

A scenic view of a coastline under a blue sky with white clouds. In the background, there are mountains and a city. In the foreground, a person is fishing on a beach. The text is overlaid on the image.

# La Conexión Mexicana

Summer Edition

Escapees RV Club, Chapter 8

Catch of the Day:  
2020 Baja Adventure Rally

Photo by Bob Pettit





A Chapter 8 Rally is as novel as an Instant Hot Tub on a cool Pacific Beach...

## La Conexión Mexicana – The Mexican Connection

Escapees RV Club, Chapter 8

Member of Escapees social Network, Inc.

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

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/groups/EscapeesMexican Connection](http://www.facebook.com/groups/EscapeesMexican Connection)

NOTICE: All activities of Chapter 8 are exclusive to those who are dues paying members of both the Escapees RV Club and Chapter 8. Chapter 8 \$10 annual dues are due on or before May 1st of the current year. The Annual Dues pays for the ongoing administrative cost of operating the chapter. Since Chapter 8 is a non-profit chapter of the Escapees Social Network, Inc. the fees charged for activities reflect Chapter 8's policy of providing the most value for its members through its Spirit of Volunteerism.



**In 1985, a few Escapee Adventures traveling discovered the heart and soul of Mexico and wanted to share it.**

And, so, Chapter 8 was born nearly 35 years ago to introduce its members to RV travel in Mexico, its traditions, culture, scenic splendor, food and folklore. As the rallies rolled on, the Chapter added Charity to its Mission Statement. Members now reach out with their hands, hearts and wallets in a people-to-people expression of caring and concern. In doing so, Chapter 8 holds a unique position as a travel club in Mexico.



### **ESCAPEES CHAPTER 8 EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**President** — Kassandra Dennis, [kassandra@ekdennis.com](mailto:kassandra@ekdennis.com)

**Immediate Past President** — Ed Dennis, [ed@ekdennis.com](mailto:ed@ekdennis.com)

**1st VP & 2020 Wagonmaster** — Kassandra Dennis, [kassandra@ekdennis.com](mailto:kassandra@ekdennis.com)

**2nd VP & 2021 Wagonmaster** — We are looking for someone to step up!

**Treasurer** — Steve Bufty, [stevebufty@yahoo.com](mailto:stevebufty@yahoo.com)

**Assistant Treasurer** — Ron Wroblewski, [wrobo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wrobo@sbcglobal.net)

**Secretary** — Dory Johnson, [dorytx@aol.com](mailto:dorytx@aol.com)

**Membership** — Jay Hault, [hault2@yahoo.com](mailto:hault2@yahoo.com)

**Webmaster** — Billy Johnson, [billyptx@aol.com](mailto:billyptx@aol.com)

**Newsletter Editor** — We are looking for someone to step up!

**Historian** — Debby Clark, [debrv@me.com](mailto:debrv@me.com)

**Have you seen the REAL 2020 Chapter 8 Rally?**



**It's not a Hangout, it's a Stand Out!**

**[MexicanConnection08.com](http://MexicanConnection08.com)**

## Presenting the Escapees Chapter 8 Conexión Mexicana



# 2020 Baja Adventure Rally

**Are You Ready for Another Unique Mexican Connection Adventure?  
Join in the FUN! Meet new FRIENDS! Do something DIFFERENT!**

Our official Rally runs from February 12<sup>th</sup> through February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The optional (approximately seven day) extensions to San Felipe, Puerto Penasco (Rocky Point), enchanting Playa Santispac (near Mulege) or Carnaval Ensenada (Mardi Gras) begin on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020. We have the venues, the events, and the camaraderie to make your day every day! Official registration will start Sept 1, 2019 noon CST via online registration form on our [www.MexicanConnection08.com](http://www.MexicanConnection08.com) website. NOTICE: This annual event is limited to those who are both Escapee RV Club Members and Chapter 8 Members. Approximate cost per Rig with 2 Persons = \$495. Special Rates for Singles & Families.

### 2020 Baja Adventure Rally Itinerary:

**February 10 - 11:** Special Volunteers (such as Parking Team, etc.) arrive at Potrero County Park, San Diego County, California.

