

# LA CONEXIÓN MEXICANA



## Escapees RV Club Chapter 8

Member of Escapees Social Network, Inc.

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Winter 2016

2017 Rally Update

Volume XXXVII No. 4



Incredible Sunrise at Pete's Camp—2013 Chapter 8 Rally— Photograph by 2013 Wagonmaster Charlie Boles

Mission Statement, Editor's Desk, Chapter 8 Officers.....	Pg 2-3
President's Message.....	Page 4
Wagonmaster's 2017 Rally Update.....	Pg 5-7
Charity Needs in San Felipe.....	Page 8
Whalewatching in Guerrero Negro + Electric in Mexico.....	Page 9
2018 Wagonmaster Needed! +Membership Report.....	Page 10
Message from the Treasurer.....	Page 11
Secretary's Minute! + Let's Speak Spanish!.....	Page 12
Escapees Chapter Director + Yuma Renaissance Faire.....	Page 13
News—Baja Maps, Peso/U.S.\$ Exchange, 2017 Escapade.....	Page 14
Favorite Places in San Felipe + Too Crazy Ladies in Quartzite.....	Page 15
!Feliz Navidad! .....	Page 16



# 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 (Chap8newsletter@gmail.com)

**HELP NEEDED FOR 2018 RALLY**—Tony Sparks, Asst. Wagonmaster for 2018 needs a 2018 Wagonmaster that he can assist. Tony is heading to Ensenada before our 2017 San Felipe Rally to check it out as a possible Rally site in January 2017 . This Rally has been done three times in the recent past with available documentation, which should help the planning.



911 now works in Baja California NORTE as an Emergency Number. Baja Sur will activate 911 between January and June 2017. Mexico's 066 emergency number still works.

Rosarito is getting a new desalinization plant that will be the largest in the Western Hemisphere in 2020, producing up to 100 million gallons a day! Ensenada and San Quentin both have large desalinization plants under construction also.

The US \$ vs Peso is now at 20.4 pesos/US \$1. That's an astronomical \$ jump in the past year. The best way to get close to this official rate is using a Bank ATM in Mexico. Most businesses exchanging US dollars will give you 1-3 pesos less. Credit cards without foreign exchange fees are the way to go if the business accepts credit cards. Local small markets, cafes and small stores usually accept only pesos. In San Felipe, both Calimax and Bodega Aurrera supermarkets accept credit cards. Pay close attention at Pemex stations!

Finally, our new Escapees Inc. Chapter Director Lockie Sailer reminds us 2017 Escapade is March 19-24, 2017 in Tucson, AZ shortly after our San Felipe Rally. Lots of great activities at the biggest annual Escapees event! You're so close to Escapade, why not go in 2017?

**SPRING 2017 CHAPTER 8 NEWSLETTER ISSUE DEADLINE—APRIL 1 FIRM—PUBLISHING 4/20**



## *Funcionarios del Capitulo 8*

President — Orene Brown

1st Vice President 2017 Wagonmasters--Jim and Cynthia Ponder

2nd Vice President 2018 Asst. Wagonmaster--Tony and Dee Sparks

Treasurer—Steve Bufty

\*Assistant Treasurer—Nancy Mansor Moran

Secretary—Barb Ely

Immediate Past President—Peter Arnold

Membership—Maryke Hines

Webmaster—Lynn Waite

Newsletter Editor — Lin Hines

\*Newsletter Layout/Graphics—Maryke Hines

\*Historian—Ed Overby

\* Non voting Board members



Chapter 8 Website: [www.mexicanconnection08.com](http://www.mexicanconnection08.com)

# *Mensaje del Presidente*

## *A Message from the President*

Buenos Dias mis amigos!

