

# LA CONEXIÓN MEXICANA



## Escapees RV Club Chapter 8

Member of Escapees Social Network, Inc.

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Summer 2016

2017 Rally Initial Information

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Greenpeace Ship at Anchor off San Felipe, B.C., Sunrise, February 21, 2016— Photograph © 2016 Lin Hines

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# Chapter 8 Mission Statement

*Chapter 8 was organized in 1985 to:*

- Expose Escapees Chapter 8 Mexican Connection members to RV travel in Mexico, its traditions, culture, scenery, food, 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.



## *El escritorio del redactor*

### **Editor's Desk** by Lin Hines

Be sure to check out all the information about our 2017 Chapter 8 Rally to San Felipe, Baja California. Cynthia and Jim Ponder are putting together a great Rally! It's a great friendly destination!

For anyone who did not visit the El Pinacate volcanic craters during the 2016 Puerto Peñasco Rally, we've put together a photographic story of this moonscape-fantastic place!

If you have friends curious about going to Mexico with Chapter 8, be sure to show them Rod & Mary Garges' impressions of the 2016 Rally starting on page 12. Good stuff!

Here's your chance to help the 2018 Wagonmasters Ed Overby & Tony Sparks determine the 2018 Rally destination on page 16! It needs to be in the west coastal side of mainland Mexico and anywhere in northern Baja California, either coast, be within a 300-400 mile round trip from the border, be safe, be affordable and of course, be fun with lots of activity potential! Tell Ed and Tony what your favorite place is in that geography and what you like to do there, RV facilities you like and make the case that this should be the chosen place! Their email addresses are in the article and they're standing by for good ideas!

Give yourselves a pat on the back for the amazing amount of Charity monies donated on the 2016 Puerto Peñasco Rally—\$8000!! Wow—we seem to set a new record each Rally!

Finally, Dortha and Mark, our Escapees Chapter Directors remind us of Escapade coming up soon July 24-29 in Essex Junction, Vermont. Lots of great activities with your Escapees family biggest function of the year!

**FALL CHAPTER 8 NEWSLETTER ISSUE DEADLINE—AUGUST 10 FIRM!** (Publishing 8/20)



## *Mensaje del Presidente*

Buenas días amigos y amigas,

Summer is at the door and we have all scattered, excited about turn of the season plans with family and friends. In our case, we are escaping the desert heat for a more hospitable climate for the summer - Maine! Larry and I spend our summers at Cold Stream Pond



in Maine, in our summer cottage built in 1947 by my grandfather. Nearly every summer of my life has been spent at the lake, and I can't imagine being anywhere else.

Those of you that plan to be in the eastern United States, particularly in the Northeast region, please make an effort to attend the Escapade in Essex Junction, Vermont July 24-29. You have many friends waiting there!

The RV lifestyle is special in so many ways. You have friends everywhere you go. If you don't like where you are, pull up the jacks and find a new destination! RVing is freedom to see the continent "with your house on your back." From the first time we went out in our first motorhome, which we named "The Treehouse," RV travel became our best of times. We named it such because Treehouse represents coziness, escape from the mundane, a life among nature. Just like the RV. I can honestly say that I am never happier than when we embark on a new trip in the motorhome - whatever the destination.

Larry and I have often said to each other, "What on earth would we be doing if we hadn't bought that first motorhome?" I can't even imagine it. Unthinkable! Every place we go, every person we meet, every new friend made - how rich this has made us.

We recently made two new friends in Chapter 8 that will be figuring very importantly in The Mexican Connection 2017 Rally - your Wagon Masters Jim and Cynthia Ponder. We arranged recently to meet for lunch in Phoenix to get to know each other and talk about the next Rally. We had a great time visiting and we are very excited about the upcoming Rally in San Felipe. The Ponders have lots of exciting plans for us!

Enjoy your summer wherever you may go, and appreciate how lucky you are to be able to do this. And give your friends a hug!

See you down the road!

