

Escapees Chapter 8 RV Club

LA CONEXIÓN **MEXICANA**



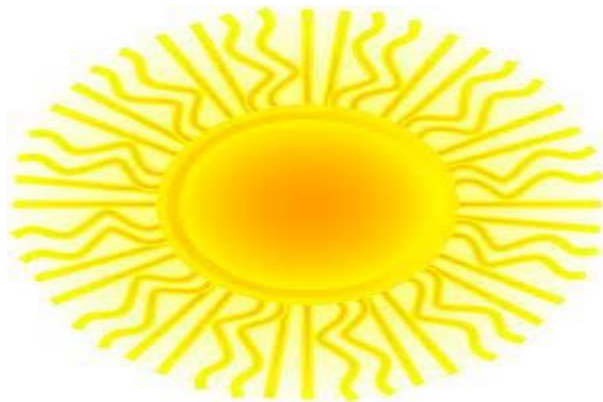
Summer 2015

Volume XXXIV

Number 2

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Boletín de verano

MENSAJE de los PRESIDENTE

Message from President Peter Arnold

From the President's rolling office:

We hope that you came through the turbulent weather conditions of the last 6 months without undue stress and difficulty. Our Girls in Connecticut struggled with 60" of snow while a few months later our friends had to deal with torrential rains in the mid-west.

We are currently inching our way up the East Coast after a very nice visit to Florida, where we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary with a week's cruise in the Western Caribbean. We left our coach in a Masonic campground in Wimauma, FL while we visited Anne-Marie's Brother and took the cruise. It was sure good to get back to our house-on-wheels!

We will visit Family in Connecticut and than return to New Mexico for Balloon Fiesta with the Boomers.

In November, we will make a trip to Puerto Penasco after we check with our Wagonmaster's to see if they have any issues which they may need help with. Our big agenda item is to get our sorry looking Bounder painted.

We have several positions open for folks who want to be part of administration. There are all types of tasks where can use Your life experiences.

Please consider donating something of real value, [your time].

Safe travels until we meet again.



Peter Arnold, President of Chapter #8

Wagonmaster 2016 Report

By: Larry and Orene Brown

SAVE THE DATES!

The Mexican Connection, Chapter 8

2016 Rally on the Beach in Puerto Penasco, Mexico

Pre Rally Feb. 3-6 at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Ajo, AZ

Feb 6-16 The Reef RV Park at Sandy Beach, Puerto Penasco

For more information email: 2016rallyonthebeach@gmail.com

Chapter web site: www.mexicanconnection08.com

Registration will begin in September 2015. Space is limited!

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Larry and Orene Brown

2016 Rally On The Beach Wagon Masters

Funcionarios de Capítulo 8

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>



Charity Report - Sue Schaffer

I felt all of you should know what happened in Keno Bay with the money we left. It was great to hear that the Feeding Center's bus is going again. I will suggest to Brent that the man who keeps needing new wheel chairs every 3 months, do some volunteer work for the Club. He needs to learn to support his needs or go easier on what he gets free.

Here is the letter from Brent that I received:

Good morning Sue, sorry I haven't gotten to you sooner. To update you on what is happening, the breakfast club received the money you left through the grocery store and hardware store. They were so excited as the money was well needed. A little less than a week after you left, another individual contacted us to donate \$5,000.00 UDS to this program. This was wonderful timing as their septic system had just failed. \$1000.00 was allocated to install new septic system. The \$4,000. balance has been allocated for the bus. For fuel, insurance and other miscellanies. This should last them approximately 2 years. This has expanded the breakfast club as they are able to go throughout Kino and pick up children. Thanks to you and others more children are being feed every day. As for the rehabilitation center, we had priced a physical therapy mirror and it was over \$600.00USD. So therefore I went to the States at Home Depot and for \$100.00 each I was able to purchase 2 large mirrors. We were able to mount one of them on a wall. The other one I hired a local welder to build a frame with locking wheels and additional hooks for therapy equipment. Which has left them a balance of \$130.00, to buy additional supplies as needed. Families Unidas was given \$500.00. As for the AA center the AC was installed immediately and they had a balance of 5,000 pesos. This was split between the hardware store and grocery store for an account for supplies. Shauna was able to buy 4 wheel chairs at the location you suggested. We have had to give one of them to the same man with no legs as the one that we had given him while you were here was already wore out. We do have 3 on hand to distribute as needed. We have not picked up the regulators at this time. I would like to thank you again as your organization has helped this community immensely directly and indirectly. Your efforts have benefited many people and will continue benefiting our community for several years. Thank you Brent Henderson

Also, email had information about the feeding center getting a \$5,000 donation from a benefactor. That donation allowed them to fix their septic and get the bus taxes, license, and insurance paid. They will use the remainder of that donation to keep diesel fuel in the bus. This should enable the bus to pick up children all over old Keno Bay for about 2 years. The feeding center had wanted us to license the bus, pay the taxes, insurance, and purchase fuel. The charity committee decided that to get the bus going and keep it going for awhile, would require most of our charity funds. so, we only bought them paint, and painting supplies for their building.

