



ACTIVITIES 2019

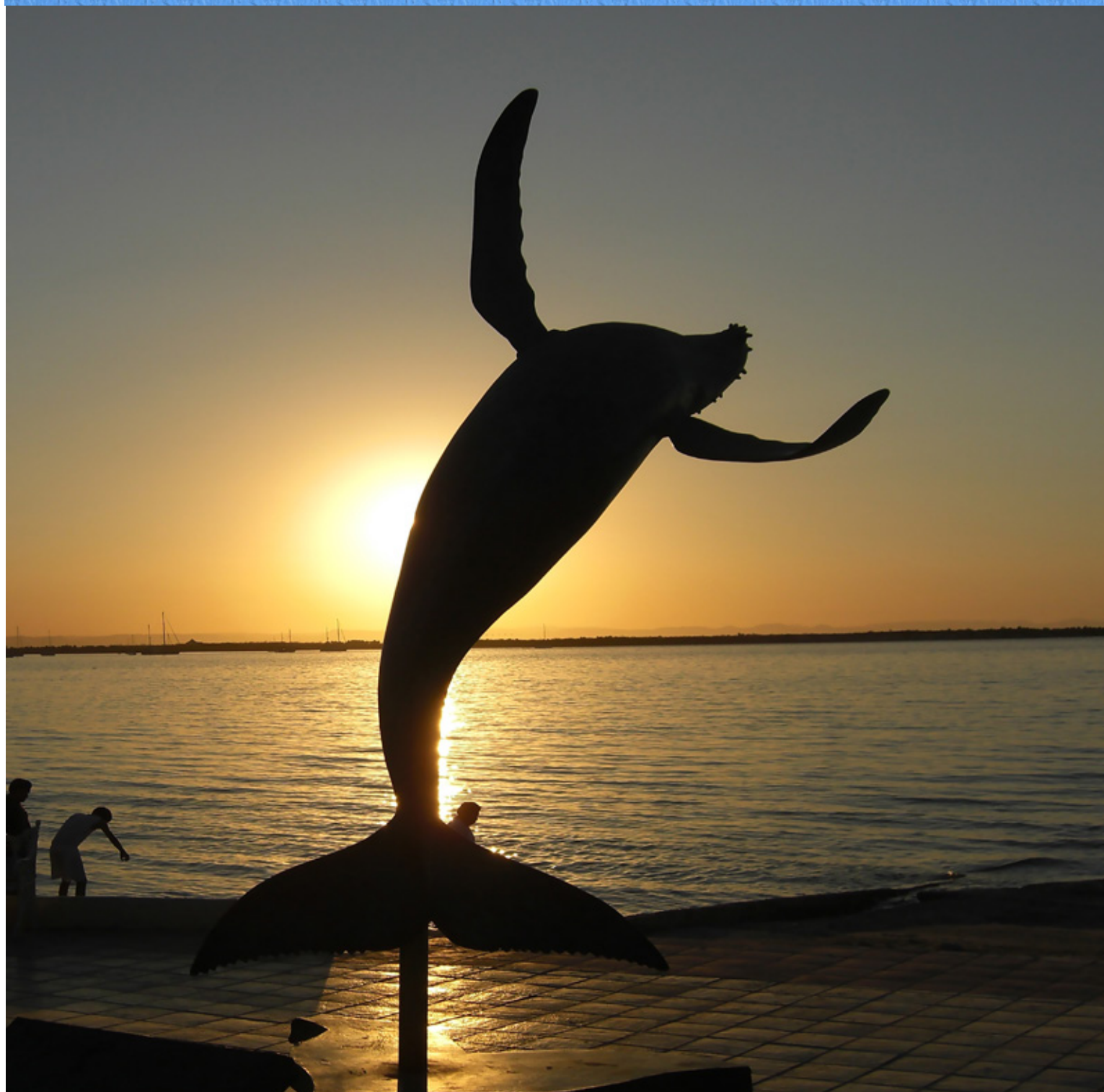
CHUBASCO

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

"MEXICO and BAJA EXPERTS SINCE 1966"

VAGABUNDOS.COM

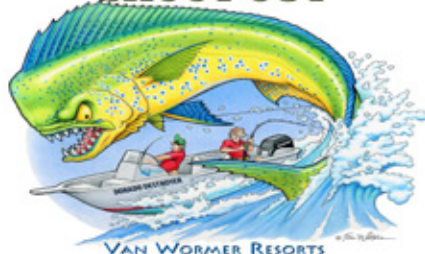
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VAN WORMER RESORTS

2019 Tournaments

DORADO SHOOT OUT



JULY 20, 2019

The heaviest Dorado caught will win!

Over \$200,000 in cash and prizes up for grabs in this year's tournament.

Great drawing prizes of tackle, lures, & return trips to Van Wormer Resorts.

\$500 ENTRY FEE

Optional cash jackpots of
\$200, \$300, \$500 & \$1,000

WIN A 2019 VOLKSWAGEN AMAROK!



