



OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

APRIL - MAY 2014



The Spring Striders, 17 in all, admiring two of the seven guide stoops visited on a marathon 18 mile gallivant around Heathy Lea. An unusual walk through very varied countryside, exploring new corners of familiar territory. Thanks Chris.

From your new president:

As I begin my two years in office, I would like to give a huge vote of thanks to Pete for all his hard work as president over the last two years and for his support of me. I am in awe of his knowledge of climbing and his climbing skills. He has given inspiration to us all.

I bring fewer skills, but I do hope that as a club we will continue to grow in the next two years and also to share the diverse and exciting experiences we all have in the mountains. Thanks to Ruth, this newsletter is a way for doing that. Please tell us of your adventures.

Enjoy the Mountains!

Pam

What's on.

Wednesday evening meets

Yes, it's that time of year again! So here are the crags and alehouses we will frequent if the weather gods are kind. If not it will be Wirksworth Wall and the Royal Oak as usual.

2 April	Harborough/Rainster	Miners Arms Brassington
9 April	Wildcat	Boat Inn, Cromford
16 April	Birchens	Robin Hood (Have checked, they will be open)
23 April	Matlock Crags	Boat Inn, Cromford
30 April	Gardoms	Robin Hood
7 May	Froggatt	The Grouse
14 May	Laurencefield	The Millstone
21 May	Ravensdale	Monsal Head
28 May	Stanage Popular	The Millstone

Fylde Hut Little Langdale 5-6 April



This is a hut swop with the Fylde MC. The hut is located in Little Langdale at NY 31575 03014

[Link to web map.](#)

There is no formal leader for the meet, but Rock Hudson is definitely going, probably early on Friday April 4th, so anyone interested might like to give him a call on 0115 9333031.

Easter 2014 part 1 18 -27 April

Roger Gibbs is leading the first part of the extended Easter meet:

We'll head over/under the channel on Friday 18th April and plan to get to Fontainebleau that evening.

Fontainebleau, for those of you who don't know is the world's best bouldering area and just about the most fun you can have with your clothes on. It's very family friendly – imagine a sandy beach in a magical forest with caves, secret tunnels and lots of small rocks to clamber up. Perfect for children of all ages and climbers of all abilities. The patisseries are fabulous, red wine and cheese may

also be consumed! For details of web sites etc see last month's newsletter
We will plan to stay on this campsite (we'll be in the van, others will camp):

<http://www.camping-grez-fontainebleau.info/france/caravans/vacations/contact.html>

This will be quite busy over the Easter weekend so you will need to book well in advance. After the bank holiday it usually empties out.

After a few days at Fontainebleau, we plan to head a little further south to find some of the superb cragging around Dijon. The exact departure date will be decided over a cold beer or when the skin is running out!

<http://www.climb-europe.com/RockClimbingFrance/Dijon-and-bourgogne.htm>

All of the crags here are worth a visit and the best are world class. Grades range from easy to "tres dur". Add in peaceful villages, quiet campsites (we won't need to book), excellent cuisine and you have a perfect way to kick start the summer!

We will head home about the 26th or 27th April.

I hope you can join us, please let me know if you can make it!

Rog, Sharon and Ben. Roger Gibbs tel. 07770 237 270 email roger@tilda.com

Some of us will only call briefly at Fontainebleau and will head rapidly to Nolay, in Burgundy. See www.nolay.com

We hope to stop at

CAMPING LA BRUYERE ***

Rue du Moulin Larché - 21340 NOLAY

Tél/fax : 03.80.21.87.59 ou 06.88.16.06.18

but there is another campsite close by if that should be full.

Easter – May Day 2014 29 April – 6 May

Chris Radcliffe is leading the second part of the trip

With a late Easter this year it seemed to me to provide an excellent opportunity for those with the time to have an extended trip to France and progress from Roger's "northern France" meet to a second centre in the south of France. Of course it is perfectly possible for this also to be a single destination trip.

The Ariège is an area of the French Pyrenees, centred on Tarascon-sur-Ariège roughly in the middle of the Pyrenean chain. I travelled through this region during my Raid Pyrenean cycle ride in 2013 and I particularly remember the Route des Corniche as a delightfully quiet and remote section of the ride, as well as the Col de Port, Col de Lers and Col du Chioula all of which feature in the Raid. So it made sense to come back to the area to try the climbing possibilities.

