



August 2013 Newsletter

BORDER CROSSING UPDATES

SAN YSIDRO – New Pedestrian Ready Lanes

A pedestrian Ready Lane is being installed at the San Ysidro border crossing for travelers who have a passport card or other RFID-enabled identification. Eight new kiosks will allow travelers to proceed to one of 15 pedestrian processing stations at San Ysidro.

In addition to the new kiosks, construction will create clear and separate lines for the various types of pedestrian travelers. As pedestrians enter the building, there will be three lines that will separate travelers (from left to right): general traffic, Ready Lane and SENTRI lane. There will be stenciling and added signage for walkways, queuing and lane identification.

The official opening of the new lanes will be in August 2013.

If you don't already have a Passport card or another RFID-enabled identification that enables you to use the Ready Lane, we highly recommend spending the \$30 for a passport card in order to cut your wait at the border.

OTAY MESA – Extra Temporary Vehicle Lanes

For every weekend until Sept 29th, Otay Mesa will have extra vehicle lanes open to relieve congestion during peak border crossing hours on Sunday evenings (between 5pm and 10pm) and holiday Mondays (Sept. 2nd for Labor Day and Sept. 16th for Mexico's independence day). On the designated days, some general traffic will be rerouted through the four additional inspection lanes, which are normally reserved for cargo.

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

PEMEX PRICES:
Magna: \$3.51/gal
Premium: \$3.68/gal
Diesel: \$3.56/gal



The Blues are Back!



The second-annual Baja Blues Fest will be taking place at the Rosarito Beach Hotel on August 23-25. Headliner John Nemeth, playing along with The Backwater Blues Band, will lead a line-up of soulful bands and our friend "Baja Joe" (aka Greg Reddick from bajasbacknow.com) will be MCing the event.

In addition to a great musical line-up, there will be booths with artists, vendors, food, beer and wine. The main event will be on Saturday the 24th with advance tickets costing \$20. There's a pre-party the evening of Friday the 23rd and a post-party Blues Jam session the afternoon of Sunday the 25th, each costing \$10. Three-day passes are available for \$35. Tickets can be bought at the door or in advance at www.bajabluesfest.org

ON OUR RADAR FOR AUGUST

AUG 2-18

Guadalupe Valley Wine Harvest Festival – Fiesta de la Vendimia

www.fiestasdelavendimia2013.com

Among the many paid events, on August 3rd from 10-6, the Museo del Vid y Vino is celebrating its 1 year anniversary with a free event. www.museodelvinobc.com



AUG 18

The 25th Annual Fish & Seafood Festival

- 12-7pm
- Rosarito Beach Hotel garden
- Fish, seafood, live music, folk dance, local singers, children's activities



AUG 18

11th Annual Beer & Taco Festival in Ensenada

- Free entry
- 1-8pm
- Plaza Civica de la Patria in Ensenada
- Tacos, beer, Mexican crafts, desserts, coffee, music and folk dance



AUG 23-25

2nd Annual Baja Blues Fest

- Rosarito Beach Hotel
- Blues bands, artists, vendors, food, beer and wine
- Bajabluesfest.org
- See our article on page 1



AUG 23-25

Desert Hawks' El Rosario en la Playa

- La Bocana in El Rosario
- \$2-\$5 entrance fee
- www.facebook.com/halconesdeldesierto.grupoderescate
- See our article on the next page



AUG 31-SEPT 1

San Felipe Ceviche Festival

- Free entry
- San Felipe malecon
- Ceviche, beer, music, folk dancing
- Cevichefest.com



If you have an upcoming event for our calendar, please email ask@discoverbaja.com

RAISING MONEY TO SAVE LIVES:

The Desert Hawks of El Rosario Fundraising Bash

In 2012, the residents of El Rosario realized the need for a local ambulance for emergency and rescue service. They were able to bring an ambulance from the U.S. and they gathered 12 volunteers to train and become the first rescue group of the community. They are called "Halcones del Desierto" (Desert Hawks).

The Desert Hawks started ambulance service in March 2013, and have answered around 30 emergencies providing rescue, stabilization, and hospital transfers covering areas from Cataviña to Colonia Vicente Guerrero. Because of the efforts and results of the group, the state government donated a second ambulance.

