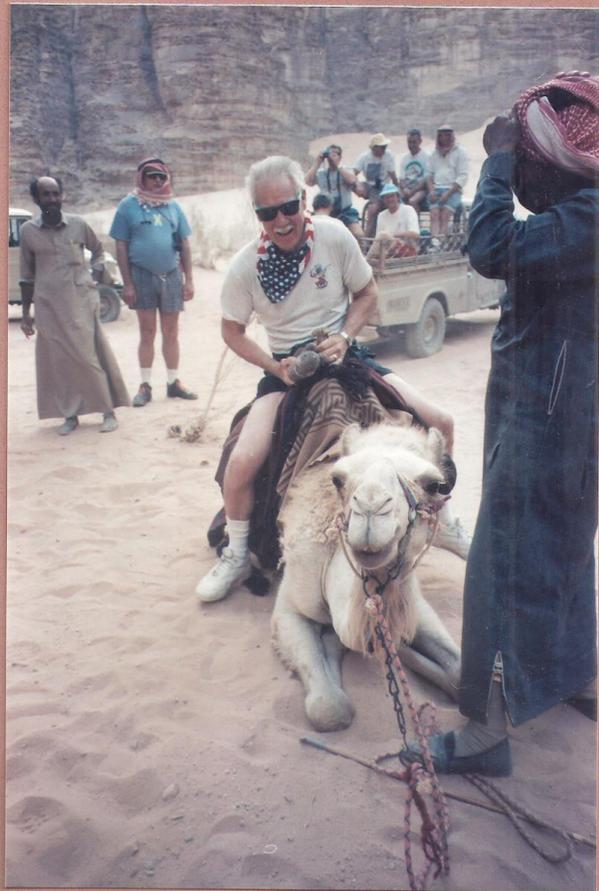
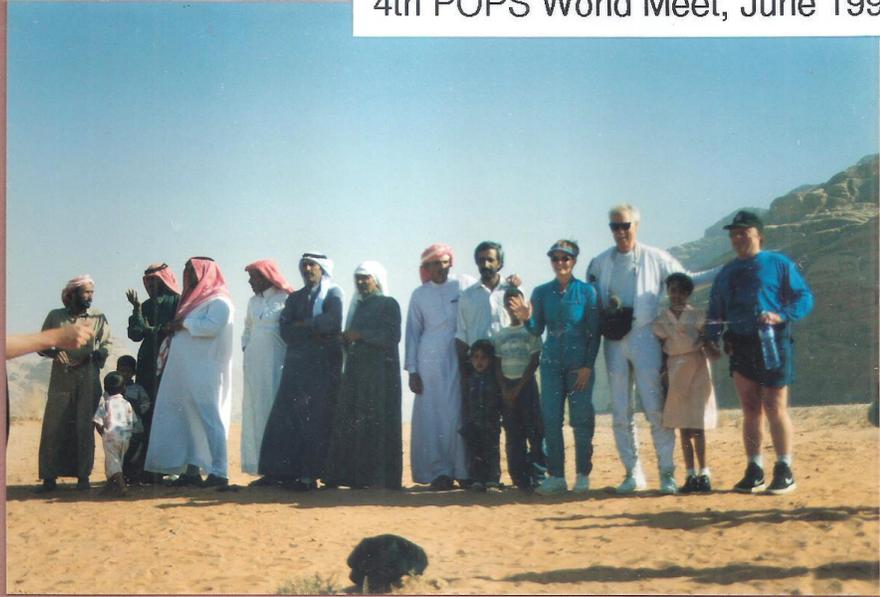


Wadi Rum jump from Jordanian Air Force C-130

then scenic desert tour!

