

Escapees Chapter 8 RV Club

LA CONEXIÓN MEXICANA



Fall 2014

Volume XXVII

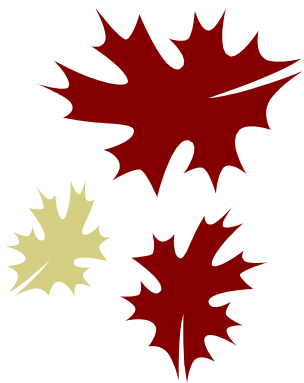
Number 3

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Please check Mexican Connection Website for info on the 2015 Rally to Kino Bay

<http://www.mexicanconnection08.com/>



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Funcionarios de Capítulo 8

Chapter 8 Elected Officers

President

Lin & Maryke Hines

linhines@earthlink.net

1st Vice President

Ann Marie Arnold

amapgm9697@gmail.com

2nd Vice President

Larry Brown

lmbrown1@hotmail.com

3rd Vice President

Position Vacant

Secretary

Orene Clarke Brown

orenebrown1@gmail.com

Treasurer

Steve Bufty

stevebufty@yahoo.com

Appointed Officers

Membership Chairman

Maryke Hines

maryke2@earthlink.net

Co-Webmaster

Don Busick

dong773@sbcglobal.net

Co-Webmaster

Lynn Waite

rlwaite@yahoo.com

Historian

Dona Martinsen

dnd2mex@gmail.com

Charity Committee

Charlie & Sue Schaeffer

Charlieschaffer2@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Shelly Domínek

newsletter.chapter8@yahoo.com





Mensaje de los Presidentes

What we did this summer—after the Fort Wayne SKP Genies BOF Rally and the 2014 Goshen Escapade, we got in our Sprinter Class B RV and headed east. Nearly 4 months later, we covered 13, 500 miles going north to Maine and a great side trip to Quebec City, Canada, then south to New York City, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina and many points between to visit relatives and friends. We had a great time, had some great food—love lobster rolls!—and met some very nice people!

2015 Chapter 8 Rally to Bahia Kino, Sonora—we're really looking forward to the 2015 Rally and returning to Kino Bay, a very pleasant town on the coast in the friendly state of Sonora! The dates are February 2-18, 2015 starting in Tucson, AZ. The Rally ends several weeks before the Escapade in Tucson. Check the Chapter 8 website for details and your registration form <mexicanconnection08.com> Sign up soon!

HELP WANTED! ROW REP FOR 2015 ESCAPADE in Tucson March 8-13 Are you interested in becoming the Chapter 8 Row Rep for the 2015 Escapade? The Row Rep works inside in air-conditioned comfort at the Chapter 8 booth on the Row with the other Chapters and BOFs giving out information about the Chapter and the 2016 Rally to Puerto Peñasco. You'll have membership forms and probably a Rally digital slide show. You'll also organize the Chapter 8 social Fiesta with help from Chapter members. This is a crucial job for the Chapter! The Chapter pays a portion of your Escapade expenses. If interested, please email us ASAP at linhines@earthlink.net

Escapade Seminar--We will do our seminar with digital slide show "Escape to Mexico" again at the Escapade in Tucson and will try to set it up directly before the Chapter 8 Fiesta event. Please come and help us talk up the Chapter to potential members and Rally participants!

Ensenada toll road update—those of you that were on our 2014 spring rally to Ensenada will remember that part of the Tijuana-Ensenada Toll road fell into the Pacific Ocean in December 2013 after earthquake activity near Salsipuedes. This was a major break in the divided 4 lane highway where it fell about 100 feet! A detour was quickly established over the recently repaved 2 lane free road and proved to be no problem during our Rally. The government announced that the highway would reopen on September 15, 2014. However, due to more recent cracks and seismic activity, the reopening is now scheduled for December 2014 at the earliest! Again, the detour onto the free road is no problem and not much slower and it saves you one toll payment!

