

***Posted in the General forum at TE Dec. 27th. 2008 by:
Brent Conver, Site Director, TrekEarth and Internet Brands***

Dear Jack -

Thank you for taking the time to write out such a thoughtful post. I would like to thank you for your commitment to the site and the community as a whole. I agree the life blood of TechEarth can be found in it most committed members and also welcome new members to jump in and participate.

I would also like to address concerns you have made about management's commitment to TrekEarth. We are currently undergoing a full redesign of the site and the network it currently reside upon. We believe the photography that the community of TrekEarth has contributed is the best on the Internet and is worthy of heavy investment regardless of revenue generated. We are investing in infrastructure because we believe it will foster the growth necessary to take the site to the next level.

This is really just one of the many changes that you will see over the coming months. Much of the investment has to do with site stability and security. Another change will be found in our method of moderation of the forum. We have created several new tools for the Moderators which will allow them to achieve many of their tasks quicker. An example is new spam hunting tools that offer the Mods many new ways to find spam posts.

The Moderation team is growing as new tools are developed, and we will see changes as the group grows. But the objectives remain the same. The rules of the forum are in place to ensure the TrekEarth forums are a place for constructive growth and communication-- for both new and veteran members alike. The rules of the forum will be applied equally regardless of previous contribution. The management team at TrekEarth fully supports the efforts of our Moderation team.

In regards to the members in question, we are very aware and appreciative of their contributions to the site. Unfortunately we experienced data corruption on the accounts of temporarily suspended TrekEarth members and their photos are inaccessible. Our tech team is working to recover the data, unfortunately the nature of technology is that nothing is certain. We are in contact with those members and are doing everything we can to welcome them back to the community and increase their photo posting limit.

As we implement new policies and update the site it is possible we experience other difficulties that will need to be addressed. I hope you will be patient and understand that our goal is to provide the community with the best possible site.

Brent Conver
Site Director
TrekEarth and Internet Brands

***Reply posted in the General forum at TE Dec. 27th. 2008 by:
TE member Jack Johanson***

Thank you Brent for this serious and positive response to my little rambling of this site that for some of us is a place we love and want to participate in a good cooperation between members and owners.

Especially improvements under way underlines just the kind of changes that may lead to a better functioning site. Quite a task as you will have to meet needs for members in nearly all age groups and with the most different backgrounds.

I think it would be a wise first move to come back from time to time with some updates especially for the period that includes construction of improvements.

It is also appreciated to see your response after trying to get a small idea of how such a site may be administrated - and where I for one really could not understand that a growing frustration amongst lead members was for anyone's benefit.

I hope fellow members read your response and that we all can be better at focus on important matters and not drown in details in the process of changes.

Have a fine evening.

Jack