I hope that you have all enjoyed a wonderful Fall, wherever you may have been! Larry and I just returned from a month in Puerto Peasco,

at The Reef RV Park, site of the 2016 Rally of Mexican Connection. We had great weather, not too much wind, and lots of lazy time for

reading, visiting with our beach neighbors, chatting with the many friendly beach vendors, and enjoying beautiful sunrises and sunsets. We were fortunate to have long time Chapter members and friends Alan and Ellie Dotson (and Reggie the wonder pup) join us for 5 days. Bike week also convened while we were there – we were told there were 18,000 people in town for bike week. We also had word via a text from someone at the border that the border at Lukeville to cross into Mexico was backed up to Ajo with bikers. Yikes!



Escapees are special people at The Reef. Gus offers Escapees the special rate of \$23 for beach front, and \$17 for off beach. If you are making reservations there, be sure to give them your SKP number!

We are looking forward to another great Rally in San Felipe at Pete's Camp. We were there four years ago, and it was a wonderful time. The beach is beautiful, the town is charming and lots of fun to explore. You can leave the cruel world behind for the gentle lifestyle of a small Mexican town.

While in San Felipe, The Mexican Connection holds our annual membership meeting. At that time we deal with any old or new business, as well as the all important election of Chapter officers for the coming year. In February we will have the following vacancies: First Vice President (Wagonmaster 2018), Second Vice President (Wagonmaster 2019), and Third Vice President (Wagonmaster 2020), Historian, and Webmaster. This Chapter runs on volunteers. Without volunteers for these positions, these Rallies just don't happen. Please consider stepping up and serving your Chapter so that we can keep supporting local charities, visiting Mexico with the camaraderie and support of Mexican Connection friends, and having FUN!

Larry and I wish you all Happy Holidays in whatever way you observe, and a healthy and Happy New Year!

*Orene Clarke Brown*

orenebrown1@gmail.com

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

## 2017 WAGONMASTERS REPORT

### Update on 2017 San Felipe Rally

We have just spent 10 days in Cloudy, Sunny, Windy, Warm, Beautiful San Felipe! We suggest that people come prepared for all types of weather in February and expect it to change frequently, sometimes within minutes!

Pete's Camp is preparing for us by scraping the loose sand off the camping sites so we will be able to bring 60 rigs to their camp-ground. These will all be **boondocking sites**. There are two toilets for men and two for women on the beach that flush and for us will have seats and toilet paper! These items are often stolen from Mexican campgrounds so are not always found even in the nicest places. The restrooms and showers that are available up the hill from the beach are very modern, clean, with warm water, and free for us during our Rally.



Pete's Camp

The outside patio and bar is being redone and enlarged even as I write and will not be completely finished by the time we arrive. They do hope to have the floor finished so we can use the area for gathering up by the restaurant and inside bar. The owners, Norma and Rafael, are setting up tents down on the beach for us to gather in case the weather is cooler and so we can have our social gatherings there. They are also setting up **cooking classes** for a donation to the instructor on a couple of

mornings. We will have coffee, tea, Mexican breads and fruit **breakfast** available for those who wish it from 7 to 9 am every morning in Mexico.

Don't miss the **Saturday Flea Market** across the highway in El Dorado Ranch early Saturday mornings, where vendors come to sell produce, precooked foods, charity groups sell things to raise money, sometimes fish and shrimp, bakery items, crafts, jewelry and just fun stuff. In the afternoon that day some Baja Race Drivers will be coming over to show us their cars and offer rides to the brave and fearless for a small fee. The Scorpions, a local 4WD club, are also planning a "run" for us one day. Let us know if interested!!

We have a very special dinner planned for **Valentine's evening** at one of the nicest new places near Pete's Camp. The entire restaurant is reserved for us and you will have a choice of 4 different entrees (you'll make your choice at the pre-rally in Yuma). Their vegetables are organic and food sources are as local as possible so very fresh and we thought very good.

