



Los Médicos Voladores
Gold Country Chapter
October 2009
Newsletter

Gold Country Chapter Potluck

Date: October 1st, 2009

Dinner - 6:30 p.m.

No Meeting: Please bring your favorite dish to share. Plates/utensils provided. We expect approximately 30 members.

Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital

11815 Education Street

Auburn, CA

Conference Room A

LMV Items for Sale

T-shirts, scrubs, license plate holders, hats, mugs and cookbooks are for sale
Contact Jane Hamilton. She will arrange her schedule to meet you with your purchases. Give her a call or contact her via e-mail. Her phone number is 530-885-7839; e-mail is

janiehamilton@mindsync.com

Jane will be at the next meeting with items for sale.

Upcoming meetings

November 5 – DVD of trip

Presented by Bob Hecoeks and Paddy Cooper

December 3 – Christmas Party

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p. m., Thursday September 3, 2009. Introductions were made. Rick Utermoehlen, a new pilot/volunteer, was personally welcomed. Rick gave us a short history of his exciting flying experiences including being a Vietnam Navy Aviator. Thanks, Rick.

A question arose as to whether a hand-held 406 ELT would be acceptable to the authorities. The answer is “No.” For more information go to our Los Médicos Voladores website, pilot's section. See below.

Chief Pilot, Rob Lober has set up a Yahoo account for all pilots. Access as follows:-
1) Go to Yahoo.com. 2) Click on GROUPS 3) Type in lmv_pilots (Note underscore and case sensitive). Follow instructions accordingly. All important information for pilots will be posted on this website. Rob Lober can be contacted via e-mail rlober@sbcglobal.net.

Tom Palmer, CEO, gave a short talk on Hurricane Jimena which hit Baja with Categories 2-4 wind velocity. He noted that there were pretty bad conditions particularly in Mulege. Communications were down, roads closed due to debris and fallen trees, etc. He asked that we be prepared for these conditions on the October 13-

15th mission. Tom also indicated that we might not be allowed to fly into Mulege unless conditions improve. Bob Hecoeks graciously agreed to make hotel reservations, if we are allowed to fly into Mulege.

The Red Cross and various charities are doing their best to get bring things back to normal. Tom also noted that if any of LMV members would like to assist with relief efforts or donations, please contact him at: airattacktom@msn.com or call him at 530-885-6635.

Our own Tom Palmer and many other LMV pilots have been extremely busy flying much needed medical supplies, food, and clothing to the people in the Mulege region. Don Wolf from the South Bay Chapter also arranged for a load of emergency supplies and food to go to Mulege. Don can be reached at 408-892-2293 to let you know if additional donations are needed.

The following information was submitted on September 11.

“Mid-Baja has suffered major damage. We are getting “real time” reports from different sources including people on the ground in the damage areas as well as the Mexican Red Cross. It is not good. The reports that we have indicate:

Matancitas (Lopez Mateos) Almost 90% of the structures are down or severely damaged. All water, power, telephone, etc. out

Ciudad Constitucion: Most roofs are gone; severe damage to 70% of the buildings. Power, water, telephones are out

Loreto: All power / telephone are down, lines are down, trees and buildings blocking the streets, and airport is closed at this time.

Mulege: All power, telephone, water, etc. is out. The water crested three feet above the bridge. Water was two feet deep in the fire station which would mean that almost of the entire town was flooded. There have been reports of loss of life.

Punta Chivato: One person indicates that the wind was over 100 mph before the indicator broke. Damage to almost everything. We should hear about the condition of the strip sometime today

Santa Rosalia: Wall of water came down the canyon and through the town, washed cars, etc. into the ocean.

The Red Cross has been in contact with us today, they are still in the process of determining their needs, however they indicate that they will need our help. We will be putting out another alert for donations as well as where they are needed. Visit the Baja Bush Pilots Web Site at www.bajabushpilots.com <<http://www.bajabushpilots.com/index.php>> for the full story.”

Doctor's With Wings was shown at our September Meeting. Three groups of graduate students from San Francisco State Graduate Students competed for a grant to produce a documentary. The winning team chose The Flying Doctors as their subject and produced the film, “Doctor's With Wings.” Students went on three different LMV trips to complete their project, recording and filming data. A very heart touching and inspirational film was produced.

It was noted that trip fees on private volunteer aircraft have now been scaled down from \$400.00 to \$350.00, with a trip allowance of \$150.00 on return. Pilots will be reimbursed \$350.00 per seat for expenses incurred.

Dave Morgan on Mexico Trip: We will be taking DVD's and our new projector to Mexico in October to show medical information on diabetes, hypertension, weight control, diet, child care, and elder care. The two planes going to Esqueda/Fronteras, will have that equipment.

Oasis Trip – November 13-15th. Only the Oasis mission seats are still \$175.00 per seat - with no trip allowance. Pilots will continue to be reimbursed at \$175.00 per passenger. Airplane seats to Oasis are limited. There are not enough seats on board to accommodate general volunteer members. However, volunteers are welcome to drive to Oasis. The journey takes approximately 8-10 hours, one way. The Oasis community usually assists all volunteers with hotel accommodations and meals. Contact Dave Morgan for additional information if you intend to drive.

During the September meeting it was suggested that volunteers with Los Médicos Voladores, wear an LMV Tee-shirt, especially when on duty. This request is for several reasons. a) It is advantageous to have a shirt/scrub with logo on when going through customs etc. b) It is a good advertisement for LMV. We have had members join us after seeing people wearing the LMV Logo. A certain pride and team spirit is gained from showing that we are members of this organization. I'm sure you can think of many other reasons.

OCTOBER TRIP- October 14-18, 2009
(Plane assignments & destinations)

Plane # 1 Departing From: Auburn Destination: Bahia Tortugas

1. Randall Sosnick, pilot
2. Tom Brenner, optometrist
3. Pam Copelan, interpreter
4. Judi Foy, volunteer

Plane # 2 Departing From: Alta Sierra Destination: Fronteras

1. Bob Hecoeks, pilot
2. Dave Morgan, M.D.
3. Janice Rosner, C.P.N.P.
4. Paddy Cooper, R.D.H.

Plane # 3 Departing From: Auburn Destination: Fronteras

1. Tom Palmer, pilot
2. Ginny Blankinship, interpreter
3. Amy Shuler, interpreter
4. Louise Palmer, volunteer

OCTOBER TRIP- October 14-18, 2009, continued

Misc. Info:

- **Bob Hecoeks will make room reservations at Mulege**
- **Ginny Blankinship will contact villages re our arrival/needs**
- **Bring a sack lunch to eat on the plane**
- **Note that departure is on a Wednesday**
- **Limit personal baggage to 15 pounds**
- **Don't forget your passport**

Schedule:

Departure, Wednesday, October 14th
Clinics: All day Thursday and Friday
Depart early Saturday a.m. for Mulege
Saturday: Fiesta in Mulege
Sunday: Depart for US

Tom Palmer, CEO of the Corporate Chapter, noted that we are still in need of a Corporate Newsletter person. Please contact Tom to volunteer for this position.

LOS MÉDICOS VOLADORES (LMV)
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FIRST CLASS



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