

Escapes Chapter 8 RV Club

LA CONEXIÓN MEXICANA



Spring 2015

Volume XXXIV

Number 1

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The purpose of Chapter 8 is to:

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

New Mexican Connection Website:

<http://www.mexicanconnection08.com>

MENSAJE de los PRESIDENTE

Message from President Peter Arnold

Spring News from The Mexican Connection.

Chapter #8's Mission Statement {A.K.A. The Mexican Connection} is two fold;

- 1) We want to introduce our RV family to the excitement and pleasures of traveling in Mexico, in a safe manner.
- 2) We bring charitable works, both money and in-kind donations of clothing, medical equipment.

Incidental to these goals, we bring friendship and hope to our Mexican neighbors.

During our 30th anniversary rally to Kino Bay, we fulfilled the above objectives. We traveled with 25 rigs (From Bluebird to VW Eurovan) and 47 campers. Our Caravan consisted of 6 'newbies' who were surrounded by our more experienced travelers.

During our 17 day rally, we distributed in part: 3 Wheelchairs, 9 Walkers, several canes, about 9 totes full of clothing and a pile of school supplies. Not to forget the 9 soccer balls that made a BIG hit with the young folks.

We evaluated several local charities and distributed \$5,000 in cash or we prepaid for services for them. Recipients included: An abused women shelter, a substance abuse facility, a school breakfast program, and a youth sports program.

During the 17 day rally we had 4 group dinners, a bus trip to Hermosillo, SON, and Happy Hours most afternoons. Several folks availed themselves of kayaking, hiking, 4 Wheeling and other beach related activities.

Next year's Rally will be to Puerto Penasco (Rocky Point), our Wagon Masters are Larry and Orene Brown. Tentative Dates for the pre-rally and rally are February 1-14.

Peter Arnold, President



Wagonmaster 2016 Report

By: Larry and Orene Brown

Rally on the Beach, Puerto Penasco

Our tentative dates for the 2016 rally are Feb 1-14, including the pre-rally at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, and 10 days in Puerto Penasco. As some of you know, Larry and I were not able to attend the Kino Bay Rally due to Larry's shoulder surgery to reattach his rotator cuff and a completely torn bicep. (ouch!) There is a lengthy recovery period which mandates no driving, so we will not be able to get to Penasco until April 20th to negotiate contracts for the RV Park, tours, etc. Once that is done we will have firm information.

We have so many wonderful Chapter 8 friends that have come forward with enthusiasm to help on the 2016 Rally. Shelly Dominek, intrepid newsletter editor is also going to be acting as "Activities Director" and is planning lots of fun surprises for us on site.

Charity will be chaired by Margaret Jenia. Margaret and Frank have had a home in Puerto Penasco for many years, and Margaret is very much connected into the local networks. Marg will be a great asset to the committee in their work. She will be looking for volunteers! Both Margaret and Frank, with their extensive knowledge of the area, are partnering with Larry and me in the work of planning and executing an exciting Puerto Penasco adventure. Also volunteering to help will be Joe and Niki Wright and Alan and Ellie Dotson.

Let me convey a very special thank you to Sue Schaffer for devoting not one, but two years to the very big job of Charity Committee Chair. This is not an easy position, and carries a heavy responsibility to fairly identify the needs of a community in a foreign country, communicate with those groups, and make wise decisions about apportioning the money so generously raised by our members. Thank you Sue!

Our official rally email is: 2016rallyonthebeach@gmail.com. We will keep you posted throughout the coming months through the web page, Facebook page, Chapter Newsletter, and the Escapees Magazine as well as via this email address. I will be creating a list-serve for this email, so if you are interested in regular communication from us as plans develop, please email us at that address so we can add you to the list-serve. We expect to open registration September 1, 2015.

Another special thank you to Maryke Hines, who although she already has many hats, willingly and ably filled in for me as Secretary at the Kino Bay Rally!

Enjoy the journey, wherever you may go!

