

WINTER 2018



CHUBASCO

**VAGABUNDOS DEL MAR.
BOAT & TRAVEL CLUB**

"MEXICO and BAJA EXPERTS SINCE 1966"

VAGABUNDOS.COM

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2018 ACTIVITY SPECIAL



Baja Sunset



Blue Whale in the Loreto Bay



Monarch Butterfly Migration, Michoacan



Baja Direct Caravan Camping on the Beach



Kayaking Dog with Owner



Rio San Ignacio Lagoon



It's nearly time for the Vagabundos Annual Crab Feed and Fiesta, back at Tower Park this year. Use the sign up form on page 20 or call the Vag office for tickets. Chili Masters, dig your secret recipes out of the safe deposit box and get ready to enter the Chili Cookoff. First Prize this year is a \$50 Ship's Store purchase and 2 tickets for next year's event.



Paul Boe (center) and his volunteers, who provide orthotic and prosthetic services to those in Baja who might not normally have access to such care. See the story on page 10.



Baja Direct Caravan Taking a Road Break.

PHOTO CREDITS
 Front Cover
 "Blue Whale" - Gloria Jones
 "Monarch Butterfly" - Cooper & Kim Johnson



Director Gloria Jones with Last Year's Crab of the Year Recipient, Mel Mello.

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LOGGING INTO YOUR ONLINE ACCOUNT FOR MEMBERSHIP & INSURANCE

Go to our website Vagabundos.com and click on Vag Member "Login". Enter your login name and password if you've already created one.

If you've forgotten your login or password, click on the "Need Help Logging In" link on the login page and enter your email address. An email will be sent to you with instructions on how to reset your password; please ensure you're able to receive emails from Vagabundos.com. Once you enter your new password and confirm it, your login will be updated to your email address and your password will be updated to the new password you entered.

If you have never created a login and password- click on "Current Member Who Needs To Create A Login" on the login page and enter your last name, Member number and zip code. An email will be sent to you with instructions to create a password. Once your password is set your login will be your email address and you will be able to log into your Member page.

From your Membership page you can renew a policy, create a new policy, update your address, use the Travel Buddies calendar or find the Chubasco online PDF version. You will be able to locally print your policy immediately after you purchase it.

The Ship's Store online has available all of our Vagabundos logo clothing, as well as burgees, magnetic signs, Baja & Mexico books, charts, maps, etc.

NOTICE

When matters of importance must be announced to Club Members, the **Chubasco**, our Website and Hot-box at Vagabundos.com, Facebook page ([Facebook.com/vagabundosdelmar](https://www.facebook.com/vagabundosdelmar)), Twitter page (twitter.com/vagabundosmar) and periodic Email Bulletins will be the official means of doing so. Add michelle@vagabundos.com and info@vagabundos.com to your address book to assure email delivery. Please read them carefully so that you are fully informed.

FINDING THE CHUBASCO ONLINE

Follow the instructions in the first three paragraphs above. You will then be on your Membership page. Click on "Chubasco" to view the current issue or click on Member downloads to view previous issues.

ALL CHUBASCO CONTENTS
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EDITOR'S NOTES

Many Vagabundos Members are traveling Mexico now, especially in Baja. Since accidents seem to happen more returning north, during Semana Santa, (Easter), we remind travelers once again of our **Safe Travel Tips**. Make sure the office has your latest contact information for on the road -- cell phone and email address.

Travel with another vehicle in order to have assistance in case of a flat tire or mechanical breakdown. This way you will have someone who can find a tow truck or roadside assistance if necessary. Before leaving home have your local mechanic go over your vehicle and replace anything that looks worn - belts, hoses, headlights, etc. Then test drive it for a time to see if everything is working properly. Bring at least basic spare parts.

Don't drive at night. It's not safe, if for no other reason than cows are often on or alongside the highway. You might not see one until it becomes a hood ornament. Also, a breakdown may leave you on the pavement if there is nowhere to pull off to avoid a semi or bus coming at high speed. They do drive all night.

Don't drive too fast. We may hit 60 mph when we can see a long way ahead but 50 mph is our usual speed, especially when driving an RV or towing and many of us have been doing that for a long time without any problem. This will give you an edge in reacting to unforeseen hazards. Looking far ahead at oncoming traffic, if you can judge when you will cross paths and can estimate speed, it's better to slow or increase speed and cross paths on a straightaway rather than on a curve or hill.

Drive with your lights on. It's easier to be seen in a passing situation!

Take extra care on blind hills and curves. A big truck might be half in your lane and you have to move over as far as you can to the right.

Fill up with fuel when your gauge indicates half empty. Between El Rosario and Jesus Maria on Baja 1, the distance is 197.5 miles and there are no gas stations in between.

Carry collapsible red cones and a red flag. We use a waterski red flag and it has helped us in hazardous situations - including on US roads. Keep it where you can reach it in case your vehicle suddenly becomes disabled; set your hazard lights and get away from the vehicle. Another good idea is a visible vest, like hunters wear, if you need to use with a red flag. These days there seems to be more vehicles and people stalled by the side of the road being hit by traffic coming from behind them.

REGULATIONS

We are still trying to determine what the requirement is for Temporary Import Vehicle Permits (TIP) in Baja. At the Tecate border crossing, our Baja Direct Caravan in early January and the Beaches & Whales Caravan in February were told that a TIP in Baja was only required for boats. At the Tijuana border crossing, we are hearing that a TIP is required for motorhomes and trucks with trailers and are being issued there.