Hurricane Odile Sept. 14 in Baja caused major damage to Los Cabos, La Paz, Loreto, Mulegé, LA Bay, Santa Rosalía—Hurricane Odile was the strongest hurricane ever to hit Baja California, coming ashore as a Category 3 hurricane Sept. 14 at Cabo San Lucas with very heavy rains (up to 20” in some areas!) 125 MPH winds and severe flooding. It then moved up the Baja Peninsula and across, creating massive damage in Los Cabos, La Paz, Todos Santos, Loreto, Mulegé, LA Bay then up to Tucson, New Mexico and even Texas! In Baja, power, telephone, internet, water, sewage is all down and many roads including parts of Highway 1 are out through-out the area. Airports are closed in Los Cabos until at least the end of September or beyond. 30,000 tourists, mostly US and Canadian, were stranded in Los Cabos but have all been evacuated now. There was major looting in Cabo but the Mexican Army has that under control. There were many injuries and at least 5 deaths, including the 2 top Korean executives at the El Boléo Mine in Santa Rosalía who drowned in a storm caused by flash flood.

Those of you that came south after our Ensenada Rally this spring know these areas well that were hard hit. Coastal RV parks in many places were damaged and many of those in Mulegé, were almost completely destroyed. There was fear of a second major storm a few days later but fortunately Tropical Storm Polo turned west and degraded to 35 MPH winds around 9/20 and only produced small amounts of wind and rain. Check the Discover Baja website for updates and some suggested agencies that are helping in relief efforts. Your contributions would be welcomed!

Susie & Denny Orr—the Escapees Chapter Directors for many years, that have been very helpful to Chapter 8, are retiring on October 31. At this time, a replacement has not been announced by Escapees. We wish Denny and Susie well in their retirement and hope to finally see them on a Chapter 8 Rally one of these days! (note from Susie and Denny on page 10)



Too Crazy Ladies—Do you remember the Too Crazy Ladies that for many years appeared at all Escapades and many other big Escapees rallies with their badge making booth? They made our first Escapees badges back at the 2001 Escapade! After a couple years of health problems, Beth and Red are back ready to take your orders. They can make name badges with the Chapter 8 logo (plus all the other Chapters and BOFs too) and have made our Chapter 8 Rally badges in the past. They're easy to work with and would appreciate your business. Website—TooCrazyLadies.com Phone 575-525-0141

Lin and Maryke Hines

LA LOBERA MARINE MAMMAL OVERLOOK

Near El Rosario, Baja California

Photographs and text by Lin and Maryke Hines



Maria Gonzalez, owner of Playa El Pabell6n beach campground, south of San Quentin, where we've camped many times, told us about this place in 2013 and we finally stopped on our northbound trip on March 13, 2014. There is only one "La Lobera" sign northbound but at least 2 signs southbound so naturally we missed it and had to find a place to turn around! The road in is a somewhat rough 4 KM (3 miles) dirt road out to the ocean from Highway 1. If you're southbound, the turnoff is about 19 miles south of El Pabell6n's turnoff. The road is absolutely not for big rigs but rigs like our Sprinter RV driven slowly have no problem. Pickups and SUVs will do fine. Don't attempt this road if it has recently rained! This is a mountain road with steep downgrades as well as steep upgrades in several spots. The road is quite scenic with some interesting views of highly eroded ancient sand dune mountains.



When you arrive at the end of the road, you will see a building on a point sticking out into the ocean which is the Fisherman's Association. Originally there was to be a restaurant here, but now it is a shrimp aquaculture facility. There is a sign reading "Alto—No Entry." Another sign warns "No Camping" and "Don't Molest the Seals" Don't despair—turn left a bit and park and walk a very short distance to a large low stone structure that is part of the viewing platform. Just as we arrived, an Osprey flew over carrying nesting material!



Walk down the cobblestone path or steps and you will see what from high up looks like a theatre partially roofed with crashing surf from the ocean and further in, a large beach with a great number of dead carcasses—no, wait---



they're moving, waddling back further in the cave to escape the rising tide so they can continue their nap!! The ocean swell enters from the left via a long large natural tunnel from the Pacific Ocean that has eroded over many years. When a high wave hits inside, there is a roar and tremendous spray of water!