*Orene Clarke Brown, President*





# Passings

**Bob Torns, SKP # 21855** passed away May 5, 2015 at 73 years of age. Bob came to several Chapter 8 Rallies in the 2000s and was a life member of Escapees. His career was teaching music. He was weeks away from his 50th wedding anniversary with Carol. Carol says: *"I would like to continue RVing in the Minnie Winnie we loved so much. I am working on courage but at least I know I will never be alone. I feel Bob's loving hand on my shoulder every day. We had a wonderful life in Escapees."*

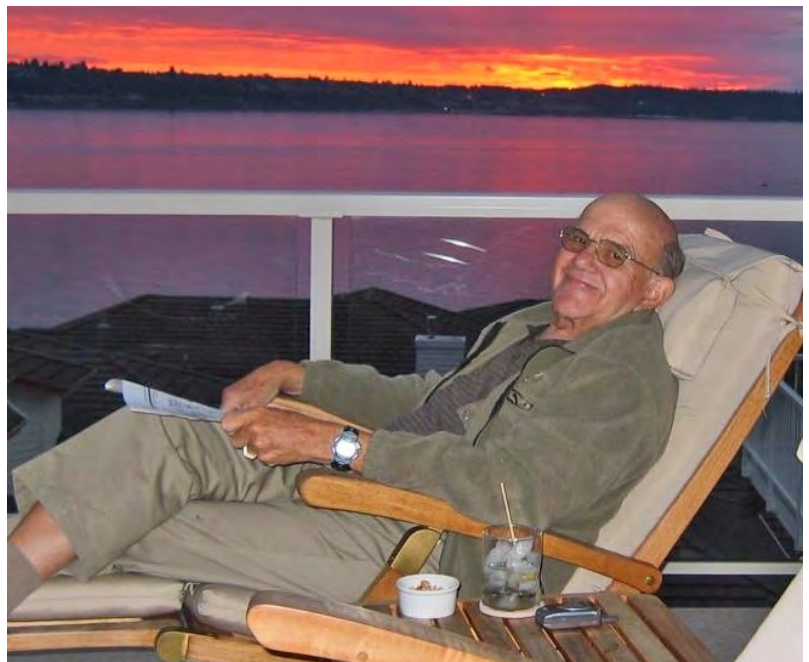
Our condolences to his family from Chapter 8 officers and members!

*Escapees Magazine*



**Ed Brandt SKP # 22193** passed away in Phoenix on April 6, 2016 at the age of 86. Ed served in the Navy in the Korean War and earned an engineering degree from Oregon State University after that conflict. He worked as an aerospace engineer in southern California. Later he worked at the Department of the Army as a Systems Engineer on the Bradley Fighting Vehicle. He retired in 1991 and enjoyed woodworking, traveling the country by RV and was active in Escapees RV Club. Ed was a longtime member of Chapter 8. His daughter Cheryl writes: *"His experiences and responsibilities with the SKPs adventures were certainly highlights of his life—especially the Mexican Connection trips. He loved the great community and caring people that were part of his life because of SKPs. He was eager to serve, plan, lead, volunteer because he loved this organization so much!"*

Chapter 8 Officers and members offer our condolences to Ed's family upon his loss. We will be working with Cheryl this fall to secure some of Ed's Chapter 8 files and deposit them into the Chapter's new digital archive being assembled by Chapter Historian, Ed Overby. Cheryl sent this photograph of Ed relaxing. Many of you will recognize Ed's smiling face!



*Mensaje de los Primer Vicepresidentes y organizadores de la 2017 Reunión*

## 2017 WAGONMASTERS REPORT

Hola Amigos,

We have had a wonderful time planning the 2017 Mexican Connection Rally and now we are anxious to share some of the details with you!

**Dates and Locations: Feb. 6-20, 2017** The pre-Rally will begin Feb. 6, 2017 at the Yuma, Arizona County Fairgrounds. Please arrive no earlier than 2PM and no later than 4PM.

The Mexican part of our Rally begins Feb. 9th with our drive to San Felipe, Baja California. We will travel 120 miles on good roads in small groups with an experienced Group Leader and Tailgunner with each group. The Rally will officially end in San Felipe the morning of Feb. 20th.

***PETE'S CAMP in San Felipe will be our home on the beach on the Sea of Cortez!***



**THIS IS A BOONDOCKING, NO HOOKUPS RALLY IN MEXICO. Dry camping! No hookups!** There is a fresh water and dump station available above the beach at the campground. There are small bathrooms on the beach, but newer, larger ones and hot showers are available above the beach as well. There is a small charge

for the showers. There is a lovely patio, bar and restaurant in the same location where we can gather. There are large tidal changes here and it is a great place to explore and walk when the tide is out.