We will continue to research this and notify Members. Check our Website, Hotbox and Facebook page. Email Bulletins will be sent out as we have more information.

The office is now assisting in issuing TIP's for motorhomes. A two-week lead time is necessary. The fee can be paid to the office, but the form is mailed directly to you from Aduana. If it doesn't reach you in time, the office can help with follow up. If you have information or a recent experience when crossing, please share it. That is one of the major strengths of our Club, Members sharing with Members.

CORRECTIONS

In the Fall 2017 Chubasco issue the Beaches and Whales Report was submitted by **Freddie Washington**. The Bahia de Los Angeles Report was submitted by **Scott McEwen**.

U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT MEXICO TRAVEL WARNING

The U.S. State Department updated the Mexico Travel Warning on January 10, 2018. It deals mostly with travel to Mainland Mexico, but still includes Baja. It does not prohibit any more U.S. Government restrictions in

the tourist areas of Baja Norte except for travel on La Rumorosa between Mexicali and Tijuana because of poor cell service and hazardous road conditions, and advises daylight travel only. We advise not traveling on the roads the State Department warning covers, especially on the mainland.

This State Department warning replaced the one from November 22, 2017. We all know crime is everywhere and one needs to be aware of surroundings and prudent in where you travel and the time. The crimes are for the most part between rival cartel gangs and typically do not occur in tourist areas. Vagabundos Members and many tourists continue to travel to Mexico with no problems. Many fishing tournaments were held in Baja last year including Vagabundos tournaments. We strongly advise not traveling at night because of open range. The 2018 Baja Direct Caravan traveled to the Cape area with no problems. The 2018 Beaches and Whales Caravan going to the Cape area is on the road as we go to press. The State Department also advises not traveling at night. Also, we advise following the risk designations assigned by the State Department. Level 4 they consider the highest risk. Use the Vagabundos Travel Buddies Calendar (TBC) at Vagabundos.com/TBC.html for a buddy to help in case of breakdown.

Gary Graham, long-time Member, former Vagabundos Board Director, and Western Outdoor News Baja Columnist, recently posted information on "Is Baja Safe" that is informative -- "Among the most frequently asked questions is whether traveling in Baja is safe. My short answer has been that if you are looking for trouble, it can be found. However, this year like every other year for the last decade, I have driven the entire Baja Peninsula in my trusty Roadtrek, a one-ton van conversion - alone - from border to tip and back countless times *without incident*. Violent acts are not happening on the streets everyday, although drug-related homicides have increased, as they have in many countries. A word of caution: it is important to be aware of your surroundings, pay attention to events around you, and stick to the tourist beaten paths. . . **It's not about being afraid, it's about being aware.**"

Lonely Planet said Mexico's Baja California was voted one of their Best Value destinations for 2018. While tourists are advised to avoid certain areas of the country, much of it is safe to explore. They especially

like in Baja the wine country in the Guadalupe Valley and Todos Santos, north of Cabo San Lucas on the Pacific side of the Peninsula.

North America's Largest Fully Protected Marine Preserve

We applaud Mexico's designation of the Revillagigedo Archipelago, 250 miles south of the Baja Peninsula, as North America's largest protected marine preserve. We have observed other areas Mexico has designated as marine preserves -- Cozumel off of Cancun and Cabo Pulmo in Baja Sur. It's great to see as time goes by in those areas marine life rebounds - the really big fish thrive on the reefs - great to swim with them.

PHOTO CONTEST

Since so many people are traveling in Baja right now, we are extending the final submission date to May 15, 2018. See Fall 2017 issue for guidelines.

YEAR PINS ISSUED

Donald & Brenda Beck - 15 years
Kenneth & Dawn Dutton - 25 years
Robert Mann - 15 years
Chris Wheaton - 15 years

FRED HALL SHOW

Remember to visit Vagabundos' booth and Tailhunter International's booth at the Fred Hall Show in Long Beach, March 7 - 11.

CHUBASCO

We endeavor to keep publishing the hard copy of the Chubasco, but sometimes experience technical difficulties. We print in-house. There were 15 Email Bulletins sent out last year to supplement the Chubasco. Check our Hotbox on the Website Home Page, Email Bulletins and Social Media pages for up-to-date information. Check to see we have your very latest email address, and that you have Vagabundos.com added to your spam whitelist.

More than 52 Years covering the Western Waterfront from Alaska to Cabo San Lucas

2018 ACTIVITY PLANNER

When it comes to Baja and Mexico, there is still no other club that does what we do. The Vagabundos are the only non-profit social club specializing in Baja and Mexico travel. We are the Go-To place for all Mexico travel, with low-cost dues, all-Mexico Vehicle insurance with one of the most reputable brokers in the business, and are the only Club with both a hard-copy and digital publication. We strive to provide a Safety Net for travelers, providing the latest information from our contacts in Mexico and depend on the reliable information shared with Members currently on the road. It makes the difference in fulfilling our Mission - **To help Members travel safely, economically, and to enjoy all of North America, especially Baja California. We are Not for Profit and All for Members.**

Activity, Tournament Leaders and Wagon Masters

We are always looking for help with Activity events and Tournaments and in finding new places. Think about your favorite outdoor area or fishing spot and how much fun it would be to share time there with your Vag Buddies. There are incentives -- some expenses and one week at the Loreto Casas. Before joining Vagabundos we adventured by ourselves. After our first trip years ago crossing the Sea of Cortez with **Ralph "Padre" Lucas** and crew, we realized how much more fun it was to share those experiences with good buddies. You will make life-long friends and be safer cruising on the water and traveling on the road - the reason for your Club's inception. For Wagon Masters, if you are an experienced traveler, take some buddies with you and receive compensation and expenses for your trip, and a week at the Loreto Casas. Our friendly Staff in the office, who still answer the phone live, will be right there to help you with arrangements, reservations and working with participants for both Activities and Caravans. Call the office at 800-47-4-BAJA (2252).