These are Pacific Harbor Seals (*Phoca vitulina richardii*) not sea lions despite the sea lion and lobos marinos ID on the signs. We looked very carefully but saw no sea lions, although they could use this sea cave sometimes also. There were probably about 50 animals when we visited, including several larger males, a few juveniles and many other adults. This setting is very dramatic, with the crashing of surf on the beach every 20-30 seconds. The view- point has you standing on the edge of the collapsed roof of the sea cave. Depending on the sun angle, you should be able to see most if not all of the "beach" where the harbor seals congregate. We saw several minor fights as well as a mother attempting to wean her older baby by pushing it away and "snorting" until it went off by itself. Harbor seals are about 6' long and weigh approximately 250 lbs. They live for 25-30 years and eat fish, shellfish and crustaceans. They are a true seal with no external ear flaps and short forelimbs, making them awkward on land!



There is supposed to be a 30 peso parking fee at La Lobera but no one came to collect from us and there is no donation box. It is a super location to visit if you're into ocean and nature, although it can be windy at times. Unfortunately, no camping here but you're only about 16 miles north of the town of El Rosario, where there are hotels, campgrounds, fuel, groceries and Mama Espinosa's legendary restaurant!!



Greeting from your Wagon Master Team,

We hope your summer went as well as ours. We spent most of it in Connecticut where Anne-Marie had successful bilateral cataract surgery. Though she wasn't 'out of service for more than a few days, the drill was that she had to wait 6 weeks for the Doctor's release.

Our son-in-law had very serious heart issues with arterial fibrillation. This disease causes your heart to beat very fast causing weakness, strokes and sudden death. The treatment is to go in and 'short circuit' some of the nerves. We are happy to say that after 3 long procedures, he seems to be on the road to much better health.

We took side trips to Vermont and Pennsylvania where we attended rallies with our Masonic friends in the National Camping Travelers Club. We enjoyed our times with our New England friends, wishing them happy snow shoveling when we departed on September 1st.

I am writing this from Amarillo, Texas as we travel to The Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta where we will be with The Boondockers, hoping to work on a crew as we did last year.

Rally reservations are coming in, each one of them reminds us of our obligation to you, the members of Chapter #8.

It is important to thank all of the Wagon Masters that have gone before us, The Billers specifically for their input and notes from their rally. Thanks for The Schaffers, The Boles and The Waites for pre-running last spring while we ran to Texas for Anne-Marie's date with Dr. SawBones. Remember, we are a volunteer group. Our Officers serve at your pleasure. We need your input and we need you to step up and volunteer for some of the workload as your skill and ability allow.

We are going to pre-run the rally to Kino Bay soon after the Balloon Fiesta. Our schedule {cast in jello!} is to start at Pima County fairground on October 18th. We will spend as much time as necessary to set our itinerary so as to maximize your rally experience.

We would invite you to follow our blog as we continue to wander and experience our country. You can find us at:

<http://arnoldsserendepity.wordpress.com/>

Team Arnold: Kinobaywagonmaster@gmail.com

Leading the Way To Kino Bay.

Escapee's Chapter #8 invites you to join us in our annual

Mexican Connection Caravan

- Next spring we will be going to Kino Bay, Sonora.
- Our pre-rally will be at Pima County Fairground {Adjacent to Tucson, AZ} from Feb. 2nd to Feb 5th.
- We will socialize; some folks will arrive early for a potluck Super Bowl Party
- We will have a catered dinner (cash bar).
- All of your documents will be checked {insurance, passports, pet releases etc.}
- During our group meetings the Laws and Caravan protocol will be reviewed.
- Participants are assigned to experienced Group Leaders and Tail Gunners who will guide and assist them on the tour. **Like the U.S. Marines: We Leave Nobody Behind!**
- We will organize a day trip which will travel to the Border and allow everyone to get their visas.
- We depart (Groups of 8) on Feb. 5th, .Crossing the border in Nogales (67 miles) and stopping for a one night stay at Rancho Betania in Santa Ana. The next morning we will make the 150 mile trip to Kino Bay where we will stay at Kino Bay RV Park near the center of this small fishing village.