**If you must have Electric** for medical reasons or your rig is all electric, we will have 10 full hook up sites in a gated housing development available for rent for the duration of the Rally. They will cost \$60 more per rig, will not be on the beach, but will have gated 24/7 security. The people who take these sites will also have access to tennis courts, pickleball, and swimming pools and hot tubs at the community center that the rest of us will not have. Please contact the Wagonmaster before registration to let us know your needs. Transportation will be provided between the electric sites and Pete's Camp at specific times during the day as needed.

**2017 Rally Registration begins Sept. 1, 2016 will be online only & paid only by PayPal®.**

## More 2017 San Felipe Rally details--

- We will have 3 catered dinners during the Rally and 1 during the pre-Rally. One of our dinners will be during our Silent and Live Auction for Charity. We ask folks to donate items they would be willing to bid on, sometimes the bidding gets very fierce. It will be a really fun event and raise as much money as possible for the people of the San Felipe area who have needs not met by others and for Escapees Care in Livingston, TX.
- Every morning from 6:30 to 9AM coffee and tea and a light continental breakfast of fruit and pastries will be provided so you won't have to run your generator early in the morning and wake your neighbors.
- There will be Palapas (covered canopies) on the beach with tables and chairs for social gatherings, potlucks, and general good times.
- The Palapas will be a gathering place for Happy Hour around the 3 to 4 PM time depending on the day's plans. Most will be a BYODrinks and snacks, but the Chapter will host a couple of Margarita parties and those interested can have some potlucks, if we aren't all busy eating at all the great places around us!
- San Felipe offers many opportunities for exploring on your own and in small groups as well as in our large group. We will supply directions to attractions in the area such as: to a beach to gather shells, to an area of hot springs south of San Felipe where the water is so hot you have to time your visit to include the incoming tide to help cool it off, and directions to the Valley of the Giant Cardón Cactus.



- We have arranged for local residents to lead 2 and 4 wheel drives in the desert to some fun places so bring your toys and desert buggies. We have also arranged for some Baja 250 racers to bring their off road race cars to Pete's Camp and explain why it is so much fun to race in the Baja desert.
- We have invited Mexican ladies to do cooking classes for us at Pete's Camp so we can learn how they create some of the great food we will be enjoy-

ing eating in Mexico.

- Oh, don't let me forget there will be musicians and folkloric dancers at some of our dinners!
- There is a horse center close to the mountains about 15-20 minutes away so we could arrange individual or small group trail rides in the desert
- Saturday mornings there is a great flea market-farmers market held close by. It opens early at 7:30 AM and we still found things at 10 but it was the end of March. The produce, meats and pastries were locally produced and wonderful, the treasures were fun, and bargains on new items were even available.



## **Even More 2017 San Felipe Rally Details—**

- Golfers bring your clubs there is a golf course with grass right next door and it is open to the public. Golf carts are available for rent.
- Fishing can be arranged in the Sea of Cortez.
- There is a laundromat and small but complete grocery about a mile from Pete’s Camp. There is a larger supermercado and many other businesses in downtown San Felipe.
- Interested in Chapter 8’s Charity efforts? We will ask you to bring charity items like blankets, kid’s and baby clothing, school supplies, personal hygiene products, etc. Indicate on your Registration Form that you are interested in helping the Charity Committee.
- There is always shopping and looking at a home so you can move to San Felipe, or just hanging out on the beach with new friends. Bring a jacket in case the wind is blowing and otherwise get ready for a fun-filled, busy as you want to be, Rally.

Both camping locations are 5-6 miles from the center of San Felipe where parking is limited, so we encourage carpooling with your friends. Taxis may come to Pete's Camp to pick you up, but are slow and not always reliable. Taxis are available in town to bring you back to Pete’s Camp but are limited in number. We want you to be aware that although there are restaurants and shops closer to the Campground , you may want to bring your toad or tow vehicle to provide more freedom for activities if independence and time factors are important to you.

We will be at the Escapade in July in Vermont. George Young has agreed to be the Row Rep and we look forward to seeing you there. Jim and I have agreed to use the Hines’ outline to give a talk about RV Travel in Mexico with Chapter 8 on Wednesday morning. Join us and don't miss our Chapter 8 Social--it is always a Fiesta!!!

