



June 2016 Newsletter



BAJA NEWS

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



New PedWest San Ysidro Pedestrian Crossing

The Pedestrian West Facility (PedWest) in El Chaparral-San Ysidro will begin processing northbound pedestrians on July 15, 2016. The facility is located on the west side of El Chaparral where southbound cars cross into Mexico.

PedWest will eventually be open to southbound pedestrian traffic as well, and will serve to complement the current eastern facility, which will still be in operation. Once PedWest opens, the eastern facility will be in reduced operation as they will be constructing a new 20-lane facility in its place that will be completed in 2019.

Opening simultaneously with PedWest will be the new Virginia Avenue transit center on the U.S. side of the border in San Ysidro.

New Car Approval Process for SENTRI

The new vehicle approval process for SENTRI card holders has changed. SENTRI card holders will still need to go to the GOES website to register a new vehicle. You will then receive a letter in the mail notifying you when the vehicle is approved for use in the SENTRI lane. You will no longer need to take your vehicle in for an inspection before it's approved.

From the DBTC Office

Join us on Thursday, July 14th at Liberty Station in San Diego for a DBTC lecture by David Kier, author of the new book, "Baja California Land of Missions." Learn about the fascinating history of the Spanish missions on the Baja peninsula. See page 4 for more information.

The Discover Baja office continue to be open on Saturdays by appointment only. Please call 800-727-2252 by Friday 4pm in order to make an appointment for Saturday.

The Discover Baja office will be closed Saturday July 2nd and Monday July 4th to celebrate U.S. Independence Day.

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: \$18.4 to \$1 U.S. dollar

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

PREPAID FMMs: \$30 DBTC members only. Advance seven-day FMMs now available for \$5 each.
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: Special yearly rates for members. www.discoverbajaonline.com

ON OUR RADAR FOR JUNE

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

JUNE 7-12 Los Cabos Open of Surf



The premier surf and music event in Mexico takes place at Zippers in Los Cabos.
www.loscabosopenofsurf.com

JUNE 10-11 Pesca la Baja: Bahía San Luis Gonzaga



The second fishing tournament in the Pesca La Baja 2016 series will take place in San Luis Gonzaga.
www.pescalabaja.com

JUNE 11 Rock n Taco Fest



Live music and taco festival taking place at Tijuana's CECUT
www.facebook.com/rockntacofest

JUNE 19 Father's Day (U.S. and Mexico)



Happy Father's Day to all the Dads out there! Both the U.S. and Mexico celebrate Father's Day today.



SAVE THE DATE:
Valle de
Guadalupe Fiestas
de la Vendimia
August 5-21, 2016

Make hotel reservations now! Full event schedule, information, and tickets to come in the next few weeks.

Hurricane Season: Let's Be Prepared!

As we enter hurricane season (May 15-November 30) in Baja, we'd like to send along a few reminders to help you be prepared. You can find all of this information and more on the The Discover Baja Hurricane Preparedness page:
www.discoverbaja.com/baja-california-information/hurricane-preparedness

Here are some reminders from the U.S. Embassy:

Be Prepared

U.S. citizens planning to visit places that are vulnerable to hurricanes should be aware of the chance of storms and make a plan in case of emergency. Even inland areas far from the coast can experience destructive winds, tornadoes, and floods from tropical storms and hurricanes. In the event of a tropical storm or hurricane, the U.S. Embassy and the U.S. Consulate General will monitor the storm and send email messages to U.S. citizens who have enrolled in the STEP program (<https://step.state.gov/step>). The Department of State may also issue a Travel Alert or Travel Warning to apprise the public of the situation.

Please check your passport and those of your family members to assure that they are still valid. As you may need to travel to the United States (or elsewhere) on short notice, it is important to have valid travel documents so that your trip is not unnecessarily delayed. If you plan to travel to the United States, please also ensure that any non-U.S. citizen family members also have valid Lawful Permanent Resident cards or U.S. visas.

