

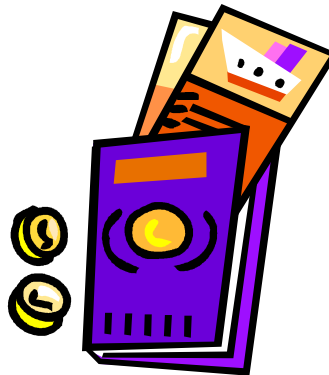


2009 RALLY ROUTE

We understand there's some questions about the route we will be traveling to Guaymas. This is to address your concerns by telling you which roads we'll be traveling and why.

We are meeting in Douglas, Arizona because concept of a luxury hotel - the Hotel Playa de Cortes, where we'll be staying, was planned there, there are several supermarkets (including one with bilingual signs - you may want to take notes, especially in the meat department), a Wal-Mart, a place to get propane, tourist sights and easy access to cross the border to get the necessary paperwork for traveling in Mexico

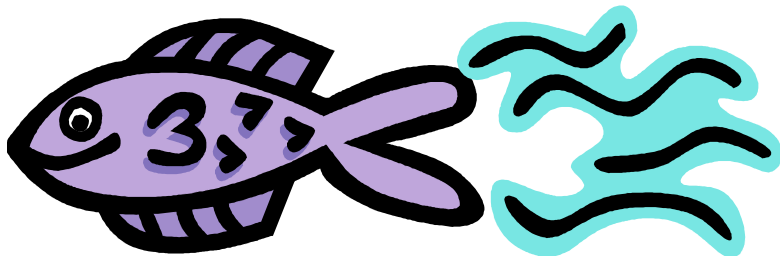
In planning the rally we drove several different routes. We appeared at the U.S. border so frequently we a) got our very own personal inspection by the Department of Homeland Security, b) got our very own personal inspection by the Mexican border police, who fortunately have a sense of humor when I replied to their question "where are you from" chuckled when I answered Florida instead of correctly , Arizona.



Leaving Guaymas with another couple we traveled Mex 2 on the final leg of our journey back to the border. As we pried the other driver's fingers from his steering wheel he asked if we would be using that route for the rally. After our stomachs returned to their usual anatomical position we assured him that we wouldn't be driving that route: mountains, no guard rails, no place to pull over to allow vehicles to pass or to give us a break from the drive. The new route will involve going from Douglas on some very good American roads to Nogales and taking Mex 15 to Guaymas.

Then we drove from Agua Priete (sister city to Douglas) down Mexico 17 to Mex 14. Mex 17 in some areas is very rural with settlements that are so small they aren't even listed on maps, we couldn't get a cell signal and as some of the area is so undeveloped if assistance was needed it would be impossible to obtain. The road is well maintained, and some portions of it are very popular.

Then we tried Mex 089 or 118 depending on which map you're using. Called the River of Sonora route, it would have been the winner - gently rolling hills, miles of straight roads, very scenic, except for two obstacles: you actually have to ford the river five times - no bridge just drive across the river as it's flows across the roadway which was a bit intimidating, especially when four wheel drive vehicles got stuck midstream. I climbed out of our RV, walked to the edge of the stream, placed my hand above my eyes to shade them so I could discern the depth of the water in my best Sacajawea impersonation, and found the path least traveled so we could climb out on the opposite shore. The bigger problem was that this road hasn't been maintained so except for 9 kilometers of fresh asphalt it's the worst road we've ever been on.



We also discovered in our travels that the ONLY area of Sonora you can travel without having a holograma is directly south and east of Mex 15. Since some people will have to head back home after the rally this route will allow them to avoid the expense of purchasing a holograma. If you're considering traveling further after the rally we urge you to take the opportunity to get a holograma when you're getting your tourist visa. It is the only time you will be able to avail yourself of your group leader's experience in processing the paperwork, and while you can look back one city block and see the U.S. you will be in Mexico where English is not that common and communicating may be difficult. We're from Florida where Casa Rodante is Spanish for Mickey Mouse and Disney World. In Mexico that's what they call motor homes.

The original planned route was to be Mex 17/14, however after getting some feed back from fellow members and rethinking our drive along the route we have decided that the thrill of having rearview mirrors filled with the grills of LARGE intercity buses coupled with 56 miles mountain roads having sections without guardrails or safe places to turn

off was not really needed. The new route will involve going from Douglas on some very good American roads to Nogales and taking Mex 15 to Guaymas.