**Contact Jim and Cynthia for Questions, Concerns and Suggestions!**

**<[WAGONMASTERS2017@GMAIL.COM](mailto:WAGONMASTERS2017@GMAIL.COM)>**





### >OPTIONAL POST 2017 RALLY TOUR<

An Optional Post Rally Tour to Guerrero Negro is being planned for Feb 20 - 22. This trip is pending as we must ensure the last 30 KM of Mexico Highway 5 has been completed before February 2017 to make this trip possible. We have hotel reservations and bus transportation for those who do not want to drive, and campground reservations for those who wish to drive their own rigs. The trip will take us south and over to the Pacific Coast for whale watching at one of the best grey whale nursery lagoons, a tour of the world's largest solar salt mine, and time for great bird watching or shopping before returning to San Felipe. You must sign up for the trip during Registration, and pay at the pre-Rally. Final cost available in July.



### *Electric in Mexico*

RV electric sites may have plugs for 50 amp, 30 amp, or 20 amp. But the electrical grid in Mexico runs at a higher voltage than in the US, so we highly recommend that you bring and use a surge protector and a long electric cord to help lower the voltage a little if needed. We had to use a long extension cord because our coach has a Surge Guard which turns off power to the coach if the voltage is too high. But it does help to protect your coach. Always check the polarity and voltage of the plugs before you attach your cord. This is a good habit anyplace you park as we have found problems in the US and Canada as well. *Cynthia Ponder*





One of the highlights of the Puerto Peñasco Rally was our group visit guided by Frank Jenia to the UNESCO-designated El Pinacate Biosphere Reserve. Russ Black led a group of us here on the 2012 Puerto Peñasco Rally and we were excited to return to this amazing, otherworldly place established in 1993! The Reserve comprises 2760 square miles or nearly 2 million acres; 770 square miles are volcanic areas with lava flows, more than 500 cinder cones and a largest number of giant “maar” craters or calderas in the world! The age of the lava is about 12,000 years up to 1.7 million years old! An adjacent area called Gran Desierto de Altar, also a Biosphere Reserve, has 1930 square miles of sand dunes up to 600’ high which is the largest active dune field in North America! The northern boundaries of the Reserve are at the U.S.-Mexico border extending to the Sea of Cortes. Organ



Pipe Cactus National Monument, which is a sister Biosphere Reserve to El Pinacate, just north of the border along with 3 other large U. S. reserves, Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, Barry M. Goldwater Range and the new Sonoran Desert National Monument. The whole area is part of the 100,000 square mile Sonoran Desert, receiving only about 6” of precipitation annually, with Pinacate being in the hottest and driest part! This entire area is the ancient subsistence homeland of the Tohono O’odham (Papago) people.



20 miles north of Puerto Peñasco is the turnoff from Highway 8 for the Schuk Toak (*meaning Black Mountain in the Tohono O’odham language*) Visitor Center, a beautiful building sited on a large lava flow overlooking several winding trails through various lava features, native plants and animals. It is the first large self-sustainable building in Mexico powered by solar and a wind turbine! A very interesting movie helps orient you. The excellent exhibits of the museum cover the geological history, the native peoples, archeology, native plants and animals and historic visitors like Spaniards from the Coronado Expedition of 1540 and the 3 trips beginning in 1698 of Padre Kino of Baja mission fame and many archeologists, biologists and geologists in more recent times. Unfortunately, all the museum captions are in Spanish, while outside on the trails, all signs are bilingual in English and Spanish. In the 1970s, NASA astronauts, including Allan Shephard, on the Apollo 14 mission trained in the moon-like terrain of Pinacate!





About 12 miles more north is the Biological Station entrance to the 66 KM/40 miles gravel tour route loop through the volcanic craters with 10 interpretive stations along the way. First, El Elegante Crater, the largest crater in El Pinacate Reserve, has a one kilometer trail with many bilingual interpretive signs. The crater is enormous with a diameter of 1600 meters (5100') and a depth of 244 meters (800 feet). At the bottom you can see remnants of a large old lake, a "bathtub ring" about ¼ of the way up the walls and green vegetation. We did not visit El Tecolote Crater, which also has a nearby small campground, since time was

running out and there is a 7 mile access road. The third accessible crater is Cerro Colorado, 15 KM from El Elegante, and one of the 10 'Maar' craters in the park. It's very recognizable from its name "Colorado" as the red crater. It is 2460' in diameter and 300' deep. It is made of tuff and



volcanic ash and the sides as you approach show heavy erosion with a higher south side and an area of slumped wall on the inside of the crater.



The view from either crater is of many cinder cones in the distance along with the 4000' Sierra Pinacate mountain range which is part of the volcanic shield or a massive buildup of lava flows over the eons.

