

Aravind 2013 Postcard Number 8



Friday 11 October 2013

This postcard is a little different. As I have walked around I have seen many things that made me think of friends and colleagues. Often I could snap a picture, but far more often I saw something that made me think of (you) but the camera was not at hand. So here are some personal shots, and if you are not named, sorry!

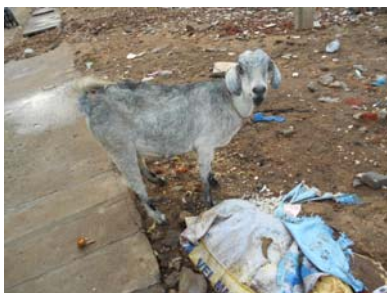
(Pat – Banner above– Caged Chickens: Were the residents as easy to contain.)

AB, Deepak, and Sean



Deepak I watched your youtube link. I still don't get it. Even rugby makes more sense to me.

ANGELICA



This goat has white and black splotches, but one too many legs, one too many brown eyes, and he is not in a tree. Sorry, this is the best I could do.

Brenda and Jordana

Details	Nos.	%
Patients Registered	140	
Patients Waiting	26	0 %
1.5 to 2 Hours	3	12 %
2 to 3 Hours	10	38 %
3 Hours	5	19 %
Average Disposal Hour	11	

57 percent 2 or more hours – quit picking on me about how slow I am in clinic!

CINDY AND CHARLEY



And to think I had to get to Gate B12...

Charlie Sanford (please forward)



Airbus A380 – an aircraft you might finally fit in to fly!

Dan



\$3.56 a gallon for fuel; local economy is less expensive in many respects but in the villages income can be as little as \$2/day.

Cliff and Laura

Wanna know why there are so many hotshot Indian programmers trying to migrate to the US?

It is because they actually learned how to code.

How many kids in the US can write an app?

These folks speak Hindi, Tamil, English, Java and PHP.

What's .Net? Like Sanskrit?

David



Is this what you were referring to as an physical vulnerability?

Deb Miller, Howie



Ideal El Tour Vehicle.

Except I get the shade.

Drew



Yes, it comes in Cabriolet or Hardtop, LPG or Petrol; 200 cc engine, electric start. About \$2000 to purchase new, I am told. Perhaps we could ship them back in pieces.



Emily I know you are up on your Doug Adams way better than I will ever be... but the pile of paper above is the passport office that I had to go to in order to have my student visa registered... or I don't get to leave the country! What is the name of the desk?

Oh, and thanks for all the fish-

Hopper, Claudius Rex, Ted, Greeter Dan, Safety Phil and all my burner buddies and campmates (please feel free to forward)



Hey Hopper I love you!



Ted, does this trike look sturdy enough?



If I have ever met a group of people that I don't think would require any explanation as to what Burning Man is all about, this would be it. Every day is dress up day in the best fun clothes you can put

together. The above pattern (Rangoli) is rice flour (preferred) or white sand (second best) that is drawn each morning as a thing of beauty, an offering to the feet that pass over it, and as a gift to the ants (because they have to eat too!)

Jim, Erin, Thulsi:



We have some work to do when I get back. This is the state of a refracting lane here in Aravind (and throughout all of India and much of Asia).

There is maybe one phoropter in the Institute, and I suspect that it is under a bell jar.

There are very few things I feel I am really good at. In general, I am what a world class athlete (friend?) loathingly called a “participatory athlete”. Meaning I run but don’t compete. Fair enough; I run for me, not to beat you.

But there is one thing that I am world class at, and that is retinoscopy with a phoropter. (It certainly isn’t large aperture capsulorrhexis!)

I have thrown down the gauntlet on several occasions since my arrival to pit my refraction time and agreement to an autorefractor against their best free lens refractionist - partly to prove that the phoropter would make the institute more productive, and partly to create a research project that would teach applications of power vectors.

No takers.

On several occasions.

I’d say they are chicken, but I am pretty sure they are vegetarians. (Thulsi, I KNOW you are reading this!)