The group works as a non-profit organization, providing service for only the cost of fuel and medical supplies. They are hoping to raise funds to be able to provide services to everyone, regardless of ability to pay.

The Desert Hawks will be hosting their first annual fundraising event, "El Rosario en la Playa... Festival 2013: Unidos Bajo el Sol y las Estrellas (United under the Sun and Stars) on August 23-25 at La Bocana de El Rosario. They are expecting crowds of around 1000 people. A \$2 USD donation will provide access to the

beach and the following activities: volleyball and football tournaments, a fishing tournament from shore, a kayak competition, camping Saturday night, a 10 mile Off-Road race, a poker run and a variety of activities for kids such as face painting, pony rides and kite flying.

Food and beverages proceeds will benefit the event. Live music on Saturday will have an entrance fee of \$5 USD.

For more information:

www.facebook.com/halconesdeldesierto.grupoderescate



Aug. 23rd-25th
La Bocana,
El Rosario



THE RESULTS ARE IN!

Baja's New Regime

The recent July 7th elections in Mexico meant big changes for Northern Baja. Not only is the state getting a new governor, but five new mayors will also take office on Dec. 1.

THE POLITICIANS

THE PARTIES



PAN (National Action Party)
Generally considered the right-wing party.



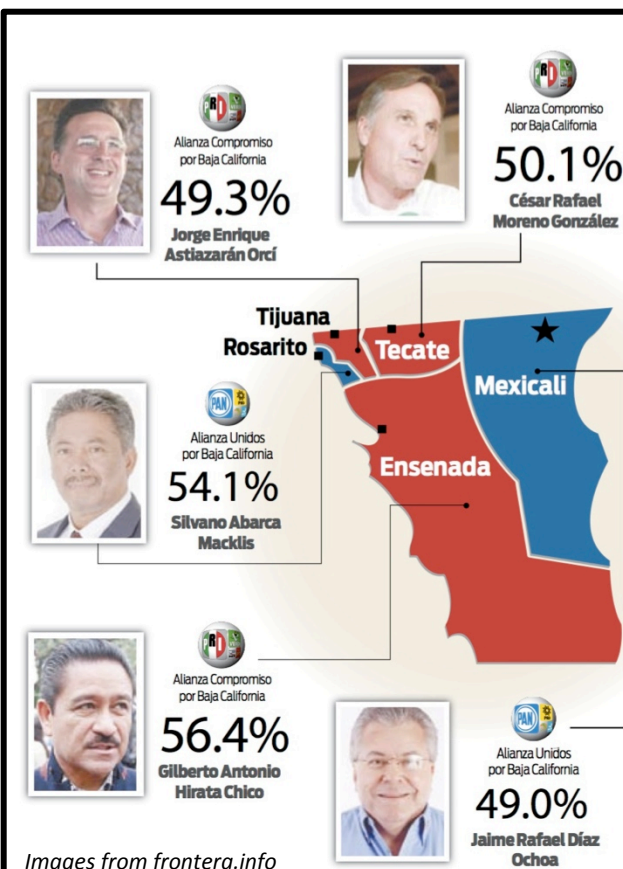
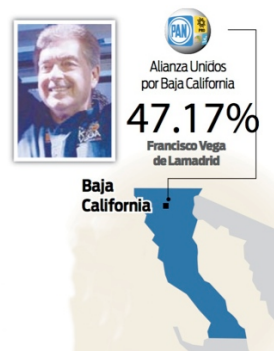
PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party)
The centrist party. Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto is from the PRI.



PRD (Party of the Democratic Revolution)
The left-of-center party.

GOVERNOR-ELECT OF BAJA CALIFORNIA NORTE: Francisco "Kiko" Vega (PAN)

Although Vega is the opposite political party of President Nieto (PRI), the election of Vega is a good thing for the Mexican government as it defuses cross-party tensions that had been building. PAN accused PRI of trying to steal the governor election, so a win for PRI would have destabilized President Nieto's "Pact for Mexico." President Nieto established the "Pact for Mexico" alliance with the opposition to help strengthen his hand in congress (where he lacks a majority) and make way for political reform.



