

Escapes Chapter 8 RV Club

LA CONEXIÓN



MEXICANA

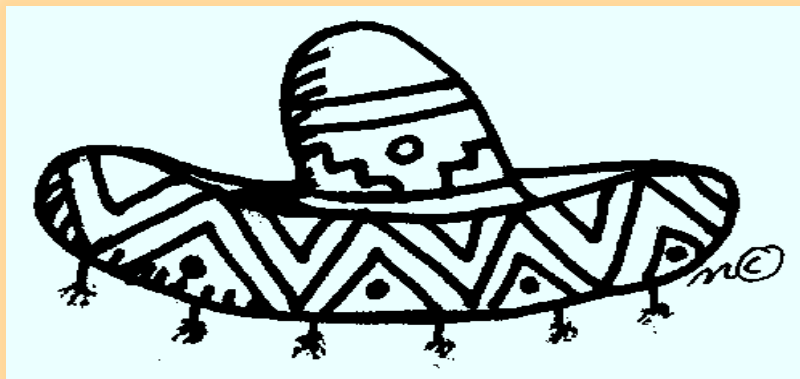
Summer 2013

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2014 Chapter 8 Ensenada Rally Registration begins August 1

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 1st, 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!

So that's the current status of the 2014 Rally! All we need now is YOU and 40 or so of your RVing friends to sign up and come along with us next year for a great Escape to Mexico! Any questions, please email us.

<linhines@earthlink.net>

Lin and Maryke Hines

2014 Chapter 8 Wagonmasters



Membership Report

The 2013 Escapade in Gillette WY was a small one in our experience with only 587 rigs present. However we had a lot of interest at the Chapter 8 booth in "The Row" well manned for 3 days by Charlie and Dawn Boles, and 3 new members were signed up. There was also a lot of interest in the 2014 Chapter 8 Rally to Ensenada, and we expect a lot of current members and newbies to sign up for the rally. Our Escapade seminar "Escape to Mexico with Chapter 8" on Wednesday given by Lin and Maryke Hines had about 45 people present and most of them stayed for the very nice Chapter 8 Fiesta right after the seminar again set up by Dawn and Charlie. We were really lucky to have both events in the same room so we didn't lose anyone! The 3 new members are: Jim Gaia & Gay Burdison, William White, and Michael & Priscilla Pegg. Welcome to Chapter 8 and hope to see you at the next rally!

Maryke Hines, Membership Chair

Funcionarios de Capitulo 8

Chapter 8 Elected Officers

President

Charlie & Dawn Boles

wagonmaster2013@gmail.com

1st Vice President

Lin & Maryke Hines

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3rd Vice President

Larry Brown

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Secretary

Orene Clarke Brown

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Treasurer

Steve Bufty

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Appointed Officers

Membership Chairman

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Co-Webmaster

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Co-Webmaster

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Newsletter Editor

Shelly Dominek

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Note from Newsletter Editor:



If you have anything to add to the next newsletter, please send it to me by September 25th. We all would love to hear about your summer adventures. Please send photos and articles as attachments to:

chapter8.newsletter@yahoo.com

Also, if you receive the newsletter by email and no longer want to, or if you know of someone that I've missed, please let me know.

Thanks,
Shelly Dominek





SOME GOOD NEWS FROM MEXICO!

by Lin Hines SKP#70910 and 2014 Chapter 8 Ensenada Rally Wagonmaster

This is a good news story from Mexico instead of the usual bad news often seen in the U.S. news media! Our 4 RV group departed from the two week Escapees Chapter 8 Rally in San Felipe, Baja California in February 2013 and drove over the mountains to Ensenada then south to whale watch in San Ignacio. We left Rancho Santa Ines campground in Cataviña heading for Guerrero Negro, staying in constant contact by CB radio. While in the mountains about 70 miles south of Cataviña, we in our lead RV and RV #3 lost radio contact with RV #4, Roger and Anne Wilson driving a Suburban towing a 34' Airstream travel trailer. We tried repeatedly to raise #4 with no contact

so we in the lead RV, an Airstream Sprinter Class B, found a paved pullout for RV 2 & 3 to safely wait and we turned around to find #4. About 4 miles back, over two high mountain passes which cutoff CB communication (and no cell service!), we found our missing RV but what we saw was just incredible!