Plan on at least 1 **Potluck** while you are in Mexico as we will have the tent, but keep it simple. There are two good supermercados in San Felipe with a good selection of meat, fruit and vegetables. There is also fresh fish and shrimp usually available. Don't be surprised if there is a margarita party as well as regular Happy Hours so bring munchies and your favorite beverages or buy in San Felipe. **Continued page 6---**

The **Pre-Rally** in Yuma will have tight coordination this year as the Renaissance Fair will be leaving Monday morning and we will be arriving Monday afternoon. **It is essential that everyone arrives between 2 & 4 PM** so we have time to get everyone parked. The electricity for most will be 20 amp even if you are plugged into a 30 amp plug and most are regular outdoor household duplex sockets. We recommend bringing a heavy duty outdoor electric cord to plug into these outlets at the fairgrounds. It is common to find this kind of outlet throughout Mexico as well. There are a few 50 amp plugs—some will be reserved for those who have an actual need for the power, even those may only supply 30 amps in some locations. If you prefer or can boondock during the Pre-Rally, please let us know so we can park you appropriately in a separate area. There is no discount but it might help someone else.

**Ron and Janet Sortor** and Gabby their Boston terrier who have helped us plan the parking and been there to bounce ideas off from the beginning of this adventure will not be able to attend. We thank them for making the parking plan and addition of 10 rigs to this Rally possible. They also took some of the pictures with this article and on the *Facebook* page recently. **Veteran Rally Parking Chairman Randy Dolan**, Parking Chair at 3+ previous Ch. 8 Rallies who did a great job, will take over. We welcome unflappable Randy back!

The **Post-Rally** is up in the air as we feel some of the rigs might be, if they tried to go across the still uncompleted road from Hwy 5 to Hwy. 1. We met people who have done it with no problems in 5<sup>th</sup> wheels and motorhomes, but the going is slow, and like traveling the Alaska Highway. it must be done very carefully and slowly. We are attempting now to reserve 10 more hotel rooms to fill a 40 passenger bus which could make the trip with no cause for concern or damage to individual rigs. We will send out an email to all people on the Rally list with an update as soon as we see if this is possible. We have a bus, just not the rooms yet. We also have a member who lives in San Felipe who may be willing to drive his motorhome across with others if they wish to go in their rigs. He is scouting the road this coming week in his jeep so we will have an update soon..

**Wifi and Cell service at Pete's Camp** is limited by the number of users and the time of day. Verizon is very limited in all parts of San Felipe area but there are a few spots where it works OK, Text messages are best and most reliable. If you qualify, there is a \$2 a day Mexico plan that is probably a good deal plus you can use wifi at local restaurants and bars for data.

**Continued page 7 ---->**



**Pelicans and sand ripples at Pete's Camp**

AT & T partners with Telcel in Mexico and their plan on American phones is more reliable than Verizon in San Felipe area but still on the beach you get 1 to 3 bars of service or sometimes none with Telcel or AT&T . All of these plans are intermittent on the beach & on the hill at the restaurant. Pete’s wife is available but sometimes slow, sometimes faster. We will have a list of places that offer free wifi or with a drink when you arrive in the surrounding areas and downtown. Best to let your family and friends know you have left the country for a retreat from most things electronic and will check in occasionally. Text messages are the most reliable we discovered. The other thing you might consider is your own satellite wifi; it costs mucho dinero but is usually very reliable throughout Mexico, Canada and Alaska. If you require internet for work this may be something to consider.

The **Charity Opportunities** are many in San Felipe. I am sending all the information I have gathered to our Charity Chairman Paul Williams and his wife Jane Ferri. The Committee is technically small but the work is done by many who wish to participate. We will be publishing a list separately in this newsletter of items that have been requested that will help the community. For those of you who have never joined us before, one of the things we do that is a lot of fun is a Silent Auction and a Live Auction. The people who come on the Rally provide the items we bid on and do the bidding. The Silent Auction is open to some of the locals but isn’t widely advertised. I have bought wine, honey, jewelry, RV parts, services from other members, books, and lots of fun stuff at the auctions I have spent \$1 on some and \$100 on others but as a member who was our auctioneer in the past used to tell us, Keep Bidding, IT’S FOR THE CHILDREN! Now it is often for the seniors or the disabled as well and we also usually give to the Escapees CARE program .

