

LA CONEXIÓN MEXICANA



Winter 2011

Volume XXVII

Number 4

In this issue:

Message from President Cynthia Ponder	2
Wagonmaster 2012 Report	3
Message from Susie and Denny Orr.	5
Officers & Appointed Officers	5
From the 2012 Charity Co-Chairs, Lin & Maryke Hines	6
How do we apply for Mexican insurance	7
Habla Español	8
From Nomination Committee Chairman, Ed Biller	9
Update on Arlo Thomas	11
Earl Reese	11
Rally Checklist	12
Coming Back Into the United States	13
Mexican Border Notice to Returning Travelers Agriculture Quarantine Information	14

Newsletter editor:
 Jan Biller
chapter8.newsletter@yahoo.com



MENSAJE *de los* PRESIDENTE Message from President Cynthia Ponder

Happy New Year!

We have a great year to look forward to in 2012 and beyond. Dannie Dolan with help from his wife Beverly and his brother Randy are planning a great rally in Puerto Peñasco for us in February. With good food and many wonderful things to do - we will have a hard time staying free on our "free" days.

Lin and Maryke Hines have agreed to be Chairpersons for The Mexican Connection Charity Committee for 2012. They will be including an article telling you in more detail what they have planned; but come with a generous heart and open pocket. We will hold at least one auction either live or silent or both. Bring an item(s) you would like to donate to the auction so we can raise money for charity. Then of course we need you to buy the things you would like as well. There are usually some bidding wars that take place.

Jim and I will bring an excellent bottle of Oregon wine. I am still arm twisting for him to downsize the CD collection; if he doesn't contribute that he will come up with something else.

We always save a part of our money from what we put on the registration sheet for charity to participate in these auctions. This way we can fight with friends over "treasured items". We sold one man his own hat back for \$50.00. Well, he was the Auctioneer and it was his wife who put it up for bid. After all "It's for the children", our auction motto.

I am sure when you have a chance to hear about the many opportunities to help and the needs we find when we travel you will want to have fun and participate in the auction and some of you with the charity committee itself.

I have included a quick answer to a question I received last week from one of our rally attendees about Mexican Insurance. Please take time to review it. (See article on page)

There is never one right company or plan for everyone. We all drive different types of RV's and cars. They are different ages and sizes. All of this needs to be factored into your choice.

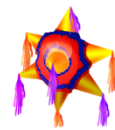
One last thing to share with you before you move on into the new year. We will be having a potluck in Quartzsite in January. The location will be posted on The Mexican Connection website and the Yahoo Forum. Directions for getting to both of these will be given in a different place in this newsletter. Some of the information may already be there. You and all your friends, relatives and strangers you meet are welcome to attend. Just bring a dish to SHARE. This means enough for yourselves and 3 others. Please bring your own plates and utensils. The chapter will provide the drinks unless you wish to bring your own bottle. Any and all updates to this information will be at the sites listed above with exact dates and time.

Jim and I are looking forward to meeting all of you at the rally, Quartzsite, or further down the road.

Safe Travels and Adios,
Cynthia Ponder, President

Wagonmaster 2012 Report

By: Dannie and Beverly Dolan



Good Day to all the travelers that are going to Puerto Peñasco with the Mexican Connection for the 2012 rally.

Remember to arrive at Organ Pipe National Park for registration on Feb. 7, 2012 between 12 - 4:00 pm. Meetings will be at 4:30 pm that day. We will leave for Puerto Peñasco on Feb. 10 in our groups.

We have been in Puerto Peñasco working on getting the best deals for the trips that you indicated you would be interested to go on. I think we have come up with some great trips and some good prices for these events.

The El Pinacate tours are set with the price of \$27.00 per person for an all day trip to the Volcanic Maars field. 25 people will be able to go on each trip. You will need to bring your own lunch, snacks and drinks for the day. They will not be provided.