Orene Clarke Brown, Chapter 8 Secretary



Chapter Officers elected in Kino Bay

President, Peter Arnold
pmarno@gmail.com

Immediate Past Presidents,
Lin & Maryke Hines
linhines@earthlink.net

1st Vice President and Wagon master 2016,
Larry Brown / Orene Brown
2016rallyonthebeach@gmail.com

2nd Vice President, Vacant

3rd Vice President, Vacant

Secretary, Orene Brown
orenebrown1@gmail.com

Treasurer, Steve Bufty
stevebufty@yahoo.com

Chapter 8 Newsletter Editor, Shelly Dominek
newsletter.chapter8@yahoo.com

Chapter 8 Membership Chair, Maryke Hines
maryke2@earthlink.net

Chapter 8 Historian, Vacant

Chapter 8 Webmaster, Lynn Waite
lwaite@hotmail.com

As you can see, we have 3 vacancies, two of them for Vice Presidents/Wagon Masters – very important positions to our Chapter! Please consider stepping up to fill these positions at our 2016 Rally. No VPs, no Wagon Masters. No Wagon Masters, no rally. No Historian, no past? Unthinkable!

Mexican Connection Website:

<http://www.mexicanconnection08.com>



WOW TAKE A LOOK AT THE WEBSITE!!

Thanks to Lynn Waite (Webmaster)





Charity Report by Sue Schaffer, Charity Committee Chair

Thank you to everyone that:

Donated, transported and organized items for the charities and purchased items at the Regular and Silent Auctions

We raised \$5,000 to give away to needy organizations in Old Kino. The Organizations we helped were:

- \$600 to a program that feeds children breakfast, was spent for paint and cleaning supplies.
- \$500 went to a program that helps widowed and single mothers build houses.
- \$450 to a school for Handicapped Children, used to purchase art paper, paints, computer mouse, stickers, ping pong supplies, and badminton supplies.
- \$500 to Club Deportivo to purchase used wheel chairs and oxygen tank regulators.
- \$1,000 to the Diabetic Club to purchase insulin syringes and needles,
- \$1,350 to Alcohol and Drug Abuse Center for air conditioner for the women's dorm and paint and cleaning supplies,
- \$500 for a special mirror for the Rehab Center in Old Kino.
- \$100 Rancho Betania to assist their program after our overnight visit on 2/4
- We brought enough clothing to fill 22 large storage tubs,
- We also donated to the needy in Old Kino Bay: a walker, a bathroom assist chair, 3 wheelchairs, 3 oxygen tank regulators, 2 new blood pressure monitors with stethoscopes and 6 canes.

We only had 25 RV's come for the Rally. So, I was amazed at the amount of stuff brought for the needy. Everyone in the Mexican Connection did a fantastic job of helping the Charities this year. Thanks!

Sue Schaeffer





CHAPTER 8 GENERAL ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

February 14, 2015 at Kino Bay, Sonora, Mexico

1:00 PM Kino Bay RV Park Recreation Center

Maryke Hines, Acting Secretary announced that we had a quorum (16 rigs).

Board members present: Lin Hines, President; Peter Arnold, 1st Vice President/Wagonmaster; Steve Bufty, Treasurer; Maryke Hines, Membership Chair; Lynn Waite, Webmaster; Charlie Boles, Immediate Past President

Lin called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM and introduced the Officers present. The minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting were not available. Peter moved to waive the reading of the minutes and post them on the website. Motion was seconded by Mary Christenberry and unanimously approved.

Wagonmaster Report: Peter announced that we had 25 rigs registered for the Rally and a total of 47 persons at the Rally. He and his wife Anne-Marie made a scouting trip in October 2014 for confirmation of the campground and to make sure that some things, especially electrical problems would be repaired before our arrival. Also the contacts with the people of Club Deportivo, made last February by the Chapter 8 group scouting the Rally for him, were confirmed. The Rally is in the black and we could meet the Charity goals. Safety was observed by all and there were no problems. Three group dinners were organized.