EAST CAPE

GoldCup®

Wahoo Jackpot Tournament
• HOTEL PALMAS DE CORTEZ •



AUGUST 24, 2019

The heaviest wahoo caught will win!

Heaviest wahoo will win a 2019 Volkswagen Tiguan SUV.

Great drawing prizes of tackle, lures, & return trips to Van Wormer Resorts.

\$500 ENTRY FEE



Optional cash jackpots of
\$200, \$300, \$500 & \$1,000



VAN WORMER RESORTS
East Cape

OCTOBER 26, 2019

The heaviest Tuna caught will win!

Heaviest Tuna will win approximately \$35,000 based on 100 teams.

Great drawing prizes of tackle, lures, & return trips to Van Wormer Resorts.

\$500 ENTRY FEE

Optional cash jackpots of
\$300, \$500, \$1,000 & \$2,000

THIS ONE IS ALL ABOUT THE MONEY!

OFFICERS

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PRESIDENT EMERITUS - Chet Sherman
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Sidney "Skip" Huwaldt
Mike Tribble
Larry Young

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), Twitter page (twitter.com/vagabundosdmar) 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.

VAGABUNDOS DEL MAR

190 Main Street
Rio Vista, CA 94571
(800) 47-4-BAJA (2252) Fax (707) 374-6843
info@vagabundos.com

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 purchased 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.

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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More than 53 Years covering the Western Waterfront from Alaska to Cabo San Lucas

2019 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 Casa. 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 Casa. 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 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.

In 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 Vagabundos activities and many money saving services.

See Pages 7 - 11 for some of the fun things the Vags will be doing in 2019. If you have an idea for an activity, please call the office to express your idea.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Ralph Wayne "Padre" Lucas age 96 passed of natural causes on April 17, 2019. After military service in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he went to work for Pacific Telephone in Los Angeles, California. He continued there until retirement, at which time he moved to Arizona. He was an avid fisherman and one of the original Members of Vagabundos. The Padre Lucas Yellowtail Tournament in Bahiade Los Angeles (where he is known as a local legend), continues to this day in his honor. May he forever have fair skies, calm seas and tight lines. Via Con Dios Padre

TIP'S

October 2018 the Mexican consulate located in Sacramento had Aduanas agents at their office assisting in canceling Temporary Import Permits. This was a great opportunity for anyone that had not canceled their permits at the border, or no longer owns the unit or units listed on their TIP. Staff from Vagabundos were there and had the opportunity to speak and ask a few questions to an Aduanas agent. The questions and responses are as follows.

Q: Do Motorhomes need a TIP for Baja California?

A: Motorhomes are required to obtain a TIP before entering Mexico. It is advised that you obtain one at the border or apply for one before you start your trip.

Q: What happens in the event that you are told at the border that you do not need a permit and continue your trip into Mexico without one?

A: If you are asked to present your import permit in Mexico and you do not have one, your Motorhome may be impounded. Therefore, we recommend you obtain a TIP before entering Mexico.

Q: What should be done if a Banjercito agent informs you that the TIP is not required for Baja?

A: You can tell the agent that you were informed by Aduanas in Mexico City that a TIP is necessary in Baja and you would like to obtain one. If they continue to insist you do not need one, tell them you may be traveling to mainland Mexico.

Q: Where can you apply for, and obtain a Motorhome TIP?

A: If you are driving into Mexico you will need

to obtain your TIP before entering the country. You can obtain it at the border, apply online or at a Mexican consulate near you. Not all consulates have a Banjercito Office. Please contact them to make sure this service is available at their location. As of September 3, 2018 some consulates give you the option to schedule an appointment online. The link to the website where you can schedule an appointment and see a list of these consulates is www.banjercito.com.mx/citasconsulares. The option for English is at the top right corner. Vagabundos can assist you in getting your Motorhome TIP if no towed units are to be listed.

Temporary residents can still obtain a TIP. If you are a Permanent resident you will need to permanently import your vehicle.

They also provided us with a list of requirements to obtain your temporary or permanent residency.

The office will process TIP's for you, just as with insurance and other permits allow two weeks to process, especially this busy time of the year.

Road Report - Don't leave your vehicle unattended during check point inspections. Displaying Vagabundos decals and magnetic signs can be beneficial to Members when passing through check points. Request free decals with your renewal or visit our ship store to purchase a set of magnetic signs.

****ALERT**** South of El Rosario the road is in good condition but there is no shoulder. If your tire gets close to the edge of the road, the road could cave in under you. There were three accidents in that area the past month.

Several bridges remain washed out on MX 5. The detours are steep and rocky. Not recommended if you have a towed unit, motorhome or car.