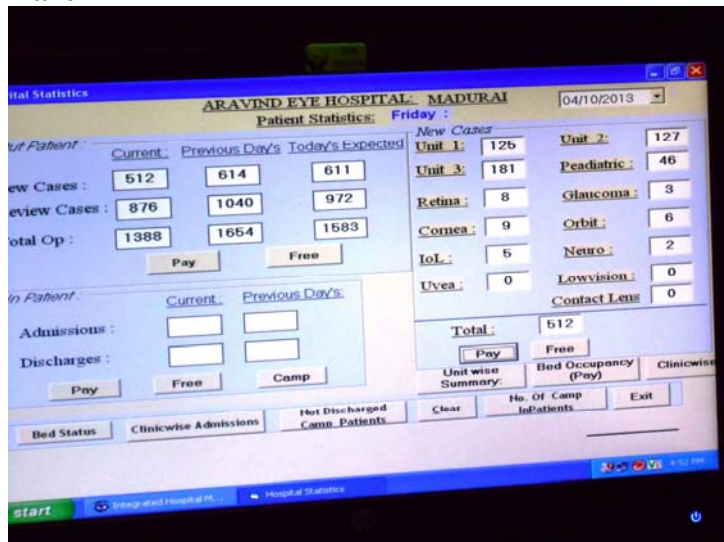
THE WOLRD NEEDS AN ALL PLASTIC, INJECTION MOLDED PHOROPTER THAT IS AFFORDABLE! (I’m thinking injection molded discs, stainless shafts, and cog belt pulleys.) The fact that it is humid here is not enough reason to be refracting with free lenses when you are doing everything else you can to increase productivity. Your fluidic lenses are fine, but let’s rethink the problem – a phoropter is a work of art at this point in time.

Kim, Jeff



I’m here learning a manual method of surgery that I think offers some similar advantages to a nicely made cup of coffee (above) compared with the robot chopping up the beans (below). Plus, Jeff, as we discussed – the French Press is a technology I can understand and operate in a sleep deprived state!

Steve, Mike,
Karen



How is this for a dashboard, basically shows up on every desktop when another app is not running-



This is the camp hospital, where the transportation, surgery, medications, and housing are free – as in free; not self pay that you write off. Imagine opening the doors for some free care.

Laura



Laura, you would love it here – I can just see you observing Indian fashion and style, and checking out all the shops, while worrying about who is going to carry grandmother's water for her. There is clean public water here. I think I would add a couple drops of Clorox (here called Sudz) just to be safe – with all this spice nobody would notice, in fact it might be thought to be an exotic new spice.

PAT



I tried to do the chicken dance – so far they are uninterested.



Pat, meet Devya. Devya, meet Pat.

Regina



Regina, meet Panchavarnam, the Sister who runs the operating theater. I told her you are a retired nursing supervisor, she smiled behind the mask.

Roxana



One of the visitors getting her hair braided before dinner; I could only think of you and how much you would enjoy being here. There is a world-class uveitis service along with immunological basic research across the street.

Sandy



Lions can be proud of their contribution here!

Sarah



I miss exploring this city with you, Love- but here is a breakfast vendor with no line. I kept going as I am sure you would advise.

Todd, Patrick, Richard, Hal:



This is Suganya, a senior resident and my instructor for the SICS course. They are lucky to have her.

Friends,

Sorry this one ran so long. Surgeries have gone well the past two days. I am still struggling with the capsulorrhexis, and the cases still take forever compared with the rate a practiced surgeon proceeds- but there is a very good procedure here. My worst corneal edema (first patient, from banging the cornea with the lens during extraction) looks better than just about any of the resident extracaps I remember from years ago. Many (maybe not most, but many) of the eyes are 20/20 uncorrected on post op day 1. Nearly all are 20/40 or better on POD1. I have been seeing as many post ops as possible to see what good and bad looks like – and most of these eyes look GREAT. Thanks to all - Joe