The Sunset Cruise is \$21.00 per person on a pirate ship which includes snacks, margaritas, beer, and soft drinks. This will be a 2½ hour cruise around the harbor, transportation is included.

Fishing trips will be \$50.00 per person for a 6-hour trip which will include chips, salsa, water, and soda. Fishing poles are included and they will cut up the fish you catch as you request. They will have XX beer for \$2.00 each, meat burritos for \$2.00 each, or you can take your own snacks.

Bird Island will be \$50.00 per person for an 8-hour trip. Travel time is 2½ hours each way and 3 hours on Bird Island. On the boat they will have two kayaks and snorkeling gear available. They will furnish water, soda, chips, salsa, beef burritos, margaritas and beer. You will be able to see dolphins, sea lions, and some exotic birds.

Both boat trips will be on 54-ft boats with two bathrooms and two cabins plus a seating area for 20 people going to Bird Island, or 10 people going fishing. We can arrange as many trips as needed to let everyone go that wants to sign up. All trips are cash trips so bring enough money to pay for the trip(s) you choose in cash to Puerto Peñasco.

We will need at least 8 people for the fishing trip and 20 people per boat for the Bird Island trips to make them happen.

We will be breaking into groups of 25 people for the city tour, so the guides will be able to explain things as you travel around town to see the sights. Check the sign-up sheets at the rally and decide which day you would like to go on and sign up. If you miss a trip you will only be able to go on another day if they have room. There is no refund on city tours.

The Playa de Oro RV Park will have a Margarita party for us on the day we arrive and a fish taco party on the 11th of Feb. to say thank you for coming to their park.

Remember to get your papers for your animals from the vet before you leave the US.

NO weapons or ammunition are allowed in Mexico.

I know that we're going to have a great time, because we have a beautiful camping place to enjoy some of the best views of the ocean. Below is a list of services that you may want done while in Puerto Peñasco.

- If you need body repair work on your RV, they have people who can repair body damage or painting of your RV.
- There is a person who can air brush murals on your vehicle at a very good price.
- You can get your car, truck, or RV washed and waxed for a very good price.
- You can have upholstery work done.

Itinerary in Puerto Peñasco:

On some days there will be two different choices so decide which days work for you.

Feb 10 arrive in Puerto Peñasco
3:30 pm Margarita party at the RV park



Feb 11 1:00 pm Taco Party at the RV park
4:30 pm Sunset Cruise



Feb 12 9:00 am City Tour
9:00 am Bird Island

Feb 13 9:00 am City Tour
9:00 am Fishing

Feb 14 9:00 am El Pinacate Volcanic field trip

Feb 15 9:00 am City Tour
5:00 pm Catered Dinner

Feb 16 9:00 am City Tour
9:00 am Fishing

Feb 17 9:00 El Pinacate Volcanic field trip
9:00 am Bird Island

Feb 18 Open day for shopping

Feb 19 Open day for shopping
5:00 pm Catered Dinner

Feb 20 Rally over



If you have questions about times and schedules please contact Dannie Dolan -

Dolanwagonmaster2012@yahoo.com

Funcionarios de Capítulo 8

Chapter 8 Elected Officers

President

Cynthia Ponder

pondermexico@gmail.com

1st Vice President

Dannie Dolan

Dolanwagonmaster2012@yahoo.com

2nd Vice Presidents

Charlie & Dawn Boles

wagonmaster2013@gmail.com

3rd Vice Presidents

Secretary

Joy Melton

rvmelton@aol.com

Treasurer

Steve Bufty

stevebufty@yahoo.com

Immediate Past President

Ed Biller

billerej@yahoo.com

Appointed Officers

Membership Chairman

Webmaster

Don Busick

don9773@sbcglobal.net

Assistant Webmasters

Fred Goll

fredrickgoll@yahoo.com

Historian

Dona Martinsen

dnd2mex@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Jan Biller

chapter8.newsletter@yahoo.com



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all of our SKP Family and Friends. We will enjoy Christmas with family and then celebrate the New Year at North Ranch.

