

*Escapees Chapter 8 RV Club*

# *LA CONEXIÓN*

# MEXICANA



*Fall 2013*

*Volume XXX*

*Number 3*

## **In this issue:**

Message from our President, . . . . .	2
Ensenada Rally 2014 Info. . . . .	3
Officers . . . . .	7
Note from Editor . . . . .	7
Note from Susie & Denny Orr. . . . .	8
Escapade 2014. . . . .	8
Rally 2014 Charity Update. . . . .	9
Chapter 8 Charity Background . . . . .	10

## *Current Baja California Fuel*

### *Prices*



*(as of Oct 1, 2013)*

*in U.S.*

*\$--Magna (unleaded gas)--\$3.38 gallon Diesel--*

*\$3.51 per gallon*

*Current*

MENSAJE de los PRESIDENTE  
Message from President

*Exchange Rate --\$1 U.S. = 13.1 pesos*

From Charlie and Dawn Boles camped outside Silverton Colorado at 10,500 ft.

Dawn and I hope everyone involved with Escapees Chapter 8 The Mexican Connection have had a great summer!

This summer we have had a great time touring Arizona, Utah, Wyoming, South Dakota and Colorado. We are lucky to live in such a large beautiful country with so much variety and many

great places to hang out. We have tried to stay in each area two weeks. What a great way to travel!

One of the highlights of our summer was attending the 35th Escapee Escapade representing Chapter 8.

If you: have not been to an Escapade, I highly recommend attending one. Escapees, SKP's (Sharing Karing & Parking):

- **Sharing:** Classes on most anything involving the RV lifestyle.
- **Karing:** Escapees Care Center, Doves, Habitat for Humanity etc.
- **Parking:** Hanging out with hundreds of, or just a few friends. Escapades cover all that include great entertainment and vendors selling from aprons to Xanterra work camping jobs.

We are planning on heading into Mexico in November to help scout future rally's and plan on returning to the U.S. before Quartzite in January . We are always looking for ideas for future rallies, if you are traveling in Mexico this winter outside of Chapter 8 please keep in touch with us about your adventures.

Wagonmasters, Lin and Maryke Hines have a great rally planned and we will be there, hope to see all of you!

See Ya Soon  
Charlie & Dawn Boles



## 2014 Chapter 8 Ensenada Rally Registration Information

1. **VENUE 1**--San Diego Metro KOA just south of San Diego in Chula Vista, CA is booked for 50+ rigs. This is the Rendezvous point for the Rally beginning 2/3/2014. This is a beautiful facility and very convenient to the I-5 freeway for arriving and later heading

for the border! We will do registration, Spanish lesson, driving in a group and driving in Mexico instruction, Mexican “potty” training, go to the border to get our Mexican visas and have a kickoff hamburger barbeque dinner here. We leave 2/5 in small groups each led by an experienced group leader for Ensenada driving 75 miles on a beautiful toll road along the Pacific coast of northern Baja California.