The Club offers a **Free Membership** for the first year for current Members' adult sons and/or daughters who connect with the outdoors and relate to the Vagabundo Lifestyle. Get the kids involved! We are also now giving a **Free** new Family Member **Membership** for one year for you to give to a friend you think would enjoy the Vagabundo Lifestyle. Just fill in the blank form on page 18 and place your Membership number instead of the credit card info and give to a friend to send in.

In every beginning of the year issue of the Chubasco we list each Activity we know of that will be coming up in the ensuing year, and if possible, the following year. This is the best measure we have of what the Vagabundos do. Members can go over the list time and again to find the activities that most interest them and mark their calendars so they won't miss out.

Active people who are looking for fun, adventure and companionship from Alaska to Mexico by Boat or RV or vehicle can see that we are like them, get aboard and take advantage of Vagabundo activities and many money saving services.

Here are some of the fun things the Vags will be doing in 2018/19. If you have an idea for an Activity, please call the office to express your idea.

ACTIVITIES

ANNUAL CRAB FEED & FIESTA RETURNS TO TOWER PARK May 31 - June 3, 2018

The 2017 40th Annual Crab Feed was held at the Lighthouse Marina in the Delta. The weather was good, and the great Dungeness crab provided by Mahoney's was the best ever. Fresh artichokes and the best in the world sourdough from San Francisco, plus beer and wine rounded out the menu. The four-day event included the Annual Pig Roast by Pigmeister and Director **Fred Eberle** and his crew with potluck side dishes. On Friday was the catered tri-tip barbecue with margaritas. Sunday the potluck survivor's breakfast was again as good as it gets. Definitely a high-test, tasty weekend where you leave your diets for another day. Our Best Buddy, **Mel Mello**, graciously accepted the "Crab of the Year" award.

Now we are pleased to return to Tower Park for our four-day event in 2018. The Jellystone Resort at Tower Park is giving us a special group discount on RV sites and cabins. They have been hard at work refreshing the campground and have done a wonderful job. Crab Feed tickets will be \$55.00, Pig roast tickets will be \$12 and Friday night BBQ tickets will be \$18.

We'll do it again starting with Thursday's kick off with the annual Pig Roast and famous potluck. Friday enjoy margaritas and catered dinner consisting of one-half rack of barbecued spare ribs or one-half barbecued chicken. The prelude to the Main Event on Saturday is the 6th Annual Chili Cookoff. First prize for the Chili Cookoff will receive a \$50 purchase from the Ship's Store and two Crab Feed tickets for next year. Mahoney's Seafood will bring us the best Dungeness crab around as they always do, and will again provide the shrimp as they did last year since it was a big hit also. Delicious artichokes from the artichoke capital of California and fresh baked sourdough from San Francisco will accompany. Sunday morning Survivor's Potluck breakfast is always one not to be missed.

Reservations must be made before April 15, 2018 in order to receive the group rate for the RV sites and cabins.

Please make all reservations with the Vagabundos office. Call now 800-47-4-BAJA (2252). For Tower Park site map, go to <http://jellystonetowerpark.northgateyogi.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2017/08/Tower-park-map-2017-8-31.pdf>

10TH ANNUAL 2018 PADRE LUCAS YELLOWTAIL TOURNAMENT JUNE 28-30

The week after Father's Day works well for the Yellowtail Tournament and will again be that week after - Thursday, Friday and Saturday, June 28-30. The cost will be \$50.00 per entry. Included will be a welcome party with chips and margaritas; and on Saturday the 30th we will have the awards dinner and trophies included. This tournament becomes bigger and better every year. Tournament headquarters is Casa Diaz. For more local information go to bahiaadelosangeles.info which has accommodations, guides, etc. You may dry camp at Casa Diaz.

Last year it was another fantastic tournament for the 27 anglers who participated. Our grand prize Copa De Margarita champion, **Ray Andrews**, caught a 26.2 lbs. yellowtail and a 44.14 lbs. grouper for a total combined weight of 70.3 lbs. I believe that is by far the largest combined weight ever recorded at the tournament. The cabrilla/grouper fishing was the best I ever remember. My daughter **Angela Toghia** caught an 11 lbs. cabrilla and she took 9th place. The yellowtail results are as follows: Day 1 - **Steven Lammon** 26.9 lbs. yellowtail; Day 2 - **Steve Zigler** 27.13 lbs. yellowtail; Day 3 - **Jim Burkett** - 34.5 lbs. yellowtail. I think Guillermo's put on the best dinner ever. We had chips and salsa, salad, rice and beans and our yellowtail cooked Veracruz, garlic and butter and breaded. As a special treat they made fresh yellowtail sashimi. I want to thank our sponsor Tackle Express for their \$50.00 gift certificate and Vagabundos for donating several items making our give away raffle even better.