Images from frontera.info

THE MAYOR-ELECTS

TIJUANA: Dr. Jorge Astiazarán (PRI)

One of his main efforts while in office will be improving relations with San Diego in efforts to get more U.S. citizens to visit Tijuana

ENSENADA: Gilberto Antonio Hirata Chico (PRI)

TECATE: César Rafael Moreno González (PRI)

MEXICALI: Jaime Rafael Díaz Ochoa (PAN)
A former federal senator who also previously served as mayor from 2001-2004.

ROSARITO: Silvano Abarca Macklis (PAN)

This is the second time around for Abarca, who was mayor of Rosarito from 1998-2001.

DBTC STAFF PENINSULA PICKS: BAJA BEACHES

There's nothing like the dog days of summer to make us wish we were sitting on a Baja beach sipping margaritas. Here's where we're dreaming of being right now...



"I love the beaches along Bahia Concepcion. Although not as pristine as several decades ago, Santispac, Posada, Burra, Coyote and Requeson still have beautiful white sandy beaches and warm, crystal clear waters of amazing shades of blue like Tahiti. And I'll never forget our nocturnal visit by "Rocky Raccoon," while camping at Posada Concepcion many years ago." -Hugh

"Punta Abreojos has wonderfully clean beaches and great waves if you love to surf!" -Maythé



"Rosarito has a large, lovely beach that offers so many fun activities - horseback riding, ultralight airplane rides, fishing, surfing or just relaxing. And it's so close to the border, it's easy to make it a day trip from San Diego." -Monica

"One year we were able to take part in the turtle rescue at Rancho San Cristobal Nature Reserve. Just north of there, we climbed over some rocks to get to a beautiful, secluded beach that looked like it hadn't been touched by humans for ages. It was a balmy 80-degree night, the full moon was casting its glow over everything, and we found a turtle trail. It was a truly magical place." -Carol

"The beach in San Quintin behind the Hotel Mision Santa Maria is hauntingly beautiful. It seems to stretch on forever and is usually deserted with nothing but the sand dunes and crashing waves. It's also a great place for collecting sand dollars." -Jen



GETTING PULLED OVER IN BAJA: KNOWING YOUR RIGHTS



We know that being pulled over by a police officer while driving in a foreign country can feel like a scary experience. The most important thing is to remain calm, be respectful and know your rights.

We've partnered with the Baja Secretary of Tourism to answer some of your questions about what to do if you're pulled over, and we've put together a document for you to print out and keep in your car while driving in Mexico. The printout outlines procedures for you to follow and also doubles as a document that you can show to the officer (there's a section in Spanish) to let them know that you're aware of your rights and will be

reporting any misconduct to the Board of Tourism.

-If you are stopped by a police officer for a traffic violation, you should request a written citation from the officer. Traffic citations are written in both English and Spanish and will contain instruction on how to pay the fee (you can mail your fine to Mexico from the U.S.).

-Never attempt to bribe or give money to the officer. It is both corrupt for them to ask for money and illegal for you to bribe a police officer. You can be fined and thrown in jail.

-In some cases, the officer will ask you to follow them to the police station. If you are being pulled over for a minor infraction, you

are not required to go to the police station. Ask for the written citation and you can pay it by mail from the U.S.

-If you feel like you've been fined unfairly, take note of the time, location, vehicle identification number and badge number of the officer. You can contact the State Secretary of Tourism 24/7 by dialing 078 to report the information. You may also email us at ask@discoverbaja.com with the above information and we will contact the Secretary of Tourism directly for you.

You can download and print the document at www.discoverbaja.com/pdf/Board-of-Tourism-traffic-citations.pdf



FOR SALE IN ROSARITO:

Listed at only \$85,000 USD but we accept offers; owner very motivated to sell - MAKE US AN OFFER WE CAN'T REFUSE!

This home is a perfect, affordable retirement home. It's very comfortable and it's ready to build on a second story if you wish. Hurry! Information:

<http://bit.ly/anlhrg>

619.632.4909

CASITA IN TRIPUI

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.

