



LOS MEDICOS VOLADORES

February 2009



Drs. Morgan & Mann at Oasis



Guatemalan Patients

Corporate Board Meeting

See highlights on page 5.

South Bay Christmas Families

For dozens of years South Bay has provided a Christmas basket for a half dozen families in San Jose who might not have much of a Christmas due to financial shortcomings. Liz Schrick reports that this year was no exception, as Eloise Torres & Rosie Camp again planned and executed the event. Only this year, Ken Cowan, played Santa Clause for the kids and families had a better Christmas then they would otherwise have had.

Oasis Trip

Dr. Dave Morgan, MD, already has close to 50 members signed up for the March 20-22 trip to Oasis. The Health Fare will be on Saturday, the 21st, travel and setup time on the 20th, travel and relaxation on the 22nd.

Dave is very pleased to see people from all 5 chapters signed up, however, he is looking for even more medical professionals of every legal medical skill to help with the monumental task of seeing hundreds of patients in the one, long, grueling day. Contact Dave at 916-408-0633 or david182m@yahoo.com.

Central America Trips

The next trips to Central America are slated for 2nd week of March 2009 to Dominican Republic and August 1-9, 2009 to Guatemala.

Safety in Mexico

One of our most oft repeated sayings in LMV is that the most dangerous part of your mission trip to Mexico is the drive to the USA airport of departure. That is still true, however, there is a new risk in Mexico that has surfaced in the last year. Although not a major risk, kidnapping has become more common, especially along the border and near the resorts.

On page 6 you will find some suggestions on how to keep this risk as low as possible.

LMV Dues

Please remember to pay your \$45 annual dues; tax deductible to support our work! Some of our members pay to be members in more then one chapter so that their donations help more children and adults.

Photographs by Don Wolf

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LMV 2009 Trip Dates

February 12-15; South Bay; Cancelled

March 7-14; Central America; Dominican Republic, Monte Short, 415-606-3969

March 19-22; South Bay; San Ignacio, MX; Ed Kneler, MD, (OBGYN); Audrey D'Andrea, MD (Family); Linda Lenore RN; Bob Lamkin, Pilot ; Call Clem Schrick.

March 19-22; South Bay; San Ignacio, MX; Jonathan Kahn, MD(ENT); Barbara Williams, RN; Pedro Rump, Pilot; 110 pound or less interpreter needed; Call Clem Schrick.

March 20-22, South Bay; Oasis, CA; Bill Rush, Pilot;

March 20-22; South Bay; Oasis, CA; Colleena McHugh, RDA Driving truck.

March 20-22; South Bay; Dave Renbarger, DC; Elicia Hammond, RDH; Brook Nichols, MA; each driving land vehicles.

March 20-22; Gold Country; Oasis; Call trip coordinator

April 16-19; South Bay; Fronteras, MX; James Watson, DDS; Ursula Seville, RDA; Stan Pareto, Pilot; Interpreter, **Open**

May 14-17; South Bay; MX, awaiting participants, call trip coordinator

May 21-24; Gold Country; Baja, MX; Call trip coordinator.

June 11-14; South Bay; MX, awaiting participants, call trip coordinator

July 9-12 MX, South Bay; awaiting participants, call trip coordinator

August 1-9; Central America; Lake Atitlan, Guatemala. Dental trip, need 4-6 Dental Teams. Call Marian Stahl at

marianstahl@comcast.net or Ed Weiss at eweiss1211@sbcglobal.net; or Milt Camp at miltcamp@aol.com or 209-743-2667.

September 9-12; October 15-18; November 12-15; December 10-13; Call your trip coordinator

In Memoriam

Dan Steward, Paddy Cooper's partner, passed away in December. Paddy provided the following information regarding a Celebration of Life Ceremony.

"On Saturday, January 31st at 3:00 PM, we will celebrate the life of Dan Steward, Paddy Cooper's partner. Please park in the parking lot behind the Veteran's Hall on 255 S. Auburn, Grass Valley.

There will be a military honor guard to acknowledge his service to our country as a Navy Pilot. We will walk from there to the church. There will be refreshments afterwards.