Your Checklist:

- Prior to leaving the United States, register your travel plans on the State Department's travel enrollment website at <https://step.state.gov/step/>.
- Check with your tour operator, airline, or charter flight regarding services back to the United States in the event of a hurricane, and the possibility of early return if a storm is forecasted for your region.
- Activate your U.S. cell phone's roaming service so that it works internationally to stay in regular contact with family and friends and advise them of your whereabouts.
- Research the region you are visiting and become familiar with local emergency procedures (www.travel.state.gov).
- Pack an emergency supply kit. Keep extra bottled water and non-perishable food items on hand.
- Keep an up-to-date list of local emergency phone numbers, as well as contact numbers for the nearest U.S. Embassy, Consulate General, or Consular Agency.
- Protect your travel documents from potential water damage by placing them in a waterproof container.
- Obtain travel insurance prior to your trip to cover unexpected expenses in the event of an emergency
- Ensure your medical insurance covers costs associated with emergency situations
- Consider what arrangements you will make for your pets. Please note that the Mexican authorities and the U.S. government do not make accommodations for the care or transportation of pets during storm-related emergencies or evacuations.
- Leave a detailed itinerary and your local contact information with a friend or family member in the U.S.
- Make two photocopies of the biographic identification page of your passport, airline tickets, driver's license, Mexican auto insurance, and any credit cards you plan to take. Leave one copy of each with family or friends at home, and pack the other copies separately from the originals. You may also wish to scan these documents and store them electronically, such as on a flash drive or in an email account.
- Monitor local websites for storm-related information. In the country of Mexico, each state has a civil protection authority, called "Protección Civil," that monitors storm progress and gives instructions on preparations, any need to evacuate coastal areas, etc.
- Please also visit the following U.S. government websites for more information:
Hurricane Season "Know Before You Go": <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/emergencies/natural-disasters/HurricaneSeason.html>
National Hurricane Center: www.nhc.noaa.gov

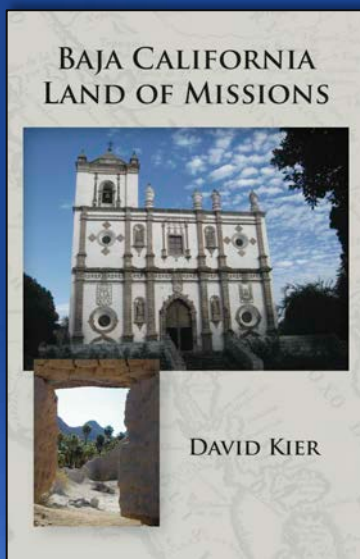
DBTC Lecture Series:



David Kier presents “Baja California Land of Missions”

Thursday, July 14th at 7pm ♦ Liberty Station

Join us for an evening with David Kier, author of the new book, “Baja California Land of Missions.” Kier will discuss the colorful history of the 27 Spanish missions of Baja California. This will be a treat for history buffs, adventure seekers, and Baja lovers.



Copies of “Baja California Land of Missions” will be available for sale and signing

Lecture fee: \$3 for Discover Baja members. \$5 for nonmembers.

For more information: www.discoverbaja.com/event/david-kier-lecture

Please RSVP to ask@discoverbaja.com or 800-727-2252.





Rancho de los Niños Dorm Update

We want to thank those of you who donated to help construct a new girls' dorm at Rancho de Los Niños orphanage. Carol and Jen recently took a trip with Corazón de Vida to check out the status of the new dorm and are pleased to announce that the building is beautiful and almost ready for the girls to move in! The last step is furnishing the dorm and getting it equipped with bedding, linens, etc. to create a welcoming home for the girls. You can help by visiting the link below where you'll find an Amazon registry of items that are needed:

http://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/1Q1UNFXSTWZM0/ref=cm_wl_list_o_2

You can also find the link and more information at www.discoverbaja.com/rancho-de-los-ninos/

All purchases can be made directly through this link on Amazon and will be sent straight to Corazón de Vida so that they can get the items down to the orphanage.