You will get your papers for travel in Mexico (**FMM**) during the Pre-Rally. There is no need to do this online although reading the information about these tourist papers can give you an idea about what to expect.

**YOU MUST HAVE A US OR CANADIAN PASSPORT TO ENTER MEXICO AND TO RETURN TO THE U. S.** Our rigs & vehicles will NOT require holograms (vehicle permits) to travel in Baja, only if you decide to cross over to Mainland Mexico. On Tuesday evening after everyone has gotten their FMMs, we will have a catered dinner in Algodones, MX .before walking back to our vehicles which will be parked on the US side of the border. Algodones is a fun town to shop, bargain teeth cleaning, crowns, bridges, fillings, get eyeglasses made same day, and many other medical offices. You will not have time to do it all but you will be able to buy brand name and generic drugs from many discount Mexican Pharmacies plus cheap booze at the liquor stores! There are limits to what you can bring back across the border—check the US Customs website..

We have determined that ultra low sulphur diesel is available at kilometer 30 on the way down to San Felipe and at least 1 station in San Felipe, probably more. So filling up newer RV’s and trucks should not be a problem, DEF was not to be seen in those locations though so if you require that, please bring all that you need.

We just returned to the States and are so excited to meet all of you who are coming with us. Remember that one of the important things we do on each Rally is start planning for future Rallies so bring your ideas and know that Chapter 8 runs on Volunteer Power which is what keeps our prices affordable. Travel safely and enjoy the Holidays ahead. We plan to be with the Boomers the last week of Quartzite in January if anyone has more questions or just wants to stop by . *Cynthia and Jim* [wagonmasters2017@gmail.com](mailto:wagonmasters2017@gmail.com)



**FLAN!**  
**Our favorite  
Mexican  
dessert!!**

## *Items to bring to San Felipe for Charity*

**Handicapped equipment**—wheelchairs, walkers, canes.

**Diapers**—Adult size for handicapped adults; size 6 childrens diapers for disabled older kids

**Clothing**--mens clothes and shoes, used in good condition OK, jackets especially with hoods for school age children from age 4 to 16 (it can get cool in San Felipe) Jackets of all types, Blankets

**Food Items**--large cans of tuna, used to feed 100 + people, pasta in large quantities or rice or beans, peanut butter, Ensure or other full meal replacement protein supplements Food can be purchased in Mexico by you to donate for Charity.

**Dental hygiene items**—toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss

**Personal hygiene items**—soap, shampoo, hand lotion,

**Dental items for Dentist** working with low income people--dental mirrors #5, dental composite resins 3M espe filtek 2350, adhesive for fillings 3M espe adper single bond 2, alginate impression material jeltrate, dental cleaning brush for lower hand piece, dental polishing paste.

**School Supplies**—pencils, paper, pads, especially wire bound composition book as older kids need one for each subject

**Computers**—desktop, laptop, tablets—must be in good working order!

## *—More Charity Needs—*

**Craft materials** for helping disabled people and single mothers learn to make things to sell for income—

Pipe cleaners, beads, paints, fish tank gravel in colors—gray, black, blue, yellow, green

Wire strong enough to hold up items to be hung and maintain shape

Glass bottles of interesting shapes that could be painted

Craft supplies, tools or equipment will be used by a very artistic and caring teacher.

**If you're not coming on the Rally and have things to donate for Charity**, please contact anyone you know on the Rally or the Wagonmasters to get your items to Yuma.

**Rally Charity Auctions**—Please bring usable things in good condition that your fellow RVers can use and donate them to our Live and Silent Auctions for Charity! Proceeds from our auctions will be used to buy food and other items needed by our Charity Committee's recipient nonprofit organizations!!

Please contact the [wagonmasters2017@gmail.com](mailto:wagonmasters2017@gmail.com) if you have specific questions.