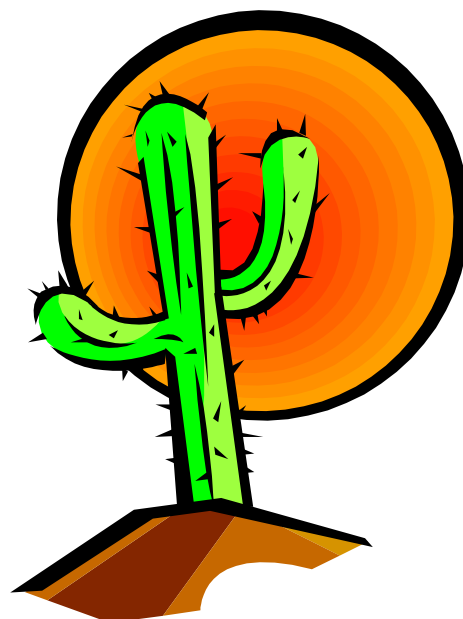
In January we welcome you all to the **6th Happy Hour in Quartzsite, AZ Jan 18-19 1-3pm**. Check your Escapees Magazine for more information. We always have a great time with lots of SKP Hugs, camaraderie, and entertainment. So do come – see who's there and get your share of HUGS.

Do plan ahead for other SKP Rallies – be sure to register early!

WARE (Western Area Rally Escapees) will have a west coast group rally **April 15-19, 2012 in Lodi, CA**. <https://sites.google.com/site/skppure/home> for information and registration forms.

SKP ACRE (All Chapter Rally East) will have the 3rd eastern rally **April 17-22, 2012 in Marion, NC**. <http://www.skpacre.com> for information and registration.

And of course there are rallies from east to west. Enjoy Escapees friends from here to there. SKP Hugs Susie & Denny Orr



From the 2012 Charity Co-Chairs—Lin and Maryke Hines--SKP #70910

Hola! We're really looking forward to the Puerto Peñasco Rally and meeting all of the participants after our two year hiatus in visiting Mexico! We have been involved with Chapter 8's Charity program on most of the eight Rallies we have been on since 2002. We were the Wagonmasters for the 2008 Baja Rally to Mulege, BCS and President in 2009 (Guaymas.) We know Charity is a very important part of Chapter 8 from many heartwarming experiences and we're proud that our chapter has left lasting positive images of RVers, Escapees and Americans by our generosity everywhere we have been. We thank Chapter 8 President Cynthia Ponder for selecting us to lead the Charity Committee!

Danny, our Wagonmaster has made a number of charitable organization contacts in Puerto Peñasco and our Charity Committee will personally visit to be sure that we distribute the goods that we all bring to the Rally as well as Chapter funds allocated and \$ donated by you for charity to worthy organizations that have a proven record of responsible stewardship, efficiency and honesty. The type of organizations we have helped in the past include orphanages, schools, hospitals and clinics, homes for the elderly, soup kitchens, libraries, food & clothing banks, disabled persons homes and more. We would ask you to be generous in helping the less fortunate people in Puerto Peñasco. As you all know, Mexico's tourism industry has sharply declined in the last 2-3 years and many people, especially in the hospitality industry, have been laid off and need any help they can get.

Here is a partial list of the material things you can bring with you in your RV:

(Please put any clothing and other charity items you bring into an old duffel bag to avoid questions at the border.)

Clothing--all sizes/types for babies to teens—T-shirts, athletic garb, sweaters, jackets etc--new or gently used !

Sporting goods of all kinds—baseball/basketball/soccer balls and equipment of all kinds

Toys for kids—all ages—new or gently used--\$1 stores have sets of tiny cars, boats, trucks and much more

New toothbrushes and toothpaste—ask your DDS or hygienist for a bagful of sample toothpaste and brushes

Toiletries—hand lotion, shampoo, deodorant, soap, combs, brushes, TP--\$1 stores have all of these items and more

Coloring books, crayons, colored pencil sets, #2 pencils (*sharpened*), notepads, erasers, rulers, any school supplies!

