

# SOCIETY TO SAVE ROCKS

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## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

October - December 2009

Editors : Frauque Quader, Padmini B Patell

The **ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING** (AGM) of the Society took place on August 28, 2009 at the Jubilee Hills International Centre. The Minutes of the Meeting are enclosed to this Newsletter for Members.



*Bandaloop Dance Troupe in Action*

### **Are they coming to Hyderabad - or are they not?**

The **BANDALOOP AERIAL DANCE TROUPE** is in India and had scheduled a programme in Hyderabad, in November. Unfortunately, the original sponsors (see Minutes of AGM) have completely pulled out.

The troupe would love to perform their stunning vertical dancing on our rock walls and thus help promote the cause of rock preservation. Efforts are on to find new sponsors – while going to press, the issue is still wide open.

**Watch the press for announcements in November !**

## FOR THE ADVENTUROUS

by Neville Rodrigues, CEO Adventure4Me

Let's take a look at the sport of Bouldering and Rock Climbing. Amazingly, the Deccan Plateau is the realm of Bouldering and the Western Ghats of Rock Climbing ( no, no not the Himalayas ... that's Mountaineering ...see !??) You will be pleasantly surprised to know that Hampi in Karnataka is one of the prime Bouldering destinations in the world and part of the "Adventure Tourism" backbone of Karnataka.

Bouldering is one of the fastest growing adventure sport in the world. In fact, many ardent rock climbers are shifting to Bouldering as a full time sport for them. Essentially both the sports are the same. One can bravely say that Bouldering is more about going horizontal'ish !!! Whereas Rock Climbing is about climbing high. Bouldering was actually a method to practice severe rock climbing moves ...especially those dudes and dudettes that went radically inverted at weird heights without any so-called "safety" gear!!! Comprende amigo? Bouldering today has evolved very quickly into a sport unto itself and the moves and dynos that are seen are unique and best done in a Bouldering scene.

Being an extremely integral part of the Deccan, Hyderabad and the radius of about 250kms offers plenty of Bouldering venues and more than a few Rock Climbing routes. Indoor and Outdoor Bouldering gyms are mushrooming very fast. Hyderabad has actually got about 6 indoor walls and tons of outdoor Bouldering opportunities...oh yes , all within city limits.

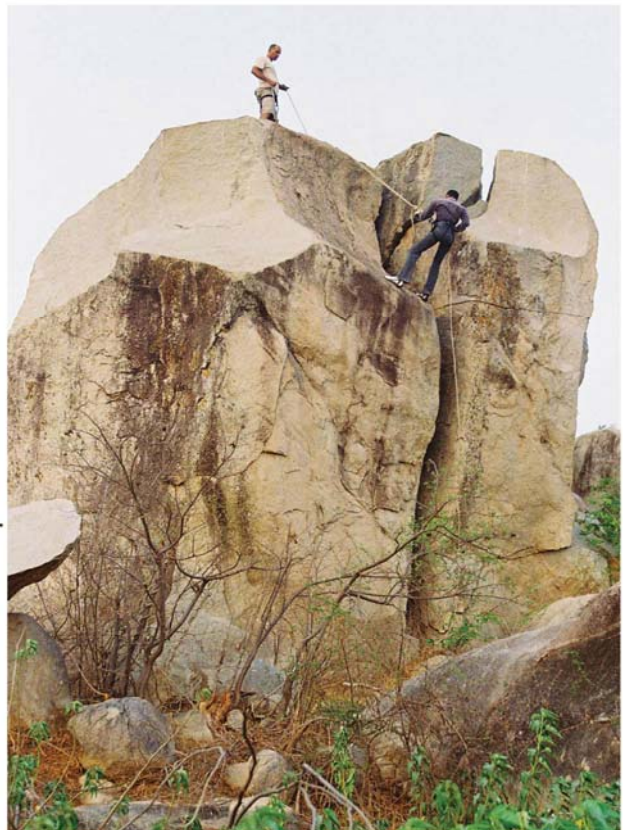
At Adventure4Me we offer Bouldering services and outfitting solutions for a newbie or veteran which includes :-

- Bouldering Interest Group membership.
- Crash mats / pads for sale or rent
- Chalk (Magnesium powder) refill
- Chalk bags
- Belay services
- Spotter services
- Logistic services
- Basic climbing gear for rent and some for sale
- Route / Venue exploration
- Periodic Bouldering courses

We believe that one can indulge in adventure sports **anywhere**. Our services are not restricted to only Bouldering. Adventure4Me is a full time adventure sports service provider.

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Neville Rodrigues is our member and has been in the adventure sports field for over two decades. Besides being a Adventure Sports Coach he is a Microlight Flying Instructor and a Soft Skills Trainer. He can be contacted on 9989311924/[neville@adventure4me.com](mailto:neville@adventure4me.com)  
url : [www.adventure4me.com](http://www.adventure4me.com)



Neville assisting our rappelling enthusiasts



## HERITAGE PRECINCT MOULALI DEFACED !

by Frauke Quader



*View of Transmission Tower  
behind Moulali Dargah*

The 2000 feet high great rock dome of Moulali is 2,500 million years old – the same age as the fascinating balancing granite boulders of the Deccan.

