



July 2015 Newsletter



BAJA NEWS

For more Baja news, see:
www.discoverbaja.com/baja-california-information/baja-news/

Desalination Plant Under Construction in Ensenada to Help with Drought



PHOTO BY THE SAN DIEGO UNION TRIBUNE

Stricken by a deep drought, northern Baja is turning to desalination as a solution to the region's water problems. Scheduled to launch operations in 2017, the desalination plant is currently under construction in Ensenada.

From the DBTC Office

The Discover Baja office will again be open for regular business hours on all Saturdays going forward: every Saturday from 10am-1pm.

Please save the date for a celebration of life for Baja Almanac author Landon Crumpton on September 12. Stay posted for more details.

The Valle de Guadalupe Vendimia Wine Festival is coming up as well as numerous other food festivals, bike races, fishing tournaments and music festivals in Baja this summer. Check out pages 2 and 3 for more information.

Give us a call for insurance, FMMs, fishing licenses or any other Baja needs.

See you in Baja!
 Hugh, Carol, Jen, Maythé & Monica

DBTC BAJA CAJA All of the Baja info you need in one box!

PESO EXCHANGE RATE: \$15.7 to \$1 U.S. dollar

PEMEX PRICES: Northern Baja: Magna: \$3.35/gal, Premium: \$3.56/gal, Diesel: \$3.51/gal
 Southern Baja: Magna: \$3.35gal, Premium: \$3.56/gal, Diesel: \$3.51/gal

FISHING LICENSES: Day: \$12.25, Week: \$31.20, Month: \$42.80, Year: \$54.40 for members.
www.discoverbaja.com/go/fishing-licenses

PREPAID FMMs: \$37 DBTC members only. Please allow two weeks for processing.
www.discoverbaja.com/go/fmm-tourist-permits

BOAT TEMPORARY IMPORT PERMITS (TIPs): \$45 fee for DBTC to handle processing. Service for DBTC members only. www.discoverbaja.com/go/temporary-boat-importation/

NAUTICAL FMMs: \$10/person fee for DBTC to process. Service for DBTC members only.
www.discoverbaja.com/go/nautical-sportfishing-fmm

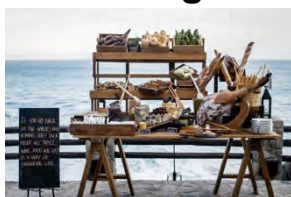
MEXICAN AUTO INSURANCE: www.discoverbajaonline.com

ON OUR RADAR FOR JULY

For more information about the events below and to keep up on all of the latest Baja events, see www.discoverbaja.com/events

JULY 15-19

The Art of Taste at the Resort at Pedregal



This four-day food and wine celebration features various events with meals and drinks prepared by award-winning international chefs. www.theresortatpedregal.com/specials/the-art-of-taste

JULY 18

Ruta del Vino Bike Ride & Wine Festival



This 36-mile loop bike ride is not only a world-class cycling event but also features a wine festival. www.rutadelvinobikeride.com

JULY 18

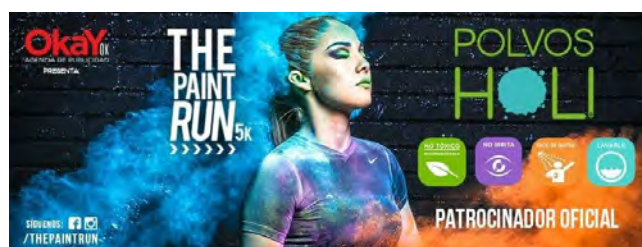
East Cape Dorado Shoot Out



Catch the heaviest dorado to be a winner at this tournament hosted at Hotel Palmas de Cortez. www.doradoshootout.com/

JULY 19

The Paint Run 5K, Ensenada



This fun and colorful 5K paint run in Ensenada will begin at Hotel Las Palmas. Tickets start at \$150 pesos. www.facebook.com/ThePaintRun

JULY 24-25

Pesca la Baja – Bahia de los Angeles



The Bahia de los Angeles segment of the Pesca la Baja state championship is one of five locations for the sport fishing tournament. www.pescalabaja.com