2. **VENUE 2--Estero Beach Resort and RV Park, Ensenada, B.C.** All 37 FHU sites in the RV Park and the adjacent dry camp area are booked for 2/5-11/2014—7 nights. Rally members will have free use of the beautiful Hotel heated pool, tennis courts, basketball and volleyball areas as well as use of their Convention Center for our Annual Meeting/Election and use of the large RV Park Rec Room for meetings, games etc. and the RV Park hot tub and unheated pool. The RV Park has very nice bathrooms/showers and a large laundry. Chapter 8 has used Estero Beach for two other rallies in the past 10 years and they were very accommodative. We will have a free guided group tour of the excellent Estero Beach Museum for all attendees. This facility is really a first class resort! And the sunsets over the waters of Todos Santos Bay are spectacular! Birdwatchers, bring your binoculars!
3. **Estero Beach Las Terrazas Restaurante—We’ll have a Welcome Buffet Mexican Dinner at the Resort’s great restaurant on 2/5/2014 with a free beer, margarita or soft drink for each person. A traditional Mariachi Band will play for us for one hour during our Welcome Dinner. On our last night in Ensenada 2/11/2014, we are booked for a sitdown Farewell Mexican Dinner—alcoholic drinks are no-host. We used Las Terrazas for our 2008 Baja Si Rally and the meals there were excellent. A party of eight Chapter 8 members ate this Farewell Dinner menu in March 2013 and were all very pleased with food and service. We are also working with Hector Aguirre, manager of Estero Beach Las Terrazas Restaurante to organize a Mexican Cooking Class with the Las Terrazas chef in his kitchen to offer as an option to our attendees at a modest cost. This should be confirmed soon.**
4. **Other Ensenada activities---We are working on finalizing a 3 hour- *included in Rally Fee*- Ensenada Bus City Tour to orient Rally members and show the major sights in the Downtown Ensenada area. We have a number of other activities planned both at Estero Beach, in Downtown Ensenada and a carpool trip to La Bufadora Blowhole south of Ensenada and perhaps to the Guadalupe Valley wine area northeast of Ensenada that is the major wine growing region in Mexico and top quality. And get ready for the best ever Fish Tacos at the cafes adjoining the famous Ensenada fish market! Ensenada is an exciting city!**
5. **Rally Charity Activities—we have passed along a list of potential Ensenada area charity contacts to the Rally Charity Chairs, Charlie and Sue Schaffer and they will be contacting them in advance. Rally participants wishing to join the Charity Committee in its good work should check off that volunteer activity on their Rally Registration form. The next Chapter 8 newsletter will feature a list of in-kind items that are always**

needed and welcome at poorly funded Mexican charitable institutions. Think school supplies, personal care items, good kids clothing etc. Also, we always hold a live charity auction of goods you bring for that purpose to raise more charity funds to use on the Rally. Bottles of wine, art or craft items that fit in an RV, jewelry, joke items like a funny ball cap etc. Use your imagination but only treasures, no trash, please!

6. **VENUE 3**—Playa El Pabellón RV Park, south of San Quentín, B.C. is 120 miles south of Estero Beach on Baja's Highway 1. We'll be here 2 nights 2/12-13. This is a terrific Pacific Ocean beach camp over a mile in length! Camping here is boondocking on level packed sand behind the dunes although there are 8--15A electric sites available for an extra \$5US per night payable directly to Maria. There are spotless bathrooms and excellent hot water showers. Maria Gonzales Gomez, manager, is extremely friendly and is really looking forward to meeting all of you! This is a great spot to relax and enjoy the soothing sounds of the surf!

We will set up a final farewell potluck dinner here on 2/13/2014. The Rally officially ends here.

7. After El Pabellón--The Chapter 8 Rally tradition is that near the end of the Rally we post signup list for groups to form to travel to other destinations. This year there is already a group formed to go down Baja to Los Cabos, others will go to the super beaches of Bahía Concepción south of Mulegé, or Loreto, La Paz or whalewatching at one of the 3 grey whale birthing lagoons in Guerrero Negro, Laguna San Ignacio or Puerto Lopez Mateos. There are many wonderful areas to visit in Baja. If you're out of time after El Pabellón, groups will form to travel together back to Ensenada and the US border.

8. **Volunteers**—Chapter 8 is an all-volunteer organization! We are definitely NOT a caravan company! All participants are expected to contribute their talent by helping with parking, registration, potluck coordinator, barbeque burger flipper, auctioneer and other simple jobs. A list will be found on the registration form. Volunteering will help make new friends and you'll have more fun being involved! Maybe someday you'd like to be the Wagonmaster!!

9. The 2014 Rally Registration Form is a fillable PDF form that will be up on the Ch. 8 website <mexicanconnection08.com> on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. Cost for a rig with 2 persons will be \$565 payable with registration by check or Paypal. Rally Information packets will much more information will be emailed after each paid registration is received by the Wagonmasters. Rally members receive a Rally T-shirt and a Rally pin at Registration in San Diego/Chula Vista.

10. Baja Slide Show— in San Diego, we will show a digital slideshow of our photographs not only of the Rally areas but also other parts of Baja to whet your appetite for traveling further after the Rally ends.
11. The Rally Road Log from the KOA through the border to Estero Beach Resort in Ensenada to El Pabellón was compiled in March 2013 and will be rechecked in late January 2014 just before the 2014 Rally. The completed log will be distributed at Registration in San Diego.
12. ULSD Diesel Fuel—Mexico's national oil company, Pemex, officially makes and markets only low sulphur diesel fuel. For those with a 2007 or newer diesel vehicle, this Rally is within a 200 mile circle from the border or approximately 400 mile round trip, which is usually well within pickup or motorhome range.
13. Escapees Magazine will have several stories in the next issues before the Rally to publicize the Rally. We encourage you to pass the word along to your Escapees friends—invite them to come along!