The rock dome of the Moulali Dargah, as well as two smaller hills with secondary dargahs have been listed as Heritage Precinct by Notification of the Government on 3.2.2009, together with 14 more rock sites (see our Newsletter No. 51, April-June 2009)

In August this year, an article in the Hindu alerted us to the fact that the Police Commissioner Cyberabad had ordered a transmission tower to be built next to the Dargah on the very top of the hill, and the foundations had been laid. On enquiry, the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) informed us that no permission for this had been given by them under the Heritage Regulations.

The Cyberabad Police Commissioner maintains that the transmission tower was for the common good. He said the Waqf Board (owner of the site) had given permission. This permission, though, was withdrawn recently, shortly after commencement of the construction. The issue was discussed in the Society's General Body Meeting end of August (see minutes). The blatant disregard of government departments for the Heritage Regulations was strongly condemned. Together with other environmental groups of Hyderabad it was decided to launch protests. Due to the mourning for the former Chief Minister Y.S. Rajshekar Reddy, action was delayed, but will be taken up now: with a press conference, possibly a Public Interest Litigation and finally a rally. Meanwhile, the transmission tower has been erected, but the fact that the Heritage Regulations have been flouted even in the case of a Heritage Precinct notified so recently, cannot be condoned.

"One of the most revered places of pilgrimage," says Sajjad Shahid, heritage expert of Hyderabad, "the hillock takes its name from the shrine that houses the impression of Hazrat Ali's right palm on a stone slab. Local history and tradition credit Yakut, a chamberlain of the Qutub Shahi king Ibrahim Qutub Shah (1550-1580) with having found the imprint after a dream in which he had a vision of Hazrat Ali sitting on the hillock with his hand resting on a boulder. He had the impression cut out of the rock and housed it in a rivaq (arched niche) atop the hill. A mosque and ashurkhana were constructed by Ibrahim in 1578. The nobility of Hyderabad have, over the centuries, added a number of structures including ceremonial arches, mosques, ashurkhanas, sarais, residences, tombs and gardens, both on the hillock and in the surrounding areas. Quite a few impressive structures survive."

## T SHIRTS, CAPS & GREETING CARDS

Our publicity material has taken our message places in the past, members are requested to actively promote our greeting cards with corporates/institutions especially with the coming of Christmas & New Year. The cards can be viewed on our website . A brand new stock of attractive T-shirts & caps are ready for sale.



### **Excursion on 14 & 15th November 2009:**

A 2-day bus tour is planned to Kurnool, Belum Caves, Haritha Rock Garden in Orvakal and Alampur Temple. The Bus Fare plus Accommodation for a night will be Rs. 1400 per person. Excluding food. Bring lunch and snacks for the first day. Carry plenty of drinking water.

**Please enroll immediately**, because bus and accommodation need to be booked. **Pay your fare by October 20th** at the Society's Office (23552923) or to C.J. Rao (98490-37240)

### **Rock Walks in October, November and December 2009:**

<b>Date :</b>	<b>Place :</b>	<b>Time / Meeting Point:</b>
Sunday October 18	Rocks near A.P. Police Academy campus	2.30 p.m. at NMDC, Masab Tank
Saturday / Sunday November 14 / 15	Kurnool : Bellum Caves, Alampur, Orvakal Rock Garden	7.00 a.m. on Saturday from Gun Park Garden, return Sunday, 10 p.m. For more details see above
Sunday December 20	Rocks near Keesaragutta	10.30 a.m. till appr. 6 p.m. Meet opp. St. Ann's High School, S.P. Road, Secunderabad; bring lunch.

Rock walks are conducted on the third Sunday of every month. They are announced in Channel 6, WOW Hyderabad, The Hindu, Times of India, fullhyd.com and of course on our website. Everybody is welcome. Sensible shoes, a cap, long pants and a water bottle are a must. Please enrol a minimum of 2 days in advance with Frauke Quader at Tel. 23552923 or with C.J. Rao at 98490-37240.

**Members are once again reminded to pay their fees for 2009-2010 (Active: 200 p.a., Student: 100 p.a.) and arrears if any. Please ring up Frauke Quader at 23552923 to find out the status of your account .**

### **Managing Committee:**

President:	Narendra Luther - 23399778	Members:	
Vice President:	Aparajita Sinha - 9849655363	Lata Marur	- 23350524
Secretary:	Frauke Quader - 9849936248	Uma Maheshwari	- 9866019402
Joint Secretary:	C.J. Rao - 9849037240	Padmini B. Patell	- 9912865299
Treasurer:	Dr. Hina Gokhale - 9440893983	Dr. E. Sathya Prakash	- 9440057846

### **Membership Fees :**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Admission</b>	<b>Annual Subscription</b>
Active	Rs. 100	Rs. 200
Couple	Rs. 100	Rs. 300
Life (Single)	Rs. 2,000 for Life	—
(Couple)	Rs. 3,000 for Life	—
Institution	Rs. 10,000	—
Corporate	Rs. 50,000	—
Student	Rs. 100	Rs. 100