## *Whalewatching in Guerrero Negro!*

Hopefully the planned post-Rally trip via the extension of Highway 5 from San Felipe now under construction connecting with Highway 1 near Laguna Chapala will occur and then drive down to Guerrero Negro passing through the border arch where Baja Norte and Baja Sur meet. Then some of us on the San Felipe Rally can experience the joy of being in your panga next to huge grey whale mothers and their calves and many times be able to touch them, see their eyes looking at you, see their baleen and touch their skin! Last year our panguero (boat driver) even talked to a very friendly baby who had fallen in love with the outboard motor and repeatedly came up to it and cuddled and blew bubbles! He coaxed the baby to the side of the boat where we could all photograph him, touch him and a couple people kissed him too!! It's a religious experience that you'll never forget! Your editor plans to take his RV down to Guerrero Negro by the shortcut on Hwy 5 if possible or going over to Ensenada and down. There are 2 campgrounds in GN- Mario's just north of town with 50 RV spaces, most FHU, and a great thatched roof palapa restaurant. Malarrimo is in town with a small motel, small RV park and a good restaurant. Both run whalewatching boat tours plus tours to the salt works. This is an industrial town but has most needed facilities—fuel, water, groceries, laundry, restaurants, and more! Birdwatching is spectacular and the town is safe and friendly to turistas! Let's do it!



## *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 any place you park as we have found problems in the US and Canada as well. *Cynthia Ponder*

*Mensaje del Segundo Vice Presidente  
y organizador de la 2018 Reunión  
2nd VP & 2018 Wagonmaster Tony Sparks*

**HELP WANTED!! 2018 WAGONMASTER NEEDED!!**

Due to certain personal issues, the 2018 Wagonmaster (Ed Overby) is unable to participate in the 2018 Rally. My wife and I (the 2018 Assistant Wagonmasters) have only been to Mexico once, during the 2016 Rally. We had a great time seeing the sights, participating in all the events and being a part of the Mexican Connection!

Due to prior plans for a Panama Canal Cruise for our 40th anniversary, we are unable to participate in the 2017 Rally.

However, we very much want to continue in the duties as 2018 Assistant Wagonmasters. We plan on traveling to **Ensenada**, Baja California, about January 10-19, 2017, to check out the area as a possible location for the 2018 Rally. We would love some company.

Due to our own inexperience in travel within Mexico, we desperately need a new 2018 Wagonmaster to travel to Ensenada with us. If you, as the new 2018 Wagonmaster have a better idea of where to go or when, my wife and I would love to help you accomplish that goal. Please contact us—Tony and Dee Sparks [Escapingtoo@gmail.com](mailto:Escapingtoo@gmail.com) (925)577-0530

*Miembros del Capitulo  
News From Membership Chair Maryke Hines:*

The Mexican Connection has now 147 paid-up Members! The new membership form on the Chapter 8 website is working very well and the Membership Chair AND the Treasurer are automatically getting a copy when someone pays by PayPal.

The majority of the 2017 Rally registrants have included the \$6 membership fee in their Rally registration or were already members of Chapter 8. If they didn't include it, we will ask them to join during the Rally!

Your Membership Chair will be at the Escapade in Tucson in March after our Rally and our stories of the terrific Rally in San Felipe will hopefully get more Escapees to join Chapter 8!

*MARYKE HINES*

[Ch8membership@gmail.com](mailto:Ch8membership@gmail.com)

## Mensaje del Tesorero The Treasurer Speaks!

Signups for the February Rally to San Felipe were brisk as the window opened on September 1st. This year for the first time, payments for the Rally were by PayPal only which allowed for proper time sequencing of signups in case there was a conflict as to who got on the list and who was on standby. **We currently have a full Rally with a wait list** according to our Wagon-masters. But don't let this discourage anyone who might still want to go as there is sometimes a flurry of cancellations at the last minute.

