



Baja Bits & Bytes

NEWS AND UPDATES FROM DISCOVER BAJA TRAVEL CLUB

APRIL 2013

Baja California Center Dedicated

Discover Baja was privileged to have been invited to attend the dedication of the new Baja California convention center, which many of you have watched being constructed over the past few years on the east side of Mex 1 just north of Rosarito Beach.

The \$51 million “Baja California Center” or “Baja Center” as it is known, will serve as the official convention center for Tijuana, Rosarito and Tecate. Its 100,000 sq.ft. main hall can be divided into several smaller spaces, and there are 17 separate meeting rooms.

Among the dignitaries attending the dedication was Baja California Governor Jose Guadalupe Osuna Millan who



called the opening "an historic event for the economic development of our state" that puts Baja California in a network of 68 convention centers across Mexico.

The 2013 Olympiad Opening Ceremony for Mexico will serve as the inaugural event for the Center.

Jen Kramer: New Face and Voice at Discover Baja

Recent visitors to our office may have met Jen Kramer, daughter of Hugh and Carol and pictured with them on the previous page at the Baja Center opening. Jen has been in New York City for the last 10 years, and has recently returned to the west coast.

Putting her journalism degree to use, Jen is redesigning our web site and expanding the content. If you have pictures you would allow us to use on our new site, send them in. We will give credit where possible, and we're looking forward to debuting our new site in a couple months.

Speaking of Baja Photos

Thanks to Discover Baja members Larry and Linda Sundram who sent in some photos of their recent trip down the "magnificent peninsula".



May Day Swell

Scorpion Bay Surfing & Fishing Club reports to Discover Baja that "We've already seen a few decent southerly swells come through over the past month, but this new swell is something to get excited about.

"Surflife is describing it: 'a very healthy looking low tracking away from New Zealand recently has



been aiming a solid fetch our way. Long-period SSW swell cranked out by those winds will be moving in by next Monday, 29th, then peaking on Tuesday/Wednesday. Many exposures are due to see consistent overhead surf then while top breaks hit double overhead.' Add sunny skies and 65° water and you will be hootin' and hollerin' while stylin' on one of the longest waves in the world."

Review of Mexico's Increased Vehicle Accident Death Benefits

Just a reminder that Mexico has passed a new law, which has significantly raised liability payments for vehicle accident deaths. Before, you could go anywhere in Mexico and \$50,000 was enough in your vehicle insurance policy to cover any death liability. Now the amounts have increased over seven times. AND.... amounts differ from state to state because of different minimum wages. So—if you drive only in the northern state of Baja (north of Guerrero Negro), a death liability claim could be as high as \$144,000, while in Baja Sur that jumps to \$336,000. In Mainland Mexico the amount can be as high as \$544,000.



Discover Baja now has insurance policies in place for purchase reflecting this new increase. ACE Seguros has added \$300,000 and \$500,000 CSL options for liability. Combined Single Limit is the amount available for any damage to property, things or people (including death). Be sure and check ACE's Platinum policy. In some cases you get more and pay less.

The other company we write for -- HDI Seguros – has increased the CSL options and also added an excess death liability feature. This coverage can be used only in case of a death. This all becomes a little clearer if you go to our web site www.discoverbaja.com and either renew or create a new policy. You will see all your options. **PLEASE** call our office 800-727-2252 if you have any questions OR if you would like us to explore your options with you and write your policy. We can email the policy and/or send you a hard copy.

Daylight Savings Time in Baja

Daylight Savings Time gives you an extra hour of daylight and driving time in Baja

I ♥
Daylight
Saving Time



California (norte) to enjoy the beautiful weather and scenery.

Remember, again though, that Discover Baja Travel Club always discourages driving once it gets dark.

Note too that since Baja California Sur does not observe Daylight Savings Time, the entire peninsula is now on the same time.

FOR SALE: 2000 Jeep Wrangler



6 Cylinder/5 Speed Manual

Less than 35,000 miles – newer clutch and shocks

ASKING PRICE \$8,000

Located in Bahia de Los Angeles

Contact Mike Essary 619-886-4116
Calsur@aol.com

Casita in Tripui For Sale

Beautiful, completely-furnished, turn-key house available in Tripui, south of Loreto. Space A-19, with parking and patio in front and cactus garden in the back. Living area has two ton air conditioner and four ceiling fans. Includes TV-VCR, Telmex telephone, landline with internet connection.

