



Los Médicos Voladores  
Gold Country Chapter  
November 2007  
Newsletter



**Gold Country Chapter Meeting**

**Date: November 1**

**Board Meeting: 6:00 p.m.**

**General Meeting: 7:00 p.m.**

**Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital  
11815 Education Street  
Auburn, CA  
Conference Room A**

**Welcome**

A warm welcome to new members Nancy Griffin, an RN from Roseville. We hope to see Nancy on some of our trips and at our meetings.

**Christmas Party Coming Up**

**Diane Miessler has graciously opened her co-housing's common room for LMV's annual Christmas Party Potluck and Polish Auction Gift Exchange.**

- Time: 6 p.m.**  
**Place: Directions are below**  
**Bring: A potluck dish to share with up to 8 people, a gift for the auction, and your own drinks. Paper plates, utensils, cups, and a main meat will be provided.**

Directions to Nevada City Cohousing:

HWY 49 NORTH from Auburn; take. . .  
"BROAD STREET" EXIT" in Nevada City; go. . .  
LEFT over freeway on Broad Street. Drive through adorable downtown Nevada City until you see a mansion in the middle of the road; go. . .  
LEFT at the fork onto West Broad St., then. . .  
LEFT onto Chief Kelly (he was the Indian who oversaw the city dump and the last Maidu to survive the gold miners. . .)

Park anywhere you can, on the street. The co-housing driveway is the first left off of Chief Kelly. The party is in the common house, the larger, pale yellow building in the middle of the complex.

Phone numbers - Diane Miessler (530) 470-8942 or (less desirable backup) cell (530) 263-3423  
For lost travelers: Common House phone (530) 265-2696

## **Trip Report – Guaymas**

Dave Morgan

It's 6 a.m. on Wednesday, October 10, 2007, heavy overcast, rain all night. Can we really leave for Guaymas? Now it's 6:45, the hanger is open; VeNae (Taco) Crabtree and Amy Shuler are ready to go. Norman Beckert arrives and we get the plane - N9126G Cessna 182 - out of the hanger and load up. Out to the runway and off at 7:15 AM, clear sky above, clouds South and East. At 7500 we see a build up, 9500 not enough, 13500 clear till Bakersfield and on to Yuma. Fuel \$3.79 a gallon and paperwork to get to Guaymas: 8.3 hours plus stops. Friends at Guaymas (MMGM) and on to the hotel.

At the Catholic church, rooms were set up for Optometrist Tom Brenner, translator Virginia Blankinship, able assistant Judi Foy, and pilot Randall Sosnick. They took care of 147 patients who needed eye examinations and glasses. In the medical clinic we were able to care for 46 women and 15 men, a total of 61 individuals. Amy was so good obtaining names, ages, chief complaint and medications. Taco did medications, B/P, temperatures, glucose testing, etc. Norman did it all, getting patients, medications, equipment, etc. Very good facilities for our clinics.

Multiple numbers of LMV workers, planes, pilots and volunteers arrived for dinner each evening. Much to talk about, fun, great trip, good hotel with good food. BILL HARRISON, a compassionate person and a wonderful good-will ambassador, served as the LMV contact person in Guaymas and had everything in order and organized for a great clinic. Bill invited everyone to his home in San Carlos for dinner. We had a great R & R with Bill. Saturday, we had our annual Seminar with the Mexican officials, eight in number. We also had 19 LMV members for a good turn out. We all, Mexican and LMV members alike, introduced ourselves and conducted the expected business.

Sunday departure with very clear and nice weather for our uneventful flights home, except I had to hand prop the 182 at Guaymas and again at Yuma, due to a starter (heart) failure. Another great trip number 81 in 33 years for The Flying Doctors.

*David Morgan, M.D., Pilot*

## **TRIP REPORT OCTOBER 11-14, 2007 GRENADOS, SONORA and GUAYMAS ANNUAL SEMINAR**

Tom Palmer

Bob Hecoeks graciously agreed to pick me up in Visalia where we have a second home and where Louise elected to spend the weekend. Bob, Lee Johnson, co-pilot and Paddy Cooper, super hygienist, all arrived on time at 8 AM on Thursday. A quick refueling and we were on our way to Granados, Sonora via Punta Peñasco for customs. We arrived in the early afternoon, set up our clinic and headed for the new Granados hotel just as Sam Bishop and his dental team arrived.

