

LA CONEXIÓN MEXICANA

Escapees Chapter 8 RV Club

Fall 2009 - Volume XXVI - Number 3



In this issue:

- President's Message
- SAVE THE DATE – The 2010 Goshen, IN Escapade
- Wagon Masters' 2010 Update
- Chapter 8 Charity Committee Report & List of Needs
- Membership Mega Contest Winner Announced
- "Sad Eyes" Saved in Guaymas
- "No One Gets Left Behind"

President's Message

Cynthia Ponder, Chapter 8 President

Hola Amigos!

It is time to think ahead to our future as a Chapter. If we are to continue to succeed in putting together the best and least expensive rallies in Mexico once a year we need a group of people who will step up and take a leadership role to keep our Chapter alive and well. We will need a new membership chairperson, possibly other new officers, and SOMEONE TO LEAD THE RALLY IN 2012, 2013.....! Jim and I are looking forward to exploring the East Coast of Mexico this fall to finalize the 2011 plans which we will present for your approval in February at the rally.

We need people who will start thinking now of places they would like to help lead a rally to in 2012 and 2013. It is really fun to leave after the rally in February and go explore the area you would like to return to in the near future. You can usually find a group of people who would like to go with you as well. We need a commitment from a single or couple to lead us in 2012 and would like one for 2013.

You will receive lots of help, written and oral, plus it is the job of the past Wagon master-President to be there to support you as well. You do not have to be a veteran Mexican traveler to lead these rallies, our last two wagon master's have only been on 1 previous rally prior to the one they led or are leading. You need an adventuresome spirit and the desire to work with people from a different background than your own. The rest is doing some research and traveling in Mexico, doing fun things. What a great job! Some of your expenses are reimbursable as well.

It has been an eventful summer including going back to Kino Bay with our Wagon Masters, the Billers, to see what wonderful things are planned for the coming rally. Believe us, you do not want to miss it!!

One of the joys of being your President is being on the Charity Committee, there are many places we can spend our time, money and energy as always in the places we are to visit. I found a Wal-Mart that was redecorating which donated school supplies to me for The Mexican Connection. I was amazed at how my friends who may never go to Mexico were willing to help me with money for sports equipment and other things which we can buy in Mexico and not have to carry in the motor home until we get there.

Saddest for me on this trip back to visit Kino Bay was that so many of the people we spoke to simply asked for food and as we observed some even needed a better means to cook it. Several groups who serve the working poor are working without large pots or utensils or some so old they are missing handles, etc. So much I take for granted; so much is being done in helping others with so little that I didn't even believe it possible. Jim and I are hoping to find some commercial cooking pots to take down for some of these efforts.

We are so glad that we have so many new members and I want to welcome all of you to join us in February and to get involved. Thanks to all of you who have been working together to make The Mexican Connection a success for so long. Enjoy the rest of the articles in this newsletter and make sure to have your registration form postmarked October 1, or soon thereafter.

Cynthia Ponder

SAVE THE DATE!!

Let's all put Sept. 12-17, 2010 on our calendars now for the ESCAPADE IN GOSHEN, INDIANA.

It will be our first fall Escapade in the past few years and there is an effort to make this a simpler rally.

With an emphasis on great RV education, and some new formats to make enjoying all of it easier, it's a time to be together with friends, both old and new.

The Mexican Connection, Chapter 8 will be represented. We will be having a social time together in space provided by the Escapade. We may be asking our representatives to have some extra question and answer sessions at their campsite where we can gather to tell other about all our good times together.

2010 Rally to Bahia de Kino

Ed & Jan Biller '10 Wagon Master

Wagonmasters, Ed and Jan Biller and President and 2nd Vice President, Cynthia and Jim Ponder traveled to Tucson and Mexico for the 2010 Rally planning trip. We were gone from June 25 to July 7. One day was spent at the location of the pre Rally (PIMA County Fairgrounds) scoping out the camping and the area for our pre Rally meetings. Twelve days were spent visiting Benjamin Hill, Mexico and Bahia de Kino, Mexico also scoping out the camping, assessing the charity opportunities, and establishing the Rally activities and other plans.

Official Registration for the 2010 Rally starts October 1, 2009. We will post the registration forms on the Mexican Connection website on September 1, 2009. Remember all registration forms will need to be postmarked on or after October 1.

Final total Rally costs (Rig fee + Rally fee) are expected to be:

One person/one rig = \$280
 Two persons/one rig = \$355
 + \$70 for each additional person in this two-person rig

The Rig fee is refundable and is composed of costs for camping and special meals.