The roads are in good shape, well signed and easily navigated. For a real change of pace from the party atmosphere of Puerto Peñasco, this World Biosphere Reserve is well worth 3-4 hours and 60 pesos to visit! Next time I hope to camp here and experience the sounds and sights of sunset, evening and sunrise! 4 stars at least!



# Looking for Fun? Try an Escapees Chapter 8 Rally to Mexico!

by Rod & Mary Garges, SKP # 93193



Mexico? Friends who have RV'ed for a long time tell great stories about traveling into Mexico – camping on the beach, low costs and great people. But the recent news has been scary. What to do?

Well fortunately, Escapees members have a great option – Chapter 8 “The Mexican Connection”. We had travelled with this group many years ago on a trip to Guaymas and

decided to check into their current activities.

By accessing the Chapter website, we found out that these annual trips into Mexico were still being run and that the 2016 Rally was to Puerto Peñasco. The on-line newsletters provided additional information that eased some concerns. First, recent trips stay near the border, with a single destination that is within a few hours drive. Second, this also addressed the fuel concern for us newer diesel owners, since the drive to and from the destination can be made with a single tank of U.S.-bought ultra-low sulphur (ULSD) fuel.

How does it work? We first had to get on the Rally email list. Then we began receiving information about the Rally plans as they became available. Since there were more people on the email list than spots available for the Rally, we watched carefully for the announcement of the official Rally sign-up date, since registration would be on a first-received/first-registered basis. As it happened, we were actually traveling in Iceland on the first day of registration! No problem, since registration could be completed by email and PayPal. (This worked to our advantage, since we were awake long before most state-siders!)

(NOTE: This was the first year for online registration in addition to mailed forms and the first time in several years that there were more people interested in going than sites available. Since online registration is much easier and faster for the Rally Wagonmasters to work with, watch for changes in the registration procedure for future Rallies.)

The Rally participants were notified that they were “in” and there was also a long waiting list. Additional information continued to be emailed to explain Rally procedures, the developing schedule of events, and the Mexican travel requirements, including insurance and visas. Our Rally leaders, Orene and Larry Brown, had been working on these plans for two years, so the advance information was timely and accurate. Any questions were promptly answered, either in a personal or group manner, as appropriate.

As with all Escapee Rallies, the annual Mexican Connection Rally is planned and executed by volunteers. This helps to minimize costs and also provides a pipeline of future Rally leaders by starting on small tasks and teams. So the call went out for people to help with registration, parking, charity and the attendee directory. So many people volunteered to help that a lottery was used to fill each committee! Charity is a major objective of these Rallies, so a lot of planning goes into what is needed, how funds can be raised and where they can be best used.





## TRY AN ESCAPEES CHAPTER 8 RALLY TO MEXICO—CONT'D

The general approach to the Mexican Connection Rallies is to have the group rendezvous at a US campground near the planned border-crossing and spend 2-3 days getting to know each other, verifying that all paperwork for the trip is in order (insurance and title), obtaining the necessary Mexican FMM (visa), dividing into travel groups, distributing the Road Log and resolving any questions or problems. For the 2016 Rally to Puerto Peñasco, we assembled at southern Arizona's Organ Pipe Cactus National Park (several rigs came in early to take advantage of touring in the area.) We were divided into 5-rig travel teams to make group preparations easier and as a courtesy to other drivers once we started caravanning to our destination. Each team met to review the Road Log, travel procedures, CB radio checks – often over a Happy Hour, of course! Roughly half of our 50-rig Rally had travelled into Mexico recently, so each travel team had an experienced leader and tail-gunner. We also drove down as teams to the border crossing, Lukeville, AZ/Sonoyta, Sonora, to get our FMM/visas in advance and to scope out the physical crossing.



On departure day, the travel groups left at 15-minute intervals. With our advance preparations, the border crossing went smoothly. Most of us were waved through. Some, apparently randomly, were stopped for a few questions or a quick peek into the rig. The whole group waited on the far side of the crossing until all our members were through, then proceeded as a group on the one-hour drive to our destination.

And what a destination! Reef RV Park in Puerto Peñasco had full hook-ups, 50A service, restrooms, laundry and on-site restaurants and bars. About half of our reserved sites were right beside the Gulf of California beach and the other sites were just across. The tides here are the second largest in North America, almost as dramatic as the Bay of Fundy, so many mornings and evenings were spent in beach chairs swapping stories with new friends and admiring the view. On-site service was also available for vehicle repairs, body work and painting at very reasonable rates. Several people planned ahead to bring their own parts and have service performed locally. We heard no complaints from anyone about the service they received. The park managers, Gus and Carlos, were constantly around and very helpful to solve any problem, provide advice and give directions.



