

Escapes Chapter 8 RV Club

LA CONEXIÓN MEXICANA



Winter 2012

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MENSAJE *de los* PRESIDENTE

Message from President Dannie Dolan

My year as President of the Mexican Connection is coming to an end. We had a great time as Wagonmasters for 2012, and making arrangements for our trip to Puerto Peñasco, but all great things must end. We're looking forward to being able to go on another great trip in the future.

Our trip to Puerto Peñasco was a great time for all. Organ Pipe was quite a venture with the good scenery and good food. I want to thank Mike and Diane Todd, Gerald & Helene Arends for helping with the margarita party at Organ Pipe. We had a lot of good volunteers to help me take care of you after we arrived at Puerto Peñasco. My brother Randy did an excellent job getting us into groups to leave Organ Pipe. With all his volunteers at Playa de Oro we were able to get parked in a timely manner. Playa de Oro put on a great fish and margarita party for us when we arrived. We had some great trips to go on with the attendees catching a lot of fish and visiting Bird Island. Tom & Debbie Abernathy did a great job of manning the pastries, and coffee station for our morning get togethers before our trips. Steve Bufty did an excellent job keeping track of the money we received and spent. Ed Biller did a great job of filling in for Cynthia Ponder as President to help me with the board meetings and other thing I needed to know. Lin and Maryke Hines did a terrific job of distributing the school supplies and the \$5,000.00 dollars that we raised for charity. I had a great time working to make this an exciting trip for all our attendees. All these people made it a great trip and helped me do a good job for you. I was unable to get around and visit more, because I pulled a ligament in my leg at Organ Pipe National Monument and by the time I bought pastries, fruit, talked to the people that did the catering, solved problems that arose and made arrangements for our trips during the daytime, I could hardly walk around in the evenings. Thank you to all the people that told me what a great trip it was and how much fun they had. We tried very hard to make it a great trip.

We need a lot of VOLUNTEERS to help us out this year to take us to more places in Mexico, and to help with the things that need to be done to keep us informed of upcoming events. Wagonmaster is the most important job that we have. They organize our trips and make arrangements for what we do on the way to Mexico and after we get to our destination. Right now we do not have a Wagon master for 2014 or 2015, so we need someone to step in and do this job. You do not have to go to places that we have not been to before; you can plan a rally to places that we have already been. We just need to go to Mexico so we can show people that if they want to go to Mexico, what they will need to do. Without a Wagonmaster we're just a group of people wanting to go places without guidance.

Lin and Maryke Hines have volunteered to be our membership chairman (thank you), but we still need a Secretary, and someone to write our newsletters. We have a lot of new members and some members have come back, so we're hoping that some of them will volunteer to do these jobs. If you're interested in filling one of these jobs, let me know or Charlie Boles the Wagonmaster for 2013, or you can volunteer at the meeting that will be held in San Felipe at the end of the Rally.

Marcy and Rusty Davidson have volunteered to be our Charity Chairmen for the San Felipe rally. Thank you Marcy and Rusty for your help and expertise.

We will have the annual general meeting in San Felipe to elect new officers and to appoint members to fill the positions that will be vacant. Check with the Wagonmaster for the time and place for this meeting. The Wagonmaster will be posting things that will be needed for the charity committee to distribute in San Felipe.

We planned on going with you to San Felipe, but we have experienced some mechanical and electrical problems with our batteries, which will keep us from making the trip this year. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Dannie and Beverly Dolan, President

Wagonmaster 2013 Report

By: Charlie and Dawn Boles

Come one come all

Great news, the road construction on Mexico Hwy 5 between Mexicali and San Felipe is complete, creating a beautiful route to Pete's Camp, roughly 3 hours from Imperial Valley Expo (Our Starting Point).

A Bodega Aurrerá (Mexican Wal-Mart) and a new Calimax (full service grocery) have opened making it unnecessary to bring food with you. It looks like San Felipe is growing up a bit with the expectation of the completion Mexico Hwy 5 to the South.

Our 2013 rally is ready to roll. Is not too late to register using PayPal and emailing the registration to: Wagonmaster2013@gmail.com We are looking forward to your registration.

The 2013 Escapees Chapter 8 Mexican Connection San Felipe Rally has about 33 rigs registered. That is fine and will make a nice but small rally with minimal extras. This rally was planned to handle as many as 70 rigs. The more rigs that travel to Mexico on each Chapter 8 rally the more we can offer to our members and to the people of Mexico.

Being an all volunteer rally means members attending create a successful event. It takes all of our involvement. I am asking you to share your involvement in Escapees Chapter 8 Mexican Connection and tell your friends about Escapees Chapter 8 Mexican Connection and bring your friends on this wonderful rally.

All of us who have visited Mexico for the first time with Chapter 8 should remember what other volunteers have given us and give it back by showing others what a beautiful experience Mexico and Mexican People have shared with us.

See You in San Felipe

2013 San Felipe Charity Committee Report

By: Lin & Maryke Hines - Written for Marcy Davidson (just appointed 2013 chairman)

CHAPTER 8 CHARITY

One of the most important missions of The Mexican Connection is the charity donations in \$ and in-kind that we provide for the Mexican people in the area of our Rally. Over the years we have supported schools, orphanages, old people's homes, special education schools, clinics, and many other worthwhile institutions.