Sue and Charlie Schaffer

The Seri Indians of the Kino Bay Area

by Lin and Maryke Hines SKP 70910



One of the highlights of the 2015 Chapter 8 Kino Bay Rally was the invitation for our group to attend the Seri Fiesta held at the Seri Museum in New Kino on Sunday February 8, 2015. When the Seris find an ancient artifact of their culture in the desert, they hold a Fiesta with presentations, dancing, food and displays of their wonderful crafts. The Seris traditional homeland historically extended up and down the upper east side of the Sea of Cortez and Isla Tiburon (Shark Island), the largest island in Mexico. There are 2 Seri villages 25-50 miles from Kino Bay, so for this Fiesta, the Seri people came to New Kino, bringing food, costumes, face painting supplies and large amounts of handcrafted baskets, jewelry and ironwood carving that was for sale at modest prices.

The Seris are world famous for their beautiful ironwood carvings of birds and animals of all kinds. Behind the Museum, many Seri women had set up their tables full of wares, and you could get your face painted in a typical Seri fashion. We were happy that the 2 little girls above and their mothers allowed us to take photographs! Besides the Ironwood carvings, they make beautiful baskets, soapstone sculptures, and fantastic jewelry mostly made of shells and painted fish vertebrae.



Our basket



Of course we had to buy some baskets along with a shark and large rattlesnake ironwood carving. But our treasure was a 10" diameter brown, black and tan basket with a beautiful geometric design that is absolutely perfect, made by a master basket weaver!

You could haggle a little bit but except for the really big museum-size baskets, things were not too expensive. We even learned some Seri words and got a lot of smiles when we said something was beautiful and "thank you" in their language, although most of the Seris speak Spanish.



Some of the boys wore rattles (cocoons) on their legs and danced, while a man or woman chanted. We had seen similar dances of the Tarahumara Indians in the Copper Canyon, and maybe the tribes are related or their customs are similar.

Lydia, the wife of the village headman, was dressed in a beautiful red dress and chanted for some of the dances. She spoke English well and also had made some very nice craft items. Her face with very deep wrinkles was very distinctive.



We were amazed about the handicrafts and couldn't resist buying several necklaces, bracelets and the pièce de resistance was small basket earrings for Maryke. They are beautiful and so original!



Chapter 8 members of course joined the fun. Mary Chrisenbery had her face painted and so did Randy Dolan!

A few days later, we drove out to Punta Chueca, the closest Seri village right on the water with their fishing and diving boats pulled up on shore. We walked along the beach looking at the pelicans and other birds, and several women of the village came out to show us their craft items and we found a few more inexpensive jewelry items. Then Lydia came out and we immediately recognized her and after mentioning the Fiesta, she also remembered us. She had several necklaces to show us and we bought one with a scallop shell encrusted with many tiny marine snail shells which is very beautiful.



The village has electricity and several new dwelling are being built. There is a school, basketball court on the central plaza, fish facilities and many homes. Everyone was curious about our small Sprinter-based RV and very friendly!



We've bought Seri ironwood carvings in several nearby towns in Mexico but the Fiesta and our visit to the Seri village gave us personal contact with the warm and friendly people and was a great experience. And now we have a few more Seri handmade goods to remind us of this very pleasant experience!

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, Sinaloan 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!



Your first vision of the colonial city to come are the huge colonial-style entry arches several miles from town. Driving on, you pass through an area of hotels, small shops and larger businesses, the Mercado de Artesanias selling crafts from all of Mexico, the Hospital and sports facilities. Dolisa RV Park is on the left and was our Alamos headquarters. In about another ½ kilometer of homes and small shops, you'll see the Banorte bank and the Casa de Cambio for money exchange. Across the street is our favorite restaurant, Las Palmeras, with excellent food, atmosphere and reasonable prices.



You then reach a fork in the road. To the left is the Alameda, the main commercial part of town, containing the Mercado Municipal, the 1892 public market, a tortilla factory, many small taquerias and several small supermercados, small refreshment stands, a large plaza, the bus terminal and much more. The right fork leads down a narrow old one way street, Francisco Madero, that leads to the Plaza de Armas, the old Spanish military plaza, with the impressive church on one side, formerly grand homes on the other 3 sides, now hotels or shops and the park in the center with its tall palms and the beautiful kiosk or bandstand. Come at night to see a warm, colorful view of the kiosk as well as the whole Plaza! Most Plaza buildings were constructed during the late 1700s-early 1800s.