The PayPal process did have some kinks in it for reasons yet to be explained where some folks had no problem at all and others just couldn't get the system to work for them ... possibly the type of computer they were using. In most of those cases, a separate Registration Form was sent to those individuals with step-by-step instructions and eventually the problems were overcome.

That all being said, on top of the \$1953 in Charity Funds carried forward from the previous year and donated in advance toward this year's Charity drive, we have collected another \$1208 so far toward the Charity Fund during signups. More direct donations will hopefully be coming in during the Pre-Rally and the Rally, plus of course we will raise additional Charity Funds at our auctions in San Felipe and through other fun events.

Everyone attending the Rally should try to bring "stuff" that can be donated for the Charity Auction ... good stuff you no longer need or use, craft items that you have made, things other RVers might have a use for, beverage or food items that can cause a bidding war, etc. This of course is in addition to any "in-kind" donations of goods, commodities, or services that can be given to the charitable organizations that are chosen by this year's Charity Committee.

Membership dues payments by PayPal only has also been the rule this year and that has worked well for the most part with similar hiccups occurring for some folks ... but persistence has overcome those problems also.

We're looking forward to a fun and exciting Pre-Rally, Rally, and Post-Rally (depending on what we learn about the Mexican shortcut now under construction).

See you there, *Steve Bufty*



<----- Art from 2005

Chapter 8 Newsletter

# Secretary's Minute

Not long now until we gather for our Chapter 8 Mexican Connection caravan to San Felipe, MX. We Board Members are so looking forward to catching up with old friends and making new ones on this trip. Our Wagonmasters, Cynthia and Jim Ponder, have been working for many months to put together some wonderful events, food and entertainment so be prepared to have a great time. Speaking of events, if Santa delivers a gift to you that you already have three of or have no idea what it is or how to use, bring it to the Rally and donate to the Charity Auction. Believe me, someone will bid on it. In fact, it might be such a great item, it could be auctioned two or three times!

Here's hoping you all have a wonderful, safe holiday with family and friends and that 2017 will be a happy, healthy, peaceful year for us all.

*Barb Ely, Secretary*

## ALGUNAS PALABRAS EN ESPANOL

*Let's Learn Spanish by Maryke Hines*

### English:

Christmas

Church

Fire Department

Police

Boardwalk

(Super)market

Dance

Highway

### Español:

Navidad

Iglesia

Bomberos

Policía

Malecón

(Super)Mercado

Baile

Carretera



*Mensaje de la Directora de los Capítulos de los Escapees*  
*Message from Escapees Inc. Chapter Director*

Hello and Christmas Greetings to you all!

I hope this finds everyone in good health and high spirits as we plunge headlong into this holiday season. I'm sure by now that most of you have heard that I've taken up the torch of Chapter Director from Dortha and Mark Hall. Dortha, along with the rest of the Escapees family, has reached out to me and offered all the assistance and encouragement it takes to get things off to a running start.

During this time of year, family is something that is particularly on people's mind and mine is no different. I'm fortunate that I have a husband of several decades that is supportive, and children, that despite living around the country (and sometimes, the world), still call home. But the older I get, the more I'm aware that family means far more than those related just by blood. There are those related by heart that can provide that same supportive system that we need, and some lack, from a natural family. I'm witnessing that among many of you that are members of Escapees as you take time to gather together, share, inform and support one another.

Speaking of gathering, I hope each of you take time to look over the events calendar either in the magazine or online at <https://escapees.com/fun/events-2>. Pay particular attention to all the events coming up soon in **Quartzsite**, including Happy Hour, which is hosted by National on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017. I see that your Chapter will have a rolling Rally from Yuma in February, and then I hope to see you all at **Escapade 2017** in March! We're looking forward to visiting with each of you, making new friends and family as we do! So until then, I am grateful that I'm taking this journey with you as your Chapter Director and your friend. I wish each of you joyous living, taking each day and each mile as a gift.