The climbing is very varied featuring limestone, granite and gneiss rock with roadside crags to high-mountain venues. The area is also ideal for other activities,

including road biking as already mentioned, also mountain biking, walking and water sports – so something for everyone.

When? This is flexible and can be firmed up with other plans, but I aim to travel south after Roger's Meet taking 2 – 3 days and arriving in the area about April 29th. Then heading north around May 6th to cross back to the UK on May 8th.

Where? Camping Le Pré Lombard, Tarascon-sur-Ariège – www.prelombard.com. This is next to the river in the town, close to all the amenities and convenient to head out to the crags. I stayed there with Roger and Clare during the Raid and can confirm its 3* status.

Logistics? Driving: it depends where you are coming from: Tarascon is on the N20 and links in with the autoroute system. Flying: Carcassonne and Toulouse are about 1 hour 15 minutes away, while Perpignan is a little over two hours away.

Guide Book? There is a RockFax guidebook published in 2012. www.rockfax.com

Please let me know if you are interested in joining this meet so I can make booking arrangements with the campsite. Best to use email: chris@farfields.co.uk or try phoning 01246 569134 (home) or 07770 883259 (mob).

For those who don't have unlimited holiday we have other splendid options available much closer to home:

Pembroke Easter Weekend Pam Storer

We will be camping at St Petrox over the Easter holiday and attending the Range West briefing on Good Friday 18 April at 9.00am. Do come and join us.
Pam Storer tel 01623 795758 email pam_storer@hotmail.com

Early May Bank Holiday: Low House, Coniston nights of 2nd, 3rd and 4th May. Steve Bennett

Last year's meet was perfectly splendid with 16 Oreads attending; fortunately two members were able to claim reciprocal rights with the Climbers Club meaning that Rock was allowed a bunk and would not be required to sleep in the coal store after all.

On Saturday everyone hit the hills and trails on a day that was generally unfit for climbing but great for walking and biking.

Sunday dawned even worse with cloud on the tree tops and steady rain; the morning was spent variously depending on levels of exhaustion from the previous day, some caught up on sleep, a general forum on Britain's mediaeval history developed in the dining area and some even braved the rain and actually went out of doors. The afternoon was altogether different with improved weather and a mass traipse to Tarn Hows and back. Prolific use was made of the local hostelrys

whenever appropriate with the “Sun” becoming the pub of choice. On Monday we were treated to the warmest day of the year so far with temperatures soaring into the 20’s. Most took advantage of this unexpected bliss and descended on Wallowbarrow for a day's climbing before the journey home.

I am already looking forward to this years meet: Low House is a great hut and Coniston, for me, is “the best bit of the Lakes”. For those who are unfamiliar with Low House, the cottage is situated just off the centre of Coniston and only a few minutes walk from a choice of four pubs and the local shops. Apart from the throbbing night life, all other local attractions are fairly obvious with climbing, walking and cycling available at all standards. Family boat trips, canoeing and pony trekking are also available in the local area.

The hut accommodation is excellent and pretty much on a par with our own hut TyW. We have 14 beds available for Oreads on a first come first served basis; members of the MAM, Climbers Club and Fell and Rock will count on top of our quota. To book beds and for possible car sharing please give me a call or send an email.

Steve Bennett tel 01332 516367 or 07795 511582 email steve@apexdesigns.biz

Heathy Lea BBQ and Working Party 17- 18 May



This year's working party will once again be a mixture of cleaning, painting and woodcutting. The Hut is in a good condition and just needs a tidy up see it though the next 12 months. I would like to encourage as many Oreads as possible to turn up and help. I will be there from 10.00 am on Saturday morning so please come along and give your support - even an hour or two will make a real difference. Please feel free to bring your own gardening tools and chain saws!

The weather will of course be good so I plan on having the usual large bonfire on the Saturday evening to get rid of the rubbish. Bring your BBQ and liquid refreshment and join in the party.

As usual it will also be a good occasion to grab a few hours out on our local crags over the course of the weekend.

So please make the effort and come along to help and support (tea making is appreciated as well!) As the photos show, it's not all work and no play! If you need more information then please give me a call on 07771700913.

Michael Hayes Heathy Lea Hut Custodian.