Thank you.

Paddy"

Prayers Needed

By Don Wolf

Dr. Jack Chamberlain, DDS, suffered a mild stroke around January 25 and spent a number of days in the Stroke Unit at Good Samaritan Hospital in San Jose. I visited him on January 29 in the Mission Oaks Hospital in Los Gatos where he was transferred for a few days of recuperation, and found him to be the same irascible person we have known for 25 years.

Jack's main complaint was that the pace maker they installed was a "pain" and that the food was not to his liking. (The pace maker was installed to speed up his heart so that blood clots were less likely to form again.)

Anyone visiting him should be prepared to hear that he prefers Cabernet Sauvignon wine and carrot cake better than what they were offering him in the hospital.

Dr. Stephen Los, DDS, was there cheering him up when I arrived. Even Jack was laughing at Stephen's jokes, albeit, with some painful expressions. Some of Stephen's jokes elicit painful expressions even without a big incision in your chest.

For anyone who does not know Jack, he is one of the original people that started LMV almost 30 years ago and has been active every year since then, not only as a medical professional but also as a leader and a mentor to many of us younger members. The number of patients he has treated in Mexico and Oasis are **innumerable**.

Your prayers and well wishes will be greatly appreciated!

Don

PostScript: Anita and I visited Jack on Saturday, January 31 and found his stay at Mission Oaks has been extended for at least a week because he has contracted pneumonia. Nevertheless, he is in good spirits, especially since Anita baked Jack's favorite corn pudding and a carrot cake to augment his hospital fare. I brought him a small bottle of Cabernet Sauvignon that should extend his good spirits through the Super Bowl. Now he is complaining he cannot get the Super Bowl on his hospital TV.

Jack is in room 302, Mission Oaks Hospital, Los Gatos, CA 95032. I am sure he would appreciate your lamenting with him the unfairness of no Super Bowl for him.



Dr. Jack Chamberlain, DDS at Oasis

Truckee Eyeglass Event Canceled

By Don Wolf

Mother Nature convinced the members who were planning to process eyeglasses in Truckee to stay home and enjoy watching football. The weather forecast was for snow, ice under snow and freezing rain at flight levels. Bob Lamkin, Pilot, who was planning to fly to Truckee was the first to bend to Mother Natures will. Dr. Stephen Los and Don & Anita Wolf, who were planning to drive from Los Gatos with the eye glasses and lensometers decided to also listen to Mother Nature and also canceled. Gold Country has not announced a rescheduled date. However, we still have about 60,000 pairs of eyeglasses in the donated space by Stor-It of Los Gatos. These eyeglasses were donated to LMV and thus belong to all chapters. All chapters should consider using them.missions.

Don



Coleen McHugh, Anita Wolf, Bob Lamkin on way to Mexico



Sunset of Sierra Madre from Greer ranch in Hidalgo

Ladies LMV Trip Kit!

Everything you need for your mission!

\$129.

Pilot approved!

- Duffle**
- Jacket**
- Hooded Sweatshirt**
- Polo**
- Tee**

All sizes!

Contact Colleena at runawaybunny@tmail.com



Tortugas, MX patient



Sierra Madres near Hidalgo, MX

Corporate Trip Coordinator's Report for 2008

By Judi Foy

<i>MEXICO</i>	<i>OASIS</i>	<i>CENTRAL AMERICA</i>
Total number of planes sent to Mexico: 18	Total number of trips: 2	Total number of trips: 2
Total number of planes by chapter: South Bay 8 Gold Country 3 High Sierra 5 Reno 2		
Total number of specialists: Dentists (General) 6 Dentists (Ped's) 1 Dental Hygienists 1 Optometrists 3 -Readers Only 1 OB/GYN 1 Women's Clinic 3 Ear Nose Throat 1 Acupuncture 1	Services provided: medical, dental, optometry, chiropractic & physical therapy	Services provided: medical, dental and optometry
Total Number of patients served: over 1,200	Number of patients served: over 2,250	Number of patients served: over 2,600

GRAND TOTAL NUMBER OF PATIENTS SERVED: over 6,000

Judi

Corporate Board of Directors Meeting Highlights

The LMV board of directors met on January 10 in Napa, California. The following are some highlights of the meeting.