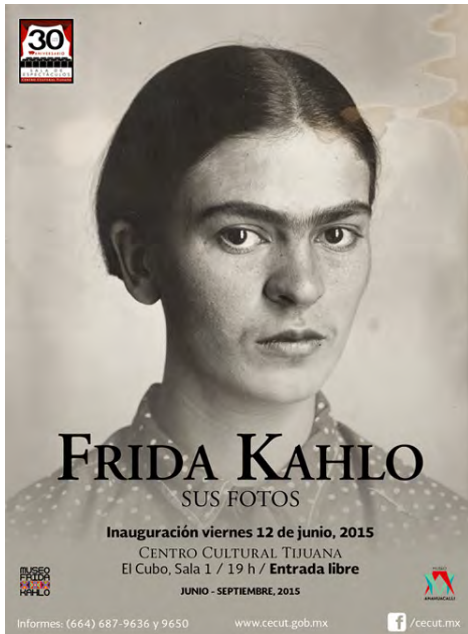
JULY 27

Happening en el Valle



An interactive cultural fest in the Valle de Guadalupe featuring art, music, food, wine and craft beer. This event is a benefit for the pediatric oncology unit at the Hospital General de Tijuana. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Happening-Valle/1085149101513220>

THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF FRIDA KAHLO



The Tijuana cultural center (CECUT) has a collection of Frida Kahlo's photographs on exhibit through September 2015. The exhibit features over 200 personal photographs of the beloved Mexican artist. Free entrance on Sundays. www.cecuto.gob.mx/cartelera.php?id=4207

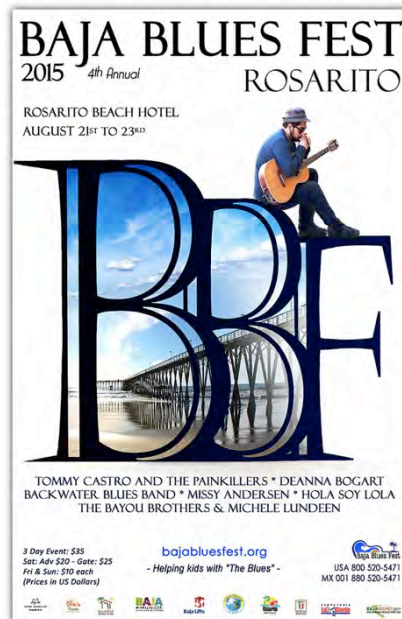


THE VALLE DE GUADALUPE FIESTAS DE LA VENDIMIA

The Fiestas de la Vendimia will take place in the Valle de Guadalupe from August 7-23, 2015. Wineries and restaurants from the region will host culinary feasts, wine tastings and parties to celebrate the grape harvest. For more information and a schedule of events in English, please see <http://bit.ly/1dNd2Mt>

BAJA BLUES FEST

Once again the Baja Blues Fest will bring a weekend of music, food, drinks and fun to Rosarito. From August 21-23 the 4th annual Baja Blues Fest will celebrate blues music as well as cultural activities in the region while helping to support local Baja children's charities. www.bajabluesfest.org



SABOR DE BAJA

This "all white" end of summer party will take place August 26th at the Rosarito Beach Hotel. The event will feature some of the top chefs in northern Baja facing off in a culinary challenge featuring delicious food accompanied by Mexican wines and Baja craft beers. Tickets are \$65. For more information: www.sabordebaja.com

From the DBTC Baja Shop:

TRAVELER'S GUIDE TO CAMPING MEXICO'S BAJA

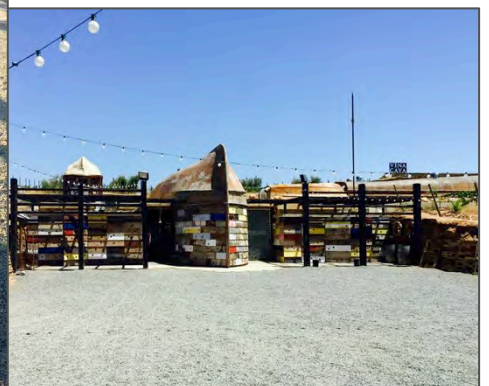
By Mike and Terry Church

This Baja camping and RVing Bible, now in its 5th edition, gives a description of virtually every campground on the peninsula as well as vital information about preparation, documentation, border crossing, side trips and things to see and do. The authors personally research each campsite to ensure the book contains the most accurate information available. An added bonus is the chapter covering campgrounds and RV parks in Puerto Penasco.

