

Escapees Chapter 8 RV Club

LA CONEXIÓN **MEXICANA**



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HAPPY HOLIDAYS



¡Hola! Chapter 8 Members,
49 rigs and registration is closed.

The Ensenada Rally is now full with

We will be in Baja re-scouting the Rally destinations and all the arrangements the last week of January 2014. During the 2014 Rally at the Chapter 8 Annual Meeting, the group will decide the destination for the 2015 Rally, as well as elect new officers and future Wagonmasters. Thanks to our 2014 Rally participants for their generous donations, we already have a nice start on funds for our Chapter's signature Charity work, this year around Ensenada and San Quentín in Baja.

In the next issue of this Chapter 8 newsletter, we'll have a full report on the 2014 Rally, along with photographs of the people and places that we visited in Baja. We hope you'll consider going along with Chapter 8 on next year's Rally, if you missed 2014. Regardless of the destination, you'll enjoy meeting new and old Chapter 8 friends and the warm, friendly people of Mexico. We love traveling with Chapter 8 and giving back a little of the enjoyment we've had on each Rally. This will be our 11th Rally with Chapter 8, starting with the 2002 Rally held at Estero Beach Resort in Ensenada, our destination for 2014 also. Chapter 8 has taken us to Mexico City, Copper Canyon, Costa Esmeralda (East Coast and Veracruz), El Fuerte, Guanajuato, the 2008 Baja progressive rally with 8 stops ending in Mulegé that we led, Guaymas, Kino Bay, Puerto Peñasco and San Felipe. We've also traveled all over Mexico and Central America over the last 40+ years of RV trips over the border by ourselves and have never been disappointed! Every trip brings new discoveries of great places and especially new friendships with people we meet in Mexico.

The Mission of Chapter 8 is always paramount on our Rallies into Mexico:

- Introducing Escapee Chapter 8 Mexican Connection members to RV travel in Mexico, its scenery, traditions, food, culture and folklore.**
- Traveling South of the Border and give back more than the enriching experiences we gain, through charity donations and business patronization.**
- Enabling Chapter 8 members to feel comfortable to return to Mexico for future rallies as well as their own road trip adventures.**

The 2014 Escapade in Goshen, Indiana from May 12-17, 2014 is another opportunity to get acquainted with Chapter 8, the Mexican Connection. We'll have a booth on the Row with information and photos from past Rallies as well as the 2015 Rally. Maryke and I will be doing an Escapade Seminar on Mexico travel that we call "Escape to Mexico" and we invite you to attend. Then, for a real taste of Mexico, look in your Escapade program for the Chapter 8 Social, that we like to call our "Fiesta," for some Mexican-style chips and salsa along with an introduction to our Officers and a slide show of the upcoming Rally destination! We'll look forward to meeting many of you at 2014 Escapade!

¡Próspero Año Nuevo! (Happy New Year in Español)

Lin and Maryke Hines, 2014 Chapter 8 Ensenada Rally Wagonmasters





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 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 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.

Charlie & Sue Schaeffer – Charity Committee

Note from Newsletter Editor:



Funcionarios de Capitulo 8

Chapter 8 Elected Officers

President

Charlie & Dawn Boles

wagonmaster2013@gmail.com

1st Vice President

Lin & Maryke Hines

linhines@earthlink.net

maryke2@earthlink.net

2nd Vice President

Ann Marie Arnold

amapgm9697@gmail.com

3rd Vice President

Larry Brown

lbrown10@hotmail.com

Secretary

Orene Clarke Brown

orenebrown1@gmail.com

Treasurer

Steve Bufty

stevebufty@yahoo.com

Appointed Officers

Membership Chairman

Maryke Hines

MexicanConnectionMembership@yahoo.com

Co-Webmaster

Don Busick

don9773@sbcglobal.net

Co-Webmaster

Lynn Waite

rlwaite@yahoo.com

Historian

Dona Martinsen

dnd2mex@gmail.com

Charity Committee

Charlie & Sue Schaeffer

allc2001@bellsouth.net

Newsletter Editor

Shelly Dominek

*newsletter.chapter8@yahoo.com

Recently, the Mexican Connection Newsletter email was hacked. You probably all got notes that said that I was in the Phillipines and needed money, hope that you all realized that that was a scam. Sorry about any inconvenience that this may have caused.

Unfortunately, the email address was no longer valid, so the new address is:

* newsletter.chapter8@yahoo.com

All of the members' email addresses were deleted and had to be recreated. So, if you do not receive the newsletter email, please let me know. 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



[Ensenada Trivia](#)

Did you know... That Ensenada is the largest municipality in Mexico, in terms of area? The region that comprises Ensenada extends from the La Mision area south of Rosarito all the way down to [Guerrero Negro](#), half-way down the Baja Peninsula – some 400 miles!

Did you know... That the region between [Tecate](#) and Ensenada (the Valle de Guadalupe) and the region south of Ensenada (Santo Tomas valley) produce more than 90% of [Mexico's premium wines](#)? Winemaking here dates back to the late 1700's.

Did you know... That [La Bufadora](#) (south of Ensenada) is one of only a handful of blowholes in the whole world?

Did you know... ...That the city of Ensenada has more scientists per capita than any other place in Mexico? Among the many institutions of higher education here is CICESE, the Ensenada Scientific Research Center, with a focus on oceanography and marine studies.

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[Panaroma of Ensenada as viewed from Trinidad Park](#)



(Reference: Wikipedia)

See you in Ensenada.....