CALL FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES

Fred Eberle, Gloria Jones, Gary Kirkman and Tony Schuck are up for re-election. If you have an interest

in becoming involved in the management of the Club, send in a statement setting forth your background and interest in the Club, along with a passport-size photo. The Board has adopted a requirement for eligibility of three years membership in the Club, having served as a volunteer or coordinator of a volunteer activity, plus evaluation of qualifications by the Nominating Committee. The deadline for submissions to Vag Headquarters, 190 Main Street, Rio Vista, CA 94571, is September 1, 2019.

Border Wait Time

Check the current northbound border wait time at <https://bwt.cbp.gov/index.html>

April 11, 2019 the wait time was 65 minutes at San Ysidro 2:00pm and 40 minutes at Tecate 3:00pm

YEAR PINS ISSUED

James & Elyse Barrett - 20 Years
Ralph & Donne Edwards - 20 Years
Harold & Jessie Frazier - 15 Years
Joe Labrincha - 45 Years
Thomas & Candy Lanza - 10 Years
Richard & Georjean Olsen - 45 Years
Charles & Barbara Saunders - 30 Years
Nick Sinko - 30 years

MEMBERS SPEAK

Randy Brown report January 30, 2019- MX 1 is in the best shape that it has been for the past 3-4 years. They have repaired the majority of the potholes and sinkholes. The driving lines are now painted on the new section of road near the Catavina area. There are still some potholes and road construction, so you need to drive with caution. It is very important not to drive at night. You would not be able to see the potholes at night.

Thank you for the report Randy! Enjoy the nice weather!!

April 4, 2019 - For the first time since 2011, I have not had to rescue a single driver anywhere in Mexico over

the winter season. Not a single case of sulfur-in-fuel problems has been reported to me since mid-2018 - normally I would receive hundreds every year. Repsol gas stations in Mexico actually have a label on their pumps that reads "Ultra Bajo Azufre" which means, of course, Ultra Low Sulfur. **Ed White**

2018 Prostheses Clinic - Hola Vagabundos, our spring clinic was held from April 16 through the 27th in La Paz, BCS, Mexico. Volunteers for this clinic were as follows:

Brad Farrow CPO(e) (Certified Prosthetist Orthotist, Emeritus), California

Louise Farrow, RPT (Registered Physical Therapist), California

Mike Beck CPO, California

Jim Thompson, Technician, Oregon

Justin Scott, Technician, Washington

Beatriz Unger, Translator, La Paz, BCS, Mexico

Dr. Alejandro Aguirre, La Paz, BCS

Victor Jimenez, Physical Therapist, La Paz, BCS

Professor Oscar Hernandez, La Paz, BCS

Numa Arce, Physical Therapy student, La Paz, BCS

Hernan Soto, Physical Therapy student, La Paz, BCS

77 total patients were provided the following systems:

8 Above Knee Prostheses

5 Below Knee Prostheses

1 Symes Prosthesis (ankle disarticulation)

27 Repairs including adjustments, liners, socks , etc...

2-AFO's (custom below the knee braces)

7 pairs of Cascade AFO's (premade, custom fit to patients)

4 pair custom arch supports

1 TLSO (body jacket) repair

A special thanks to Mobilize Mankind for the use of their van for transportation purposes, and to the La Balandra Rotary Club members for providing lunch each day. If any of the Vagabundos wish to donate:

Limb Restoration Fund

c/o San Ramon United Methodist Church

902 Danville Blvd.

Alamo, California 94507

Request a receipt for tax purposes.

Thank you for your consideration,

Paul and Shelley Boe

ACTIVITIES

ANNUAL CRAB FEED & FIESTA Lighthouse Resort and Marina May 30 - June 2, 2019

The 2018 41st Annual Crab Feed was held at the Jellystone Resort at Tower Park. 300 Vagabundos Members, family and friends; 1,250 lbs of the best Dungeness crab provided by Mahoney's Seafood; 160 lbs of shrimp; 14 cases of fresh artichokes; 100 loaves of San Francisco sourdough bread makes Vagabundos Crab Feed and Fiesta the event of the year. There are no other crab feeds like this one. The four-day event including the Thursday Annual Pig Roast by Pigmeister and Director Fred Eberle and his crew with potluck side dishes.

Friday nights BBQ ribs or chicken, baked beans, coleslaw and margaritas. Saturday the main event Crab Feed. Sunday morning survivor's potluck breakfast. It is a weekend to remember where you leave your diets for another day. Tony Schuck, graciously accepted the "Crab of the Year" award.

The 2019 42nd Annual Crab Feed event will be held at Lighthouse Resort and Marina on the beautiful California Delta. All RV sites are back-in and are \$45 per night. The cabins are limited. Pig Roast tickets will be \$12, BBQ tickets will be \$18 and Crab Feed tickets will be \$59.

We'll do it again starting with Thursday's kick off of the annual Pig Roast and famous potluck. Friday enjoy margaritas and catered BBQ 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 7th Annual Chili Cookoff. Prize's for the Chili Cookoff will include \$50 cash 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.