We'll be arranging a group DBTC visit to Valle de Guadalupe to see the children and the new dorm in the next couple of months, so stay tuned for more details!



corazón de vida

About Corazon de Vida:

Corazon de Vida (CDV) is a 20+ year U.S. 501c3 non-profit organization providing life-changing support for orphaned and abandoned children in Baja, Mexico by funding local orphanages, providing quality of life improvement services and investing in the children's future by funding higher education. Through their life-sustaining program they provide monthly funding for the orphanages under their care. These orphanages give abandoned children security, nutrition, shelter and access to a reliable education.

BAJA FISHING REPORT

with Gary Graham



Shane Wrightson caught the first albacore of 2016 fishing with the Producer!

Offshore approximately 70 miles on a 280-degree heading from Ensenada is the zone where bluefin, yellowfin and albacore are being caught -- tough to get any of them to bite. Most were caught on cedar plugs, surface iron and flat falls.

The bluefin were mostly in the 50- to 75-pound class with some fish up to and over the 100-pound mark. The yellowfin were in the 25- to 45-pound class and there were also more albacore seen that didn't want to bite anything.

Using Butterfly Flat-Fall Jigs is a relatively new technique. Drop the jig down to the bottom, then crank it up 30-feet and free spool . . . or cast the jig and let it fall while free spooling, wait for the bite, then jerk and repeat. The center balanced jig falls with a wobbling action in a horizontal position, keeping the

strike zone longer than the butterfly jig.

With all the excitement offshore, the Coronado Islands have lost their allure. The party boats are reporting lots of yellowtail sightings with fish that are stuffed full of tiny anchovy. Most of the yellows caught continue to come on the surface iron. No one area was a standout zone.

Earlier this month live bait for purchase became a reality. There are two phone numbers to call to purchase live bait in Ensenada Harbor: 646/142-8511, 646/107-1851. The barge is *on-call* Monday thru Thursday, and on Friday thru Sunday they are open 5 a.m. and close *on demand*. To dial from the U.S. you begin with 011 52 (646) plus the number.

Fishing out of Ensenada is good

and holding steady. Yellowtail are up on top at the San Miguel Reef and are showing deep in the water column for the guys fishing for lingcod and rockfish.

At San Quintin, weather has kept boats closer to home. Captain Kelly Catian turned a routine bay halibut trip into a memorable trip for Brahm Rossiter, from Lemoore, Calif., with an unusual black seabass.

Pete Gray of Let's Talk Hook-up Radio Show just returned from a trip with Jeff Marani, Cedros Tackle Kayak Tours featuring Hobie Outbacks. He can't stop talking about his trip and all the calicos he caught.

At Bahia Ascension, Shari Bondi commented that a couple of eager anglers managed to score several nice-sized yellowtail to get the season started. While farther down the coast, La Bocana reported some of the same adding a few halibut.

Below at Magdalena Bay the silence seems to sum it up.

Pesca La Baja, a tournament series of five events promoted by SEPESCBC for the third year, shattered attendance records with 138 participants. The first event in San Felipe was the startup of the International Championship "Fishing Baja."



LEFT: Brahm Rossiter with a black seabass. RIGHT: Pete Gray with a sheephead he caught on Cedros

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There were many qualifying fish weighed in. The largest was a record for the event – a 147.6-pound black seabass brought to the scales by angler, Ricardo Elizondo.

The next event will be held in Gonzaga Bay on June 10 -11, followed by Bahia de Los Angeles, July 15-16, San Quintin, August 19-20 with the finale held in Ensenada, September 23-24.

Gonzaga Bay is kicking out some excellent grouper and cabrilla catches . . . just in time for Pesca la Baja June 10 -11.

This month several dorado tournaments are scheduled. Mulege kicks the season off on June 1, 2016 with two days of fishing from then to June 4 with awards June 5. Later in the month is the Punta Chivato 20th Annual “Bulls Only” Dorado Tournament, June 24, 25, and 26. Wrapping up the month will be the Villa del Palmar at the Islands -- Loreto's First Annual Dorado Fishing Tournament -- a chance to compete for a \$5,000 prize. From June 29 through July 2, registrants will tee off at the new Rees/Jones-designed Danzante Bay Golf Course for an inaugural golf tournament on Thursday, June 30, followed by two days of fishing.