The membership is healthy and growing. The following is a summary of current memberships by chapter:

Central America	50-75
Gold Country	75
Reno	25-30
High Sierra	Approx 20
South Bay	177
Total	257-287

We have been challenged in our use of the title "The Flying Doctors" by a European company that claims earlier use of the name. To avoid any misunderstandings, we are going to remove "Flying Doctors" from our website and newsletter and emphasize our official name of Los Medicos Voladores. We are still flying doctors, but

not Flying Doctors. Obviously, to our Mexican friends, the change is transparent since Los Medicos Voladores is flying doctors in Spanish.

Art Schmauder reported that we should carry a "sharps container" on our missions if we plan to use any, and plan the disposition of the container. Art also suggested having our medicines in their original containers.

We have been invited to participate in Mazatlan's annual health fare. They are awaiting our input before setting date. The Central America chapter has the action assignment.

Plans are being formulated for the next Seminar with our Mexican friends; time and place to be announced soon.

We are having difficulty tracking our dental equipment after missions. More care needs to be taken by people using the equipment, including making sure all is in working order, all the parts come back and everything is clean.

Professionals need to take their own instruments on missions.

Chief Pilot, Rob Lober, reported that all pilots need to have a hand held "Spot" for emergency use. The old ELT frequency will no longer be monitored by satellite after July 1

and the new border security system goes into effect on June 18 and all pilots must be signed up before they take off for Mexico!

The new border procedures require detailed advance notice to USA Border and Customs authorities that includes the following information on **all passengers**: First Name, Last Name, Middle Name, Gender, City of birth, State of birth, Country of birth, Date of birth, Country of Residence, Country of Citizenship, Permanent (Street, City, State, Zip, Country) Passport number, Place of Issuance of Passport, Expiration date of Passport.

Because pilots must file this information before leaving, it is important for each passenger to provide the pilot with this information, **in writing**, long before the scheduled trip to Mexico.

Pilot Alert

"The Chart Maker and the Pilot"

Topic: Use of Navigation Charts

On Friday, February 13, 2009 at 7:00 PM

Location:

Contra Costa Water District Center
1331 Concord Ave

Concord, CA 94520

Select Number:

WP2723126

Description:

The seminar will show the relationship between the chart maker, or "coder" of information, and the pilot, or "decoder" of information by relating chart symbols to real world applications. We will build situational awareness through the use of chart legends and the Airport Facility Directory.

To view further details and registration information for this event, [click here](#).

Newsletter Information

The deadline for material to be published in the monthly newsletter is the last Wednesday of every month. Information should be sent to donwolf20@comcast.net as early as possible. Your Faithful Servant & Editor,

Don

Safety in Mexico

By Don Wolf

We have all read about the violence in Mexico resulting from the ongoing drug wars. During our 30-year existence the drug war violence is not something we have had to worry about. We are helping people and have no interest in drug trafficking. In addition, most of our activity is away from the border and big towns where the drug trafficking violence is concentrated.

However, in recent months we have seen a new risk factor that all of us need to be aware of. The Mexican family economics are taking a bigger hit than the USA economy because so much of the income of the poor has come from relatives working in the USA. And as we all know, the job opportunities in the USA are not what they were over the last few years. And, as in most cultures, when Mexican people get hungry and their families get hungry, some may turn to desperate measures.

The threat that is of most concern to us is the prospect of being kidnapped for ransom. (A Mexican citizen, the uncle of one of our members, was kidnapped a few months ago and the family wound up paying all of their assets to have him released unharmed.) Although the likelihood of being kidnapped or robbed is very low, nevertheless, it is appropriate to know that there is some risk in Mexico, just like there is in other foreign countries with a standard of living far below the citizens of the USA. I personally believe the risk is lower in Mexico than in some parts of San Jose, Los Angeles, Washington, DC and some other USA environs.