Please make all reservations with the Vagabundos office. Call now 800-47-4-BAJA (2252).

11TH ANNUAL 2019 PADRE LUCAS YELLOWTAIL TOURNAMENT June 27 - 29, 2019

The week after Father's Day works well for the Yellowtail Tournament and will again be that week - Thursday, Friday and Saturday, June 27-29. The cost will be \$50.00 per entry. Included will be a welcome party with chips and margaritas and on Saturday the 29th we will have the awards dinner with trophies included. This tournament becomes bigger and better every year. Tournament headquarters is Casa Diaz. For more local information go to bahiadelosangeles.info which has accommodations, guides, etc. You may dry camp at Casa Diaz.

Last year was another fantastic tournament. It was our biggest and best tournament for the 28 anglers who participated. I have Western Outdoor News on board as a new sponsor for 2019. I wish to thank all participants and Tackle Express for their \$50.00 gift certificate. Thanks to Vagabundos Del Mar for donating several items, making our giveaway raffle even better! Janet and I would like to especially thank Vagabundos for giving us a beautiful engraved clock for our years of service.

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

16th ANNUAL HIGH SIERRA CAMPOUT AND KOKANEE SALMON TOURNAMENT AUGUST 18 - 21, 2019

Sunday, August 18 - Wednesday, August 21. This will be the 16th Annual High Sierra Campout and Kokanee Fish Tournament. Registration will be Sunday evening with a community BBQ dinner. The tournament will

start Monday. Fishing can commence one half hour before dawn and weigh in will end at 2:00 pm. Monday night we will have a margarita party and potluck dinner. Tuesday, 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 Tuesday 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 Wednesday 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 trailer 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. There will also be many camp games including horseshoes, washer toss and Mexican train.

Directions to Stampede - Stampede Reservoir is located in the Sierra Nevada east of Truckee. Please Click Here for Temporary Road Closure and Detour Route. You will need to use State Route 89 not Stampede Meadows Road.

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) 474-2252.

SAN QUINTIN FISHING TOURNAMENT

August 30 - September 1, 2019

2019 Vagabundos San Quintin Fishing Tournament at Don Eddie's was full of fun, good fishing and good food. Once again Don Eddie's had to turn on the no vacancy sign as Members, friends and the San Quintin community made this year's tournament the most successful thus far.

Tony, owner of Don Eddie's, and his staff did an amazing job preparing tacos for sign in. They prepared an outstanding BBQ chicken dinner for the first day of the tournament and the Grand Finale Gourmet Ribeye Steak Dinner for the awards banquet. Labor Day

activities included our traditional Oyster Farm lunch, followed by cocktails and fresh fish dinner at Don Eddie's.

A wide variety of fish was caught - Yellowtail, Bluefin Tuna, Dorado, and all types of bottom fish.

Cash prizes, Accurate BX Boss Extreme Reel (valued \$489.95) and Trophies were awarded to the winners.

Date for 2019 San Quintin Fishing Tournament

Labor Day Weekend Aug 30 - Sep 1, 2019

Friday, August 30, 2019 - Sign in at Don Eddie's Bar. Includes tacos.

Saturday, August 31, 2019 - Day 1 of Tournament 6am - 4pm. Includes BBQ chicken dinner at Don Eddie's Bar 6pm.

Sunday, September 1, 2019 - Day 2 of Tournament 6am - 4pm Includes ribeye steak dinner at Don Eddie's Bar 6pm.

Optional Monday, September 2, 2019 (Labor Day) lunch at the Oyster Farm, cocktails and fish dinner at Don Eddie's Bar time to be announced. Freddie Washington

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

Monarch Butterfly Migration 2019 Santa Cruz, California Late October – Early November

Monarch Butterflies are the only insects that migrate to a warmer climate that is 3,000 miles away each year. Five generations of butterflies live and die before their descendants return to the place where their ancestors started. The first generation begins the migration cycle in the winter along the California coast. While there, they cluster in the trees for protection from storms and for warmth. They mate in late January and fly away by March. Their offspring (the second generation) hatch and fly to Oregon, Nevada or Arizona. Their offspring (the third generation) hatch and fly to The State of Mexico and Michoacan. The fourth and fifth generations return to California the same way their ancestors did. The total time frame for one butterfly's

life cycle (one generation) is about 6-8 weeks. Egg-4 days, caterpillar-14 days, chrysalis-10 days, butterfly-2 - 4 weeks.

2015 Vagabundos hosted a trip to see the Monarchs in Mexico. In 2019 we would like to plan a trip to see them in California. We are still in the planning stage of this tour, exact dates and details will be posted on our website www.vagabundos.com. This will be a great trip that everyone can enjoy. Children, grandchildren, friends and neighbors will be amazed at the number of Monarch Butterflies flying around. Activities will include a train ride on the Roaring Camp Railroads, a picnic, the Henry Cowell Redwoods and the main attraction, a tour of Natural Bridges State Beach to view the Monarch Butterflies. You do not need a RV for this tour. There are great hotels as well as RV parks in the area. Call the Vagabundos office for more information 800-474- BAJA (2252).