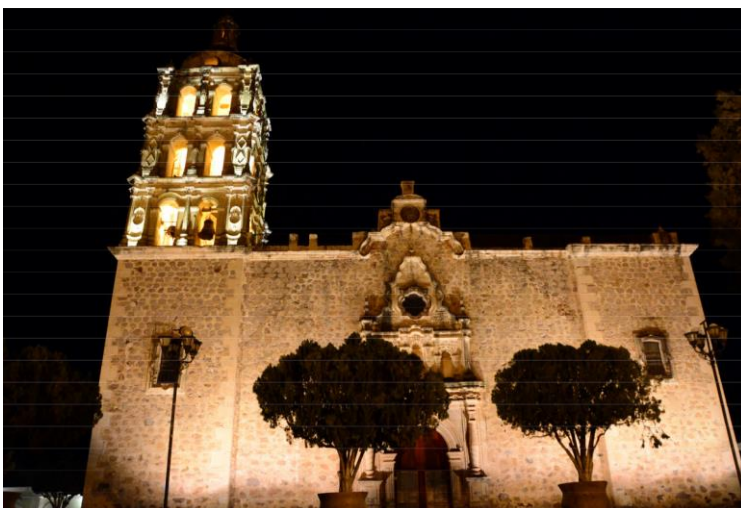
The Museo de Costumbrista featuring the history, people and customs of Alamos and Sonora, including mining, is on the far side as you enter with the Tourist Office to its right. The Tourist Office, beyond a map and brochures, is the place to find a licensed guide. We chose Emiliano Grajeda for both a City Walking Tour with lots of history and later, a Mayo Indian Village Tour that was a great day out in the country seeing many interesting people and places at reasonable cost. The Amigos de Educacion de Alamos runs a Home and Garden Walking Tour going to 3 restored Alamos homes on Saturday morning 9:30AM at the Museum on the Plaza for \$10US. Proceeds go to scholarships for needy Alamos high school students. Many curio shops are to the left and a few refreshment stands operate around the plaza.



Several guided tour vehicles operate from the Plaza: The Red Train, a motorized (fake) horse carriage, and a large 1920s style car. Most hotels are within a block or two of the Plaza de Armas. The Palacio Municipal is to the right of the church just off the plaza and contains the city offices, the municipal offices and the post office. A large stage in the Palacio is used for many public performances including the annual Tirado Music Festival in January. The Palacio Municipal is impressively lit at night with LED lights in the front sidewalk in the Mexican flag colors of red, white and green!



The church on the Plaza de Armas, officially Iglesia Parroquia de Nuestra Senora de la Concepcion, the parish church of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, replaced an old adobe church on the site, when construction began in 1786. As the church is still in daily use, the church bells ring for mass, deaths, funerals or extraordinary happenings in town. Before the Mexican Revolucion, the church was more ornate inside and outside with gold plated statues in the facade niches and seals of the Spanish King which were later obliterated. Many churches were looted during those years, but Alamos was fortunate in suffering minimal damage. Be sure to walk completely around the church seeing the dome, the large tower with the bells, the cross and weathervane on top and the flying buttresses. The inside is very impressive also. The church would have become a cathedral but Bishop Reyes died before the church was completed and a new bishop was never appointed! Come back at night to see the lighted church, the lighted gazebo and most of the Plaza de Armas lighted.



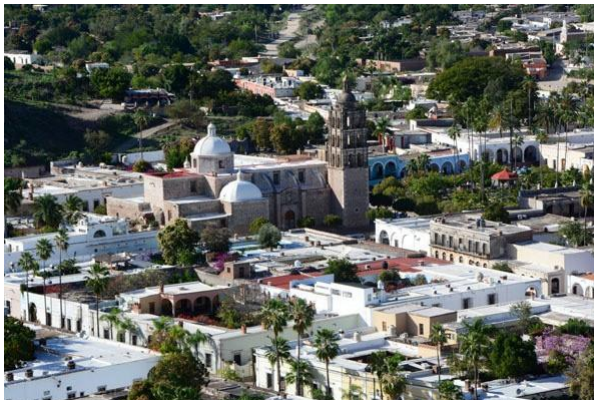
While we were in Alamos this trip, a 5K run, a political candidate rally, and a classic car show all occurred in the Plaza de Armas. All the runners got a small bag of color chalk dust to throw at other runners and to color the streets and the plaza---lots of green and purple people later! The next day a city crew was out, pressure washing the streets! Alamos has many events and celebrations throughout the year and most happen in the Plaza de Armas. Alamos is very clean and also very safe, day or night!



Get a map from the Tourist Office and just walk and enjoy the great architecture, the colors and the friendly Buenos Dias or Buenos Tarde you'll want to exchange with the Alamos locals. The town is organized into 16 or more barrios or neighborhoods and it is fun to walk along the streets and peer into open doors, windows and gates to see beautiful patios, landscaping, shrines and restored old homes.