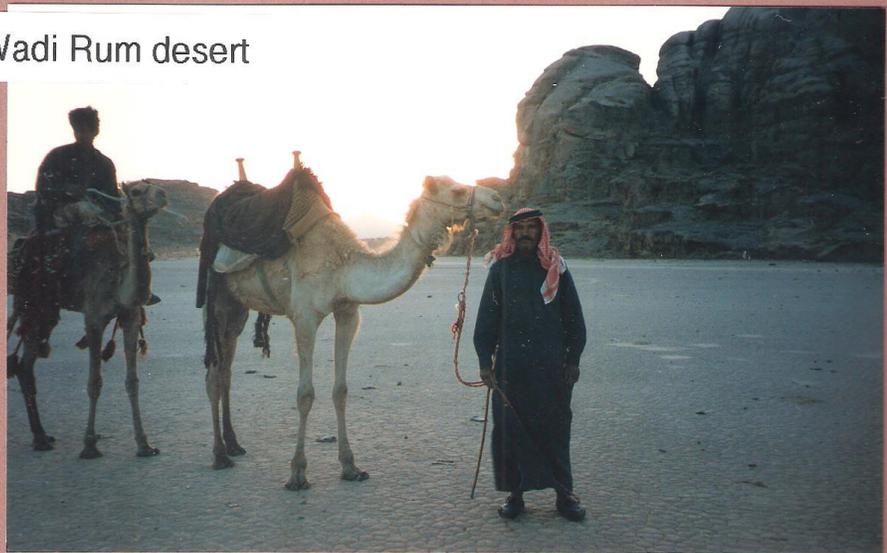


4th POPS World Meet, June 1997





Bedouin dinner in Wadi Rum desert



4th POPS World Meet, June 1997



Two Jordanian princes/skydivers visit DZ

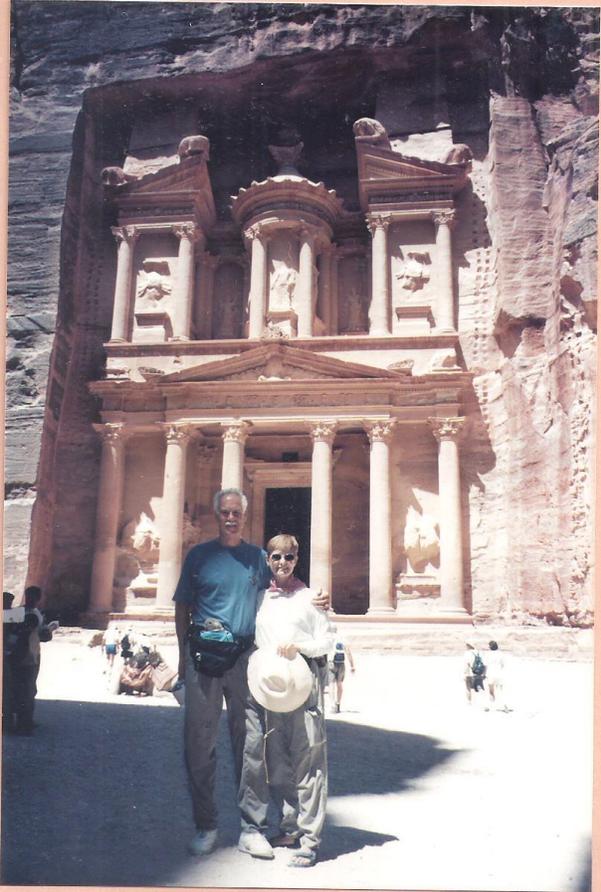




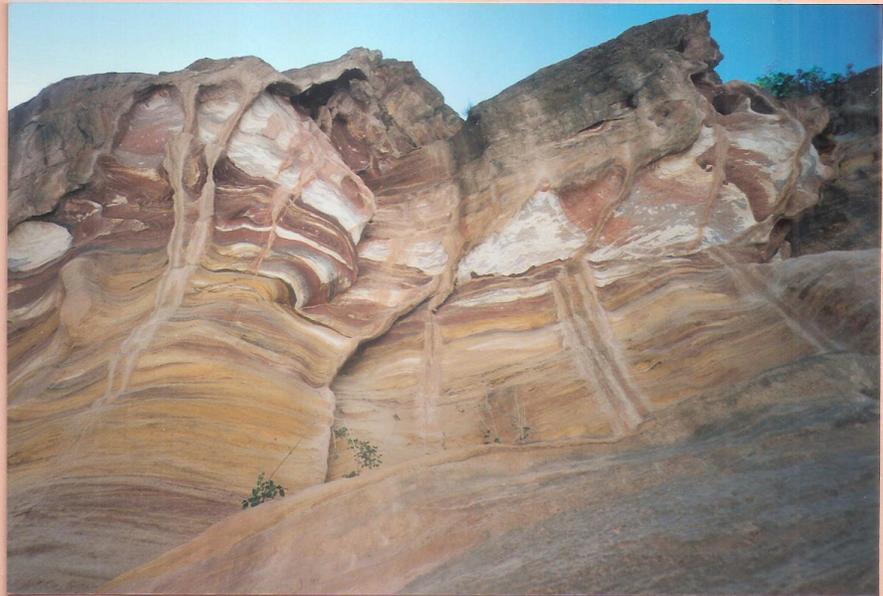
Major Samih Janakat, Meet Director and staff



Royal Yacht Club, site of Awards Banquet



POPS tour to ancient city of Petra





City of Aqaba on the Red Sea



4th POPS World Meet, June 1997

POPS tour to ancient city of Petra