ADVENTURE TOURS 2019-2020
CST# 2044242-40
PASSPORTS WILL BE REQUIRED

ALASKA FISHING TRIP
July 23 - 28, 2019

Ketchikan Alaska Reel Fun Adventures Clover Pass 2019 all inclusive, five nights, four days fishing. Clover Pass, Ketchikan, Alaska located on the Inside Passage, is on one of the best Salmon runs in the world. These calm waters are the "highway" for the Salmon returning to fresh water to spawn. Ketchikan is known as the Salmon Capital of the World. Put a line in the water as you leave the dock and fish for King, Silver, Pink and Chum Salmon.

This is an "all inclusive" trip. Included is your transportation from Ketchikan Airport, self guided boats, bait, tackle, plentiful meals, fish processing with vacuum pack and quick frozen. Your catch will be boxed and delivered to you at the airport, ready for your trip home to share with friends.

This year Clover pass is including the 20 foot enclosed Thunder Jet boats with down riggers and 90 HP outboards. You need only pay for gas. Limit four fish per boat. You may still use the 14 foot Livingston skiffs

if you desire at no charge. Fish as much or as little as you like in the long summer days, because you are the captain of your boat. When on the water you may see Orcas, Whales and the Bald Eagles are everywhere. Take some time to visit the historic town of Ketchikan with its many shops, restaurants and Native Culture.

Optional Halibut and Salmon guided charters, float plane tours or fly-in fishing in remote lakes. Float plane will pick you up at dock.

Price is \$1995 per person. Trip includes: All meals, fish processing, vacuum packed for flight home, transportation to and from the airport, boats, equipment, gear and bait. Not included: tips, fishing license, airfare and fuel.

Contact John Henigin 805-207-3522. Visit fishtalkradio.com

COSTA RICA ADVENTURE TOUR
November 22 - December 1, 2019
by PREMIERE TOUR LEADERS
DAVID & CONNIE JONES

Beaches, beauty and biodiversity - that's what Costa Rica offers and that's what we are offering to Vagabundos at a phenomenal price and an itinerary that suits our unique and independent travel preferences. Put these dates on your calendar and sign up quickly; this will be a very small group and will sell out fast! Call our office at 800-47-4-BAJA (2252). \$2,743.50 per person double occupancy.

Day 1, November 22: Fly independently to San José, Costa Rica. You will be met at the airport and transported to our hotel where we will have dinner and orientation. (Hotel: Studio Hotel; Meals: D)

Day 2, November 23: We leave our hotel early and drive through Braulio Carrillo National Park on our way to the boat that will take us along the river channels to the picturesque town of Tortuguero in Tortuguero National Park. There we will learn about the lifestyle of the local people and the conservation efforts to protect the sea turtles. (Hotel: Evergreen Lodge; Meals: BLD)

Day 3, November 24: Tortuguero is an excellent place for ecotourism. During the day and depending

on the weather conditions, we might enjoy a guided walk through the jungle where you will learn how different animals, insects and birds interact with the forest plants, achieving a perfect balance between each species. We will take a boat tour through the different natural channels of the National Park, where we can see different species of mammals, birds and reptiles. (Hotel: Evergreen Lodge; Meals: BLD)

Day 4, November 25: Today we head back to the mainland to the town of La Fortuna, home of the colossal Arenal Volcano with its remarkable cone, springs of healing thermal waters and well-tended gardens. There will be independent time to enjoy these healing waters at our fabulous hotel hot springs. (Hotel: Arenal Kioro Hotel; Meals: BL)

Day 5, November 26: We will experience a forest in a very different way, walking over the canopy in the Arenal Hanging Bridges Park and then a hike along the base of the Arenal Volcano ending in a delicious picnic served at the volcano viewpoint. The afternoon is at leisure to enjoy other activities in the area. (Hotel: Arenal Kioro; Meals: BL)

Day 6, November 27: A beautiful, scenic drive will take us to Monteverde, stopping to enjoy a traditional lunch in a local restaurant. Once in Monteverde, get comfortable and prepare to explore this diverse area during our stay. (Hotel: Trapp Family Lodge; Meals: BL)

Day 7, November 28: This is a day to explore the cloud forest. We'll start with a visit to the Santa Elena Biological Reserve and a moderate wildlife hike. Lunch will be on your own in one of the restaurants in Santa Elena village. (Hotel: Trapp Family Lodge; Meals: B)

Day 8, November 29: Happy Thanksgiving! What can be better than celebrating our Thanksgiving in the breathtaking landscapes of the Gulf of Nicoya. Our catamaran adventure is on board one of the largest catamarans in Central America; it includes two Jacuzzi's, two resting nets, two cross water slides and snorkeling equipment. What a way to enjoy the evening sunset! (Hotel: Si Como No Resort Spa & Wildlife Refuge; Meals: BD)