Educational toys—any kind or level in good condition

Nature activities are big in PP—desert plant/flower guidebooks, bird books, fish/marine mammals—good used OK!

Maps—AAA maps of United States, Mexico, Baja CA, AZ/NM, CA Western States maps--great for schools & libraries

Picture books for young kids in English (Spanish too if you find) are useful—a few of the schools here are bilingual

For the disabled-- good used wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, canes or any portable medical equipment/supplies

Cleaning supplies—bleach, Pinesol, dish soap, laundry detergent, window etc cleaners, large trash bags

Computers--primarily laptops with usable software & clean hard disk/printers/usable digital cameras/memory cards

Dry foods (*not fresh*)—cooking oil, jam, canned tomatoes/fruits/chicken/tuna, cookies, pancake mix, rice, ketchup.

Misc.—AA & D batteries (Harbor Freight--24 AA alkaline for \$3.99 on sale), engine oil, transmission fluid, eyeglasses

\$ are always useful—we can convert to pesos easily. We can pay a home for the elderly's electric bill or buy groceries or some other necessity. We do not give to individuals, only valid institutions!

We will have a Charity Auction at some point in the Rally so bring one nice RV-type item that your fellow participants will want to bid on and raise more charity money—please no junk! Small portable items like Krugerands or other gold/silver coins, DVDs, CD collections, wine are popular! We've had auctions raise well over \$1000 for charity! For example, we own a brand new RV patio mat that we can't permanently store in our new Sprinter-based RV that will be in the auction----did I hear \$50, \$75----going once--sold!!! Bring some good stuff and help us help some folks! And if you have any auctioneering experience, please email us ASAP!!

The official Charity Committee consists of 5 people but we will post times of our visits to various insy activities and a few interested people are welcome to join us and see for yourself the realities of the good works we all can do in Puerto Peñasco!

If you have any questions, email us at linhines@earthlink.net Because of prior commitments, we can't leave our Olympia, WA home base until 1/26/2012 so we'll see you all in Organ Pipe NM, one of our favorite places!

How do we apply for Mexican Ins? Do we receive a policy that is acceptable to the Mexican authorities at the border crossing?

Dear Mexican Connection Members,

The first thing Jim and I strongly suggest is getting at least two quotes and understanding the types of insurance offered in Mexico. Always check your current insurance policy to see if it includes any coverage.

After that most companies can issue your policy to you by e-mail or snail mail after receiving your payment. We usually are able to pay by PayPal or other electronic means. We have occasionally sent a check. I am sure ProAlliance will have some similar type of program.

We always used Point South as our resource for "second opinions" as they do such a good job in education. Then we know the questions to check when price shopping in other places. Now we just call them up and say e-mail us a policy and they do it within the hour after they receive payment. But, they will not be the choice for everyone, so do check with at least 2-3 companies when pricing and comparing your coverage for insurance.

The prices for a few weeks vs. 6 months in Mexico are often similar. If you think there is any possibility that you might become enamored with warm weather and great people, that you might want to stay a few days or weeks longer or travel to another location consider this option.

There are several types of vehicle insurance available in Mexico, The only one required is liability. But make sure you are fully covered. Never on one of our rallies, but several members have been involved in accidents after leaving rallies. It was never their faults but being well covered was important. Remember that even small fender benders around town in your car can be issues as well. In Mexico, Napoleonic law is the way things are handled. THIS MEANS YOU ARE GUILTY UNTIL PROVEN INNOCENT. It is very different, scary, and serious for those who have always had the opposite form of judicial and legal system.

This is not to scare you. Well only into making sure you get adequate insurance coverage.