Happy New Year and Safe Paths! *Lockie Sailer*



If you arrive in Yuma early before the Pre-Rally begins, you might enjoy the Two Rivers Renaissance Faire right at the Yuma County Fairgrounds, also home to our Pre-Rally on 2/6. Check their website <[www.tworiversfaire.com](http://www.tworiversfaire.com)> for more details. Sr. admission \$8. Hours— Fri. 2/3 & Sun. 2/5 10AM-5PM ; Sat. 2/4 10AM-10PM Huzzah! Sounds like fun!



Official Mexican Peso to U.S. Dollar Exchange Rate was 20.43 on 12/16/2016

**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.**

## Dias Feriados / Mexican National Holidays/Observances—Winter

December 25— Dia de Navidad—Christmas Day--National Holiday

January 1— Año Nuevo—New Year's Day—National Holiday

February 1—Dia de la Constitucion—Constitution Day—National Holiday

February 14—Valentine's Day—Observance

February 24—Dia de la Bandera—Flag Day—Observance

March 21—Cumpleaños de Benito Juarez—Benito Juarez Birthday—National Holiday

## 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! There will 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 east to the Mexican state of Sonora and explore there before driving to Escapade in Tucson. Escapade is always a great time with excellent educational seminars, RV displays, accessory vendors, entertainment & meeting friends. For more Escapade information and registration form, check your *Escapees* Magazine.

**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 <Chap8newsletter@gmail.com>

## FAVORITE PLACES IN SAN FELIPE by Marianne Harmier

*Editor's note—Marianne is a good friend who lives in our Airstream community in Olympia, WA but with her husband, Fred, winters at El Dorado Ranch in San Felipe 4-5 months each year. Here are some of their favorite San Felipe places!*

**Restaurants:** **El Cortez** for a fancy dinner on the beach in town, **La Vaquita \$1** night is Wednesday with each dish costing \$1. They usually have fajitas, beans, enchiladas, chile rellenos, coconut and regular fish, salad, and dessert. Fill your plate for \$5.

After turning the corner on the Malecón street, 2<sup>nd</sup> restaurant on left is **El Guero** in blue building— best coconut prawns, and chile rellenos in town.

**Jollymans** next to the Rancho Market has \$1 night Wednesdays also, with a great country band playing.

**Road Runner** about 1 block toward town has an excellent breakfast and great lunch. The Laundromat is in the same complex, wash clothes, eat breakfast and do internet all at once. If you like Chinese food the big **China House** is on the main drag a few blocks before the Malecón. **Pete's Camp** Friday nights for Spaghetti dinner! All the food at Pete's is great!



**Groceries:** **Calimax Supermercado**, downtown on the main drag to town. Close by **Bodega Aurrera** is the Walmart store found in smaller towns. Both have good veggies, fruit, bakery, liquor and meat. The closest is **Rancho Market** across from the mountain side main entrance to El Dorado Ranch. They have mostly American supplies, with a good bakery and deli.

**Shopping:** Downtown or every Saturday a big **Flea Market** is held in El Dorado Ranch at the mountain side main gate. Starts early & ends around 11.

**Touring:** Head south on Hwy 5— first stop the **Cow Paddy** for a hot dog and beer, next **Gonzaga Bay Hotel** about 100 miles for lunch, **Cocos Corner** for a beer or soda, returning to **Puertocitos and the hot springs**. \$\$ sit in the Sea of Cortez in the hot water from the springs. A great full day trip.

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### GOING TO QUARTZITE?? LOOKING FOR TOO CRAZY LADIES FOR BADGES??

Beth of Too Crazy Ladies wants everyone going to Quartzite to know that she will not be on the corner anymore, but on the main tent midway by the ice cream people. As many will remember, she always helps us design our pins and gives us a good price on our badges. Bringing you this message seems like a nice way to repay her for the extra time and effort she always gives us! *Cynthia*



*Feliz Navidad  
y un  
Próspero Año Nuevo  
from  
The Officers and Board of  
Escapees Chapter 8!!*