**Feb. 12:** All arrive at scenic Potrero County Park by 1 p.m. Registration, Travel orientation, followed by Potluck Welcome Dinner. All camping reservations are made for you and are included in your rally price. Rally attendees who choose to arrive before their designated arrival date, are welcome to do so. Please make your own early Bird reservations through Potrero County Park.

**Feb. 13:** All day excursion to Tecate, Mexico. We will split up in small groups to discover Tecate's best bakery, have lunch at Los Amigos, enjoy a free brew at the huge Tecate Brewery, and indulge in some fun bargain hunting in the Tecate Bazaar.

**Feb. 14:** We will travel in small groups through the beautiful Valle de Guadalupe (Mexico's Wine Country) arriving at the renowned Zoológico Parque del Niño Jersey for a Zoo Lover's Valentine Dinner followed by five nights of Inside-the-Zoo camping.

**Feb. 15:** Unique "Behind-the-Scenes" Zoo Tour and free time for soaking up local culture.

**Feb. 16:** Group Winery Tour, premium wine tasting & local artisanal cheese tasting.

**Feb. 17:** Zoo Workshop on healthy food prep and feeding the animals.

**Feb. 18:** Choose "Be a Zoo-Keeper for a Day" or try your own "Valley Wine & Craft Brew" experience.

**Feb. 19:** Travel on in small groups through the Cruise Ship port of Ensenada to Pacific Ocean beachfront camping at La Jolla. History of area by local guide. Welcome Dinner with Mariachi Serenade.

**Feb. 20:** Charity Volunteer Day. This was everyone's favorite last year! We will again have a "hands-on" charity project among other projects to choose from.

**Feb. 21:** Ensenada all day Motorcoach Guided Tour includes: Farmer's Market, Harbor Stroll, Fresh Fish Market lunch (not incl.), Civic Plaza Historic Casino & Margaritas, Baja History Museum, Evening downtown Bistro Hopping on your own... with a bus ride back to camp!



## 2020 Baja Rally Adventure Intinerary Continued...

**Feb. 22:** Shrimp Taco & Margarita Party, fabulous SKP Auction with Folklorico Dancers

**Feb. 23:** Bufadora Blow hole visit, General Meeting followed by Farewell dinner and Live Theater performance.

**Feb. 24:** Rally officially ends... Optional Rally Extensions begin (meet with the Group Leader of your chosen destination for further travel information, pack up as needed). Carnaval Ensenada begins.

**Feb. 25:** You can choose one of the following options:

1. Puerto Penasco/Rocky Point (Sea of Cortez) 3-7 days.
2. San Felipe (Sea of Cortez) 3-7 days.
3. Beautiful Playa Santispac near Mulege (Sea of Cortez) Allow at least 7 days
4. Stay longer at beautiful La Jolla Beach to enjoy Carnaval Ensenada (Third largest Mardi Gras celebration in Mexico) La Jolla will extend the group camping rate to you for the run of Carnaval.
5. Travel back to Border on Feb. 25 with your new friends.

this added excursion. Enjoy some relaxing time by the beach with your new friends. You are not bound to staying with the group at any of these locations, however we ask that you tell the organizing Group Leader if you depart with your rig without the group.

The events at the above add-on locations will be less structured and more social in nature. The Group Leader will also be your Host and organize social time each day. He/She will also be available for questions and help during this added excursion. Enjoy some relaxing time by the beach with your new friends. You are not bound to staying with the group at any of these locations, however we ask that you tell the organizing Group Leader if you depart with your rig without the group.

**NOTICE:** Like most Mexican camping, this is mostly a dry camping rally with some electric/water sites at Potrero park (30-amp electric, great fresh well water, dump station, hot water showers) and some 15-amp electric at La Jolla (fresh Reverse Osmosis water delivery, hot showers, Dump Station or Pump-Outs available). There will be hot showers/nice bathrooms available at the zoo as well. Of course you can purchase fresh reverse osmosis water in any Mexican town, so bring an extra water container along if you wish.