Jim and I were involved in such a minor incident in a small town in Mexico. Often the way these are handled are with cash on the spot and with no police involvement (three men in the car, three hundred pesos in bills, I took pictures of the damage, plus the license plate and we were on our way). That cost us about \$50 US dollars for a broken mirror on a pick-up truck. It would have cost the same in the US. Maybe even more.

Oh, often the request for a "street" settlement is in US dollars. I always carry a minimum of \$150.00 in \$20.00 and \$10.00 bills. They stay tucked away in my hidden place for just such an occasion. We never have used them as these men accepted pesos.

In Puerto Peñasco the economy runs on US dollars along with peso's in most places. So you should have pesos for purchases in smaller shops and for the fun of learning how to use the currency but US dollars and sometimes even a credit card are accepted there.

For those who have not traveled often in Mexico, credit cards are only accepted in larger more established business who cater to international customers in most instances. This does not include grocery stores in most locations. So, plan ahead.

Cynthia Ponder, President



THE METRIC SYSTEM

Distance

1 kilometer = 0.62 miles

1 mile = 1.61km

Volume

1 liter = .26 US gallons

1 US gal = 3.79 lt

Weight

1 kilogram = 2.21 pounds

1 lb = 0.45 kg

Temperature

F° to °C [(F° - 32) x 5/9]

°C to F° [(°C x 1.8) + 32]

Formula for translating cost of pesos per liter to dollars per gallon at the gas pump:

Price per liter (pump price) x
 3.79 (liters per gallon) ÷
 exchange rate of pesos per
 dollar or: $P \times l \div e = \$/gal$

¡HABLA ESPAÑOL!

A few Spanish words to learn before going into Mexico

alto - stop

abierto - open

el baño - bathroom

se vende - for sale

helado - ice cream

mariscos - seafood

bastante - enough

cuanto? - how much

cuota - toll road

puente - bridge

aduana - customs

no rebase - no passing

a la izquierda - to the left

calle - street

basura - trash

cerrado - closed

salida - exit

papas - potatoes

pescado - fish

camarones - shrimp

demasiado - too much

donde? - where

libre - free road

maxima - maximum speed limit

peligro - danger (on road signs)

a la derecha - to the right

derecho - straight ahead

retorno - u turn

From Nomination Committee Chairman Ed Biller

CHAPTER 8 OPEN POSITIONS

The following positions are vacant and need to be filled. If you are willing to volunteer for one of these positions please see the Nomination Committee Chairman during the 2012 Rally in Puerto Peñasco or if you cannot attend the Rally please contact the committee anytime before Feb. 6, 2012.

Ed Biller
Nomination Committee Chairman for the 2012 Rally
billerej@yahoo.com phone 303-847-8663

OPEN POSITION #1-----MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Job Description:

Is a voting member of the Executive Board.

Keeps a current membership roster. Shares this updated roster with the webmaster for incorporation on the Mexican Connection Website.

Receives any hardcopy membership applications or membership dues (by check). It is necessary to have a home address with forwarding while you travel or mail forwarding address such as the Escapee's in Livingston, TX, so mail can be received all year round in a timely manner. These forwarding options will both work perfectly for receipt of these hardcopy applications and checks.

Works closely to develop a plan with the Treasurer and Webmaster to insure that any members who have paid their dues via PayPal but register by hard copy registration form will be appropriately included to the membership roster.

Coordinates with the Treasurer and current rally Wagonmaster to insure that a member, whose hardcopy applications and checks received at rallies or received with rally registrations, are adequately assimilated into the membership roster.

Must be able to send and receive emails and email attachments. Must have basic knowledge of word documents with attachments. Knowledge of spreadsheets would be valuable. Must have a computer that works.

Encourage all current members and future members to pay membership dues by PayPal.

Remains flexible with the Membership Chairman job description to handle any additional previously undefined membership issues that arise during the year.

Holds the job for a minimum of one year. Upon resignation, you train your replacement.

Continued –

OPEN POSITION #2-----3RD VICE PRESIDENT

Job Description:

Is a voting member of the Executive Board.