Softcover, 6" x 9", 255 pp., \$17.45



We hope you'll excuse us for the late arrival of the newsletter this month – our editor was getting married! Jen and the entire DBTC team celebrated a lovely wedding weekend in the Valle de Guadalupe with a stay and ceremony at La Villa del Valle and a reception at TROIka and Vena Cava winery complete with Argentinian barbecue, churros, a bonfire and music by the talented Quino from Big Mountain. Felicidades Jen y Chris!



BAJA FISHING REPORT

with Gary Graham



The Pesca la Baja Fishing Tournament

Baja peninsula is settling into its summer mode as sea and air temperatures climb, with the weather being similar to Southern California.

Although the fishing has been extraordinary and early, the ever-popular Coronado Islands have lost their glitter. Not because the fish aren't there, but because other factors have tarnished the Island experience. The sea lion population is competing for enough to eat and they steal bait and hooked fish with reckless abandon. Plus the Mexican government's recent edict requires every angler to have a passport which has created an uproar with many anglers. (EDITORS NOTE: Anglers can obtain nautical FMMs through the Discover Baja office)

Meanwhile along the coastline, from Rosarito Flats down to Descanso, there is a big spread of yellowtail, log barracuda, with

an occasional white seabass mixed in with the barracuda. Similar conditions seem to exist at Salsipuedes, San Miguel Point and the Reef, all around Todos Santos and at Punta Banda and around the corner to the south of the Santo Tomas area off of Ensenada and down the line to San Quintin. There has been good inshore action for lings and flat things.

While offshore in the same zone, the news is equally encouraging as the yellowfin tuna have moved well within range of local fleets with reports of wahoo catches as well.

Inexplicably, farther down at Cedros Island and most of the Viscaino Peninsula, it has been strangely silent ... with the exception of La Bocana, where estero and inshore fishing has been good for grouper and calicos.

Continued on next page

Reporting from San Luis Gonzaga, B.C. The second of the Sport fishing State Championship "PESCA LA BAJA" 2015 edition series was held June 25-27, 2015 according to Chris Wheaton, IGFA Representative. Although complete results are sketchy, he provided the following update:

They hooked and broke off many large fish, but were able to get this black sea bass, caught by Chris Wheaton, in the boat from about 400 feet down.

Turns out that Wheaton's 31-pound black sea bass was the largest fish caught in the Gonzaga Bay tournament and he was awarded a rod and reel plus 25 points towards the #pescalabaja series, in addition to 25,000 pesos. They caught a lot of good eating fish too!

The three remaining events in the Sport fishing State Championship "PESCA LA BAJA" 2015, including the Finale in Ensenada, are always fun, grass-roots-style events held in Baja Norte. The link is in English if you are interested in more information.

<http://www.pescalabaja.com/p-pescalabaja2015english.php>

SEDES DE TORNEOS
 San Felipe
 22 y 23 de Mayo
 San Luis Gonzaga
 26 y 27 de Junio
 Bahia de Los Angeles
 24 y 25 de Julio
 San Quintin
 21 y 22 de Agosto
Gran Final
Ensenada
 18 y 19 de Septiembre





Continued from previous page

It's fish on at Bahia Los Angeles on the Sea of Cortez side for yellowtail and a few white seabass with heightened expectations that the dorado aren't far behind.

So far the dorado action is not up to the usual summer levels as Punta Chivato -- "Bulls Only" -- results reflect:

Total of 13 boats entered this year. (Alejandro Bukovecs on the boat *Alex* took out Diorios and friend and won First Place and Third Place.)

First Place, Boat: *Alex*, Angler: Mike Diorio, 24.00 Pounds

2nd Place, Boat: *El Charro*, Angler: Rick Rhodes, 13.93 Pounds

3rd Place, Boat: *Alex*, Angler: David Kaminsky, 12.85 Pounds
Farther down the coast at Loreto, the reports indicate that yellowtail, dorado and billfish are in the mix plus a few roosterfish. Not exactly the report one would hope for.

According to Jonathan Roldan, *Tailhunter International*, La Paz is seeing more small- to medium-

sized dorado in schools providing limits for most. They have caught a few in the 20- to 30-pound range with larger fish lost.