The Rally fee (\$39/per person) is non-refundable and is composed of planning and admin. costs.



*Old pier in Old Kino with Alcatraz Island
 Photo: Jan Biller*



*Templo de Oracion al Rosario Milagroso de la Santisima Trinidad - the church on the hill behind the RV park.
 Photo: Jan Biller*

Since completion of the planning trip there has been an update on the 2010 Rally made available on the Mexican Connection Website

<http://www.mexicanconnection08.com/index.html> .

Interested participants are encouraged to visit the website often in order to view the most recent information about the Rally.

Activities at the 2010 Rally will be a mix of free and small fee based. This rally will have several meals and various tours planned. There will be opportunities for boat charters (fishing and tours). Activities for discovering the people and culture of Benjamin Hill, Hermosillo, and Bahia de Kino are planned. Daily options (some with an additional small fee) will also include: snorkeling

(bring your own stuff), golf, putt-putt, bachi-ball, walking aerobics, stretching/weight exercise, massage, manicure, pedicure, geocache, earthcache, rig wash/wax.

As a note for future reference:

These planning trips are great opportunities to get back to Mexico for a short time in the off-season and help the wagonmaster plan the rally. Although the 2010 Rally planning trip is completed, there will be another opportunity to help the next wagonmaster plan the 2011 Rally. If you are interested, stay in future communication with the current 2nd vice president, Jim Ponder.



Shopping at pier in Old Kino



Shopping along New Kino beach



Old Kino beach



New Kino beach



Overlooking New Kino toward Alcatraz



New Kino beach with our president Cynthia Ponder



Old Kino along the beach on a busy Sunday afternoon



RV park entrance



one of the beaches



Sunset

Chapter 8 Charity

2010 - Kino Bay Marcy Davidson, Charity Chair



Okay, you adventurers! It's time to start to think about all the items you need to bring with you to Mexico for this year -- besides your sense of adventure and a hankering for fun.

As some of you know, while in Mexico we like to give back to the people who so graciously host us in their country. This includes the giving to children of some small gift, like a small toy; a small purse; pencils and erasers (and pencil sharpeners!); small stuffed animals, etc. Nothing elaborate is needed, and it is all appreciated. The beautiful smiles and warm thanks you receive will warm your hearts for a long, long time. Not everyone

does this, and it is not "required", but it sure is fun.

On some of our Chapter 8 pre-trip planning meetings, it became evident that a lot of the first-timers did not know that we do charity work while in Mexico, giving away in-kind donations as well as the money that is given at the time of registration or at other gatherings and auctions during the trip. All of these donations go to charities that are selected by the Charity Committee. In the past Chapter 8 has donated to orphanages, medical clinics, a center to help children born with disabilities, a center for abused women and children, an old folks home, soup kitchens, drug and alcohol treatment centers, equipment for a playground destroyed by hurricanes, mentoring programs, schools -- the list goes on and on.

At all of these charities, we have also left in-kind donations: **school supplies, back packs, pajamas, robes, slippers, all kinds and sizes of clothing and shoes, blankets, pillows, bed linens, towels, personal hygiene items, toothbrushes, toothpaste, Depends, sports equipment, food, computers**, etc. (In the past, old cell phones have been brought; due to changing technologies in the two countries, it is better to donate these at home to shelters where they can be used for 911 calls only.)

This year's trip we will do the same types of things. While the charities have not yet been chosen, the needs are still there. So, we are asking any of those who wish to participate to start thinking of gathering these items and bringing them with you. If you see a sale on school supplies, buy a few dollars' worth; if you go by a thrift store, think about stopping and buying some of these items; if you go by a yard sale, look to see if there is anything there you might bring. Put your thinking caps on and see what you can come up with.

It looks like we are going to overnight in Benjamin Hill again this year. To all of you who were not with us last year, this was one of the highlights of the whole 2009 trip; to all of you who were, you're probably looking forward to it again, as I am. This year, since the town is so gracious in letting us use their soccer field again, we would like to give sports equipment to the schools: **soccer balls, baseballs, bats, gloves, basketballs**, etc. If you get a chance to pick up some of these items, bring them along.

We don't want to over burden any one person or rig, but it is amazing the amount of in-kind donations we have had in the past; just a few things brought by each person really adds up!

The other thing to keep in mind are the auctions held during the rally. We take any and all items that can be auctioned off: **books, wine, homemade goodies, junk you've picked up along the way and want to pass off to someone else, CDs, maps**, secret location of the best and cleanest restrooms in the area, etc. These are fun ways to raise more money and one night is usually set aside for CARE; last year, we raised \$700 at the auction for them.