Day 9, November 30: Today we will explore Manuel Antonio, one of the most famous national parks in

the Costa Rican park system. We'll take a moderate three-hour walk where our guide will share secrets of the Coastal Wet Forest and the wonders of the park, including the diverse variety of wildlife. After the hike, enjoy some time on the beautiful beaches within the park. This evening we will enjoy a special farewell dinner at a local restaurant to re-live our Costa Rican adventure and cement our newfound friendships. (Hotel: Is Como No Resort; Meals: BD)

Day 10, December 1: After breakfast we will be transported back to San Juan Santamaria International Airport in San José for our flights home. (Meals: B)

BAJA DIRECT CARAVAN

January 2020

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

February 2020

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 2020 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 about the Beaches and Whales Tour call the Office at 800-47-4-BAJA (2252) or visit the page on our website at Vagabundos.com.

REMINISCING CRUISING STORIES



by Phil McCauley

This is the final installment of Phil's story begins where it left off in the last Chubasco.

ANOTHER WATERFRONT PART SEVEN MOVING ON

We're south bound on the Illinois River out of Chicago and I swear I can smell the salt water of the Gulf of Mexico. But... we've a bit more to do yet before we slide the Rainmaker on the trailer to New Orleans. We'll be pokin' our nose into the Mississippi River in a few days and from there it's 1100 miles down the "Big Muddy". We also have a rendezvous with Tex and Ann Marie McElvany as they come out of the Arkansas River about the 10th of September so stay tuned folks, this things not over yet.

Meanwhile let me share a bit of the trip from New York to Chicago. No question about it, the most scenic, interesting and diverse part of the whole trip so far, 1700 miles through rivers, canals, locks, big lakes and beautiful country. It would make a great adventurous trip during the 3 summer months for a bunch of Vags.

You start out right at New York City, what a sky line. Then the high granite walls along the New Jersey side as you start up the Hudson river. Before long you come around a bend and there's West Point. At first you don't really believe it, sitting high up on the west bank like it was molded into the rock itself. They have a courtesy dock right by that little train depot that you've seen in so many West Point movies. We tied up overnight and the next day took a tour of the Academy, most impressive.

LOOKING THROUGH

We learned of the interesting history of the river as we made other stops at Kingston, Catskill and Troy heading up river to the old Erie Canal. The run through the Erie Canal was truly a memorable experience. 30 locks basically along the route of the Mohawk River to Lake Oneida. Then we took the cut-off down to Oswego, New York and Lake Ontario. We waited three days while we had our first lesson on what the storms can do to the big lakes. When it finally laid down, we could have water skied across the Trenton in Ontario, Canada.

MORE LOCKS & ANOTHER COUNTRY

Here we started through the Trent-Severn Waterway. Unfortunately, I don't have enough space to properly describe this fascinating experience. 45 locks and 280 miles through picturesque Canada. The system is strictly for pleasure boats. It is operated by government employees and in the summer time it's supplemented with college students who add to the fun. Every lock turns out to be a friendly social event. At each lock they have their own stamp and will gladly stamp and sign your lock information booklet, so you have a record of the trip through. Most of the old wooden locks are hand operated and the attendants walk around a turnstile like device which is geared to open and close the gates. Other locks are modern lift type which lift you in a chamber as high as 65 feet to the next level. Then there's the "big chute". A rail platform that they submerge, put the boats on them, strap them down and drive this monster out of the water over a hill and down into the water again on the other side. All on rails and it's over before you know what happened. Incredible! At night along the waterway you are permitted to tie to the walls adjacent to the locks on a parklike setting and use the facilities at the lock house. Next morning at the prescribed time all operations start again and off you go. This really made the trip.

ISLAND COUNTRY

You come out of the waterway into Lake Huron's upper Georgian Bay. We went around this large body of water along the northern shore, through the 30,000 Islands 280 miles to Kilarney, the northern most point on our trip. About mid-way through this very rocky passage we did battle unexpectedly with a severe thunderstorm and finally found a safe lee shore that saved much more than just our day. After a brief stop at Kilarney we cruised up through the town of Little Current and into the north channels. From there we made a fast one day run to Drummond Island for our return to the U.S.

WEATHERED IN

In the Machinac (pro-Machinaw) Straits you pass from Lake Huron into Lake Michigan but for us it turned out to be a three day weather stop at the famous and historic Machinac Island. Lake Michigan finally laid down enough to let us in but actually overall, she was

not that good to us. Had to live up to her reputation no doubt. We had decided to run down the eastern shore as far as New Buffalo and then shoot across to Chicago, a distance of about 450 miles from Machinac Island. As it turned out we were able to run about one day in every three. It takes very little wind to turn the lake into a bad situation. So, we were well advised by the locals and stayed off on the really bad days, but in order to make the distance it required us to run through some water that made us wish we were tied to the dock havin' a cold beer.

