

LA CONEXIÓN MEXICANA



Winter 2015

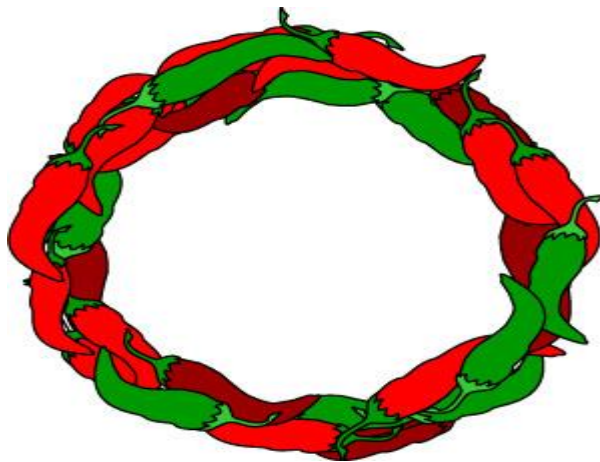
Volume XXXVI

Number 4

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**Feliz
Navidad**





2016 Rally on the Beach

The 2016 Mexican Connection Rally is nearly here! We have 60 rigs and 118 people registered and ready to go!

Our pre-rally will be at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Ajo, AZ. On February 6th we will travel in small groups to Puerto Penasco, and rally on the beach for ten days.

Our location, The Reef RV Resort, has proven to be very popular. Located on Sandy Beach, the park has two great dining venues adjacent to the park which we are sure will be very popular with our members.

Planned activities include a Welcome Fiesta, whale watch/sunset cruise, city tours, a tag along style day trip to El Pinacate (a UNESCO World Heritage site), a Jeep/four wheeling trip, and a Mexican Connection Carnival/Mardi Gras party at The Reef.

As always, the centerpiece of our rally includes a Charity Auction to raise money to be used locally to assist those in need, especially children and the elderly. Our membership also brings material donations, such as clothing and school supplies. Our Charity Committee, chaired by Margaret Jenia, will spend a great deal of time in Puerto Penasco working toward our charity goals.

Our rallies are powered by volunteers! We, as Wagon Masters, could not do this without all the wonderful friends that have pitched in to make this rally happen. Shelly Dominek has taken the lead on the Carnival party and we know it will be a great time! Frank and Margaret Jenia have been invaluable in helping arrange field trips and the cruise. We have lots of volunteers for Parking Crew (Chaired by Bill Dominek), Registration, Group Leaders and Tail gunners, and Auctioneers. Special thanks to our intrepid Treasurer, Steve Bufty, who has been endlessly patient and always helpful.

So let's go to the Beach!

Larry and Orene Brown

Wagon Masters

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

Chapter 8 Charity Chairman, Margaret
Jenia,
margaretjenia@yahoo.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 by Margaret Jenia

Dear 2016 Rally registrants,

As you may know as part of our charter, we always raise funds and bring items to help the poor. In order to help, you could bring down items that can be auctioned for cash. Fun and/or useful. No junk please.

Our Charity auction will be on February 11th at "Wrecked at the Reef Bar".

And.....

We also know of items needed:

- Diapers especially larger sizes 2, 3,4.
- Washed children's clothing in good repair
- Washed adult clothing in good repair
- Medical supplies of all kinds
- School supplies
- Convalescent items
- OTC Medications
- Plastic grocery bags
- Toiletries small and large
- Shampoo deodorant, toothpaste, razors men's and women's, cough medications
- Toys, games, puzzles, art/craft supplies, wrapped candy. Juice boxes,
- Laundry soap
- Dish soap
- Fabuloso or cleaning supplies
- Blankets or bedding

Please place clothing and blankets in bags marked clean and if possible with a fabric sheet softener to keep it smelling fresh.

Also people can volunteer for Saturday lunches for the poor or a garage sale to raise funds for charities. Info will be available at the rally.

Thank you in advance for your kindness.