We had a good clinic on Friday. Paddy treated 12 patients while DDS Adrian Fenderson saw another 12 or so. We were limited in time to make it to Guaymas for the annual seminar planned for Saturday afternoon.

Sandra Salazar, our contact with the Bours Foundation who coordinates all our clinics in Sonora, advised us last week that a major conference of all the village Presidents had been called in Hermosillo for the same Saturday, so they were unable to attend our seminar. We decided to continue with our village clinics as scheduled and intended to conduct a brief Corporate Board of Directors meeting in the room that we had reserved for the seminar. On arrival in Guaymas, I advised everyone that the seminar was cancelled and they were free to attend the BOD meeting or enjoy the afternoon at the beach.

About 30 minutes before the board meeting was to begin, Sandra, together with several Bours Foundation members and Dr. Jesus Aguilar, representing the Sonora Secretary of Health, showed up and plans changed dramatically. By 1 PM, we had an international, bilingual seminar arranged and proceeded to talk. With the help of Blanca, an excellent translator from South Bay, an energetic Dr. Aguilar, the Bours Foundation folks and an engaged, enthusiastic LMV participation, we went a long way toward our stated goals of seeking better communication between LMV and the officials responsible for the health care of the people of Sonora.

I am pleased with the participation of our Mexican friends and our own members in this annual get-together. Our goal here is not to solve problems, but to identify issues and to suggest potential actions that we each can take to make things work better. We did that!

LMV put on quite an air show the next morning, with 12 or so aircraft lining up for fueling and then take-off. We were sequenced in between a couple airline arrivals, a large group from Múlege seeking fuel and the usual traffic. I was astounded to hear on the radio that the Guaymas tower was being operated by a single controller- IFR/VFR arrivals and departures, ground and air control – the whole enchilada! The controller thanked everyone for patience and indeed, grousing and antagonism was minimal. I intend to send an LMV note of appreciation to the Guaymas tower operators.

Home on schedule, only minor hassles at the border and cooperative weather made the trip pleasant. My thanks to: Bob, Lee and Paddy for a great trip.

*Tom Palmer*

*Chairman, LMV*

## **LMV Annual Seminar Guaymas, Sonora** ***SEMINAR 2007 – A MEMORY***

Lee Johnson

Our 2007 Seminar in Guaymas, Sonora has now faded into the past, and it was a great weekend. Gold Country Chapter had three airplanes at clinics and they all made it to Guaymas to complete the weekend. One crew was Randall Sosnick, Tom Brenner, Judi Foy, and Ginny Blankenship, The second airplane was Dr. Dave Morgan, Norman Beckert, VeNae Crabtree, and Amy Shuler. Plane three was Bill Hecoeks, Tom Palmer, Lee Johnson and Paddy Cooper.

We met at the Hotel Armida, checked into our rooms, and had a brief social meeting greeting the arrivals and then a luncheon. After lunch we settled down for our formal business meeting. In spite of the fact that the governor of Sonora called a late meeting of all the village presidents on the same date, we were privileged with distinguished visitors from the Governor's Foundation, La Fundación Eduardo Bours Castelo. Director General Sandra Luz Salazar, of this organization, was there with two other representatives. Dr. Jesus Aguilar, representing the State Secretary of Health, presented their needs and explained their plans for the future in attending to the needs of the many small villages in remote Sonora. Three representatives from the village of Acónchi were there and

stated their needs and invited us to include them as a destination. Chairperson Tom Palmer explained our capabilities and that we will do what we can to assist them. In all we had 19 LMV members and eight guests from México. After the meeting many of us joined other LMV chapter travelers at Bill Harrison's beautiful beach home in San Carlos for an evening of relaxation and fellowship. Sunday morning we all got a reasonably early start and made it back into the US. All in all it was another great event and everyone enjoyed it.

