

Chapter 8 Rally Plans for 2011

Chapter 8 has decided to hold a rally in the McAllen Texas area this next year. It will be from Monday January 31st until Friday February 4th.

Rally arrival is before 12 noon on Monday Jan. 31st. We will have registration, a welcome meeting and social hour before a catered dinner that evening.

Continental Breakfast will be provided on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings.

Tuesday we will spend time in the morning discussing: A. correct paperwork for travel in Mexico and how to obtain it B. necessary and optional insurance requirements for travel in Mexico and C. vehicle preparedness. The afternoon will be free for help with Chapter 8 charity program or plans of your own.

Wednesday will be for a trip to cross the border to Progreso to experience the culture and food of Mexico. We will park our cars on the US side of the border and walk across. There will be an opportunity to obtain the paperwork necessary for further travel into Mexico. We will have time for shopping and a planned group meal with a general meeting plus a board meeting in Mexico. The agenda will be to make plans for the 2012 rally which we expect to be a trip into Mexico with RV travel as a Chapter 8 group and election of officers for the chapter.

Thursday afternoon we will discuss A. safety tips and suggestions to make Mexican travel more fun C. choosing a border crossing D. tips for travel as a group. We will plan a pot luck dinner for this evening with everyone contributing a dish to share. Chapter 8 will provide the DRINKS.

Friday will be a day of departure for those who wish to travel further. We will be assisting those who are continuing to Mexico in small groups to get underway if they desire.

The option exists for people to arrive early or stay later at our rally rate of \$10.00 per night at Lazy Palms Ranch RV Park. There are many things to do in this area including amazing bird watching, fishing, sea life observation trips. There are historical sites, good shopping and warm weather.

Fee for rally will be \$87.00 for 1 person and Rig, each additional person will be \$47.00. Total for 2 persons is \$134. Registration begins on Sept. 1st.

Forms are available at our Chapter 8 website mexicanconnection08.com and at Escapade. Contact wagonmasters Jim and Cynthia Ponder with questions at Pondermexico@gmail.com or 919-606-1156.

Reasons for not taking rally into Mexico in RV's in 2011

Chapter 8 is a sub group of the Escapees RV Club. We are not covered and have never been covered by their liability insurance when we are in Mexico. We have always informed people they were taking our trips at their own risk.

Our charter is to introduce people to the people and culture of this wonderful place and teach them to travel there safely.

Drug related violence has intensified in recent months throughout Mexico and especially in the regions along the U. S. border, including the areas our original rally plans would have taken us. Our travel route would have taken us through some of the troubled areas in northeastern Mexico where interactions between drug gangs and the Mexican army and police have happened. There have also been random thefts and kidnappings in the area primarily involving Mexican citizens but a few have affected tourists.

The effect that any incident involving Chapter 8 members during a rally would have on the Chapter, the Escapees RV Club and the people involved has caused us great concern. This led to the unanimous decision by the board of Chapter 8 that it is inappropriate to sanction an official trip to Mexico this year as a chapter.

Our rally will be held in Texas near the border instead, planning a day trip into Mexico. This rally in 2011 will continue to be about lots of fun, education, sharing our stories; letting everyone know why we have enjoyed Mexico so very much and helping prepare anyone who does choose to go to Mexico in small groups on their own with the information we have gained while traveling there.

You do not have to have experience traveling in Mexico to attend; you may even feel concerns about doing so. You may love it, plan to return and are willing to share your stories.

All of you are welcome and encouraged to attend our rally. We will be looking at charity options in this area and will have an active charity committee at this rally.

People who have traveled in Mexico in the past will continue to do so this coming year, accepting the level of risk involved. This should be an individual decision.

If you would like to make a trip to Mexico this year get in touch on the forum , website, or newsletter with people who are talking about the same thing and the area you would like to travel to. It would be up to you and the group traveling to make a decision about travel together.

Jim and Cynthia Ponder Wagonmasters 2011 Pondermexico@gmail.com 919-606-1156

Chapter 8 website mexicanconnection08.com

We will be at the Escapade this September as well. Jim and I look forward to seeing you there and in Texas in 2011. Then back in Mexico in 2012 for a full length rally .