One thing we are trying to line up this year is to help with a hands-on build in the area; this will be held after the rally, so any of you who would be interested in doing this need to contact our wagon master.

I hope this article has been helpful. Feel free to contact me at rusmar@air-pipe.com with any questions, comments or suggestions.

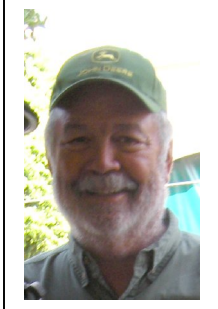
Marcy Davidson
Chairman, Charity Committee



Students in Aqua Prieta entertained Chapter 8 in February 2009

Mega Membership Contest Winner

Pete Petrie, Membership Chair



We have a winner in the Mega Membership Contest. The winner is **Earl Reese!** Not only is he the winner of the contest but he is also proved to be a champion fisherman.

During last years rally (Guaymas) Earl went on a fishing trip in the sea of Cortez with a few of his close friends. Well you guessed it, after a fifteen plus minutes' fight he landed a huge yellow fin tuna. What a rally, what a fishing trip! Congratulations, you have won a free year's membership to Chapter 8.

Membership records have been transferred from the previous chairs, Bill and Cindy Pulsipher. All deposits have been made and those requesting decals should be receiving them. I would like to thank Bill and Cindy for the great job they did as Membership Chairs.

After doing a review of the records I found the following to be true;

1. We have at last count approximately 345 members
2. Of the 345 only **37%** of them have current membership.

I believe \$6.00 is a great price for the newsletter. I get quite a few emails asking why they didn't get the newsletter. This might be one reason; another might be an incorrect email address. If you are in question about the status of your membership send me an email. In the future I will be sending reminders, time permitting.

PetrieAE@earthlink.net



Earl Reese, Contest Winner and Champion Fisherman!



Photo by: Barb Ellis Sunset view from our favorite RV park in Lo de Marcos

An Update on "SAD EYES"

Hi, my name is Fe (which means Faith). I was the Guaymas dog known to you as "SAD EYES". If you remember I was in desperate need of medical attention and through your kind donations and the care from Crystal Broere, the young girl that cared for me after you left, a difference was made in my life. The following is the list of my conditions and what I was treated for:

- the reason for my hair loss was due to mange and a high fever due to infection. The vet treated me twice for the mange, gave me antibiotics and anti-inflammatory medications. This treatment took a total of three weeks.
- The fourth week it was time to be sterilized. Unfortunately, it was not possible to do the procedure because of what the vet thought was infection. So I Was treated with another antibiotic for that.
- The following week Crystal took me for my check-up to make sure the antibiotic was working, at that time it was and I was able to be dewormed and had my first round of vaccinations.
- The next week I was sterilized.
- There seemed to be some kind of complication from this procedure and I had to return to the vet. At that time it was discovered that I had tumors from the males I had been in contact with before my puppies were born.
- At this time a chemo treatment was started, I had to go once a week for a treatment and on the third week my blood was tested to determine that I was not reacting badly to the treatment. I was; so the treatment was halted for about ten days. I received four treatments and now I am tumor free.
- I am now the healthiest "street dog" in Mexico and have acquired a health passport.

From Crystal:

As far as her adoption is going, it has become very difficult, due to the treatment she received from the guards at the campground, she has very little tolerance towards Mexican people. We were able to find, what we thought would be a good home for her, but the American lady decided that she would not be able to care for her properly when she returned to work. So, she is living with us again. She does have a beautiful disposition and is very protective of our house and us.

She is a very loving and loyal dog. We are still looking for a home for her with an American family. As you can see from the pictures below, she is in perfect health and now weights about 45 pounds.