Here are some precautions that we all need to take, the same precautions that you need to take in almost all foreign countries.

1. Wear modest jewelry or none, especially not precious stones.
2. Wear modest clothes associated with working class people.
3. Stay in a group of three or more; especially at night.
4. Carry very little cash in the wallet you use to pay for things. Keep bigger sums of money hidden in money belts or hotel safes.
5. Use ATMs that are in well-lit busy areas, hide your keying and hide the amount of money you receive.
6. Have hotel or clinic personnel call cabs for you. Never hail a cab on the street.
7. Keep your passport away from your daily use wallet.
8. Be especially vigilant in border towns and resorts populated with tourists.
9. Never even think of bringing illegal drugs to Mexico or buying them in Mexico!
10. Always make sure a buddy knows where you are and where you are going.
11. Keep aware of your surroundings and the people around you.
12. Keep doing great things for the people of Mexico.

Make a Difference in their Lives

Your contribution will help LMV purchase supplies, equipment, and medicines, upgrade and maintain clinics in remote Mexican and California villages. We will bring back hugs for you from our Mexican neighbors and friends.

LMV sends two to four teams of volunteers to Mexico each month.. Each team normally consists of four to five volunteers that share in the cost of the flight, lodging and meals. However, we depend on donations for supplies, medicines and equipment. Here are some estimates of costs:



Patients in Hidalgo, Mexico

Medicines or dental supplies per patient	\$10	Adopt a Pueblo	\$1000
Education Material per team trip	\$15	Audiometer	\$1000
Angel subsidy for a volunteer without funds	\$100	Portable x-ray Machine	\$6000
Medicines or dental supplies per team day	\$250	Medical Office Upgrades	\$1000 to \$20000
Subsidy per Medical Resident per trip	\$300	Dental Office, Minimum equipment	\$5000
Dental supplies per team per trip	\$500	Auto refractor for measuring eyes	\$3000
Annual board and room for one Hidalgo high school student	\$400	Dental Office, Modest equipment	\$15000
		Complete Medical Clinic equipment	\$150,000

Donation to Los Medicos Voladores (The Flying Doctors)

Donor: _____, _____
Name **Street**

_____, _____, _____
City **State,** **Zip**

Donation Amount: _____ **Money Order () Check () : () Dollars () Pesos**

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

- General Fund** **Equipment Fund** **Medicine Fund**
- Christmas Family Fund** **MD & DDS Residents Fund** **Education Fund**
- High School Student Room & Board Fund**

Los Medicos Voladores, Inc. is a 501(C)3 non-profit corporation and donations are tax deductible.

Our non-profit tax ID is 94-2366785

Please mail to:
Los Medicos Voladores
PO Box 445
Los Gatos, CA 95031-0445
Or

Don Wolf
15400 Winchester Blvd, Unit 36
Los Gatos, CA 95030
408-395-2921

We also need and collect used eyeglasses, hearing aids and x-ray machines.





Los Medicos Voladores, Inc. consists of five chapters, including the South Bay Chapter, the original one established in 1977, High Sierra Chapter in Truckee, the Gold Country in Auburn, the Reno Chapter in Reno, and the International Chapter in San Jose. The first four chapters provide services to Mexico and southern California; the International Chapter provides services to Central and South America. All our services are free to the recipients, as are the medicines and supplies.

The South Bay membership consists of over 150 members and the other chapters are each approximately 100 members. Our members have very diversified backgrounds including Medical Doctors, Dentists, Optometrists, Audiologists, Chiropractors, Nurses, Pilots, Interpreters and general volunteers. What all of our members share is a compassion to help those with needs.

The administrative arm of Los Medicos Voladores mission is to support our medical and pilot professionals so the volunteers can be effective, efficient, productive, safe and happy. We negotiate with the Foreign governments the criteria for service, we arrange the flights into remote areas, we raise money for medicines and supplies, and we help put teams together.

We have no paid staff. All of our members are volunteers and pay their own way on trips, whether they are pilots, nurses, volunteers or interpreters.



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