A waypoint stop to Bahia de Los Angeles is Don Eddie's Landing in San Quintin. The road in is now paved and they offer Vagabundos Members discounts on rooms, dinner and breakfast. Sign up at the Vagabundos office at 800-474-2252(Baja).

Larry and Janet Lammon

**15th ANNUAL
HIGH SIERRA CAMPOUT
AND KOKANEE SALMON
TOURNAMENT
AUGUST 23-26**

Thanks to a rainy season last year, the 15th Annual High Sierra Campout and Kokanee Fish Tournament will be held. Registration will be Thursday evening with a community BBQ dinner. The tournament will start Friday. Fishing can commence one half hour before dawn and weigh in will end at 2:00 pm. Friday night we will have a margarita party and potluck dinner. Saturday, fishing can commence one half hour before dawn and weigh in will end at 2:00 pm. The award presentation will be held after the weigh-in on Saturday afternoon. A fish fry will be planned, hopefully with fish caught, and potluck side dishes. And then one more potluck - a Survivor's Breakfast on Sunday morning before departing.

Camping will be dry, but there are chemical toilets, picnic tables, benches, BBQ pits, a great community fire pit and spaces for RV and tent camping. Although the Fishing Tournament is the feature event, there are always plenty of other activities for those who just want to relax and enjoy the mountains and lake scenery. Stampede is a good place to kayak. There will also be many camp games including horseshoes, washer toss and Mexican train.

Directions: Stampede Reservoir is located in the Sierra Nevada east of Truckee. Proceed on I-80 to the Hirschdale Road exit (Exit 94). Go north until you cross the railroad tracks. Mark your odometer and proceed 7.9 miles and turn left after the road makes a steady climb. You can see the dam face on your left.

The cost is \$150 per rig with two people. \$5 per person over two people. The cost includes your RV site for three nights and tournament registration.

To sign up and pay your fee and obtain more information, call the Vag office at 800-47-4-BAJA (2252). Leader is **Larry Wilkinson**.

**SAN QUINTIN
FISHING TOURNAMENT
AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 2, 2018**

Held over Labor Day weekend, this is another great Vagabundos tournament. Fishing last year was spectacular and we expect the same for this year. The location is Don Eddie's Landing, the must stop Baja location. The road into Don Eddie's and San Quintin Bay is now paved. Many have been waiting for this a long time. Vagabundos discounts are given, the food is great and the staff is always very hospitable - they go the extra mile. **Freddie Washington**

Make your reservations now by calling the Vagabundos office at 800-47-4-BAJA (2252).

**ADVENTURE TOURS 2018-2019
CST# 2044242-40
PASSPORTS WILL BE REQUIRED**

BAJA MOTORCYCLE TOUR

Do you ride a touring motorcycle? How would you like to come on an escorted trip down to Cabo San Lucas with a group of motorcycle riders?

We are planning a motorcycle trip down Baja in the early spring (before it gets too hot at the south end). This would be escorted by an experienced Baja rider with Spanish speaking ability. We would take 4 days to travel down Baja and after a couple of days in Cabo, take about the same returning to the US. Nights would be in hotels along the way.

This will be an adventure taking in the sights and smells of Baja. Most of the roads are in good shape and the ones that aren't are fun to dodge the potholes. Traveling light and enjoying the freedom of the road.

We will take 5 to 10 riders. If you are interested, contact Vagabundos at 800-47-4-BAJA (2252) or call **Todd Way** at 619-890-9064.

Besides being a very good amigo, Todd is a very experienced Mexico-Baja traveler and has been a Wagon Master for Vagabundos caravans - Editor.

BAJA DIRECT CARAVAN

January 2019

This caravan introduces first-time Baja RVers to an easy way to experience Baja's warmth and hospitality. Travel south to escape the northern cold winter before it really gets going. Head down Baja 1 with leaders who are well-experienced Baja travelers and know all the ropes for making Baja travel as easy as driving to your local supermarket. The price is low, \$680 per rig. We also have the highest quality, low-cost Mexican vehicle insurance for your RV and towed vehicle. We will meet near the San Diego border. We'll plan to drive at no more than 50 mph, covering between 170 and 250 miles a day and driving between 4 to 7 daylight hours. Overnight stops will be in San Quintin, Guerrero Negro, Concepcion Bay, La Paz and Cabo San Lucas - 10 days traveling. You are free to drop out where you wish or return with the Wagon Master. Non-members will receive membership free. Call the Vag Office at 800-47-4-BAJA (2252) or visit the website at Vagabundos.com

BEACHES AND WHALES ROUND-TRIP

February 2019

The past recent years have seen record numbers of gray whales in the lagoons on the Pacific side of Baja. All indications are numbers are still increasing and 2019 will be even better. We are amazed that year after year as we have made the trek to Baja to seek the whales, we have not had a trip without an opportunity to actually touch a gray whale in their habitat. For us it is a humbling experience each time we view these intelligent mammals in the place they've chosen to birth their calves - as the Mexicans say - the gray whales are Mexican by birth. In one of the most remarkable annual migrations nature offers, Pacific gray whales make the 5,000 mile trip from the chilly feeding grounds of the Arctic to the safety of warm, shallow waters of the Baja Peninsula for their breeding and calving season.