Spring Bank Holiday. 24-26 May

No club meet has been arranged, but a venue will be advertised on the Yahoo Group in the preceding weeks. Please get in touch if there is somewhere you would like to go.

Chris Radcliffe tel 07770 883259 email chris@farfields.co.uk

Alpine Meet 19 July – 10 August Pete Lancaster

The venue for this year's meet is '*Camping d'Ailefroide*' in the heart of the *Pays des Ecrins* in an idyllic setting among trees and mountains.

The campsite is big; it spreads through the valley above and below the village but does not appear crowded. One simply finds a spot, either in the trees or somewhere more open, and camps as there are no 'pitches'. There are lots of facilities on the site which are clean and well maintained; the fees are not expensive. There are electricity hook-up points but they are limited, however because we were in the trees, we didn't find it a problem without last year. For more details go on the official website: <http://www.ailefroide.fr/camping/> The village itself is very pleasant and has two well stocked supermarkets which even sell artisan bread; their produce rivals the bigger supermarkets for price. There are several bars and restaurants, one of which offered a glass of fruit juice, a coffee and a croissant for 2 Euros between 7.00 and 9.00am last summer – excellent value! There are two climbing/walking equipment shops both stocked with everything one might need including guide books. As to the latter, if anyone is familiar with the area and can recommend good guide books, then please let me know and I will pass on the info or post it through the Yahoo group.

Within walking distance of the campsite there is world class bouldering and well equipped rock climbs both long and short and, of course, there are stacks of routes in the high mountains ranging from modern rock climbs to traditional alpine trips.

Half an hour's drive will give access to lots of excellent crags down the valley should you want a change. There is also a daily bus service down the valley. This meet is unusual in that one cannot book the site: they do not take bookings. This is not a problem, however, as the site is so big there will be space: we were there during the French holiday month, i.e. after August 1st and the site did not

look anywhere near full. Arriving before August 1st however will give you more choices of pitch. Even though I cannot book on your behalf, I would like to know who is going, that way I might be able to help people coordinate their movements and activities.

You can contact me at petel1952@hotmail.co.uk or 0114 2301136. I look forward to hearing from you.

Pete Lancaster

Looking ahead: South Pembroke in August seems a long time away but, if you want to climb on Range West and have not attended one of the official briefings you will need to do so. This year's briefings dates are 18th April (Good Friday), 24th May and 26th July. All will start promptly at 9am and will be at the Castlemartin Army Camp as usual.

Message from the Meets Secretary

I am now working on the 2015 Meets List and would welcome any requests, offers to lead meets or opinions on the current Meets programme. Is there a favourite area that you think we should visit? Would you prefer more camping meets or more obscure venues? Any comments would be helpful.

chris@farfields.co.uk

tel 01246 569134 (home) 07770 883259 (mobile)

Welcome to your new committee

2014 - 2015 Committee

President: Pam Storer

Vice-President: Pete Lancaster

General Secretary: Rob Tresidder

Assistant General Secretary (Membership): Rhiannon Hollick-Cooper

Treasurer: Keith Gregson

Meets Secretary: Chris Radcliffe

Newsletter Editor: Ruth Gordon

Hut Custodian, Tan yr Wyddfa: Dave Helliwell

Hut Custodian, Heathy Lea: Mike Hayes

Huts Booking Secretary: Derek Pike

Committee Members: Michael Bate, Nigel Briggs, Tony Howard, Chris Wilson.

Tan yr Wyddfa Hut Sub Committee:

Dave Helliwell (Hut Custodian), Chris and Roy Eyre, Ruth Gordon, Tony Howard, Tony Smedley, Pam Storer

Heathy Lea Hut Sub Committee:

Mike Hayes (Hut Custodian), Dave Helliwell, Steve McDonagh and Pam Storer

BMC Membership Cards

Everyone who paid their subscriptions in time to be included on the list recently sent to the BMC will receive their annual copy of Summit Magazine in the next month or so. In the package is a separate sheet of paper with **your personal BMC membership card** printed in one corner which you need to cut out and keep. Last year a lot of people failed to spot this and threw the sheet away – hence this reminder. Meanwhile work is in progress to distribute Oread Membership cards and these will follow soon.

News, Articles and Reports from Meets.

Patterdale Meet 7 – 9 March 2014. Stuart Haywood

Despite a less than promising weekend weather forecast 20 Oreads amassed at the George Starkey Hut at various times during the course of Friday.