Bedroom has walk-in closet, and full bathroom with tub.

Lots of storage, drawers, bookcase, leather sofa with end tables. Kitchen area has two refrigerators, chest freezer and gas stove top. Dining area has tile table with six chairs. Mexican dishes and pots and pans included. Detached brick bodega with hot water heater, washer and dryer, sink, toilet and plenty of storage space. Just \$95,000 USD. Local phone 133-0504, or US phone 619 467-5958.



Gas Prices In Baja



PEMEX prices have increased slightly over the past month, but are considerably lower than US prices: Magna (regular) \$3.53, Premium \$3.71 and Diesel \$3.58.

Peso Exchange

As of 4/22/13, the Mexican Peso is exchanging at 12.16 to the US dollar.

FROM OUR MEMBERS:

COMMENTS, INFORMATION AND “FIELD NOTES” FROM OUR DISCOVER BAJA MEMBERS

Sharing Amazing Adventures

Barry Smedley

When Corinne and I were last in La Paz, we camped next to two German couples who told us they were on their way to Tierra del Fuego (they, BTW, are included in our Baja DVD)



We have just heard from one of the couples with a photo of them in Ushuaia! I have been following their remarkable journey on their websites. They have both done an incredible job documenting their separate journeys over the last 18 months.

In the interest of your adventurous members, I was wondering if there was anyway in which you could share this priceless travel information?

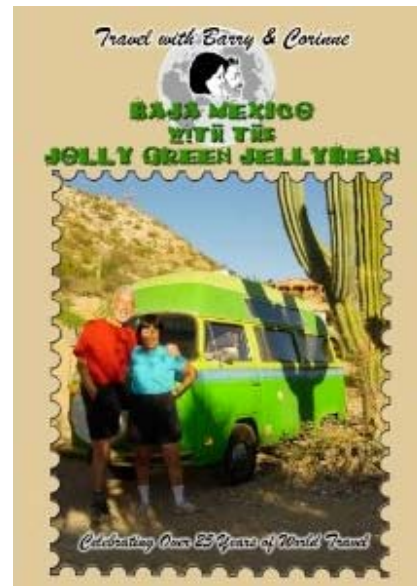
The websites are, for Stefan & Emma - www.kontraer.com (in German and English) they are traveling with a Land Rover Defender

The other couple are Klaus & Petra -
www.abenteuertour.de (click on Translate to read in English) they are traveling with a Toyota Land Cruiser

The spirit of adventure lives on, I just wish we could do a similar job when we drive across Russia, next year.

Adios amigos, Barry.

(Ed note: Discover Baja members Barry and Corinne Smedley have been traveling the world for 25 years and documenting their adventures on a series of DVDs. Check their exciting website at www.travelwithbarryandcorinne.com Thanks for sharing your travels with our members.)



Discover Baja member Carol Doubek returned from an enjoyable adventure to Baja this month and shares her experience:

“The trip down was great-----no construction----anywhere, great roads----only 3 federal stops, just slow downs----great weather ---- not one search-----no dog situations-----all-in-all, perfect trip! Thanks again for all the help. We stayed at the Desert Inn in Guerrero Negro, and enjoyed meeting the new owner and staff. They are wonderful people!

“It looks as though the Mexican government is now doing more to put properties and businesses into private hands, so they are letting go of some of the government owned businesses-----a good move for the Mexican people. We have heard great reports from people here as to medical treatment, dental work, and other services. Things are really looking up for the Americans and Canadians visiting this wonderful country!”

(Carol, thank you)

And some thoughtful compliments from DBTC members Cristobal Beltran and Eduardo Sanchez:

Carol, Hugh, Maythé and Monica, We would like to thank you for your great customer service at the international level, your assistance with our Mexican insurance, and your personalized attention to our travel needs. I would like to say that Discover Baja is not only a great business name, but it's been a great investment for us.

(We appreciate your kind words.)



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