We will introduce you to these two favorite things to do and see in Baja and will take you down to Cabo San Lucas and back to California in both RV's and passenger cars. We'll spend some nights on Baja's best beach campgrounds. During the height of the season, we will experience whale watching with gray whales in Scammon's Lagoon and another lagoon, depending on timing and number of whales present. These gray whale

wintering areas have developed "friendly" mothers who bring their calves right up to the boats and enjoy being stroked. Mostly it's the babies, pushed to the boat by mama whale, who probably learned the behavior as a baby herself, who seem the most friendly and want to play with us. To connect with these friendly whales from a small panga, looking right into their eye rolled toward you, creates a distinctive awareness of these intelligent creatures, enhances the mind and exhilarates the soul. In Loreto we will search for magnificent blue whales and other whale species like humpbacks and finbacks. In La Paz we'll seek another incredible gentle giant - whale sharks. The fee per rig with two people is to be determined. Be sure your CB radio or two-way family radio is working. For more information visit the Beaches and Whales Tour page on our website at Vagabundos.com/beaches_whale.htm, or call Vag Headquarters at 800-47-4-BAJA (2252).

MEXICO MAINLAND

CULTURAL & ART TOUR

by **PREMIERE TOUR LEADERS**

DAVID & CONNIE JONES

(It's not what you might think,
but it is a Cultural and Art tour.)

Mexico as you may never have experienced it. We will actively participate in the Day of the Dead. We will learn how to create a gourmet Mexican meal. We will use all of our senses to personally experience all that makes Mexico great (besides beautiful beaches). And we may still end up on a beautiful beach. This tour is still in development (exact dates and cost will be determined), here's what we have so far.

Chiapas: One of the most culturally intact areas of Mexico where we will learn about their indigenous rituals and traditional medicine, still practiced today, and see some exquisite textile work from women who still wear their traditional dress.

Oaxaca: Considered by many as the arts center of Mexico because of their black pottery, superior quality hand-woven rugs (at excellent prices), carved and intricately painted wood animals, elaborate textiles and costumes, it's also where we will learn to cook an Oaxaca-style gourmet meal.

Puebla: Talavera pottery - what more is there to say?

Oh, how about MOLE! This is where the wonderful, chocolaty recipe originated.

San Miguel de Allende: Many American and Canadian artists make San Miguel their home. We will not only watch them work at Fabrica de Aurora but we will experience how they live by touring their homes. One of the most beautiful colonial cities in Mexico, this is the place for Spanish immersion.

Taos: The silver capital of Mexico where beautiful, tarnish-proof jewelry is manufactured and where you will also see international award winning sculptures of silver. Plus, our hotel is one of the most enjoyable you will ever experience in Mexico.

Xilitla: Unfamiliar? This is a treat for art lovers as well as those who appreciate the weird and unique. Due to the two small hotels in town, we will probably be the only tourists during our visit.

Mexico City: Of course this is a must for anyone who wants to experience the real Mexico. We will focus on two of the most famous artists, **Diego Rivera** and **Frida Kahlo**. We will also visit one of the finest museums in the world and the place that conserves the finest Mayan and Aztec art. Our guide is one of the most knowledgeable scholars of these ancient and modern people. And we will enjoy the famous Ballet Folkloric of Mexico.

The State of Michoacan: We will visit several Pueblos Magicos (Magic Villages) such as Tzintzuntzan, Pátzcuaro, Santa Clara del Cobre, so designated because they offer visitors a “magical” experience – by reason of their natural beauty, cultural riches, or historical relevance. This may well be your favorite part of our entire journey.

Guadalajara: The second largest city in Mexico is also one of the most beautiful. Known for its quality furniture manufacturing, beautiful Colonial architecture, the best mariachis and extensive public art, this is a fitting end to our adventure. It’s also very near Tequila and we can’t truly experience all of Mexico’s culture without tequila.

MEMBERS SPEAK

Hola Kids, Here’s a synopsis of our last clinic -- The La Balandra Rotary Club of La Paz, BCS held their semi-annual clinic for orthotic and prosthetic services from November the 6th to the 18th, 2017. The totals for orthotic and prosthetic systems delivered are as follows:

14 above knee prostheses, 13 below knee prostheses, 1 hemipelvectomy prosthesis, 2 Symes (ankle disarticulation) prostheses, 1 Chopart (partial foot) prosthesis, 3 remakes of old sockets that were either cracked, broken, or no longer fit, 2 KAFO’s (full leg braces), and 10 AFO’s (below the knee braces).

An international group of volunteers included: **Charlotte Bunnett** from New Zealand, **Monique Jackson** from New Zealand, **Garth Knapp** from Washington state, **Brad and Louise Farrow** from California, **Dr. Robert Haining** from California, **Jim Thompson** from Oregon, **William Tognetti** from Nevada, **Zenon Labudda** from Poland via Washington state, **Doug Pinkley** from Washington state, **Dr. Alejandro Aguirre Chávez** from La Paz, **Beatriz Alverde Unger** from La Paz, **Oscar Hernandez Nieto** from La Paz, and **Victor Jimenez** from La Paz.

Also a special thank you to Mobilize Mankind for the use of their van during the clinic.

Anyone wishing to donate can send a check to:

San Ramon United Methodist Church
902 Danville Blvd.

Alamo, CA 94507

Attn: Limb Restoration Fund

(be sure to request a receipt for tax purposes).