Saturday began with low cloud, showers, and fierce winds at anything much above valley level. It soon became apparent that these conditions would have a decisive influence on the day's activities and low level walks proved to be a popular option. Pam and Nodge, Pete and Ali, Roy and Chris, Tim, Tony Raphael and Chris Seaman walked out via Ullswater and returned over Boredale – Andy and I reversed the same route, while Mike and Helen, Niki and Sara chose to return via Martindale. Rock headed up Grisedale while John G completed a circuit of the Eastern Martindale Fells having been lucky enough to get a lift out to Howtown by road with the ferry operators when the morning sailing was cancelled due to the adverse weather conditions. Syl kept the home fires burning and very welcome it was too.

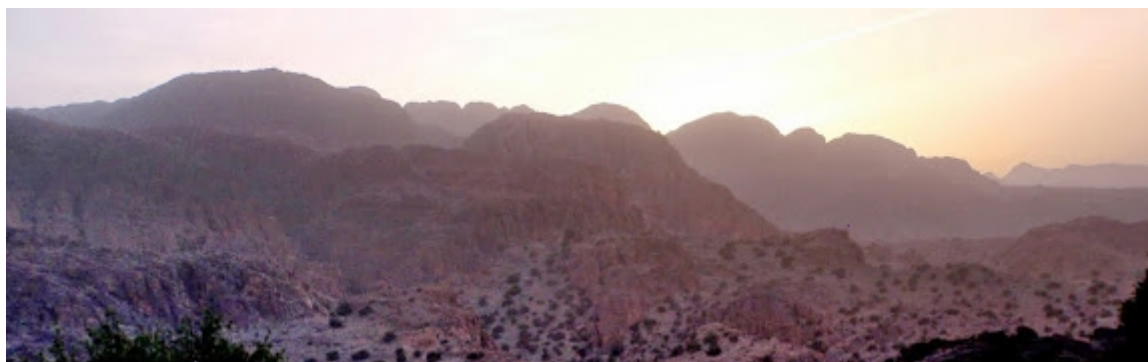
Fortunately Sunday was a slightly better day but still with a very low cloud base. After a fairly leisurely start Tony and Chris headed up Grisedale returning over Fairfield and St Sunday Crag. Chris reported that heavy cloud conditions prevailed over Fairfield and Helvellyn all day, but at least the wind dropped on St Sunday Crag during the afternoon. John G chose High Hartsopp Dodd while others headed out to Brotherswater, Angle Tarn and Hartsopp, Grisedale Tarn and Aira Force.

Although the 'official' meet concluded on Sunday several members 'stayed over' and Monday proved to be a superb day – cold and clear, sunny, and flat calm. John G completed the Greater Grisedale Horseshoe from Glenridding traversing Birkhouse Moor, Striding Edge, Nethermost Pike, Dollywaggon Pike, Seat Sandal and St Sunday Crag. John confirmed that visibility was extremely good with Ingleborough being clearly visible from the summit of Helvellyn. John also stated- "Today must rate as one of the most brilliant days I've had in the Lakes"

Thanks to everyone who came along: - John and Syl, Pete and Ali, Tim, Rock,

Mike and Helen, Sara and Niki, Pam and Nodge, Margaret and Kevin, Roy and Chris, Tony Raphael, Chris Seaman and of course Andrea.

Morocco in March Ruth Gordon



Eight Oreads and friends have recently returned from a splendid ten days based in Tafraoute, climbing in the Anti-Atlas. For some of us it was a first visit, for



others an eagerly awaited return trip. Either way it did not disappoint. The weather was superb - warm, dry, but not too hot – just right for climbing. We stayed eight nights at the Hotel des Amandiers in Tafraoute, which was friendly, comfortable and very reasonably priced (bed, breakfast and evening meal working out at around £25 per person per day.) We spent our last two nights at the Kasbah Tizourgane (photo left) – a truly amazing fortified medieval hilltop refuge now run