Luis, Gali and Juve (right) hold up some nice Carmen Island yellowtail on the way to the fillet table. Live mackerel are in good supply! Good news because that's the only thing that has consistently been catching the yellows!

Loreto fishing hasn't met expectations on a consistent basis. Yellowtail and cabrilla continue to provide some happy moments as locals and visitors alike await the arrival of dorado.

Mike and Captain Juan were supposed to be fly-fishing but decided to troll instead and they caught this wahoo everyone

estimates weighed 80 pounds! With a lack of sardina and cooler water, the catch at La Paz and Las Arenas has been hit-or-miss for most. Still there were some yellows mixed with a few smallish dorado, better grade of roosterfish and of course wahoo.

East Cape offers a sprinkling of larger dorado (20-pound) and tuna down south added to the revitalized striped marlin bite. Roosters are also on the rampage all along the beaches with some good-sized jack crevalle taken along the shore. The consistent wahoo bite continues its remarkable run for any anglers willing to put in the time.

While billfish dominate the offshore San Jose del Cabo scene, the arrival of larger dorado stole the thunder. Yellowfin tuna, usually a mainstay, are being overshadowed by wahoo.

The most exciting Los Cabos fishing news is the number of huge roosters being caught and released like this one by Mike Little. The hotels over his shoulder confirm how close to shore these giants are. Also after several sketchy months the billfishing finally seems to be settling in with multiple releases for some of the fleet not uncommon.

Our friend “Renegade Mike” shared some stills (see photos right bottom) from his latest toy -- a “Water Wolf” camera on the Dredge. The school of jacks came and went along with the large billfish in the second photo without their knowledge. “These Water wolf cameras are amazing!!! They let you see things that you might have missed while fishing.” www.waterwolfhd.com/en/

Good Luck and Tight Lines...

Questions or comments are welcome.
garyg@garycgraham.com



1: A 147.6-pound black seabass caught by Ricardo Elizondo. 2: Carmen Island yellowtail. 3: Mike Little with a roosterfish 4: Still from Renegade Mike's Water Wolf 7



Baja by Scooter

By Geoff McCloud

It all started with a phone call from Steve Baily. Steve is part owner and operations manager of Vespa Motorsports on Pacific Highway in San Diego, one of the largest scooter dealerships in the U.S. Steve was calling to invite me on a Baja scooter adventure that would eventually end in Guadalajara. We would meet up with another group of scooterists in La Paz for the ferry trek to Mazatlan. This brief article will focus on the Mexico 1 portion of that adventure.

Glen Baily (Steve's dad), Victor Voris (who rode his scooter down from Seattle), Randy Campbell (owner of Vespa Dallas), Dan Mills, and I became the "Wild Hogs." So named after the movie of the same name. We departed San Diego on April 23rd, all on Vespa scooters. We carried extra fuel containers, tires and wheels, spare engine parts, first aid kits, and cell phones with Mexico coverage. After a brief stop at Mexican immigration, we found our way to the pay road and the

adventure had begun.

We made our first fuel stop in the south end of Ensenada. This gave me my first opportunity to share some cheer and good will in the form of foam clown noses. We had our two young lady Pemex attendants giggling and laughing in no time. On that note, Glen is a real beard Santa during the holidays and joined in the spirit by passing out "fun meter" badges to those he felt worthy. We so enjoyed making others smile.

Once we were south of Ensenada, we got down to some serious scootering. We were all pretty accomplished riders and felt comfortable flying along between 65-70 mph. Road conditions were excellent and the Baja scenery, as always, spectacular. Dan Mills was our official videographer. An amazing rider, Dan could video going around a curve, at near full throttle, with his cell phone camera humming. Mexico 1 took us through all the little towns leading into San Quintín where we stopped for fuel and some delicious street fish tacos.