Thank you in advance, **Paul and Shelley Boe**
For years Paul and Shelley have been helping the lives of the disabled and less fortunate in Baja for those who wouldn’t otherwise have an opportunity for improvement. Thanks for all you do. Editor.

ROAD REPORT

Road Report from the Baja Direct Caravan - The caravan entered Baja on January 8th at Tecate. They

reported good roads and no road construction from Tecate to San Quintin. South of Catavina starting at KM 142 - KM 179 the potholes are bad. This is the worst section of the road. From KM 179 to the Bay of LA turnoff there are large potholes but not as bad as the previous section. From Bay of LA to Mulege the roads are good and Mulege to Loreto also good. From Loreto going into La Paz at KM 29 there is construction at the curve. La Paz to Los Barriles the road is good. Returning to the US on January 16, 2018 the Wagonmaster took MX 5 and reported the 21 mile section of MX 5 that connects at MX 1 in Chapala is in the same condition it has been for years. While driving he noticed the progress crews are making on the new section of road. However, it is not completed and they are not allowing vehicles on the new section.

REMINISCING CRUISING STORIES



by Phil McCauley

This is a continuation of Phil's story from the last Chubasco:

MAS TARDE

After leaving the potentially treacherous Mobile Bay, the ICW snakes its way through miles of land cuts similar to the California Delta. Occasionally it opens into large or even small bays and depending on the wind, the chop of these can bring you to attention in a hurry. The other thing that keeps pushing its string of barges sometimes up to a 1000 ft. long. You best pay attention when passing or overtaking these critters in the narrow channels, believe me.

THE BIG BEND

This is the real challenge on this leg of the trip, crossing the Bend. You've got three choices on how to do it. (1) Take it straight across to Tarpin Springs, 180 statute miles of open water. (2) Follow the curve of the land and run the sea buoys, about 200 statute miles, also open water but closer to land in case it gets nasty or you need to refuel. (3) Go back and get the trailer. Well, 180 miles is a tad beyond my safe range even in the best of conditions, so selected option 2 with a fuel stop. After the first day it was option 3, that made the most sense.

One afternoon when conditions seemed right, my two buddy boats opt for Number 1 and went for it straight across. They were to be met by winds and choppy seven-foot seas (not in the forecast). The next day the *Rainmaker* seemed more ready than usual, so off we went towards Steinhatchee, a fuel stop 70 miles away. Five miles out, a sea fog dropped over us like a blanket. 100 yards maybe. That was the view ahead all day, it never lifted (also not in the forecast). I surprised myself by finding the sea buoys, about 10 to 15 miles apart, on compass courses and plotting the bottom with the charts and the depth finder. That is, all but the last and most crucial one which I simply couldn't find or see. No choice but to drop the hook and wait for night and a possible lift. It did, about 8 P.M. and I was a half mile off. Had it been a bell buoy I could have heard it. The next morning it was a race to Steinhatchee before the fog and I barely won. By the time I refueled all conditions turned perfect and that day was to be as good as the first day was bad. The remaining 120 miles into Tarpin Springs was a piece-of-cake. The locals were right though, nobody gets around the Big Bend this time of year without paying their dues.

ANO NUEVO

New years at St. Petersburg and then off across a rough Tampa Bay headed for an anchorage of Longboat Key where I rode out the first major storm of the trip. A mail call at the proper little town of Venice and I drifted downstream toward Ft. Myers and mile zero.

The water is now a refreshing 70 degrees and I'm anticipating a cruise into the area where the good water and climate begins.

Down through the Everglades and on to the Keys....

FORT MYERS TO KEY WEST, FLORIDA

It's Friday, March 1st '85 at Key West. We're now nearly three months and 1,000 miles off the trailer, give or take a coral reef or two.

I arrived in Fort Myers in the 2nd week of January and the weather closed in behind me promptly canceling any thoughts of bating on our headings for almost two weeks. The North wind that brought it in produced the coldest temps in recorded history in that part of sunny Florida. The condensation that forms on the inside of the boat turned to ice. You just have to know, my mind danced with thoughts of Cabo San Lucas and its warm gentle breezes of January.

Joan Smith, my good companion and veteran of last summer's cruise through San Juan and who, incidentally, out fished me in British Columbia, joined me and the good ship "*Rainmaker*" at Fort Myers. I hope for a fishing rematch here in the warm waters of the Keys as soon as we get settled down and the sea does likewise.

South from Ft. Myers we made it into Naples just before another "Norther" came in like a freight train and pinned everyone down for a few days. This weather gave us good reason to linger awhile in Naples, a favorite area for the affluent who prefer this coast to the busier and more hectic life around Miami on the other side.

THE EVERGLADES

When the winds calmed, we set a course for Everglade City where they were stoking up the cooking fires for the 11th Annual Seafood Festival. During the weekend we learned that a few changes were necessary this year. Mainly they had to import some of the fish, as a few of the local providers and their boats were impounded for hauling pot instead of fish. But in spite of such minor setbacks, it was obviously a popular weekend there in that very rural part of Southwestern Florida. Folks came from miles around to drink a little beer, shop at the street fair, let the kids enjoy the rides of the midway and of course chub up on the fish dinners at the old fire house.