Thank you so much for your donations,

Sincerely Fe and Crystal Broere



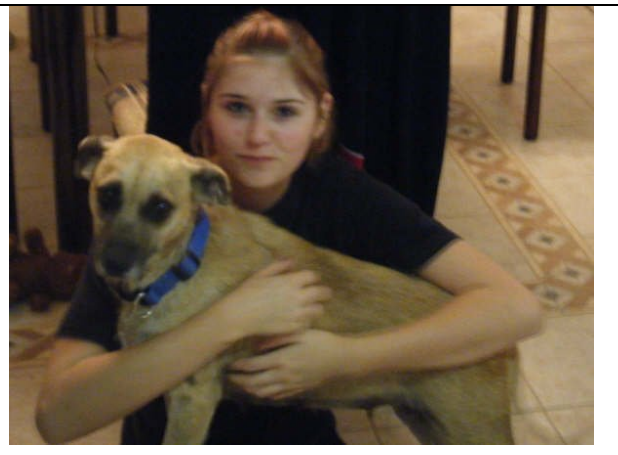
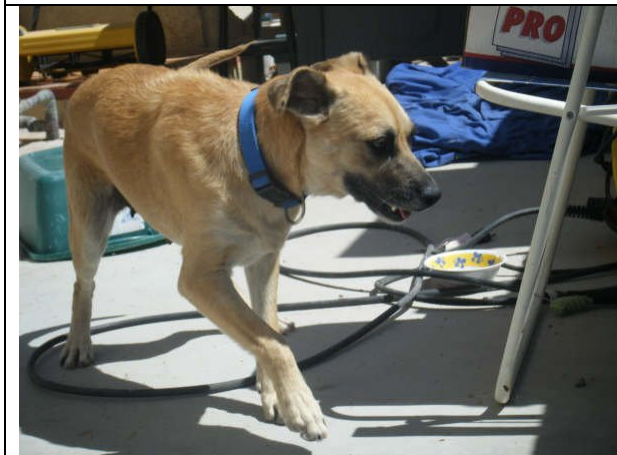
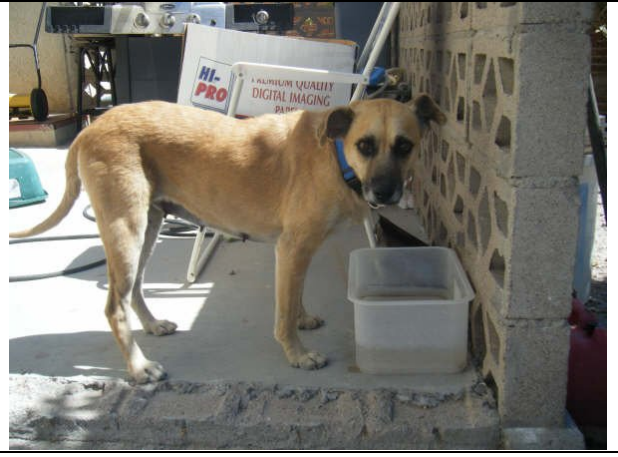
Her eyes are no longer so sad.



This is Fe is the way she was found at the campground in Guaymas.

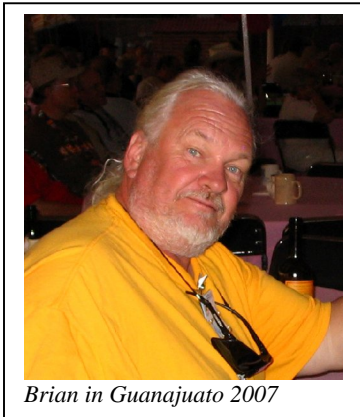


This picture shows Fe after her second treatment for the mange when she came to stay with me. The little black dog in this picture is my Chihuahua. Ever since the first day Fe came to live with me they have been friends.



No One Gets Left Behind

Brian Ellis, '09 Wagon Master's Humble 1st Assistant



Brian in Guanajuato 2007

Most Chapter 8 members have at one time heard one or more of the Chapter 8 axioms. "The only consistency is inconsistency", "order what you want, eat what you get" and, of course, "nobody gets left behind".

On the '07 and '08 rallies Claudia and I got to experience the first two platitudes, on this past rally we got to experience the last one.

As punishment for planning the 2009 rally, your Wagon Goddess and her Humble 1st Assistant had to leave Douglas with the parking crew at 7:00 AM (now for those who don't know us, Claudia and I usually get started around 10-ish. When we lived on our boat, other cruisers said we got underway at the crack of noon).

The trip to the border went fine, well as fine as anything can be that early in the day.

After we had just passed into Mexico and made a planned stop I noticed that our alternator had stopped alternating. I walked up to tell our group leader and parking god, Roger - aka "Spook" about the possible problem and to tell him we should be fine for the rest of the trip to Benjamin Hill. As I was walking back I and others noticed the LARGE puddle under our RV. Quickly checked the oil – *ok* - next started up the RV. All appeared fine, brakes ok, gages ok, no warning lights, then the problem was discovered - no power steering.

Ok, shut down and join the others in the parking group doing the "group stare", a combo of trying to figure what is wrong and attempting to will it to be fixed. We all discovered that no one had a clue what is going on and what ever it is it can not be willed into being fixed.