## TRY AN ESCAPEES CHAPTER 8 RALLY TO MEXICO-CONT'D

Several sightseeing trips had been planned by Orene. One day we had small van tours of the city and surrounding area including an oyster farm for lunch, the CEDO Nature Center, and JJ's in Rocky Point for a mid-afternoon libation. Another day we took a successful 3-hour whale watching boat ride to see porpoises and humpback whales. Another day, we went on an exciting 4WD trip up an amazingly high sand dune and along the beach to find shells. Our longest day trip was carpooling to 2760 square mile Pinacate Volcanic and Gran Desierto de Altar Biosphere Reserve, a Mexican National Park across the border from Organ Pipe Cactus NP (think Glacier NP and Canada's Waterton Lakes NP). There are at least 13 large craters including one over a



mile wide plus extensive lava flows! The beautiful Pinacate Visitor Center and the huge volcanic craters in Pinacate that you can walk up to are truly awesome!

At the campground we had several group dinners and Happy Hours, including a Welcome Party at Wrecked at the Reef and Farewell Dinner with mariachis at Mare Blu Restaurant. There was plenty of time for individual sightseeing and dining in the area.

Our charity efforts got their share of our time – and entertainment! The charity auction was fun, providing stiff competition at times. The "Dollar Margarita" Happy Hour for Charity was also well-attended. On the serious side, the Charity Committee met several times, inventoried the booty (many people had brought donations of school and health supplies and clothing with them) and investigated potential recipients before making their final recommendations. In total, the generous members of the Rally contributed over \$8000 cash and piles of in-kind material that was distributed to the neediest people of Puerto Peñasco! Most heartwarming!



The official Rally stay in Reef RV Park was 9 days and the Rally ended there. Half of our group retraced the trip back to the US border, travelling in small groups they formed with old and



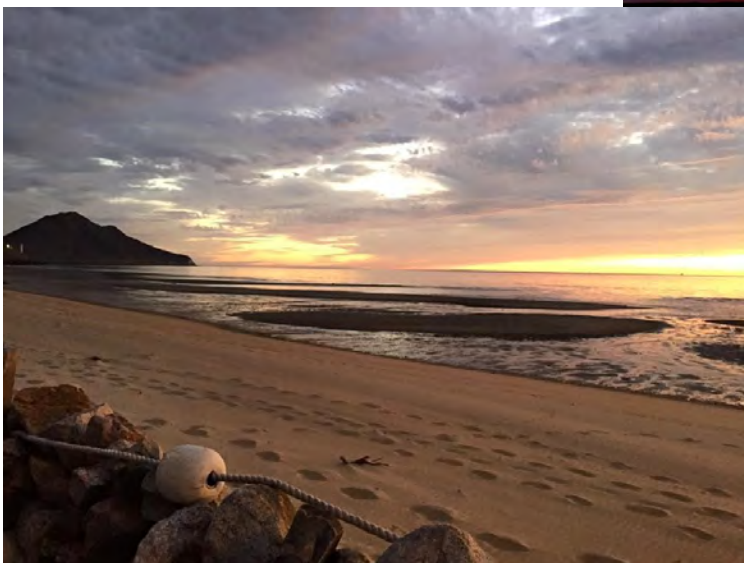
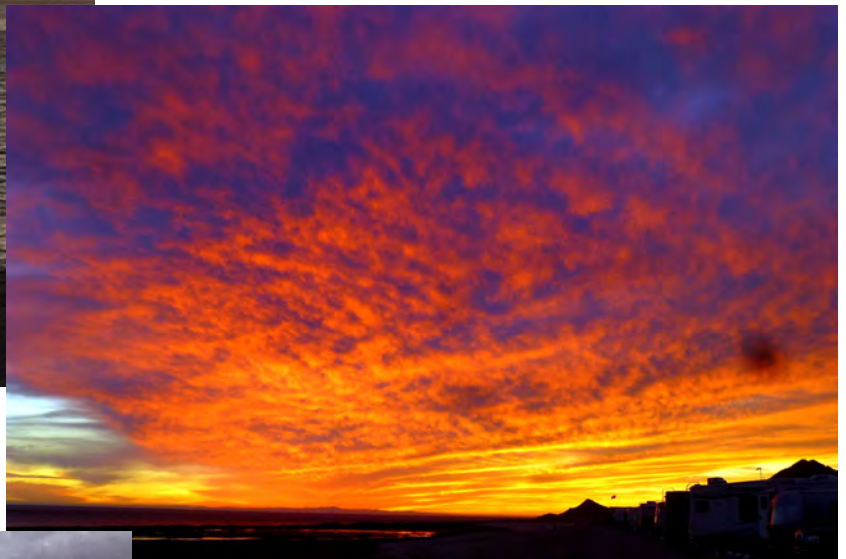
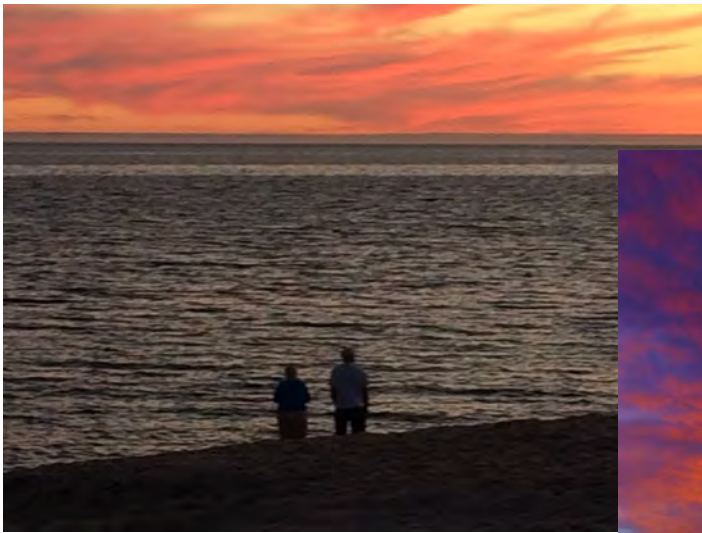
new friends. A few of us chose to stay at the park for several more days on our own. Several groups formed during the week with plans to travel over to and down the Baja for varying periods of time. Providing the experience, confidence and companionship for extended and future RV travel into Mexico is the primary objective of SKP Chapter 8.