Is willing to become the future Mexican Connection Chapter 8 Wagonmaster for the rally in 2015.

Begins to come up with ideas for your rally with the help of past Wagonmasters, written manuals, and the Executive Board on how to design a rally.

Participates on the Executive Board to learn your automatic future positions—2nd VP, Wagonmaster (1st VP), President, Past President.

Must be able to send and receive emails and email attachments. Must have basic knowledge of word documents with attachments. Knowledge of spreadsheets would be valuable. Must have a computer that works.

Holds the job for one year after which you automatically become the next year's 2nd Vice President.

OPEN POSITION #3-----WEBMASTER DESIGN ASSISTANT

Job Description:

Works with the webmaster, Don Busick, to learn the website. The webmaster will set specific goals of how he expects you to assist him.

Becomes a working participant in the interaction between the membership, treasurer, and webmaster chairpersons.

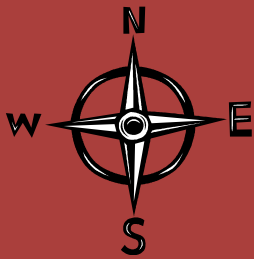
Must be able to send and receive emails and email attachments. Must have basic knowledge of word documents with attachments. Knowledge of spreadsheets would be valuable. Must have a computer that works.

Should have some web design background, including Html, CMS Joomla or is willing to learn.

In order to get up an running as an assistant you will need to meet with the webmaster, Don Busick. This would include: 1) a single one on one with Don Busick in Reno or Palm Springs or location of mutual agreement for a day or two, 2) additional time at rallies and Escapades as mutually agreed, 3) following the one on one meeting, a minimum of weekly to monthly additional email + phone as needed.

Holds the job for at least one year. Upon resignation, you train your replacement.

Update on Arlo Thomas:
Arlo has been an assistant web master this past year and started the Geocaching BOF. Arlo was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and has been undergoing chemotherapy. His chemo has been rough. He just recently received good news. The cancer has not spread and he will undergo radiation therapy. We will miss you and Ruth in Puerto Peñasco this year.



Earl Reese has been Chapter 8's secretary between 2009 and 2010. Earl was diagnosed with metastatic melanoma a few months ago. He is undergoing chemotherapy and continues to be very positive. We will miss Earl and his wife Nancy in Puerto Peñasco. We will have a margarita for you Earl and Nancy.



Remember to use the Mexican Connection website to pay for your annual dues using PayPal. Also sign-up for rallies and pay for rallies using PayPal.

mexicanconnection08.com

RALLY CHECKLIST

Bring the original and one copy of:

- _____ the front page of your passport
- _____ registration for all vehicles you are taking into Mexico
- _____ copy of your Mexican liability insurance for all motorized vehicles with a start date & end date
- _____ notarized letter from financial institution authorizing vehicle entrance into Mexico
- _____ title – copies only
- _____ USDA health certificate from your veterinarian for any dog or cat traveling with you
- _____ medical evacuation card
- _____ copy of international contact information for any credit card(s) as well as the account #'s

Put these in a safe place inside of your vehicle

Bring:

- _____ Working CB radio with external antennae
- _____ all prescriptions and over the counter medicines in their original containers – if you plan on purchasing medication in Mexico the label will most likely be written in Spanish so bring a pen so you can mark each with the English name and dosage
- _____ camera, film, extra batteries
- _____ flashlight and extra batteries
- _____ anti-diarrhea (just in case)
- _____ general first aid kit
- _____ bug spray for you and one for your RV
- _____ hand sanitizer
- _____ borax (when sprinkled around the exterior of your RV it keeps ants from entering it)
- _____ computer
- _____ voltage and polarity tester
- _____ baby wipes in a container you can slip into your bag or pocked for use in the baños
- _____ a major credit card (for obtaining Holograma, accessing ATM's) Notify your financial institution you will be traveling in Mexico so they don't decline your using it.
- _____ full propane tank – in Mexico it is butane and will freeze in cooler climates
- _____ cash to convert to pesos
- _____ favorite food or beverage that you will miss if it is not available in Mexico
- _____ full water tank
- _____ empty holding tank – there cannot be any paper in the holding tank in Mexico
- _____ sense of adventure
- _____ if you have walkie-talkies bring them. They are good to use in route or on the ground
- _____ spare parts for your vehicle
- _____ jugs or bottles of water