*Lee Johnson, trip coordinator*

## **TRIP REPORT Granados October 2007**

Sam Bishop

At 7 am on a beautifully cool Thursday morning, pilot Sam Bishop picked up his crew at Kaiser Air in Oakland. Veteran LMV dentist Adrian Fenderson had his complete dental office nicely packed into a blue, rectangular duffel bag along with a small compressor to be used only in the event we were unsuccessful in obtaining a larger one in Granados.

RN Cathy Skates (San Francisco General Hospital Emergency Room) had picked up Saloni Kadakia, a Berkeley student, translator and volunteer and whisked her in the early morning hours to our rendezvous.

We stopped in Big Bear City for fuel (ourselves and the plane) and enjoyed the last of the gorgeous cool weather. From there to Punta Peñasco for immigration and customs, then on to Granados, arriving around 4:30 pm. Bob Hecoeks, Tom Palmer, and Lee Johnson had brought Paddy Cooper, Dental Hygienist, and arrived an hour before.

Our accommodations were in the Hotel Granados, a nice facility undergoing major improvements. In fact Adrian and I agreed it was the best hotel/motel room we had ever stayed at in a village. Last minute clean up was being done for dinner, so we enjoyed a cool Tecate in the patio with the Presidente Municipal and Comisario after setting up in the clinic for Friday morning.

First order of business for me Friday was to get the donated local compressor fitted to the dental equipment, which was accomplished after a brief run to the ferreteria (hardware store).

Our team saw 19 patients, pulled 11 teeth and filled 18 tooth surfaces while Paddy, the hygienist, kept incredibly busy in the next room. The "dental chair" left much to be desired; (it was an obstetrics exam table; Adrian said it was fine for him), but otherwise our dental room was great, complete with reliable electricity, a floor lamp and even air conditioning!

We folded our temporary practice about 4 pm and went to the airstrip to pack. There I did find the only disappointing note in the whole trip. Someone had jimmed open my wing window and stolen my PDA, which I use as a moving map. It was an older unit and had a couple problems, so the thieves did not score a bonanza, but I suggest to the pilots that they arrange for security at the airstrips if at all possible. This is the second time on an LMV trip my airplane has been broken into at deserted strips.

We departed toward a sinking sun and Guaymas, to participate in the next day's annual LMV seminar. Accommodations in Guaymas were at the Hotel Armida, a nice hotel, but unfortunately, not near any beach. Our meeting was due to start at noon on Saturday, so our team arose early that morning, took a taxi to San Carlos, rented a boat and caught a nice mess of fish before the meeting.

Saturday night everyone joined Bill Harrison and Gabriella at Bill's nice home in San Carlos where we greatly appreciated their wonderful hospitality. I have been there before and Bill never fails to make everyone welcome and happy.

An uneventful ride home was perfect, as the weather gods smiled and even reversed the wind. We sailed home on a tailwind.

*Sam Bishop*

## **Oasis**

The next trip to Oasis will be November 2-4, 2007. So far there are 6 Gold Country planes going. Talk to Dave Morgan for more details.

*Note: There is a change in the price of the flight to Oasis. The trip price has been raised from \$100 to \$125.*

*Dave Morgan, Oasis trip contact*

## **Corporate Update**

Mark your calendars now! There will also be a Corporate Board Meeting January 5, 2008, hosted by the Central America Chapter.

*Tom Palmer*

*Chairman of the Corporate Board*

## **Cookbook Orders**

There are two forms in this month's newsletter. One is for advanced sales, and one is a gift certificate. If you would like to order cookbooks, please complete the advanced sales form and forward it to the Gold Country P.O. Box along with \$10 for each cookbook ordered. The cookbook will make a wonderful holiday gift, and for every cookbook we sell, our own chapter receives a percentage of the proceeds. It's a win-win!

## **Mardi Gras**

Anyone interested in working on the Mardi Gras committee, please contact Barbara at (530) 888-1273.

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LOS MÉDICOS VOLADORES (LMV)  
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FIRST CLASS