As we headed south out of San Quintín, my heart rate picked up a bit, as we were heading into, what is in my opinion, the Baja heartland. We rode down into El Rosario where we filled our extra fuel cans in anticipation of the long haul into Jesus Maria. The mountain roads south of El Rosario are the best for any two-wheeled vehicle. The "twistees," as we call them, allow the rider to lean to the left and right as we go through all those turns and curves.

We stopped for the day in Cataviña. Hotel accommodations were very nice with a swimming pool, margaritas, cold beer, and sodas. It also gave us an opportunity to do some maintenance on our scoots—check oil, top off fuel, tire pressure, and removal of dead bugs from our wind screens. The boojum trees remain magnificent here as the cardóns stood sentry for all the lesser plants. We had covered over 317 miles that first day...on scooters!!

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Leaving Cataviña that morning, we found cool temps and changing road conditions. Potholes and *vados* became the norm and negotiating them was actually easier on the scoots than in a four-wheel vehicle. As we passed the L.A. Bay turnoff, I knew that Punta Prieta, Rosario, and Jesus Maria were not far off and that Guerrero Negro would be our lunch stop. Mike Essary of Baja Custom Tours turned me on to the best little fish taco truck in town, Tacos El Muelle.

The long, straight, and flat highway to San Ignacio lay ahead. We stopped there to enjoy the palms, the town square, a walk through the mission, and a beer for Victor at Victor's Cafe. After topping off our fuel, we headed south to Santa Rosalía. The ride down into this old French mining town is always exciting, giving us our first glimpse of the Sea of Cortez in all its splendor and grandeur. Air temp was around 80 with water temp in the mid 70s. Glorious!! Now on to Mulegé for a night's rest. Mulegé offered quaint accommodations, good food, better drink, and soft beds. We had covered another 300-plus miles.

Leaving the Mulegé area is just the best as we followed the highway along Conception Bay with its incredible vistas. We stopped in Campo Burro to deliver a package to a neighbor of mine from San Diego that has a *palapa* there. We arrived in Loreto around lunchtime. It was on to "El Rey Del Taco"...the best taco shop in all of Baja, in my opinion.

As we departed Loreto, I felt a twinge of sadness as I consider Loreto my home away from home. I have wonderful friends there and many fond memories of clam diving in Juncalito and too many fishing stories to mention. On to La Paz!

Much of the landscape changed as we headed west across the peninsula and into the capital city of Baja Sur. It was there that we met up with our fellow riders who had flown down to San José Del Cabo. Their scooters were already there from a previous trip. The following day we rode together to the ferry landing for our journey to Mazatlán.

This was an epic ride for this somewhat seasoned Baja traveler. There were a few close calls—cross winds, tumble weeds, dust devils, and one bad truck driver—yet I always felt safe and comfortable with the group I was with. If you are the adventurous type and you enjoy two wheels under you, I suggest (and recommend) a ride down the Baja peninsula. I will never forget it.





RIVERFRONT HOUSE IN NORTHERN BAJA \$10,000 USD

Located in the quiet confines of Rancho Mil, this 1900sq.ft. 2 bed, 2 bath, 2 story, adobe brick house is the perfect getaway "casa". Just a one hour drive from the US border, Rancho Mil extends for 1 km along the tranquil waters of the Rio Hardy and is surrounded by thousands of acres of open desert. Repairs are needed, and can be completed by on site experienced labor (your chance to personalize it!). Several other homes are available at similar prices. Contact Don, 949-466-2069us, D1000@sbcglobal.net, and Rancho Mil website: www.RanchoMil.com.

VALLE DE GUADALUPE PROPERTY FOR SALE

Wine Route, La Ruta del Vino, Valle de Guadalupe location with 204 feet of frontage, great commercial potential uses. Premium wine and table grape vines. 30 large old olive trees, Fig trees, all in full production. 1300 ft brick and cement block building, all utilities available at property. 3700 sq, meters of land. Call owner for full info, at 951-609-1719

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Casa Corazón

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