The Farewell Dinner provided the opportunity to thank Orene Brown for a tremendous planning and execution job. The charity recommendations were finalized and approved. Volunteers came forward to plan the 2017 and 2018 Mexican Connection Rallies at our Election of Officers. Without these volunteers to lead, without the members who volunteer to serve on committees, and without the individuals who volunteer to be Chapter officers, participate on “The Row” at Escapade, and perform such services as webmaster, newsletter editor and historian – the Chapter wouldn’t exist and this wonderful opportunity to experience an exciting odyssey with new friends wouldn’t be available to us in a unique, participative and inexpensive way.

The Chapter 8 2017 Rally to San Felipe is currently being planned. Watch the Chapter 8 website <[mexicanconnection08.com](http://mexicanconnection08.com)> and our newsletter for information and Important dates. When you go on a Chapter 8 Rally, it’ll be an experience you’ll long treasure!

*Rod and Mary*



## *The beach in Puerto Peñasco*

Photos in this article by Lin Hines, Rod Garges, Robert Emmert and Orene Brown



*Mensaje de los Segundos Co-Vicepresidentes  
y organizadores de la 2018 Reunión  
Invitation from 2018 Wagonmasters!*

As both Tony and I are new to Chapter 8, we would like to get Chapter 8 Member suggestions on where the 2018 Rally should be held. Tony and I had discussed Ensenada on the Pacific coast of Baja, about 60 miles south of San Diego. There are also other options on the mainland in Sonora, Guaymas being one possibility. Send your suggestions for the 2018 Rally destination to Ed Overby <[esoverby@gmail.com](mailto:esoverby@gmail.com)> & Tony Sparks<[escapingtoo@gmail.com](mailto:escapingtoo@gmail.com)> We will take these into consideration and provide a couple of alternatives based on your feedback.

*Thanks, Ed and Tony  
(2WildnCrazyGuys)*

*Miembros del Capítulo*

***From Membership Chair Maryke Hines:***

The end of May an email was sent to all Chapter 8 members whose membership expired 4/30/2016. Of those 100 members, more than 20 have renewed already ! There is a link on the website to renew your membership by PayPal with an option for up to 5 years, and several have already renewed for more than one year. Currently paid-up members total is 92, but this is changing upwards daily! Tell your RVing friends about Escapees Chapter 8!