After some discussion, Bob (last name withheld to protect the innocent) volunteered to try to find out what was happening and see if he can fix it. Bob was perfect for the job

- a) he had official mechanic coveralls
- b) his tool box had more than just 2 screwdrivers, a vise grip, and roll of duck tape
- c) he was skinny enough to fit under our RV
- d) he was willing to have our RV pee power steering fluid on his forehead
- e) he had slept in a Holiday Inn Express.

After a collection of bottles of automatic transmission fluid and power steering fluid was offered, it was decided that Bob would stay and attempt to deal with the problem and the rest of the parking crew would continue on.

Bob and I now really started to search out the problem. I would fill the PS reservoir, get in the RV start the engine, Bob would lie under the RV and let it pee PS fluid on his forehead until all the fluid ran out. This was repeated for the next 45 min. or so, than Bob found the offending leak. He next tried to remove the formerly hidden leaking hose only to find that when the hose was put on at the factory the RV did not have a body on it, was most likely in the air and was installed by a former Russian Olympic gymnast with a trained screwdriver wielding raccoon.

The only way to get the hose off was to cut it. While Bob figured out what he needed to fix the d__ed thing, Pete Petri (name not withheld to protect anybody) group leader for the last group was waiting back in the U.S. at a NAPA store waiting for a parts order from Bob.

Parts order placed, Pete and group on its way, and it's time for lunch for Bob. Bob who is covered with dirt, grease, and, of course, PS fluid has to eat sitting on the guard rail, as he cannot even *think* about going into his trailer. While we sat on the side of the road, every rally group stopped to see if they could help.

Around 4 PM Pete and crew showed up, needed parts purchased by Daryl

(last name again withheld to protect the innocent). Bob slides under the RV, Daryl stands by to lend what help he can. Daryl learned years ago that when you are mechanically inclined and own at least one of every tool ever made you must make sure that you cannot fit under vehicles. - Bob makes a mental note about stopping at every DQ Crispy Creme and Dunkin Donuts he ever comes across.

Ta-da, after being peed on with PS fluid, having his knuckles skinned, and being poked by gravel, the hose is replaced, reservoirs refilled, engine started and all cheer when no leaks are found!

The group heads out and after two stops to check the repair we arrive in Benjamin Hill around 8:00 PM.

While we all were disappointed about missing that night's fiesta, Claudia and I were happy that it's true, "NOBODY GETS LEFT BEHIND!"

Brian Ellis
Humble 1st Assistant, 2009 Rally. (ret)



Many major highways in Mexico are very well maintained and a joy to travel on.

CHAPTER 8 COMMUNICATIONS

Website: www.mexicanconnection08.com

Voice Mail: Dial 888-757-7701 extension 8008

News Group: To subscribe, send a blank e-mail to Mexican_Connection-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

All Address Changes: PetrieAE@earthlink.net

All submissions to the editor:
ch8newsletter@gmail.com

NOTAS de la REDACTOR

Notes from the editor:



Anyone wanting to include an article or picture for consideration in a future newsletter should send the editor an email with the input as an attached file about two weeks before the end of the quarter, which is the publication date for the newsletters. Word documents are best as that can easily be edited and formatted. However, you may choose to simply type your article in the body of an email (with no formatting please) if you have trouble attaching a document to your emails. Photos should have people and places identified. Also include the name of the photographer.

Muchas Gracias!

Barbara Ellis, ch8newsletter@gmail.com

Funcionarios de Capitulo 8

Chapter 8 Elected Officers

President

Cynthia Ponder #70507

1st Vice President

Ed & Jan Biller # 102953

2nd Vice President

Jim Ponder #70303

Secretary

Earl Reese # 85963

Treasurer

George Young #87456

Immediate Past Presidents

Lin & Maryke Hines #70910

* Appointed Officers at Large *

Membership Chairman

Pete Petrie #58590

Historian

Bob Kominski #74642

Webmaster &

News Group Manager

Don Busick #21725

Newsletter Editor &

Voicemail Administrator

Barb Ellis #93736

*Officers' email addresses are
hyperlinked on the Chapter 8 website*

A little Spanish primer: (pronunciation in parenthesis)

If you only learn two Spanish words, these first two should be those two.

1. Please.....Por Favor (poor fabor) Use this all the time
2. Thank you.....Gracias (try to "roll" the R) Use this all the time
3. Good Morning....Buenos Dias (bway-noas dee-ess)
4. Good Afternoon....Buenas Tardes (bway-naas dee-ess)
5. Good Evening...Buenas Noches (bway-naas noa-chess)
6. Hi....Hola (oh-la) never pronounce the "H"
7. See you later.....Hasta luego (as-ta lou-ay-go)