From there we entered the boundary of the Everglades National Park, it continues around the end of the

peninsula into the Park Headquarters at Flamingo on Florida Bay. This 60-mile run is very remote and unfortunately difficult to penetrate due to the shallow water around the islands. About half way, the wind again became our "buddy boat" and encouraged us off the sea and into an anchorage at Shark River.

After a couple days we decided to go for the other 30 miles into Flamingo. That was Feb. 9th, the day of the Grande Fiesta de los Vagabundos del Mar on the Queen Mary. We toasted our many amigos as we rounded the tip of Florida while being pushed by our old friend from the north, the 15-20 knot winds in a mixed up following sea and dodging the ever present crab trap buoys.

THE ATLANTIC

Leaving Flamingo on the morning tide, a necessity, it was a welcome easy day from the Gulf of Mexico into the Atlantic Ocean. It was here we decided to pull the boat out of the water and confirmed what I had suspected based on the conduct of the old girl while running up on the plane. Yep, sure enough we had critters raising families on the bottom. So, in this do it yourself boat yard, we spent a couple days scrapin' and sandin' and broke the oath of the true trailer boater and painted the bottom. While we had her up on the blocks, it gave me the chance to do other things, one of which was to check the oil in the outdrive. It's telltale milky color signaled the need for further maintenance. Just a seal.

Passing into the Atlantic we were pleased to see double digit water depths on the charts, good news! For the first time in over 1,000 miles we were running in more than 10 feet of water, usually 6-8 ft. On the bad news side, this great ocean was not otherwise good to us on our initial meeting. The weatherman's seemingly broken record of 15-20 knot winds produced 3-5 ft. badly confused seas. So, we turned around, carefully that is, and slinked into an anchorage in a back bay at Marathon with at least 100 other boats. Now get this, we anchored in 3-5 feet of water depending on the tide and the wind continued to build to 30 knots with gust to gale force.

Key West, aha! We finally left that unbelievable anchorage and set out for the final 50 mile assault to this milestone destination, even though King Neptune of the Atlantic wasn't through with our baptism in his crazy waters. It took two days or at least we made the inner harbor at Key West about noon on the second day

and we're feeling pretty darn good about ourselves. The *Rainmaker*, bless her pretty blue bottom, has again done herself proud on this first 1000 mile leg. She's going to get a month's rest here save perhaps for a little fishing when we get settled down and the sea stops its throbbing.

KEY WEST

This place is alive with tourist this time of year, they seem to mix rather well with the element of humanity that follows the warm climate. Together they produce a carnival atmosphere that has apparently characterized Key West for many years now. Somehow, we seem to have slipped in virtually unnoticed which may mean we have crossed over the line and are blending with both. We took a trolley tour and have enjoyed several cold drafts at "**Sloppy Joe's**" the popular watering hole and once favorite hangout of Ernest Hemingway, the town's most famous resident of days gone by. We lucked out and found a berth at the Key West Yacht Club. On a weekly rate it's 0.40 a foot per day including power, water and good facilities, not bad at all considering where we are. It's near a supermarket and 0.50 will get you a bus ride to old town where all the action seems to be.

It's Wednesday, April 24th. We just pulled into the harbor at Charleston, South Carolina, where we will spend a few days being properly informed about the history and southern culture that from all reports, centers around this old time hub the South. That experience will be the start of the next chapter as we work and play our way up the East Coast. For now Amigos, let me tell you a bit about Key West and the 800 miles through Florida, Georgia and some of South Carolina.

The month at Key West was everything we wanted for the Shore leave we needed after two months aboard the *Rainmaker*. The only disappointment was the constant wind and what it did to the fishing and snorkeling we had hoped to do. Aside from that the weather or climate was very similar to Cabo in the Winter. A warm semi tropical dry 80 plus during the day and in the mid 70's at night. Best of all, seldom critters or biting bugs.

With the wind putting our fishing plans on hold, at least I could relax and not have to worry about Joan out fishing me again. So, we just did the on land tourist bit and I caught up on some maintenance on the boat. By staying

at the local Yacht Club, we met some super people as there were always cruising boats passing through from almost everywhere. We also made a number of friends among the folks who live aboard, and of course that's where you get the insight to what makes that Peyton Place throb. I also found a book called "Key West, the Last Resort" which does a great job of telling the story of the Island from the beginning to current times. Between reading that and all the local input, we came away feeling we knew Key West pretty well. It's really a crazy place, where the longer you stay the longer you want to stay.

Yes, Key West is one of those stops we'll always remember.

A CRAZY RIDE WITH NO WHERE TO HIDE

Perhaps you'll remember me telling about the storm we fought through getting into Key West, well that was a piece-a-cake compared to what we hit as we left. Boy, it seems as soon as I stick the *Rainmaker's* nose out in the Atlantic, we get it punched. After dutifully watching the weather and purposely avoiding a start on April Fools Day, we went for it on the 2nd of April. A few miles out into Hawk Channel and something told me we'd been had. I switched back to NOAA weather and sure enough a special. It seems a sudden storm had developed off the Dry Tortugas and was moving N/E at 25-30 knots. That meant we were going to take it on the port beam and take it we did. All the crazy 50 miles into our now favorite storm port at Marathon. That was the wettest ride my boat has ever given me and we've been through a few crazy times together. The seas became confused and the bow would dip in and throw the water which that wind would turn into a driving spray that just seemed to penetrate the side of the boat, with water everywhere.