COMING BACK INTO THE UNITED STATES

TERMINATION OF THE RALLY: All Chapter 8 Rallies terminate at our destination in Mexico. When we approach the last scheduled days of the rally, individuals will post a schedule and route that they propose to travel after the end of the rally and welcome other rally participants to join them by signing a list. These groups are normally limited to a reasonable number of rigs. Some continue their travels in Mexico and others return to the United States. We do not recommend anyone travel by themselves in Mexico. The support received by traveling companions during times of difficulty can turn an emergency into a routine problem. Besides, it's a lot more enjoyable sharing new experiences with others. Remember not to exceed the issue period of your Tourist Card.

LEAVING MEXICO: Drive directly through the Mexican Border Control Station if you are not turning in any documents. Church's book has every border crossing identified with details on traffic control and ease of crossing.

You have the option to turn in your Tarjeta de Turista (Tourist Card) to any Migración (Immigration) Office and Importacion Temporal de Vehiculos (Temporary Vehicle Import Permit) to any Banjercito before you cross the border. Remember that you must turn in these two documents before they expire or you will have difficulty and/or pay a fine in order to return to Mexico at any time, including that flying vacation to Cancun.

Turning in the Tourist Card is as simple as handing it to the Official on duty in the Migración Office. You do not get a receipt.

The vehicle with hologram sticker still attached and the original paper Temporary Vehicle Import Permit the hologram came on must be returned to the Banjercito. The Banjercito Official will personally go to your vehicle, remove the hologram sticker, match it to the vehicle's VIN, replace it on the paper Permit, and return to the office. Be sure to get a printed receipt showing that you have returned your Vehicle Import Permit and that it is cancelled. Hold this receipt until your next visit. Receipt should include hologram and visa

ENTERING THE UNITED STATES: Drive to and stop at the US Border Control Station using the designated RV lane or, if no RV lane, any of the auto lanes no matter what type of rig you have. Be aware that some auto lanes do not have enough clearance to drive your rig through so choose wisely. Do not use the commercial lanes. Be prepared for long lines and an extended wait. There is a lot of construction in progress.

These documents are required in order to comply with US Immigration and Customs laws.

A. A **passport** for each person. The only proof of citizenship acceptable to US Customs is a passport. A birth certificate will no longer be used to establish citizenship. Non US citizens must comply with US host regulations for their country of origin.

B. An original **Vehicle Registration** Certificate for each vehicle.

C. Proof of **vehicle insurance**.

Be prepared to be pulled over, questioned, and inspected by US Customs officials. There is normally an area set aside for you to park your rig. Follow the official's directions. Read the US Customs handout which lists all the prohibited items and those items which can be imported only in limited quantities. This handout can be obtained at any US Customs Office. We have found that giving the officials a written list of items purchased in Mexico is helpful. If you still have any of the prohibited items, they will be confiscated and disposed of. Do not try to hide anything. If you have any items requiring duty, they should be declared and paid for at the office at each border station. Do not lie or be evasive when you answer their questions and this is not the opportunity to be funny. These rules are strictly enforced!

You may have to sign a form if something is taken from you depending on the article. The form is the receipt of their taking it.

Do not bring plants of any kind into Mexico even dried as they may be confiscated on way back in if they are also found in Mexico.

MEXICAN BORDER NOTICE TO RETURNING TRAVELERS: AGRICULTURE QUARANTINE INFORMATION

Travelers entering the United States are required to declare any meats, fruits, vegetables, plants, animals, and plant and animal products they are bringing with them. The declaration must cover all agricultural items in baggage, hand luggage, vehicles, and on their persons.