The Wagonmaster during the scouting trip(s) puts out feelers for possible recipients for charity donations and during the Rally the Charity Committee seeks those out and finds more and/or other institutions. We do not give to individuals.

Rally participants have always been extremely generous, not just in dollar donations, but with in-kind donations as well.

We welcome school supplies, toys, sporting goods, laptop computers, new or used (in good condition) clothing especially for babies, children and teens, beauty and health care products (soap, shampoo, skin crème, toothbrushes and paste etc., adult diapers) and many more products, which are expensive in Mexico and can be put to good use. Also certain foods like peanut butter, cereals, etc. are always welcome. If there is a Lions Club, eyeglasses and hearing aids can be used.

We also hold at least one live auction, and ask all Rally participants to bring something useful for an RVer--wine, food etc. Our auctions are always a lot of fun and we generally get a lot of money—dollars, pesos, checks, everything is welcome!

The Charity Committee makes sure that all monies are efficiently used. We often go shopping at the local Wal-Mart or Mercado, to buy the things the recipients need, or we even have paid the utility bills for a couple of months. We also make sure all the in-kind donations go to worthy places. If possible, Escapees CARE in Livingston, TX may receive a donation from Chapter 8.

To all San Felipe Rally registrants: Please bring as much of the above mentioned articles, as you can, and bring your wallet—there may be something in the auction you always wanted!!! Remember, like our late member Roger "Spook" McFillen used to say : *"It's for the Kids!"*

Please do NOT bring really old and useless stuff—especially no old and worn clothing. The Charity Committee has to sort out all the donations and will appreciate your cooperation.

Lin and Maryke Hines, 2012 Chapter 8 Charity Co-Chairs



Funcionarios de Capítulo 8

Chapter 8 Elected Officers

President

Dannie Dolan

Dolanwagonmaster2012@yahoo.compo

1st Vice President

Charlie & Dawn Boles

wagonmaster2013@gmail.com

2nd Vice President

3rd Vice President

Secretary

Joy Melton

rvjmelton@aol.com

Treasurer

Steve Bufty

stevebufty@yahoo.com

Immediate Past President

Cynthia Ponder

pondermexico@gmail.com

Appointed Officers

Membership Chairmen

Lin & Maryke Hines

linhines@earthlink.net

Co-Webmaster

Don Busick

don9773@sbcglobal.net

Co-Webmaster

Gerald Arends

arendsgl@gmail.com

Historian

Dona Martinsen

dnd2mex@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Jan Biller

chapter8.newsletter@yahoo.com

Hi SKP Friends --- We enjoy some relaxed travel time in December, but jump back into full swing of things again in January. We enjoy the Quartzsite desert – beautiful sunsets (usually not up for the sunrise), seeing lots of SKP friends, going to many of the Q Rallies, looking for bargains and of course shopping in the Big Quartzsite Tent. We invite all traveling SKPs to join us for the **Escapees Happy Hour Jan 16 & 17; 1 to 3pm in Quartzsite**. Look for information in the latest Escapees magazine. Bring a friend, your own beverage and chair and ***a snack to share***. Come for SKP Hugs, Camaraderie, Entertainment and SKP Good Times! Location: from Big Tent at #95 & Kuehn go east ~4 miles along the frontage road. Look for SKP signs. Hope to see you there!

SKP Hugs Susie & Denny Orr



Jim and I love Chapter 8. We made friends on our first trip in 2006 who I am sitting with even now. We have had wonderful experiences, places we won't forget, and the people we have met and worked with have become life-long friends. Our adventures will last a life time even if it was a one-time trip or many years of travel. We are not able to come on this year's rally due to family illness but we are looking forward to coming back and traveling again. We hope to see you on one of Chapter 8's rallies.

Cynthia Ponder, Past President

Hola from Membership



Membership Report

We offered to be Ch. 8 Membership co-chairs when Kyra Bronson had to give up the job since she's moved to Hawaii. We thank her for all the work she did and wish her all the best!

At this moment there are a total of 363 names on the membership roster, but only 138 are paid-up members. Kyra has contacted many of the "expired" members and some of them have renewed, but we feel that after the San Felipe Rally, the list needs to be purged. This doesn't mean that people are not interested in traveling to Mexico, because our experience has been that people become a member of Chapter 8 for their first trip(s) to Mexico, but then they "know the ropes" and go by themselves and don't need Chapter 8 anymore---at least that's what we hope!

We signed up 6 new members at the Escapade in Sedalia during the Chapter 8 Fiesta Social and received several renewals in the mail or from the website.

We have been members of Escapees Chapter 8 for 11 years, and have been on 9 different rallies. Despite being experienced Mexico travelers, we like being members of the Chapter and will remain so. We were the 2008 Baja Rally Wagonmasters, a progressive rally all the way to Mulegé in Baja Sur, and were Co-Presidents of the Chapter in 2009. Maryke was also the Secretary for several years. Fortunately there are more members like us, who are interested in the Chapter as well as traveling to Mexico, so we can foster the Chapter's Mission of "teaching" newbies the specifics of safe travel in Mexico and not to be scared of all the stories they read! We're definitely looking forward to the 2013 San Felipe Rally and plan to go further south at least to Mulegé. We hope to see you there too!