REUNION & AMIGOS

Before leaving Marathon, we met up with my old buddy from the days along the Gulf, the *Jacque D III*, a slick 36 ft. Grand Banks, **George and Hortense (HO) Graves** out of Cincinnati, Ohio. They were going our way so we teamed up again for the trip north. Great people. Also I have to tell you about meeting another fun couple when we were stopped at Everglade city in February. **Al Bonosoro and Millie Williams**. Al is from Key Largo and Millie has a home with a dock on Matecumbe Key on Isla Magorda. So we called as planned and told them we now had a buddy boat. "Come on over, plenty of room". They came out in their boat to

the waterway to meet us and sheppard us in, we stayed three days. Had a ball, Al reminds me so much of my good buddy **Tony Ferraro**. Same helpful mannerism of an enthusiastic Italiano, plays cribbage too. Meeting good people has certainly been one of the highlights of the trip so far.

From there it was up through Biscayne Bay and into the Miami – Fort Lauderdale area, the Gold Coast if you please, to visit other friends we met along the Gulf.

PESO CONSERVATION

We were not able to find anchorages most of the nights as we moved into N/E Florida and cut the expense of Marinas. Every three to four days, we'd go in and restock the fridge and give the sun shower the day off. One Place that was particularly friendly and efficient was at Daytona Beach. Stayed two days and enjoyed walking along the famous beach watching the "tourists". We anchored out at St. Augustine and took the dinghy into the city docks. What a beautiful old town. Henry Flagler, the guy who built the Railroad to Key West liked this place and built two huge hotels almost facing each other. They are not well preserved and in use as the city hall and the other as a college. Beautiful old Spanish architecture. Well worth the visit for some good pictures.

Continued next Chubasco...

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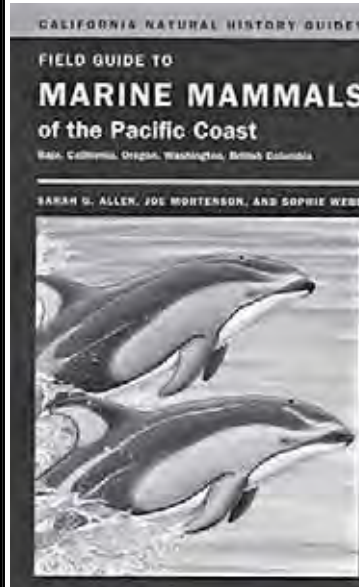
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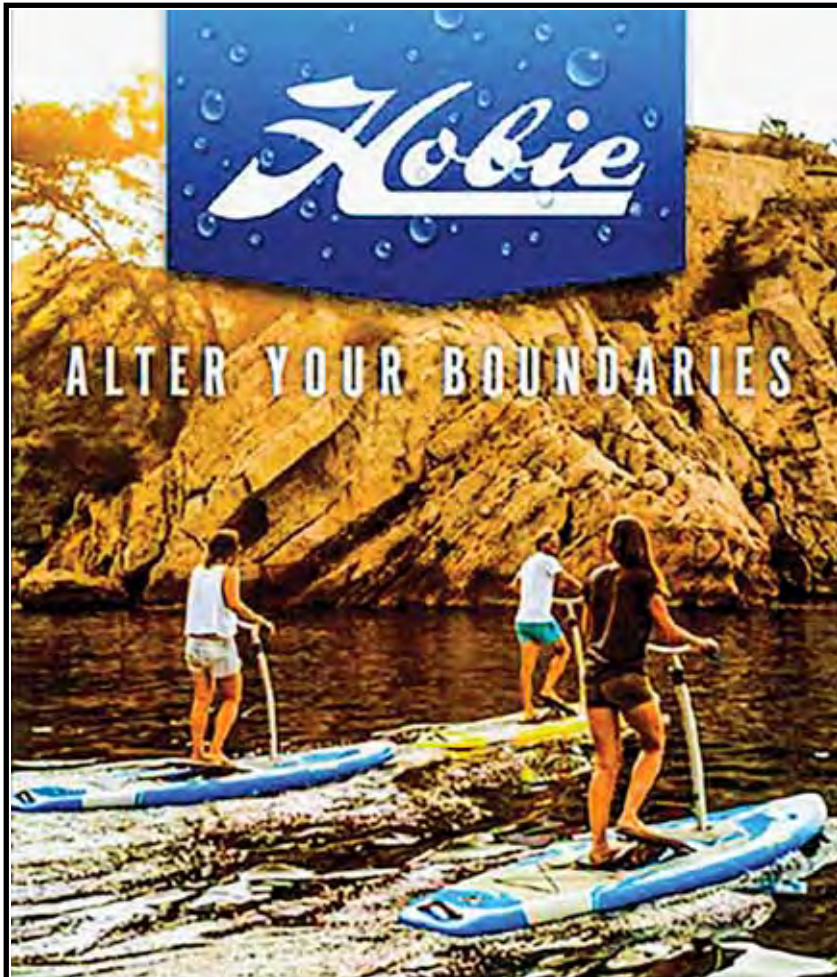
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CREDIT CARD#: _____ **EXP:** _____ **VCODE:** _____

NOTES: _____

**DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP WITH YOUR BEST CHILI RECIPE FOR THE
6th ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF ON SATURDAY JUNE 2nd
First prize for the Chili Cookoff will receive a \$50 purchase from the
Ship's Store and two Crab Feed tickets for next year.**