Some of our activities will include:

- 2 catered dinners, one of which will be a 'Margareta Party'.
- There will be a guided bus tour of Hermosillo the Capitol of Sonora.
- Activities available: Fishing, ATV Trails, Hiking and Relaxing by the beach
- Full Hookups, Free WiFi Internet, Bilingual Personnel, Money Exchange, Laundry, Hot
- Showers, FAX and Mail also available and much, much more.

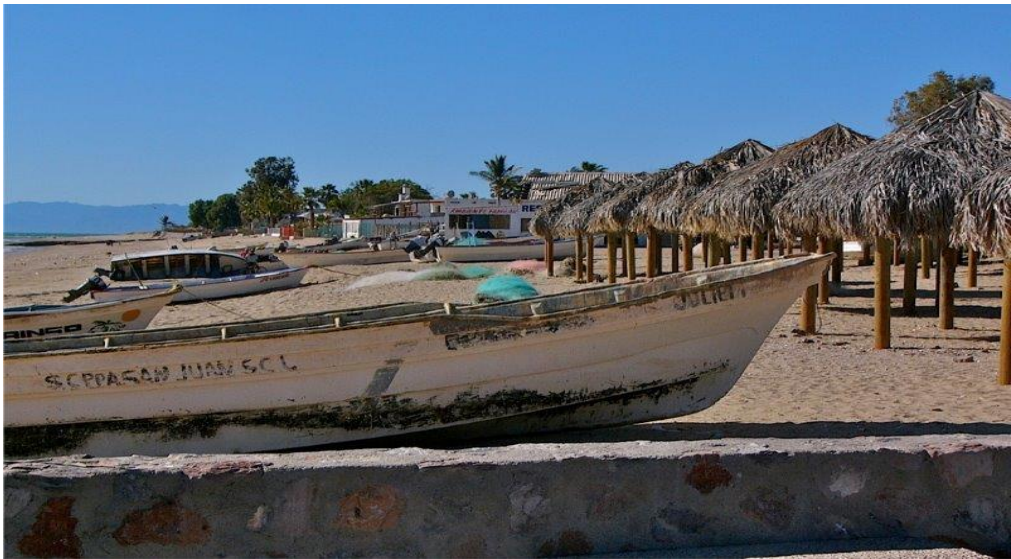
Photos and more information along with reservations can be made on line at the Mexican Connection Website

<http://www.mexicanconnection08.com/>

Peter & Anne-Marie Arnold KinoBaywagonmaster@gmail.com



Some photos taken by Charlie Boles of Kino Bay:





Notes from Susie and Denny:

Hello Chapter/C-Bof Officers and Chairpersons – Again so many Thank Yous for being Escapees Members and Officers, supporting not only Escapees RV Club, but your local chapter/c-bof.

We are retiring as Chapter Directors for Escapees effective October 31, 2014. We ask that you **please update your records** as to where to send your minutes, newsletters, reports, etc.

All Officer and Chairperson manuals and instructions are located on the Escapees website for easy reference. <http://www.escapees.com/Chapters/ReportingForms.aspx>. You must have your personal Escapees ID/Password to access this area.

Magazine Report for updates as to rally dates, locations, officers, additional information eg: special rally article and pictures departmentseditor@escapees.com chapterdirectors@escapees.com

Minutes of your business and board meetings;

Treasurer Report/Audit; Newsletters; all other communications

chapterdirectors@escapees.com

clubbusiness@escapees.com

Whenever you would like a new **list of Escapees Members** in your area – please send your request to Advertising@escapees.com. They will send you an excel list that you can sort by any variety of ways. This is a great way to promote your chapter to new members. This list can also be used to verify current Escapees memberships.

Please be sure to update your group **VOICEMAIL** with current chapter/c-bof activities. Not all members use the computer.

Escapade will be March 8-13, 2015 in Tucson, AZ – don't forget to register for Escapade and to have a representative on The Row. Call Escapees 888-757-2582 – ask for KIM

Again, Thank You for your support and friendship as Escapees. We hope to see you along our travels. SKP Hugs Susie & Denny Orr

¡Hasta luego!