Treasurer's Report: (attached)

The preliminary Treasurer's report was read by Steve Bufty. The Rally currently has a profit of \$2535. He proposed to use \$1000 for this year's charity, \$1000 as seed money for next year's charity and \$500 to go to the General Fund. He also proposed to send Escapees CARE \$1000 from the General Fund. He is still collecting monies from the auction items sold, and expecting more donations to come in the next few days. \$5000 is available for this year's Charity contributions.

Motion to approve made by Don Johnson and seconded by Charlie Boles. The Treasurer's Report was approved including the above proposals.

Webmaster Report: Both President Lin Hines and Webmaster Lynn Waite thanked Don Busick for all the work he has done for at least 8-9 years as Chapter 8 Webmaster. Don wants to “retire” and Lynn will take over as Webmaster. He is working on a new improved website, which is about 40% complete and hopes he can continue to meet the expectations of the Chapter. He would like to receive constructive comments from members, before the new website is finished. He invited all to go to the URL of the new site (mexicanconnection08/index1.html) and email comments and ideas to him.

As VCR he added that he appreciated the continued support of the Chapter for CARE and said that CARE needs more volunteers especially in the summer months. He announced that the 2016 Escapade will be in Essex Junction, Vermont from 24-29 July 2016.

Newsletter Editor report: Lin read the information received from Shelly Dominek, who is in Florida. The Spring 2015 Chapter newsletter needs information, photos and stories of this Rally and other adventures people may have in Mexico. The content deadline is April 4. Email her with information to help her get a great newsletter out.

Charity Committee Report: (attached) Sue Schaffer, Charity Committee Chair, said she had a lot of help this year and appreciated it very much. She was on the pre-run in February and made contacts with Club Deportivo, especially Francine Bailey, with whom she had a long conversation. She was very impressed with the Charity work the Club is doing and got a lot of contacts to follow up with for this Rally’s charity program. The Charity Committee met this morning and is proposing to distribute the \$5000 as follows:

Breakfast Club \$600 (to be spent on paint, rollers, brushes and cleaning supplies)

Rehabilitation Center \$500 (for a physical therapy mirror to be bought in the US by Brent Henderson)

Familias Unidas \$500 (as seed money in their micro loan program for single and widowed women to build houses.)

Kino Bay AA \$1350 (Air conditioner for the women’s dorm (\$750 installed), cleaning supplies, paint and disinfectant for the bathrooms, pots and pans, cooking oil for the kitchen)

Handicapped Children’s School \$450 (pingpong and badminton sets, paint, pads and brushes for the children to paint with, hand truck, wired computer mice all to be bought in Hermosillo)

Kino Bay Diabetic Club \$1000 (for test strips, glucose meters and syringes to be bought by Randy Bender on his trips to Phoenix)

Rancho Betania \$100 (to assist their program after our overnight visit on 2/4)

Club Deportivo \$500 (Rescue One - 4 oxygen regulators--- 4 wheelchairs for people who need them in Old Kino)

TOTAL RECOMMENDED FOR ALL CHARITY EXPENDITURES \$5000

*Details are in the attached Charity Report

Charlie Boles moved to approve the Charity report and Randy Dolan seconded. Report approved unanimously.

Chapter 8 New Bylaws (attached):

To remain an Escapees Chapter, we are required to adopt their new Bylaws for the Escapees Social Network Inc. (see attached Agenda) Miriam Otte moved to accept the Bylaws and Mary Christenbery seconded. Discussion followed. Motion carried unanimously.

Chapter 8 Amended Standing Rules (attached):

At the 2/11 Board new Bylaws working session, the Chapter's Standing Rules were also discussed and amendments were recommended. The amended Standing Rules were posted and emailed out to all at the same time as the Bylaws on 2/12.

A motion to accept was made by Miriam Otte and seconded by Mary Christenbery.