Come along with us in 2014 for a great Escape to Mexico. Any questions, please email us. [linhines@earthlink.net](mailto:linhines@earthlink.net)

**ALL ENSENADA FULL HOOKUP (FHU) SITES ARE FULL AS OF OCT 7, A STANDBY LIST IN CASE OF FHU CANCELLATIONS CURRENTLY HAS ONE NAME, CANCELLATIONS ARE VERY POSSIBLE SO PLEASE PUT YOUR NAME ON THE LIST WITH A REGISTRATION FORM BUT NO PAYMENT, UNLESS YOU ARE WILLING TO TAKE A DRY CAMPING SPOT IF A FHU SITE IS UNAVAILABLE**

*Lin and Maryke Hines*

2014 Chapter 8 Wagonmasters



River Del Pacific Cultural Center



Ensenada Military Band



Fish Market



Mission Santa Isabel Restaurant, San Quintin



Fishing Party Boats



Greenhouses near San Quintin

## Funcionarios de Capitulo 8

### \*Chapter 8 Elected Officers\*

#### President

Charlie & Dawn Boles

[wagonmaster2013@gmail.com](mailto:wagonmaster2013@gmail.com)

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Lin & Maryke Hines

[linhines@earthlink.net](mailto:linhines@earthlink.net)

[maryke2@earthlink.net](mailto:maryke2@earthlink.net)

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Ann Marie Arnold

[amapgm9697@gmail.com](mailto:amapgm9697@gmail.com)

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President

Larry Brown

[lbrown10@hotmail.com](mailto:lbrown10@hotmail.com)

#### Secretary

Orene Clarke Brown

[orenebrown1@gmail.com](mailto:orenebrown1@gmail.com)

#### Treasurer

Steve Bufty

[stevebufty@yahoo.com](mailto:stevebufty@yahoo.com)

### \*Appointed Officers\*

#### Membership Chairman

Maryke Hines

[MexicanConnectionMembership@yahoo.com](mailto:MexicanConnectionMembership@yahoo.com)

#### Co-Webmaster

Don Busick

[don9773@sbcglobal.net](mailto:don9773@sbcglobal.net)

#### Co-Webmaster

Lynn Waite

[rlwaite@yahoo.com](mailto:rlwaite@yahoo.com)

#### Historian

Dona Martinsen

[dnd2mex@gmail.com](mailto:dnd2mex@gmail.com)

#### Charity Committee

Charlie & Sue Schaeffer

[allc2001@bellsouth.net](mailto:allc2001@bellsouth.net)

#### Newsletter Editor

Shelly Dominek

[chapter8.newsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:chapter8.newsletter@yahoo.com)

## Notes from Editor:

Hi Folks,

As you can see, the fall newsletter is late because Bill and I have just returned from a fabulous, 15 day cruise of the Panama Canal. We started our adventure in San Diego, California with stops in Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Columbia and the best part -- cruising through the canal. We had a great time.



Shelly and Bill Dominek





Hello Escapees Presidents and Editors –

We know Escapade was a short time ago in Gillette, WY – however Bob & Molly Pinner are already busy planning Escapade in Goshen, IN for May 2014. The program book will go to print early in February. We hope you will promote Escapade within your chapter/c-bof and in your newsletter. **Ask for Row Representative volunteers at your next rally/luncheon/newsletter.** The Row will be open just 3 hrs Sun-Mon-Tues-Wed = 12 hours. Goshen is always a wonderful place for Escapade and Spring Time in Indiana is very enjoyable. Please share Escapade information – check the Escapees website and magazine for more Escapade information. Send us your Row Representative Name/Email as soon as possible to be listed in the program book. **Deadline to be listed is February 1, 2014.** Of course we will welcome Row Volunteers after the deadline; they just will not be listed in the program book. But registering early is always good! Look forward to seeing you in Goshen, Escapade May 12-17, 2014 – SKP Hugs Susie & Denny Orr

