

Jeff Currier *global fly fishing*

Monday, May 08, 2006

Dear friends and family,

Aswan Egypt



Jeff making friends at the Nubian market on the banks of the Nile River

Well, yesterdays email was a bit quick and heavily affected by a case of jet lag. And, due to a time constraint, I neglected to give some flight details that continue to play havoc with me. As usual, there are few dull moments whether it be fishing or traveling with Currier. When I arrived on Paris on Sat morning in route to Egypt, I had to

change from Delta to Air France and fly from Paris to Egypt. This

meant changing terminals, and in the case of any Euro airport, another heavy screening.

Unfortunately for me, the Euros weren't too cool with my carry on rods packed snug in my Abel Middy case and would not let me through. Chris Bailey and camera man originally checked their rods as luggage in SLC and whisked through Euro screening no problem. All I could do is yell across the screener "Go onward fellas! I'll be there in a few." Fat chance!

The French version of TSA punished me bad and sent me all the way to the main check in counter to check my rods as luggage. A nice way to wake up after flying overseas. Not only that, they attempted to charge me 135 Euros! Luckily, I got that crazed look I can get and

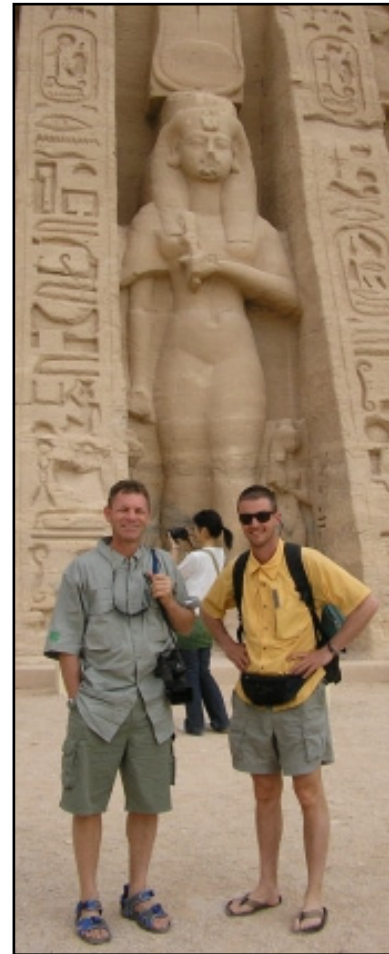
they backed off fast. What really sucked though, is that I had to immigrate into France, then emigrate back out. By the time this was all said and done, my flight to Cairo was long gone. Fortunately, I got an Air France employee that felt pretty bad for me and she got me on a later flight. I ended up getting to Cairo at 10pm.

Our day in Cairo was superb! We visited the Pyramids, I even got back on a camel and took a ride around the Pyramids. This Gringo can't ride a horse worth a damn, but after crossing the desert in India several years ago on camels with Granny, I felt right at home around Cairo. We also did the Egyptian Museum and saw some small time sites along the Nile.

At 5pm we headed for the airport to catch a flight for Aswan Egypt. As if I wanted to be near an airplane after the long trip over! Wouldn't ya know, they had no record of our tickets, and naturally, it was a sold out flight. To make a long story short, Chris Bailey, who felt bad for me when he left me behind in Paris, really stepped up to the plate. He argued and fought for nearly two hours and got us each in Air Egypt's 1st Class for \$25 on top our original purchase! Not bad. As you might expect, their 1st class is like the back seat of a South American mini van, but nonetheless, here we are in Aswan.

We will actually head out of Aswan tomorrow at 4 am. I thought today was the day, but it's tomorrow. This ended up being great because today the African Angler provided us a guided tour of the Aswan area that was outstanding! We visited a Nubian village, did some shopping and they treated us to a luxurious lunch on a floating restaurant on the Nile below the Aswan Dam. Absolutely awesome, and yes I spotted plenty of fish while enjoying an Egyptian Ale.

Last but not least, the Egyptians are fantastic people. Many of you, including myself were concerned about an American in the Middle East these days, but these folks love Americans.



Jeff and Chris Bailey at Abu Simbel, Egypt

They are quick to tell you how they hate the way the news of the world portray our relationship because it is not true. After a day of hanging with them, I agree.

Tomorrow we leave at 4 am to the Sudan border to see the famous ruin, Abu Simbel and this is also where our fishing safari begins on Lake Nasser. Until next time - Go CUBS!

Jeff

PS I know the Cubbies are sucking terribly, I already went to the site!