Discussion followed: Sue Schaffer had some questions about the appointment of the Charity Committee and Chair (Article 13) and after explanation, no changes were necessary. Two small amendments were made to rule out confusion:

First amendment in article 12 to take out "at any time during the Rally" was moved by Don Johnson and seconded by Charlie Boles—amendment carried.

The second in Article 9b to replace "at least a year ahead of the proposed Rally date" with "held during the previous year's Rally" was moved by Miriam Otte and seconded by Charlie Boles. Motion carried.

The Standing Rules with the amendments were approved unanimously.

(The meeting was suspended for a few minutes. Peter asked to make an announcement since he had to leave for an important phone call. He needed volunteers to bring the Chapter 8 equipment back to Joy Melton's place in Yuma, since he cannot go there after the Rally. He also wanted us all to think "outside the box" to find a solution of how to bring a "trailer full" of charity items needed in Mexico which can be bought cheaper in the US, to Mexico. Also the \$20 pp bus tour cost needs to be paid today or tomorrow to Peter.)

Destination for next year's Rally Puerto Peñasco:

Lin read the 2016 Chapter 8 Rally Proposal to Puerto Peñasco, Sonora led by Co-1st VP and Wagonmasters Orene & Larry Brown. Because of a very serious medical problem with Larry, they are in Tucson for a surgery appointment and unable to be present at this Rally. This is the report they sent:

The overall dates will be February 1-14, 2016 including pre-Rally at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument February 1-3 with registration, orientation to Mexico travel and Puerto Peñasco, a beautiful desert environment to enjoy in Organ Pipe & a catered dinner. Then February 4-14 at Playa Bonita RV Park in Puerto Peñasco including a city tour, trip to El Pinacate volcanic Biosphere Reserve, dinners, happy hours, games organized by Shelly Dominek, fishing trip, 4WD trip in desert and beaches, foodie tour, whale watching, charity & charity auction led by Margaret Jenia and more.

Lin said Chapter 8 had a very successful Rally to Puerto Peñasco in 2012. There's a lot to do, good tour possibilities, great beaches and we will be there during Carnival, like Mardi Gras, with all the glitzy parades and events. Lin personally recommends this destination and Larry and Orene are great people who will give us a terrific Rally! Dawn Boles moved to approve the 2016 Rally site and Mary Christenbery seconded. Motion carried unanimously!

Volunteer Recognition and Installation of Officers:

Because of time constraints and hopefully, more people being present at the final Rally dinner, this was moved to the final Rally dinner on Tuesday 2/17.

Miriam Otte moved to adjourn and Mary Chrisenbery seconded.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:58PM

Respectfully submitted, Maryke Hines, Acting Secretary





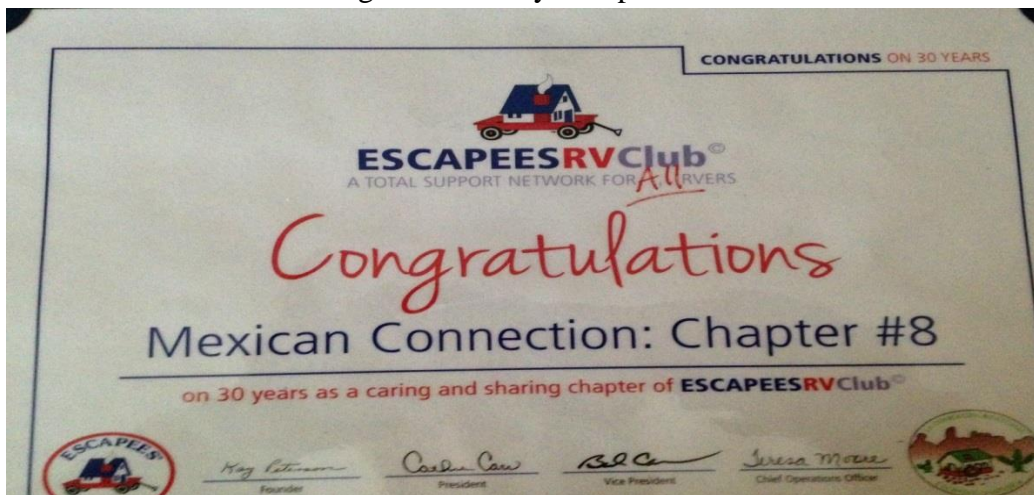
Escapade in Tucson

This year's Escapade was held at the Pima County Fairgrounds in Tucson, AZ. There were nearly 900 coaches in attendance! The Escapees staff was so pleased with the turnout that they are going to try to have the 2017 Escapade in that location again.