Lin and Maryke Hines, SKP 70910 Chapter 8 Membership Co-Chairs



Treasurers Report



December 1, 2012

There are currently 31 rigs signed up for the February 2013 rally in San Felipe and that includes 57 people. The signups are still in progress so these numbers will continue to be adjusted.

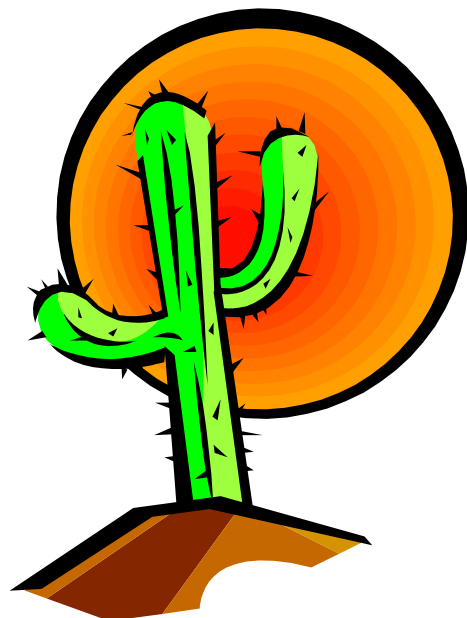
The Treasury records also show that 41 individuals or families have renewed their dues or joined the chapter during this fiscal year.

\$882 has been collected or allocated so far this fiscal year for the Charity fund to be distributed to needy causes in San Felipe as to be recommended by the Charity Committee and approved by the General Membership.

Since a large mission of Chapter 8 is to help the people of Mexico especially in the towns where we hold our annual rallies, all members are encouraged to add Charity donations to their dues payments or rally fees and of course plan on bidding aggressively during the charity auction to be held during the rally. Remember, **"it's for the children"**. And for those attending the informal January Mexican Connection gathering in Quartzsite as well as the Pre-Rally in El Centro and the rally in San Felipe, please bring along items that can be donated to the auction that the rest of us will battle over to raise Charity funds - RV items, electronics, wine, crafts, or anything that other RVers might be tempted by. One person's junk is another person's treasure! Check your drawers, cupboards, and storage compartments for "stuff" or pick up something to be auctioned at Costco or just bring cash that can be donated. Based on the particular items, much of the stuff collected is often handed over directly without going through the auction process - appliances, clothing, canned goods, stuff for the children, etc. For our wonderful experiences in Mexico, we want to be able to give back to the community.

See you in Quartzsite, El Centro, and San Felipe.

Steve Bufty, Treasurer



From your Newsletter Editor

By: Jan Biller

Hola,

This is the last newsletter that I will publish. I have been doing it now for two years and it is now time for someone else to write it. I have enjoyed it but all things must come to an end. My husband, Ed and I joined Chapter 8 in February 2009 when we were in Douglas, Arizona. We happened to meet a couple (the Ponders) in the Wal-Mart parking lot that were going on the rally to Guaymas, Mexico. We had never even heard of Escapees. It ended up that we signed up to go on the rally right there and left about three days later for Mexico. While in Mexico we found out that the Wagonmaster for the next rally resigned during the rally. Well, who was going to lead the next rally? After a little thinking, we volunteered to run the next rally. Jaws dropped at the thought of "newbies" running a rally. We said we can do it and we ran the rally to Kino Bay the following year. It was a very good rally. We could see where the chapter could improve and tried to do that. After our rally we became President of the Chapter for a year. Then we became past president for a year. During this year I signed on as the Newsletter Editor. I feel like we have put our time in for the last four years in leadership positions. It is now time for someone else to step up and help.

The newsletter editor is an easy job. You can do it. The editor's job enables you to get to know all the board members and have input into the workings of Chapter 8.

We will be in Quartzsite, Arizona for about three weeks in January and will then go on the rally to San Felipe, Mexico. I will be able to pass on the information on how to write the newsletter to whomever would like to step up and help. I have a flash drive with all the past chapter newsletters that I have written plus a couple that I could get my hands on. I have the clip art and templates made on the flash drive. I have set up a Chapter 8 e-mail account and have all of the membership in there plus some past members. I have it set up to where I have everyone in six different membership lists so that when you send an e-mail out you just enter the six lists and send it. It has taken a lot of work to get this done. Kyra Bronson was a big help with a membership list on excel that can be accessed by computers. The fact is you don't have to reinvent the wheel to write the newsletter. I have all the information for you.

You can also e-mail me for information regarding the newsletter at chapter8.newsletter@yahoo.com

Jan Biller

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: $P \times l \div e = \$/gal$

Sad note:

Arlo Thomas, past Chapter 8 member and creator of the Geocache BOF has died of pancreatic cancer. He passed away peacefully Dec. 13 with family and friends at his side. We will miss him. You may contact Ruth at ruthqt@krystonia.info