*Mensaje de los Directores de los Capítulos de los Escapees*



With summer just around the corner, we hope many of you are planning on joining us for the 56<sup>th</sup> Escapade in Essex Junction, VT, July 24-29. Not only will there be many educational seminars to fill your day, there will be lots of time to socialize. The evening will bring some great entertainment for your enjoyment.

Have your rig weighed by the Smart Weigh team to make sure you are operating safely and within the legal limits. And, don't forget the Post Escapade HOPs.

Again, we are looking forward to seeing you in Vermont. Be sure and stop by the ROW and say Hi!

For those of you that aren't going to make it to Vermont, we wish you a happy and safe summer full of travel.

*Hugs, Mark and Dortha Hall Escapees Chapter/BOF Directors*

# Mensaje del Tesorero

## Summary Treasurer's Report

through the February 2016 Rally to Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, Mexico

Dues collections \$ 931.82

Charity collections 4054.00

Charity funds raised through auctions 3061.55

Other charity fund raising 868.00

Charity funds distributed to 7 groups 8000.00

Charity Recipient Organizations—Steps of Love, New Birth Mexican Mission, Partners in Action, George Papanicolau Foundation, Barb's Dog Rescue, Comunidad de Valores, Escapees CARE.

Miscellaneous operating expenses 691.20

Fiscal Year Treasury Balance following the Rally \$20,522.13

We did well this year with \$1000 more distributed to charities than we did the previous year! Kudos to all who made contributions, who helped with the fundraising, who helped select the Charity recipients, and of course to all who were part of helping with pulling together a very successful and fun Rally to Puerto Peñasco.

*Steve Bufty, Chapter 8 Treasurer*

## ALGUNAS PALABRAS EN ESPAÑOL

*Let's Learn Spanish!*

*English:*

*Español*

Let's go!

¡Vámonos!

Meal at a restaurant

La comida en un restaurante

Campground

Terreno de camping

The beach

La playa



## Catastrophic decline for endangered vaquita porpoise!

On May 15, a panel of scientists announced that only 60 endangered vaquita porpoises are left despite Mexican government and Navy efforts. Vaquitas are being taken as a by-catch of gillnet fishing for totoaba fish, whose swim bladder is highly sought after in China, selling for \$5000 US a pound! The government promised to step up enforcement efforts in the northernmost areas of the Sea of Cortez, offshore from both San Felipe and Puerto Peñasco, the only area where both species still survive. Extinction is close!

**ALERT!! AAA nationally has discontinued producing and distributing Baja California maps that have been the Baja map gold standard for at least 40 years that I've been using them. Check your AAA office ASAP and try to get 2 copies & give 1 to another Chapter 8 member.**

**Mexican Holidays**—Did you know that Father's Day is celebrated in Mexico as well as the U.S. and this year in both countries June 19 is the official observance date. Give Dad a call!

The Official Mexican Peso to U.S. Dollar Exchange Rate is 18.61 on June 3, 2016

**CHAPTER 8 HISTORIAN Ed Overby** is still looking for early Chapter 8 newsletters, Rally materials and Road Logs, photographs etc. The Chapter is at least 32 years old (1985) and some of the documents from the mid-80s onwards must still be out there somewhere. If you have anything from the Chapter's early days, give Ed an email <[esoverby@gmail.com](mailto:esoverby@gmail.com)> first so he doesn't duplicate records. We'd really appreciate getting the Chapter heritage organized and online so it's accessible for reference for members and future Wagonmasters. Thankfully, Ed is willing to do the job if we find him the material to work on! HELP!

**EVERYBODY NEEDS A GOOD TACO!!**

**Escapade 2017-Tucson—March 19-24** Mark your calendars for 2017 Escapade back in Tucson with many exciting things to do and see! This is my old hometown and I love visiting! They'll be plenty of time between our Chapter 8 Rally in San Felipe in Baja to go down to lots of great places in Baja Sur or move over to the Mexican state of Sonora and explore there before driving to Escapade in Tucson. Look for more information in upcoming issues!

**Newsletter Story Submissions Invited!** We're looking for stories for future issues! Stories or anecdotes related to a Chapter 8 Rally, activities, stores, restaurants you discovered in the host Mexican town, maybe a museum, getting your RV repaired or painted, renting a 4x4 or the great chicken barbeque place! A humorous story would be great and a couple photographs to enliven your story encouraged! Please email Editor Lin Hines