EXPENSIVE FUEL & OLD FRIENDS

The weather did give us the chance to harbor and hop down the coast and visit some interesting towns. Most of these the State of Michigan has developed as a port of refuge for pleasure boats. (There's a clue). Dockage was the least expensive 35-40 cents a foot, but fuel was consistently the highest at a minimum of 1.40 gal. Met a lot of interesting people and one day out on the lake we heard our long time buddy boat on the radio. Sure, enough it turned out to be Graves out of Cincinnati on their 36 ft. Grand Banks, The Jacques D 111. We got together again at the next port and decided to run with them the balance of the lake and as far down the Mississippi to where they turn off on the Ohio River. That's about the fourth time we've done that by chance meeting along the way since I first met them in New Orleans last December. When running with them up the east coast was when we first became accustomed to running at trawler speed and have been doing it ever since. Sure, has made a difference in fuel.

GETTING CLOSE

We came into Chicago's Burnham Park Harbor on the 21st of August seven weeks after we left the Marina at Tarrytown on the Hudson. I have to admit I was relieved to be off the big lakes. They can get mean so fast and they develop a close together chop that just beats you to pieces in a confused angry water that seems to have little regard for the fact that we were just passin' through the heart of the city headin' for the Illinois River. We're on the final leg of the trip.

ANOTHER WATERFRONT THE LAST WORD

This final chapter is being written after arriving back to the West Coast. The Rainmaker is restin' on her trailer anticipating some well-deserved out of the water TLC. Me, I'm starting to think about where to go from here.

Before I get into this last bit of the trip, it may be appropriate to spend a few words here to reflect back on the entire trip. No doubt about it the highest adventure yet of my wandering life style. For the benefit of those who may have just joined the club and are probably wondering about the crazy things Vagabundos do best, like circumnavigating the eastern third of the country on a 24 foot boat. Yep that's what happened. Started in New Orleans, along the Gulf States, around Florida, up the east coast, through the Erie Canal to the Great Lakes and bit of Canada then down to Chicago and across to the Mississippi and down the big muddy back to Bourbon Street. 7000 miles on an able little boat that really earned her stripes and on many occasions certainly justified her name "Rainmaker".

I also want to pay tribute here to Joan Smith, my good companion and crew, stuck it out after joining the cruise just for a month or so in Florida and at great personal sacrifice decided to stay on to see if I would really go through with it. A great gal with an adventurous spirit.

The places we visited and the people we met simply defy the written word and the space allotted. What's really important is that my Volvo powered Bayliner made the trip without a major breakdown and we were able to finish without serious accident or injury. Would I do it again?? No. Once you've done it why go back. There are other places yet to go but I would encourage anyone else who might be inclined to go and do it. It's a great adventure and an interesting way to see the country and meet new people.

DOWN THE BIG MUDDY

The final leg was from Chicago to New Orleans. About 1500 miles down the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers. This was truly unique from any of the many miles we had already seen. As soon as we left the outskirts of Chicago the countryside turned to the farm lands that would prevail for the balance of our time on the water.

Only those cities of St. Louis, Memphis, Vicksburg and Baton Rouge along the banks of the river offered a change of the scenery. The last two locks and Dams are above St. Louis. After that the big river flows free all the

way to the Gulf. This also was the last of any protected marinas with the single exception of Memphis where on their Mud Island they have an excellent facility. So, finding fuel and a place to get off the river for the night became our biggest challenge.

ALONE AGAIN

At the junction of the Ohio River we said our final adios to George and Ho Graves and dog Tonia as they turned their spit and polished 36 ft. Grand Banks up stream in the Ohio heading for the Tennessee River and their home port at Guntersville, Alabama. Since I first met them in New Orleans we had parted and found each other again along the way at least 5 or 6 times. We saw Ohio where we were running alone again and had some great times together. Good people! So, from there about four other traveling boats for the rest of the trip down river. We looked forward to our meeting with Tex and Anne Marie McElvany who were launching their boat at Tulsa and meeting us at the junction of the Arkansas River. We would go together to New Orleans.

Despite the lack of pleasure boats on the river there's no feeling of being alone, the commercial traffic takes care of that. Push boats and barges that measure up to 1000 feet overall going upstream and down. At first, they are intimidating as hell but after you learn a bit about what they must do to navigate the turns and you talk with a few of them on the radio it's better. There's really no need to panic when you come around a bend and see a mass of barges steaming up what you thought was your part of the river. You quickly learn where, when and how to pass and above all to stay the hell out of their way. The best rule of thumb is to remember it's their river, the Captains and crews are friendly and helpful but if you catch them in a tight spot and you're in the way, your expendable. They have no choice, and oh yes, you don't do it at night. We were planning to keep track of how many of these we met but after a hundred or so it seemed pointless.