Chapter 8/The Mexican Connection was among thirty Escapee chapters represented on Chapter Row. The booth hosts were Larry and Orene Brown and Stan and Mary Chrisenberry. Of course we had the best candy to draw the crowd to our table. The power of chocolate! We had a sign-up sheet for interest for the 2016 Rally on the Beach in Puerto Penasco, flanked by colorful (stuffed/fake) parrots Juan and Juanita who have traveled silently with Larry and Orene for 13 years. We saw a great deal of interest in the Puerto Penasco Rally, talked to hundreds of lovely folks, and came away with about 100 names and email addresses on our sign-up sheet! We will create an email list to provide them with information as the plans for that rally develop.

Other very active Mexican Connection members that we saw at the Escapade were Lin and Maryke Hines, Peter and Anne Marie Arnold, Joe and Niki Wright, and Frank and Margaret Jenia.

This was the 30th Anniversary of the Mexican Connection! Our Chapter was presented with a Certificate of Congratulations by Escapees staff.



ALAMOS, SONORA, MEXICO—A PUEBLO MAGICO!

by Lin and Maryke Hines SKP 70910

In late February 2015, at the end of our 2015 Escapees Chapter 8 Mexican Connection Rally in Bahía de Kino, we and two other Rally couples drove about 275 miles southeast to the northernmost Spanish Colonial city of Mexico—Alamos, Sonora. Lin first came here in the 1960s when his parents used to visit for a week or two in winter and he has returned numerous times since.



The attraction of Alamos is easy to understand—the town is full of history and exceedingly beautiful!! Then there are the friendly easy going people of Alamos and their pride in their town, the incredible history back to the 16th Century when the first Spanish expeditions of discovery passed through and eventually discovered the vast richness of silver in the hills, the wonderful architecture of the old mansions, the expats who have lovingly restored these beautiful old ruins, the beauty of the surrounding mountains, the glorious pink flowers of the amapa tree, all the colors of the rainbow in bougainvillea seen everywhere in town, the classic Plaza de Armas and its beautiful church. And if that's not enough, consider the high status of Alamos as a Sonora Colonial Monument, a Mexican National Monument and its prestigious designation in 2005 as a Pueblo Magico (Magical Town) joining 35 other historic or architecturally significant towns in Mexico like San Miguel, Guanajuato, Todos Santos and many other famous towns! 185 buildings in Alamos are historic monuments!



Alamos is a town of about 13,000 inhabitants with about 30,000 people in the municipality. It is the northernmost federally declared colonial city in northern Mexico. About 350 Americans and Canadians live in Alamos in winter with about 100 remaining during summer or year round. Alamos was founded in 1684. Its economy is based on mining, cattle ranching, agriculture, construction and tourism. It is the ecological meeting place for desert, Sinaloa thorn forest and tropical deciduous forest, leading to an annual count of over 400 bird species. Alamos is at 1460 feet elevation and its namesake mountain, Mount Alamos is 5700 feet high. The name Alamos comes from the cottonwood tree native to this area. The rainy season here is July- September. Alamos is known as “La Ciudad de los Portales” or the City of Portals or arched building entry structures. There are many, many arches in the historic center of Alamos. Alamos is also known as the “Jumping Bean Capital of the World” since the brincadoras seed found in the hills contains a moth larvae that jump when warmed by the sun or in your hand! They are harvested and shipped worldwide! You can buy them on the plaza for 1 peso per bean!

