

Rigger's Story



The story begins:

One day, Rigger got together with some friends to take part in one of their favorite pastimes- hiking through a nearby wood. After walking, talking, and enjoying the wildlife for several minutes, they came to a point where the trail crossed a small creek, only to find the bridge was washed out!

[ScouterDuck, 5/16/2005, placing in Perch River Patriot]

Being the smart and resourceful fellow that he was, Rigger sprang into action. He quickly pulled out his trusty "Leatherman" (made in Portland, OR) and opened up the saw blade. He sized up a few nearby birch trees and began to cut them down.

When it was all said and done, Rigger had cut down many more trees than he had anticipated so he built a big watch tower to look over the water. Then he took a nap as all Nomads do.

[waorgany, 5/22-23/2005, moving from Perch River Patriot to The Nomad]

After building their bridge and crossing to the other side, they discovered that they were now on a lovely tropical island, surrounded by warm, clear water and majestic volcanoes. After their hard work, Rigger's pal, Keona, led them to the far side of the island, where gentle trade winds blew, and they played in the ocean for the rest of the day.

[Ichabod, 8/14/2005, moving from the Nomad to What a Waste to Coral Aina]

Argh! A passing pirate ship spied Rigger and friends frolicking in the surf and, being short on crew, impressed them into service. The scurvy scoundrels were hard taskmasters, making them scour the decks and polish the brass, so they jumped ship as they neared Waikiki, where the pirate planned to waylay fancy yachts.

[edchen, 8/16/2005, moving from Coral Aina to It's All the Rage]

Having escaped the pirates, Rigger and his friends hid out on Oahu, moving around when the coast was clear (those rogues kept looking for their missing deck swabbers) and enjoying the sights. Aided by a few friendly Hawaiians, Rigger was able to rendezvous with a man who said that he could help Rigger get back to the mainland. After greasing a palm or two with silver (well, zinc-clad copper), Rigger soon found himself in California, the pirates far away.

At this point, one might think that Rigger's story would take a real positive turn, but, as bad luck would have it, poor Rigger got himself terribly lost in the urban jungles of Los Angeles. You see, many of the streets in The Big Orange are laid down over old foot, horse, or stagecoach paths, so they wind all over the place. And the freeways just make things even more confusing. Rigger wanted to visit Disneyland, but wound up in Culver City. So he decided to visit Hollywood and see the Walk of Fame, but he wound up in San Bernardino! And on it went. Rigger was about to give up, and thought that maybe he should head out to the Mojave Desert and find a pack of coyotes to roam with. But then...

[chaosmanor, 2/26/2006, moving from Robb Dogg's Travel Bug Hotel to El Paso de Robles to Wildwood Minarets Travel Bug Resort]

...But then the Mighty Dee grabbed him with the idea of ransoming him back to the pirates for 8 pieces of silver. Mighty Dee, not being a stupid man, knew the pirates would simply rob him of Rigger without paying him, so he hid him somewhere in Nell's neighborhood. Fearing he may have been followed, Mighty Dee asked (Red Ryder) to move Rigger to a safer place, said he could find him at Nell's, of course (Red Ryder) agreed.

Getting Rigger out of there went without a hitch and after spending Saturday Evening lying low, they headed up to Beek's Place in the Santa Ana Mountains. Not surprisingly, this arid environment did not suit Rigger, he being a seafaring lad, so they headed back into town and (Red Ryder) dropped him off where he could catch a fast moving freight train to [Arizona]. That was the last time (Red Ryder) saw him.

[Mighty Dee and Red Ryder, 4/27/2006, moving from Wildwood Minarets Travel Bug Resort to Nell's Neighbor to Saturday Evening Cache to Beek's Place to Key Chains to the City]

Rigger was caught up in the action, a chance to visit other Geocachers at a Meet & Greet! How can he resist?! After that, BikeNFind took him Mountain Biking and they hid lots of new caches. Rigger liked the last one so much, he decided to stay.

[BikeNFind, 9/18/2006, moving from Sidelines II Meet & Greet Event to Tanks 4 The Cache]

While resting there and admiring the craftsmanship of the local cycle smiths, Rigger and pals took the time to reflect on their two years of traveling. They remained thankful that despite the incident with the pirates and a couple of lengthy respites, the journey had been basically a positive one. They had met lots of helpful and friendly people, and seen many exciting and interesting places.

"What sort of adventure shall we seek next?" asked Keona.

Rigger answered, “Well, I think we need to depart these urban environs and head back to the east, over the Rockies.”

To this Nigel, another of the group, added, “Absolutely! I feel just like a good mountain climb.”

But Keona objected, “No, no. We need to find a river with good rapids and take a rafting trip.”

Now Lorraine, Nigel’s sister piped up, “Wouldn’t you rather head over to that nearby small airfield and go skydiving?”

An argument ensued, and although it remained friendly, it was clear that no consensus was likely. What would they do?

At some point, it was decided to draw straws, and...
[ScouterDuck, 5/21/2007, in a note]

...while resting at the airfield, Luke Air Force Base, and gathering courage for skydiving, Rigger was playing with Boots the cat. Rigger wasn’t afraid of a cat, and Boots took him in as a new family member. Rigger thought this would give him additional courage for the jump, cats are supposed to be MEAN! Not so with Boots.

Now off to the desert for some sun and fun, or was that HEAT and STROKE?

“Wow!” said Rigger, “It’s hotter that hot, eh it’s hot! I need to find some place cooler. Let’s head east...”

[DLGARIZ, 5/28/2007, moving from Run for the Border TB Lunch Stop to Mummy Nearest]

While the airfield was fun and heading east sounded like a good plan, it was decided that moving north was in the cards. It was definitely cooler, and offered the opportunity to get closer to the final destination. During this move, close encounters within the jaws of a dog that looked like a sheep and a small one that was "rat" like. [Rigger] had to remind these blokes that he was on the move and needed to find a more restful spot! They soon let go and [Rigger] found a quiet resting spot overlooking a great white river.

[eshbach, 8/18/2007, moving from Mummy Nearest to A Watchful Owl]



Keona at the airfield

Yet during this respite, Rigger fell in to a very long and deep sleep. Being quite worried about him, his girlfriend Keona sought out a mysterious old duck, cobalt in color. The duck was an old explorer that Rigger had told her had helped him get a start in life. The duck gave her a tag with some numbers on it, telling her it had once belonged to Rigger, and if she held onto it carefully, she could re-awaken Rigger and allow his story to continue. So she clipped this tag around her neck, and proceeded on her way.

Indeed, life returned to Rigger immediately, though in physical form he became completely invisible! But Rigger and Keona got moving again, keeping side by side, opaque beside transparent, but closer because of this latest ordeal.

The other friends soon followed behind, ready to seek the next adventure.
[ScouterDuck, 1/3/2010, in a note]

Note that the current *dramatis personae* consists of our hero Rigger, his best girlfriend Keona, another friend Nigel, and Nigel's sister Lorraine. The four would seem to be a group of traveling adventure seekers. Rigger is a Norwegian brown rat, and Keona a kangaroo rat, but even though genders have been identified, there are no specific species yet assigned to the others. Here is a golden opportunity for the next cacher to log!

Make good use of these characters, and add others if you wish. The story has had some randomness so far, but it is beginning to develop a bit. Thanks so much to all the contributors! Keep on Caching!