ANOTHER BUDDY BOAT

We met Tex and Anne Marie with incredible timing as they pulled out of the Arkansas and White Rivers. Almost by chance we made radio contact with them and knew they were close. We waited only minutes for them and amid Tex's musical horns and clicking shutters our rendezvous was history. We went on downstream that

day to Greenville, Miss. and finished our celebration over dinner in town. Before we reached Vicksburg, our next port, fate was involved in a series of bad luck situations that resulted in them having to abort their trip and call in the trailer. We continued on and met them again in New Orleans.

ALMOST OVER

Our last day on the water was as you might expect, our final test. We made the run from Baton Rouge, about a hundred miles downriver with our days objective to be in New Orleans before dark. There's really no safe spot along this busy commercial section to stop for the night. To do this meant we would have to depart from our relaxing easy going ways of running at trawler speed while taking advantage of the 3-4 knot current for better economy. We left early that 18th day of September and punched the Rainmaker up on the plane. I remember being a little reluctant asking her to work that hard on the final day after all those miles and mindful of the fact that we were about to turn 2500 hours on this same engine and outdrive. As usual, however, she responded and to make our final day the wind was out of the east at about 30 knots, the opposing current got really mean. So, after a day of heavy chop and dodging commercial traffic like you wouldn't believe, we finally turned into the industrial canal that takes traffic from the river to Lake Ponchartrain. Here we locked through the last of almost 90 locks we had encountered along the many miles of adventure. More than ready for the bottle of bubbly we popped at the same spot I had untied from in December '84. The big circle was complete. It was a ball!!!

Phil McCauley, Joan Smith and our good buddy the "Rainmaker"



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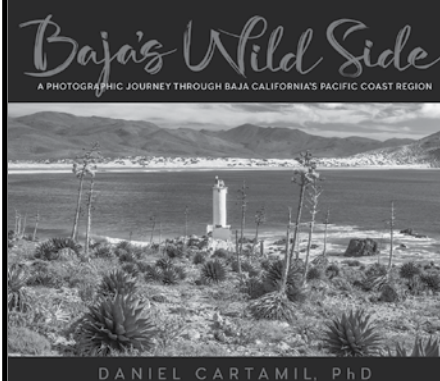
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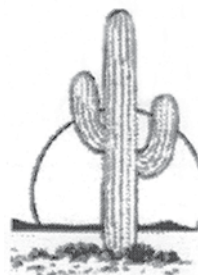


**Baja's Wild Side:
A Photographic
Journey Through
Baja California's
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Cartamil.**
Baja's Wild Side
features the
photography and

stories of shark biologist Dr. Daniel Cartamil, as he explores Baja California's Pacific coast region. Packed with over 100 breathtaking images, this book chronicles a fragile paradise of remote landscapes, wildlife, and cultural treasures on the verge of being overtaken by modern civilization. From the high sierra, to ancient cave paintings hidden deep in the desert, to the surf-pounded Pacific, readers will discover Baja's little-known 'Wild Side.' The release of this book coincided with the opening of the 'Baja's Wild Side' exhibit at the San Diego Natural History Museum.

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For sale now is the Spanish style 3-bedroom, 3-bath house "Casabelle", in Spa Buena Vista in the East Cape, near Los Barriles, fully furnished.

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World renowned fishing for billfish, tuna, dorado, roosterfish and more. 45 minute drive from Los Cabos Airport.

\$275,000 U.S.



GO TO "BAJARENTALHOME.COM" FOR RENTAL WEBSITE AND MORE PHOTOS...

**CONTACT BILL KARR AT WONNORTH@PACBELL.NET
OR CALL (530) 306-1910 FOR QUESTIONS OR TO PURCHASE**

BAJA HOTBOX

Check Hotbox on Vag Website for Latest News

Travel - DON'T DRIVE AT NIGHT OR CAMP ALONE.

Road Conditions - Roads up and down Baja 1 are in the best shape they have been in for quite a while. Potholes have been filled, but take extra care on new pavement, the driving lines have not been painted. We recommend not taking Highway 5 south of San Felipe - From Mexicali to San Felipe the road is in good condition. South of San Felipe the road goes from bad to worse. Several bridges south of San Felipe are washed out and the detours are steep and rocky. South of Puertecitos the road is nice. As you cross from Coco's to Highway 1 the road gets bad again. Driving south of San Felipe with a towed unit, Motor-home or car is not recommended.

Peso - 19.07 to the dollar.

Fuel - Fuel - Magna (87 octane) 19.50 pesos/liter, \$3.87 gal; Premium (93 octane) 20.70, \$4.08 gal; diesel 21.10, \$4.19 scarce at Guerrero Negro.

Mainland Vehicle Fee - \$44.

Prepaid FMM's - We have them for Members with a small handling fee.

Fishing Licenses - \$23.20/week, \$34.80/month, \$46.40/year, with a small handling fee.

Travel Buddies Calendar - Planning a Mexican trip? Go on our website to get on our Calendar or call our office at (800) 47-4-BAJA (2252).

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