Margaret Jenia

Fun Places to Visit in Puerto Peñasco!

by Lin and Maryke Hines SKP 70910

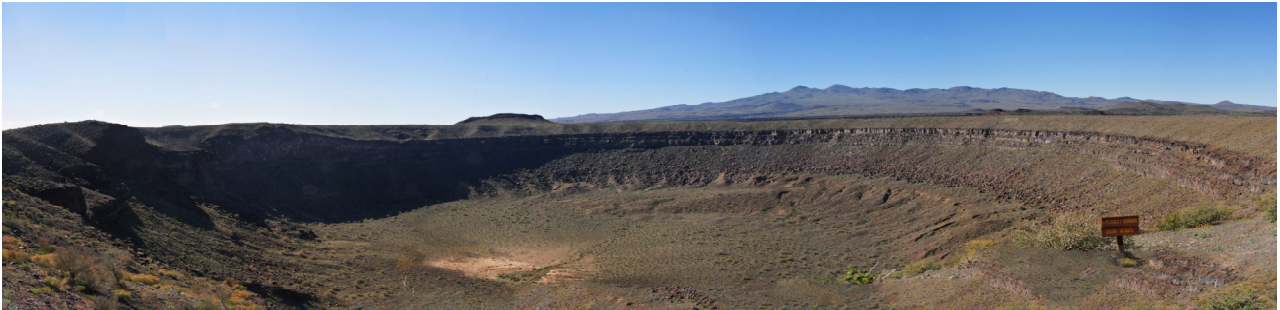
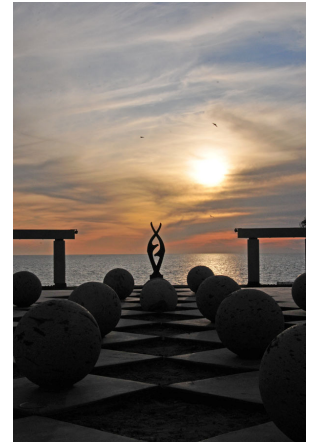
We've visited Puerto Peñasco several times including the Chapter 8 Rally there in 2012 and really enjoyed the town! Here's a few of our favorite places to visit in this port town on the Sea of Cortes! First, all RVers like to eat and Puerto Peñasco has many places from taquerías to fancy restaurants to satisfy you!



We liked *Pollo Lucas Asadero*, a very good restaurant right on the main drag, Blvd. Benito Juarez. Look for the large open front, thatch roofed chicken (pollo) barbecue restaurant with the delicious smell of barbecued chicken, rice, beans and tortillas in the air! Downtown near the water on Calle Francisco Eusebio Kino (Padre Kino St.) is a small but excellent taquería, *Asadero Viva Mexico*, that has terrific and inexpensive grilled carne asada and pollo tacos with all the trimmings—yum!



As you walk around downtown, you'll come across a large plaza with several large monuments. One is called El Camaronero (the shrimp fisherman). Many large festivals are held at this plaza throughout the year! Other things to do here are renting a PWC or go up in an ultralight aircraft, and as you would expect, sport fishing is very big deal here with a fleet of boats available in the harbor.



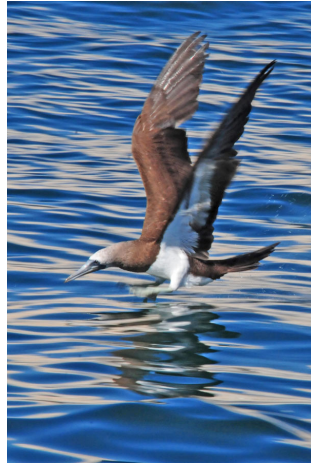
If nature is your thing, and it is for us, Puerto Peñasco has a variety of interesting sites including El Pinacate Biosphere Reserve, that protects a large volcanic area complete with a huge crater, El Elegante, (above) many cinder cones and lava fields along with beautiful unspoiled Sonoran desert with almost every cactus variety, some of which should be blooming in February!

The port is famous for their shrimp boat fleet as well as many other fishing vessels, assuring you of the freshest possible seafood in the restaurants here.





A boat trip from the harbor will take you to Bird Island, a rocky group of small islands with nesting grounds for many sea birds, including blue-footed boobies (shown) and several large colonies of California sea lions, which last time swam right up to the boat!



Whale skeleton at CEDO (above)

CEDO is a conservation organization as well as a nature center with many interesting displays including the sealife and whales of the Sea of Cortes and a great gift shop too! One of their focuses is protecting the highly endangered small dolphin, the vaquita, found only in the waters in the vicinity of Puerto Peñasco.



The Aquarium in Puerto Peñasco is small but has some interesting live displays of native fish, sea turtles and our favorite, a big California sea lion that you can feed after you buy a small bag of fish!