**ESCAPEESRVClub**  
**ESCAPADE**  
*Something for Everyone!*

**Five Educational and Fun-filled Days**

<p><b>Escapees RVers University</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 70+ educational seminars</li> <li>• Workshops</li> <li>• Demonstrations</li> <li>• RV maintenance</li> <li>• Safety</li> <li>• Lifestyle and enjoyment</li> </ul> <p><b>Craft instruction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beading</li> <li>• Tatting</li> <li>• Quilting</li> <li>• Wood carving</li> <li>• Fishing and more</li> </ul>	<p><b>Evening Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Door prizes</li> <li>• Entertainment</li> <li>• Ice cream socials</li> <li>• Line dancing</li> <li>• Jam sessions</li> <li>• Games</li> <li>• Lots of friendship</li> </ul> <p><b>RVers' Boot Camp</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tire and weight safety</li> <li>• Fire and life safety</li> <li>• Hitch-up</li> <li>• Basic RV systems</li> <li>• RV Driving</li> </ul>	<p><b>Over 100 Exhibitors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indoor and outdoor market</li> <li>• Gadgets for your RV</li> <li>• Parts/accessories</li> <li>• Cleaning/polishing products</li> <li>• Tow and toad products</li> <li>• Decorating products</li> </ul> <p><b>Escapees Club Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Club products</li> <li>• Mail-forwarding service</li> <li>• Rainbow Parks</li> <li>• SKP Co-Op representatives</li> <li>• Chapter/BOF representatives</li> <li>• Escapees SmartWeigh</li> </ul>
---	---	--

Escapades are five-day events held yearly. Each Escapade offers 70-plus seminars on a wide variety of RV-related topics—from boondocking to tire safety. An extensive agenda of demonstrations and craft and hobby workshops is offered daily.

**ESCAPEESRVClub** 100 Rainbow Drive, Livingston, TX 77351  
**888-757-2582 • 936-327-8873**

**[www.escapees.com/escapade](http://www.escapees.com/escapade)**

**ESCAPADE 2014**  
 May 12–17, 2014, in Goshen, Indiana  
 Enjoy springtime in the RV capital of the world for a week of fun and RV education. Rich in heritage, history and hospitality, Goshen invites you to explore the nearby neighborhoods of Amish and English as they share a way of life that beckons you to savor the delights of their charming homelands.



## *From Sue Schaffer, Charity Committee*

I have been trying to contact various charities in the Ensenada area since July. I now have three charities that should interest our members.

- *The Aqua Viva program which helps migrants.* Their most urgent needs are:  
blankets for winter, baby clothes, children and adult clothing. They can use canned food but maybe it would be better to give them money to purchase food. They have a vehicle that needs tires and a battery. This might be a good use of cash from our fund raisers.
- *Katrina Tinco* works with a blind school that could use the Braille paper for the braille writers
- *The school supplies needed for the little ones are :*  
Tissue and crepe paper  
Safety scissors  
Poster paints in large tubs and brushes  
Tubs of glue  
Wax crayons and brushes
- *The older children need:*  
Colored pencils and pencil cases  
Exercise books (both lined and squares) for writing and math

### *Charity Auction Update*

I have a lady in California making a fancy dress for the auction. I have made some purses and knitted some scarfs.

## *Other Ideas for auction*



Handmade articles such as knitted,  
Newer hard covered books  
Working computers and printers  
Bikes  
RV supplies and accessories and cooking utensils  
Liquor and wine  
Gift cards and certificates.

*items:*

crochet or handmade jewelry  
with ink cartridge,

I would like other members to volunteer to help the charity committee visit the charities when we are in Mexico. More than a dozen members went on charity visits last year. We all learned so much. Then we all met to decide which charity to help and what percentage of the funds to suggest is given each charity at the general meeting.

God Bless,  
Sue Schaffer

## **CHAPTER 8 CHARITY—A LITTLE BACKGROUND**

**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, cell phones, 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 are welcome.**

We also hold at least one live auction, and ask all Rally participants to bring something useful for an RVers--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 Walmart 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 Ensenada 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 & Charity Chair Roger “Spook” McFillen always said : *“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, 2014 Chapter 8 Ensenada Rally Wagonmasters