along the lines of a wardened alpine hut. We hired two somewhat battered Citroen Berlingo type cars which survived the rugged conditions including a fair amount of driving on unsurfaced roads. Gill found the driving easier once we had found some chunks of wood to raise the floor level so she could reach the pedals – these were not luxury transport! The downside of this area is that it takes time to access most of the crags. There are drives of well over an hour in many cases, along precipitous roads, sometimes duelling with convoys of camper vans, to reach a maze of unsurfaced tracks one of which will, hopefully, be the right one. Once parked there could be a steady walk in of anything up to two hours. Then, in spite of a brand new two volume photo guidebook, locating the right crag and



the start of the routes could be a long and worrying process. The rewards for all this effort are stunning multi-pitch routes on generally excellent rock and in wonderful surroundings. Highlights for me were the 3 pitch VS Guillotine Direct on Adrar Ifran (photo on previous page) and Ride the Wild Wind VS 7 pitches on Anergui Upper Crag. This was followed by a monster walk down from the top via complex gorges, with darkness threatening! Thanks Gill for waiting for us! Chris W. and Richard meanwhile did an excellent HVS - Eagle's Nest on the same crag. Chris R and Gill enjoyed a couple of our favourites from last year- The White Tower HVS – voted their best route of the holiday - and Pink Lady VS. For Snod and John Mountain one of the best was the superb 5 pitch - HVS Main of Light on Rainbow Buttress.

It wasn't all hard work, we also had some enjoyable days on shorter, friendly crags only a few minutes drive from Tafraoute: Cheshire Cheese, where we all relished the delightful VS - Dream of White Sheep, and Palm Tree Gorge where we were serenaded by frogs in the magical setting of a semi-deserted village as we enjoyed the fine arete of Berber Buttress HVS . A great trip and so much rock to go at – we have to go back.

Thanks to Richard Hopkinson for the photographs.

For more information have a look at <http://www.climb-tafraoute.webs.com/>

Information on member activities

Applications for ordinary membership have been received from Heidi Mephram and Richard Hardwick. Any members with any comments on their applications should please contact a member of the committee.

Nicola Bishop has been accepted as a member of the Oread, we wish her well for the future.

Welcome to new prospective member, Neil Thompson. We look forward to meeting you on club meets and seeing you progress to full membership.

New address: Michael Bate, 17, Nottingham Road, Spondon, Derby DE21 7NF

Letter to the Editor



George Sutton, pictured at the 2013 Annual Dinner. Photo courtesy of Bob Pettigrew.

I was about to write to thank you for the January magazine when the February issue fell through my letter box. Thank you and the club for their trouble.

Chris Radcliffe can be advised that I have not encountered any animals like Stoops – other strange creatures, such as Prettys, Pettigrews and Falkners, but no Stoops. I may not be a Jagger (thank goodness) am known to use salt, may even have pedled – or pedlared – certainly I am an

“other traveller” but no Stoop ever helped me across Kinder. A strong young woman did once when I was taken sick on said moor, back in my ancient history . It did not stop her from joining a trek across Lapland with me – but I took three religious studies with me as a sort of safeguard. She married someone else, went off to the Rockies, never seen since. Some people will go to any lengths.

I will look forward to reading Bob's piece about the Himalayas in 1961. The nearest I ever got to Himalaya was a corner tower of the Taj Mahal in between taking Japanese Morse during the war. Only slightly higher, (about Snowdon size, but covered in long very prickly thorns) with a friend, I scaled the Great Mist Mountain (Tai Mo Shan, across the straits from Hong Kong Island.) Bert and I were both benighted on this little peak – the only time it ever happened to me accidentally – got “14 Days” for it!

Again many thanks for the magazines – I shall put it on my list as a challenge to try to reach one of the Club meets if I can. If I have the energy perhaps I'll tell you how Bob fell in a Great Swamp – or how Pretty and I survived a ship on fire in a thunderstorm in the middle of the ocean – if anyone can read my writing!

Best wishes – but watch out for “Stoops”.

George.

Hobday's humour:



It's no use sulking about lousy winter conditions, Pete. -Get kilted up and make the best of it!

For Sale

Two berth caravan. Experienced in cragging and Alpine holidays, with an ascent of the Splugenpass under its belt. Now surplus to requirements. Any offers?

Simon Pape tel. 01629 822450 mobile 07813 616563

Hut Bookings for March onward.