Aquaculture in the form of an oyster farm close by CEDO is interesting to see the process of growing oysters and then eating them at the nearby cafe.



And finally, we want to mention Chapter 8 Charity here in Puerto Peñasco. One example is Escuela de la Montaña (School of the Mountain) is a school for mentally and physically handicapped kids. Like most schools in Mexico, the Mexican government builds the buildings, supplies teachers and books, gives a minimum of food and pays the electric bill, leaving the teachers to fundraise for all enrichment items, more food and art materials. Handicap equipment such as wheelchairs and walkers are always needed as well as art materials. In 2012 we bought them a van load of art supplies, a refrigerator and other kitchen equipment, several walkers and

much more. The Charity Committee will make visits to a number of institutions that need help and we encourage you to come along and see for yourself the smiles and friendliness of the people and children and the conditions under which they operate. You'll see why many of us think Charity is the most heartwarming thing Chapter 8 does!





Mexico check list

Mechanical Needs

Everyone is responsible for keeping his rig in good running condition. Have vehicles serviced and checked over before leaving home.

The following is suggested:

- Tune-up
- Oil and filter change
- Air filter change
- Gas filter change
- Lubrication
- Wheel bearings checked and/or packed
- Inspect all hoses under the hood and replace if unduly soft or brittle
- Inspect all belts and replace if frayed
- Check all fluid levels
- Check wiper blades and replace if necessary
- Check shock absorbers and replace if necessary
- Check and clean battery terminals, check fluid level and general condition
- Check front end alignment
- Check tires for condition and pressure, including spare
- Check turn signals, tail lights and brake lights
- Check wheel lug nuts for tightness

Inspect trailer and fifth-wheel springs carefully for any cracks or bad bushings. Chances are if they are 8-10 years old and have had considerable use, they will break somewhere that you won't want them to. If one breaks, the others will soon follow.

Suggested spare parts to bring are:

- Belt – 1 spare for each one under the hood
- Air filter – 1
- Tire – 1 one for each size on vehicles and trailers
- Jack – 1 heavy enough to lift a corner of your rig
- Lug wrenches – 1 for each size nuts on vehicles and trailers
- Hitch ball – 1 if pulling trailer
- Hoses – 1 for each under the hood
- Keys – 1 spare set
- Oil – enough for a change, plus extra for emergency
- Oil filters – 2
- Fuel filters – 2
- Flashlights – 2 plus extra batteries
- Distilled water for batteries
- One trailer springs and shackle

In case of breakdown the Wagon Master will assist you to get it going, or will see you to a mechanic. Then it will be up to you. Green Angel trucks provided by the Mexican Department of Tourism travel main highways to help travelers in need. The drivers are bilingual and have simple spare parts, tools and radios for obtaining other assistance if needed. Tips are accepted.

Communications

CB radios and Family 2-way radios will be used for communicating while the caravan is on the road. Be sure to have one of each that works.

Leave the Club phone numbers, (800) 474-2252 and (707) 374-5511, with family and friends. We will try to locate you in case of emergency.

Arrange for Mexico coverage with your cell phone service provider.

Many RV parks in Mexico now have WiFi.

Towed Vehicle

If you have a small vehicle which you tow behind a motorhome it is recommended that you bring it for convenient transportation out of campgrounds.

Services

Mexico is a foreign country that does not have the same standards as the U.S. or Canada as far as services for electricity, water, etc. There will be dry camping and camping with facilities that may or may not work all the time. We recommend you buy purified water. Arrangements can usually be made in campgrounds to buy it from vendors who will pour the five-gallon containers into your rig.



Sunset over Puerto Penasco - photo from Lin & Maryke Hines



Hope to see you at the rally.



Happy Holidays from your Editor:

As this year comes to a close, it is with sadness that I bring up the subject of the newsletter editor position. After Spring 2016 newsletter, after the rally in Puerto Penasco, the newsletter will not be generated unless someone volunteers for the position. I have not received an email from anyone interested in the position.

The previous newsletter editor, Jan Biller, made this job very easy with great instructions and everything on a thumb drive. So, it should be no problem for someone new to take over this fun and interesting position. I would help out as long as needed.

If this is the job for you, please email me at newsletter.chapter8@yahoo.com.

Thanks

Shelly Dominek