Here are a few more of the sights and sounds that we very much enjoyed in Alamos:

El Mirador--The best view of Alamos is from the Mirador, a hill about 200 feet high with a 360 degree view. You can easily see where you've been and where you want to go next from the Mirador. We traced the foot



route to the Panteón or cemetery and took the long hike there the next day.

Bougainvillea--The other color to be seen everywhere in every barrio or up at the Mirador is bougainvillea in a kaleidoscope of colors all over Alamos!



Bakery Sales Kids--The local bakery, Panaderia Moderna, across the arroyo, sends out kids all over town with tables carried on their heads, containing sweet rolls hot from the oven for sale! The photograph of 2 kids with tables shown here has water mist in the background from the city crew pressure washing the Plaza!!



Architectural Detail--Be sure to look at all the intricate architectural do-dads (technical term!) on Spanish Colonial buildings. The large houses were a combination of large hacienda and casona, large city house in both Spanish and Moorish design. There were no architects in Northern Mexico when Alamos was built so maestros or skilled masons designed the structure and ornamentation with the owners.



Pharisees/Fariseos--Since we visited Alamos at the beginning of Lent, we had several encounters with Pharisees on the street. These are groups of 3-5 Mayo or Yaqui men selected by village elders. They vow to be mute, abstain from sex, not wash their clothes and walk a route in silence selected by the elders for the 40 days of Lent. They wear a costume and masks around towns, move to a drumbeat and hold out a can for donations. A donation cleanses you of sins! We have seen them in several towns and been amply cleansed!



Las Estudiantinas---formal name La Estudiantina Dr. Alfonso Ortiz Tirado, founded in 1989, with its first performance at the 1989 Tirado Music Festival. 10-20 young men dressed in 13th Century Spanish costumes perform with string and percussion instruments and a small accordion. They dance and sing, as a group or singly with Spanish songs. Many of their songs praise feminine beauty or are comical. At the performance we attended at Casa de los Tesoros Hotel on February 24, 2015 at the suggestion of our guide Emiliano, about half of the group of 10 Estudiantina came out in the audience of a large American Trafalgar Tours group and danced with women individually and then formed a conga line with many of the tour group that went around the large patio several times. We have seen them twice before and really enjoyed them again!



Religious Shrines—Shrines to Our Lady of Guadalupe large and small, grand or poor, they are everywhere in Alamos, on houses, buildings, at street corners and many other locations



Alamos is a wonderful Mexican town to visit with much to do and almost everything is in easy walking distance. History comes alive here as you walk the cobblestones!



FINAL TREASURER'S REPORT (5-1-2015)
MEXICAN CONNECTION CHAPTER EIGHT
MAY 1, 2014 TO APRIL 30, 2015

BANK BALANCE AS OF MAY 1, 2014		15,404.94
INCOME		
Membership (Dues)	418.07	
Rally Registrations (less refunds)	15,090.00	
Year Long Charity Donations	2,941.07	
Live & Silent Auction Donations	1,516.10	
Silent Auction Donations (combined with Live above)		
TOTAL INCOME		19,965.24
EXPENSES		
Costs to represent Chapter 8 at Escapade	312.19	
Quartzsite Pre-Pre-Rally expenses	0.00	
Pima County Fairgrounds Pre-Rally expenses	2,037.00	
Rancho Betania Rally Expenses	579.00	
Kino Bay Rally Expenses	9,878.60	
CHARITABLE DONATIONS		
1. Wheelchairs and Walkers	275.00	
2. Club Deportivo - for the Breakfast Club	600.00	
3. Club Deportivo - for the Rehabilitation Center	500.00	
4. Club Deportivo - for Familia Unidas	500.00	
5. Club Deportivo - for Kino Bay AA	1,350.00	
6. Club Deportivo - for Rescue One	500.00	
7. Randy Bender - for Kino Bay Diabetic Club	1,000.00	
8. Stan Chrisenberry - Supplies for Breakfast Club	334.68	
9. Supplies for Handicapped Children's School	295.51	
10. Salvador Magallanes for Rancho Betania	100.00	
11. Escapees CARE	1,000.00	
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
PayPal Fees	123.87	
Miscellaneous expenses	0.00	
Miscellaneous expenses (Website 2014)	155.40	
Miscellaneous expenses (Supplies, Decal Sales)	-14.00	
TOTAL SPENDING		19,527.25
RALLY PROFIT/LOSS (Journaled to CARE, General Fund, & Charity)		2,595.40
NET FISCAL YEAR INCREASE/DECREASE		437.99
BANK BALANCE (as of APRIL 30, 2015)		15,842.93