TAN-YR-WYDDFA

March 31-April 4 [leaving Fri morning]	Hurstpierpoint College. Sole use children present.
April 4 -5	Fylde Hut Swap
April 11-12	K. Fellfarers.
April 17-18	Red Rope
May 2-3	John Green Munro Society
May 9-10	N. Kingston Hillwalking Group
May 23-31	Kev and Margaret Sarson

HEATHY LEA

April 4-5	Panthers Owners Club.
April 12	Simon Wren
April 13-15	Christine Craddock
May 16-17	Oread Working Party and Barbecue

“Whole Hut” includes the Oread room!

All queries, payments and bookings should be addressed to Derek Pike, the Hut Bookings Secretary:

Derek Pike, 19 St. Johns Drive, Chaddesden, Derby. DE216SD

Tel. 01332 670459 Email: derepike1234@btinternet.com

Please note:

I shall be away from the 14 April until the middle of May. All bookings to James Pike tel.07941527712 before 9p.m. please. You may also book by e-mail as usual on derepike1234@btinternet.com although there may be some delay in replying.

Derek



Rusty's Puzzle Corner

Last month's puzzle.

A complaint!

“This month's puzzle is too easy!”

Derek Pike Manchester Buttress - Stanage
February 2013”

Michael Hayes is of course quite correct with his answer, but he did have an advantage – he was there on the day. Curiously no response was received from Derek – perhaps he didn't recognise himself?

This month's puzzle:

Where is this awesome cleft?

Forthcoming Meets: Chris Radcliffe

2014

April			
5 th – 6 th	Little Langdale	Fylde MC Hut	Rock Hudson
18 th – 26 th	French Meet (1)	Fontainbleau/Dijon	Roger Gibbs
27 th –May 8	French Meet (2)	Ariège	Chris Radcliffe
May			
2 nd -4 th	Coniston	Low House (MAM)	Steve Bennett
17 th – 18 th	B.B.Q.	Heathy Lea	Mike Hayes
24 th – 26 th	Bank Holiday meet	?	?
June			
7 th – 8 th	Kiddies Meet	Heathy Lea	Neil Weatherstone
7 th – 8 th	Rhydd-Ddu	Tan-y-Wyddfa	
14 th – 15 th	North Yorkshire	Osmotherley	Chris Wilson
July			
5 th -6 th	Malham Cove	Camping	Michael Bate
12 th – 13 th	Cloggy: pre-Alps	Tan-y-Wyddfa	Chris Radcliffe
19 th –Aug 10	Alpine Meet	Ecrins	Pete Lancaster
August			
23 rd – 25 th	S Pembroke	Camping	
September			
13 th – 14 th	Clwyd	Limestone cragging	Derek Pike
20 th – 21 st	Joint with DMC	Heathy Lea	Ed James
October			
4 th – 5 th	Gogarth	Valley of the Rocks	Dave Mawer
14 th – 28 th	Kalymnos	Hot Rock	Pam Storer
November			
1 st	Bonfire Night	Heathy Lea	Mike Hayes
2 nd	Dovedale Dash	Fell Race	Rob Tresidder
15 th	Annual Dinner		
22 nd -23 rd	Coniston	MAM Hut	Tony Howard
December			
6 th – 7 th	Bullstones Meet	Long Walk	Pam Storer
10 th	Black Rocks	Night Climbing	Rob Tresidder

Stop Press: Oreads in Morocco shower horror!

Readers of a nervous disposition may wish to avert their eyes from the following news item:

There were scenes of drama at the Hotel des Amandiers as emergency staff were rushed to Mr Helliwell's room to stem the unstoppable flow of hot water gushing in all directions from the shower. Control was eventually regained but at a price: - the water supply to the room was cut off for the remainder of their stay – along

with that of the Mountain/Genders residence next door. Unkind comments, suggesting that people who are unfamiliar with the correct operation of equipment are liable to break it, backfired the following day when Mr Mountain's hot shower at the Kasbah turned icy once he was fully committed. Mr Wilson, being experienced in the matter of showers, then embarked on his own, smugly relishing the plentiful supply of hot water. Once thoroughly soaped -shock horror! The water supply failed completely - leaving him with no option but to fill a bucket from the cold tap and sluice himself down.

It is rumoured that none of the three unfortunates has risked repeating the experience.

From the archives



This photo, supplied by Rusty Russell, shows one of the summer strolls of the past, probably somewhere on the Roaches ridge – can anyone remember? – just look at those knees! And what has caused Rock such displeasure?

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