Los Arenas, below La Paz, offers fewer but larger roosterfish, wahoo and billfish shots which can be great for the angler who is in on their game but disaster for the angler who is not.

Some nice rooster fish, along with a couple of blue marlin, stole the scene during filming of an episode with Bill Boyce and his crew's "*Destination Baja Sur*" series which will air beginning in January, 2016.

The offshore billfish action from East Cape stretching to the tip has been epic with many boats recording double-digit releases. The Stars and Stripes Tournament, fishing out of Chileno Bay, had 43 boats racking up 160 billfish releases, and bringing 1 blue marlin, 24 tuna, 6 dorado and 1 wahoo to the scale. Three of the tuna weighed in at 185-pounds, 165-pounds and 75-pounds.

The most successful lure for the big boys has been the Yummee Flying Fish-- that skips and splashes along the surface like a real flying fish, provoking spectacular surface strikes. This top water action brings excitement that few lures can match as huge yellowfin explode on the lure on the water's surface or in mid-air.

Minerva's in Cabo can hardly keep them stocked according to Pat McDonell, Editor of WON. Used with kites that are 3- and 4-foot parafoils, without long sticks, packed smaller than kites, into a 13-inch bag that stays up in less wind, making it possible to fish on the downwind troll without the use of helium balloons. Kite shops sell them in retail and online.

"It's summer time and the livin' is easy," so goes the song. It may not be easy but it *is* summer time and the fishin' *is* mighty good right now in Baja!

Tight Lines

Questions or comments are welcome.
garyg@garycgraham.com

BUEN PROVECHO: Hierbabuena, El Pescadero



By Jennifer Kramer
www.bajatheothercalifornia.com

Off of a dirt road on the way out to Rancho Pescadero, you'll see the modest signs and gate for Restaurante Hortaliza Hierbabuena. Don't miss this charming and delicious spot - it's farm-to-table dining at its finest.

Past the front gates, you'll walk into the gardens, which provide the ingredients for the food and also a beautiful backdrop as scenery for the restaurant. The whole restaurant is completely open air - just a corrugated metal roof covering with

simplistic and minimal décor. The focus here is on the beautiful gardens and the fresh food.

The garden-inspired menu changes with what's in season and growing in the gardens. They're known for their wood fire pizzas, which feature fresh ingredients from the gardens mixed to create unique flavors. Other entrees like flank steak, fresh fish of the day and baked eggplant, are all made from ingredients grown there on the property and locally sourced.

There's a separate bar area where they serve up drinks like the "Sandiatini" (vodka,

watermelon juice and mint) and the "Baja Surprise" (hibiscus liqueur, citrus juices, tequila) as well as a wide variety of fresh squeezed juices.

They also sell vegetables and herbs that have been picked from the gardens so you can take a little bit of the fresh flavors with you.

Hortaliza Hierbabuena
www.hierbabuenarestaurante.com

GPS: 23.36337, -110.18168
011-52-612-149-2568

Thursday – Monday open 12-9,
Closed Tuesdays and
Wednesdays.
Cash only



THE "TRAVEL INTO YOUR IMAGINATION" WRITING WORKSHOP

Closet writers welcome!
Presented by author and
writing coach, Milli Thornton.
To be held at Los Colibris
Casitas, Todos Santos,
November 29 - December 5,
2015. Find out more at

funwritingworkshops.com

Email questions to:
events@funwritingworkshops.com



PARADISE FOR SALE IN MULEGE!

Paradise is for sale by owner located in Mulege on the Sea of Cortez at the mouth of Conception Bay, 8 miles south of Mulege. Approximately 1/3 of acre with a fedicomiso (ownership). Dwelling for camping, 3500 gallon pils for water, extra large propane tank, solar. Asking US \$185,000 or best offer. Contact 760-889-4888 or sherylkaonis@sbcglobal.net or slgordinier@sbcglobal.net

PROPERTY FOR SALE IN SAN MIGUEL DE COMONDÚ:

A lot with a producing avocado orchard, equipped with asequias (irrigation channels), approximately 1700 square meters in size. San Miguel de Comondú is located two hours on paved road from the port of Loreto. It is a quiet little town for vacationing and relaxing. The listing price is \$65,000 U.S., the first payment being \$30,000 U.S. and the remainder in two payments. Call or text Alberto Cota Murillo, 011-52-613-114-7751.