### Additional costs you may encounter:

Mexican liability insurance by a Mexican Insurer is required by Mexican Law and can be purchased inexpensively at the border or online (for as little as \$ 50 - \$180.00). However if you wish to have full Mexico coverage (other than Mexican Liability Insurance) for your vehicles by an American company it can be rather expensive (see tips on our website: [Mexicanconnection08.com](http://Mexicanconnection08.com) and check with your insurance company, some US insurance companies cover Mexico travel for free or free up to a certain mileage). FMM Tourist Card = \$35.

Make sure your vehicle is in good roadworthy condition and a CB radio/antenna is required. In an emergency a handheld "Family" radio will do, but a CB has a longer range. Plus you will find it is so much FUN to be connected to your entire travel group while driving down the road!

Remember, Chapter 8 Mexican Connection is an All-Volunteer Non-Profit Organization and not a commercial tour. Everyone is expected to contribute to the success of the Rally. On the online registration form you will be able to choose how you would like to contribute. However, if you already have an idea of how you would like to contribute, please feel free to contact me at [kassandra@ekdennis.com](mailto:kassandra@ekdennis.com).

For example, we will be looking for Assistant Wagonmasters, Optional Destination Group Leaders/Hosts, Parking Team Members, Group Leaders, Tail Gunners, CB experts, Newsletter and

## 2020 Baja Rally Adventure Itinerary Continued...

Facebook Contributors, Candid Photographers, Social & Potluck Facilitators, Rally Logo Designer, Auction Staff, "In-Kind" Charity Donation Sorters (new or gently used items donated for the auction and for charity distribution to orphanages, migrant workers, etc.), Hands-On Helpers for Charity Project such as painting/welding etc., updating our hand out driving maps, Zoo Activity Coordinator, Charity Team Members (designated people who help distribute charity funds and donations to local deserving organizations at the end of rally), Food Bank, Helpers, Basic Spanish Lesson Presenters, and Potrero Registration Staff. **With everyone pitching in, we all enjoy a better experience at a much better value.**

From tasty tacos and marvelous Margaritas to three decades of Chapter 8 experience in finding the best that Mexico has to offer... Escapees RV Club Chapter 8 has deserved its reputation as your Mexican Connection. Stay as busy as you would like... or dig a foxhole on the daily groomed La Jolla Beach and watch it become your own private hot tub on the Pacific Ocean beach!

As with any long range plan, please be aware that some minor itinerary changes and slight cost adjustments might occur. Final prices will be on the Registration Form by September 1, 2019.

The following pages are a Photo Gallery of scenes from various venues on the 2020 Baja Rally Adventure for your enjoyment...



1. Pelicans diving for Anchovies in Puerto Penasco (Rocky Point), Baja California





## Learn To Be A Wagonmaster

There are a lot of useful tips and tricks to being a efficient Chapter 8 Wagonmaster. Anyone interested in being an Assistant Wagonmaster in training for future rallies, please contact me at [kassandra@ekdennis.com](mailto:kassandra@ekdennis.com).

While wagonmasters are elected by the membership at a *General Meeting*, the skills to be learned are valuable in many situations. I would like to have a small group of interested individuals so we can do hands on training during the 2020 Baja Rally Adventure.

Training is also available during the Rally for other positions like Parking Chair, Charity Chair, Newsletter Editor, etc. You will be able to learn from an experienced Chapter 8 person during the 2020 Baja Rally Adventure.

Kassandra in the Valle de los Gigantos, near San Felipe,

2. Sunset on the Sea of Cortez, San Felipe, B.C., Mexico







3. The turquoise blue waters and tranquility of Playa Santispac, Mulege, Baja California



4. Carnaval Ensenada





**Gary Hatt, Owner/Editor of Bus Conversion Magazine wrote an in depth article about his adventures on the Mexican Connection 2019 Rolling Rally. It serves as a good guide for those who are considering joining our 2020 Baja Rally Adventure. The article is on pages 32-42. Here is the link to the Magazine:**

**<https://www.busconversionmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/May-Issue-2019-SD-18679.pdf>**



**Rolling Rally Charity Team refurbishes an impoverished Punta Banda schoolyard.**