A fully loaded Mexican big rig lumber truck headed south had come up behind #4 to find that #4's transmission had failed and he was stopped dead in the southbound lane of Highway 1, the main Baja north-south highway and in grave danger of being rearended by a fast moving big rig or other vehicle. The truck driver pulled his truck and loaded 40' lumber trailer ahead of #4 and hooked up 2 heavy lengths of chain to each of the Suburban's front tow hooks. He told them he'd tow them to a large dirt pullout about 4 miles up the road where they would be out of danger. We stayed behind #4 with our hazard lights flashing to warn overtaking vehicles, especially since he was being towed at about 10 MPH up and down grades and many curves. Fortunately, traffic was quite light and we arrived at the pullout with #4 safely off the highway and the big rig unhooking to much appreciation, hand shaking and a modest tip.



We then drove at the truck driver's suggestion to Nuevo Rosarito, a small village about 12 miles south with a rural telephone. The small auto parts store owner graciously called Punta Prieta, about 25 miles north, the location of the nearest grua—a tow truck. We showed her on our digital camera, a photo of #4's 54' long rig that must have impressed her because she requested a big strong tow truck. Somehow magically by the time we drove back, a beautiful large tilt-bed tow truck had already arrived and was hooking up to #4. The driver's plan was to drop the trailer in Nuevo Rosarito and put the Suburban on his flatbed and take it to Guerrero Negro as we knew the mechanical resources to repair the rig were available there. After ten miles of towing, he stopped on the highway to say the tow was going well and we were almost out of the mountains, so he could tow #4's entire rig to Guerrero Negro! That was great!

We had all planned to camp at Mario's RV Park in Guerrero Negro so #4 was towed 70 miles to the campground which fortunately has pull-through sites and the rig was perfectly pulled into a site. We had stayed at Mario's on several other trips and knew Mario to be very capable and honest. The tow truck guys needed quite a large peso payment and Mario offered #4 a loan of 5000 pesos (approx. \$400

U.S.) to complete the tow payment. #4 could go to the bank in the morning and get cash to reimburse Mario. Mario then took charge and called a very good mechanic and got him over that evening to diagnose the problem. Parts were ordered from Ensenada to be on the next bus south and they arrived 2 days later, were installed, a good test drive done and we all celebrated that night with a great dinner at Mario's palapa-style restaurant right in front of the campground—did I mention that Mario is also a great chef? We have traveled in Mexico by RV for over 35 years and have always found that Mexico, especially the safe Baja peninsula, is wonderful to visit by RV with very friendly people that welcome you and in an emergency, help any way they can. This event with a happy ending occurred in mid-February 2013 and you can bet we'll all be back!

P.S. Later we learned that Mario had stepped in to help several other North Americans in trouble. If you're ever in Guerrero Negro in Baja, stop by and say hello, have a great meal and stay the night. Rvers really need friends like Mario!

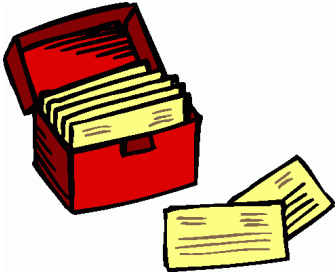
From Anne Wilson: “ I also wanted to add that we had been to Mario's on several occasions so he was well acquainted with us.”



Gracias Mario, ¿por su ayuda?

Escapade 2013 in Gillette, Wy - looked like a great success, here's some insight from Susie and Denny Orr for anyone wishing to plan a future rally.

Did you know there is a Rally Host Manual - <http://www.escapees.com/Chapters/ReportingForms.aspx> - on the Escapees website. The Rally Host Manual has a couple of different presentations. The below Recipe for a rally was shared with us a few years ago by SKP friends, but it can always be shared again. Hopefully it will motivate and spur some of you members to volunteer to be Rally Hosts. SKP Hugs – Susie & Denny Orr



Recipe for a Rally

Preparation:

1. A member volunteers to be host
2. Choose a location and date
3. Advertise – Advertise – Advertise: Use Newsletter, Magazine, Voicemail, E-mail, Telephone, Tell a friend

Ingredients:

4 pm Social Hour

Campfires

Morning Coffee

Pot Luck Dinner

Tours or side trips

Dine Out

Friendly neighbors



Orr Travels took us to Alaska this summer for our 1st trip North. We began our RVing adventures in July of 99. Since then, it seems there was always a reason or excuse not to make that big trip. This is our year to go. We have enjoyed the wandering amble from Fairbanks, to Denali, to Anchorage, to the Kenai Area. Plans are to stay until after the State Fair in mid August. What a wonderful trip – now why did we wait so long to come.

Hugs Susie & Denny Orr



Hope that everyone has a safe and fun summer.....