Failure to declare any of these items may cause delays and result in fines of up to \$1,000 or more.

Any agricultural items taken from the United States or any other country to Mexico may not be allowed to return. All agricultural items may require inspection and may be prohibited if they can carry plant pests or animal diseases.

Common Agricultural Items that are Permitted for personal use (not commercial) into the United States after inspection:

Avocados, without seed (not admitted if going to California)
Bananas
Blackberries, Blueberries
Cabbage
Cactusfruit (Only prickly pear fruit/tunas, pitaya prohibited)
Carrots
Chestnuts
Coconuts, without husks or without milk
Dairy products (milk, cheese, butter, cream)
Dates
Dried beans, lentils, garbanzo, faba, corn for eating
Eggs, boiled or cooked only (raw are prohibited)
Grapes
Honey (with or without comb for eating only)
Lemongrass for tea (dried commercially packaged only)
Lemons (ponderosa lemons are prohibited)
Lettuce
Limes, Sour or Persian (sweet limes are prohibited)
Lychees
Meat of Beef, goat, raw or cooked under 50 lb
Meat of Poultry, thoroughly cooked (raw is prohibited)
Meat of Pork, only shelf stable, canned pork is admissible with the exception of chorizo
Medicinal herbs DRIED (some types are prohibited)
Melons (cantaloupe, honeydew, watermelon)
Mesquite firewood
Mint
Nopales (prickly pear cactus pads for eating)
Nuts, peanuts, almonds, acorns, pinon, walnuts
Ostrich eggs, when empty and clean
Papaya
Pecans
Peppers (except manzano peppers are prohibited)
Pineapple
Radish

Raspberries (fruit)
Rosemary (above ground parts)
Sage
Spinach
Squash
Strawberries
Sugarcane - only peeled pieces (chews) are enterable
Tamarind
Vegetables - most vegetables are permitted after inspection (prohibited are potatoes, sweet potatoes/yam, camote, and manzanopeppers)
Watercress

Common Agricultural Items that are generally NOT Permitted into the United States for personal use:

Admissible animal products or meats, when over 50 pounds
Animal grease, pan drippings, or lard
Bird/animal cages, used/contaminated
Cactus/cactus parts, live or dead (cholla, saguaro, cordon)
Citrus leaves, stems, roots, wood or flowers
Chorizo w/poultry and pork products (or without labels)
Commercial quantities of any article
Cut flowers of chrysanthemum & gladiolas
Cut greenery of juniper, choisya, some others
Eggs, fresh (all bird eggs, including duck and quail)
Egg boxes used for packing that are not clean
Empty poultry eggs (cascarones)
fresh Lemon Grass
Fruits - prohibited, fresh or not thoroughly cooked/frozen
Garbage
Grapevines or crafts made with grapevine
Ham, bologna, sausage (without ingredient labels)
Live or dead birds or poultry
livestock feed with animal additives
Lumber, wood (requires special permits/treatments)
Manure or feces (including articles contaminated with)
Manzano peppers
Medicinal herbs or teas containing citrus products
Medicinal plant products that are not dried
Pet Foods (dog, cat, etc) containing animal products
Plants, seeds, cuttings, or plant parts for growing are not admissible without specific documents
Pork products (raw, cooked, fried or frozen)
Soil, yard debris, landscaping waste, dirt, manure
Straw or hay, grass
Sugarcane, whole or unpeeled
Vehicles contaminated with mud, dirt, manure
Wheat grain, bran or straw, or crafts with wheat

These lists are not all-inclusive, and are subject to change. Confiscated items are carefully inspected for pests and then destroyed. For additional travelers' information or questions about items not on these lists, visit the APHIS website at www.adh.usda.gov or www.cbp.gov "Know Before You Go" or contact the local Agriculture Inspection office.



See you at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument