

THE PHOENIX FLYING SAMARITANS

APRIL 2012

ONLY THREE MORE TRIPS

Hard to believe we are heading into the fifth month of the year. Our clinic season is 70% over. Now we need your help more than ever. We have our share of snow birds that are a big help in our clinic as providers, pilots interpreters and helpers. The snow is melting and they are headed to cooler country.

Lopez Mateos offers the San Diego weather, so the hours spent at clinic are always a nice change from our valley temperatures. Our May trip will be near perfect weather with warm days and nice nights while we stay at the Hotel Serenidad in Mulege.

For June, we are planning to go to Loreto. This time we will be staying at our old favorite, the Oasis Hotel. It is on the beach at the south end of the Malicon, room rates are just a bit more than the Serenidad

We would like to make Loreto a three day trip for anyone that is interested. We fly down on Thursday and then have all day Friday to play. Some of you have talked about our old 3 day trips to La Paz or Cabo San Lucas, but for those of us unable to take the extra day it splits up the group and makes it difficult to do the final organizing

In June the fishing is starting to heat up and the water is great for anyone wanting to dive. There is also kayaking or a trip to the old mission which is like taking a trip back in time to the little village hidden in the valley over the hill from Loreto.

July will be warmer and the pool with the swim up bar back at the Serenidad, will be a welcomed sight. Flying weather is still good and there are no problems with hurricanes.

Our Presidente, Dennis, has been keeping everyone up to date on our trip happenings with the trip report we email to each of you right after our trips. For those of you that didn't get them or didn't read them, I will include parts here.

Don Downey

January Trip Report



The trip down was good for the three airplanes and there was some additional support from a fourth. Direct to Loreto was a nice change and there was actually a tail wind.

Our compliment of Arizona providers- two dental, four medical, one pharmacy, four translators, and three helpers was supplemented by two local translators and an optical provider.

In addition, we had care providers who flew out of Mulege bringing a dentist, dental assistant and a medical doctor to our efforts. We greatly appreciate and hope for continuation of that support.

The results - I'll again steal from Alicia's blog. *"As a result this month the Flying Samaritan clinic in Lopez Mateos helped 38 general medicine patients and 11 pediatric along with 10 OB-Gyn folks. The dental staff miraculously chimed in with 17 general dentistry and 10 folks who walked away with a brighter smile from cleanings.....We also had 10 folks seen by our local eye glasses doc".* If you would like to see more of her comments use this link <http://samaritansmovil.blogspot.com> or work your way to it on our website under Alicia and Patrick's blog re El Movil.

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Loreto and the La Mision hotel were a great experience and I would say, enjoyed by all. I hear good support for two trips a year with overnights in Loreto.

DWG

February” No Trip” Report

Dennis didn't get to do a trip report for this trip. Here is how February went down.

We have a couple of issues this month. The biggest one is that the new 5 year permit on the runway at Lopez isn't ready yet. All the paper work is in and all the required pictures from both the ground and the air were submitted. But the permit won't be released until they inspect the runway and that hasn't happened yet. The cannery is nervous about us using the runway with out a legal permit and the inspector said he will be there soon. It maybe as soon as tomorrow or Saturday but before Wednesday. If they did show up to inspect the runway Sat with 6 airplanes sitting there it wouldn't look too good for the cannery and the permit could be pulled.

dd

March Trip Report

Trip down was good for the three airplanes that made the trip Friday. I went down early Saturday morning, a new experience for me. Our compliments of Arizona providers – two dental, four medical, a chiropractor, four interpreters and two helpers was supplemented by three local interpreters and an optical provider. In addition, just as in January, we had care providers from Mulege that help the Aeromedicos the second weekend and are helping us the third weekend. They flew from Mulege bringing a dentist, dental assistant and a medical doctor to our efforts. We greatly appreciate and hope for continuation of that support.

The results - I'll again steal from Alicia's blog. *“After the government closed the runway which*

caused us to cancel the February clinic we had rather light patient turnout for March clinic. But we were still able to help 123 folks throughout the day. That number breaks down to 16 general medicine folks treated as well s 10 ladies were seen by OB-Gyn and 12 children helped by our pediatric doctor. Chiropractor area was kept hopping with 43 patients seen and 10 folks left seeing a bit better thanks to our eye doc. Dental rocked taking care of 19 folks and 8 more walked away with brighter smiles.”

If you would like to see more of her comments use this link

<http://samaritansmovil.blogspot.com> or work your way to it on our website under Alicia and Patrick's blog re El Movil.

The trip back on Sunday had some weather challenges and we cleared back through Yuma instead of our more usual Nogales to avoid the worst of it. The biggest challenge was the trip from Yuma into the Phoenix area. The pilots worked together to keep it safe and made appropriate decisions based on their equipment and their level of comfort with the weather situation. As I've said before, we will always error on the side of safety.

Dennis

April Trip Report

Fellow Samaritans,

Trip down was good for the four airplanes that went down on Friday, one of which was from the Tucson chapter. I went down early Saturday morning for the second of my Saturday departures. The first propeller turned at 5:20 am. We cleared customs through Guaymas and got to clinic at 9:30 AZ time. *Pilots - If you can't leave until Saturday or are willing to help providers who can't, it's an option to consider.*

Our compliment of Arizona providers- one dental, four medical, two chiropractors, four

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translators, two pharmacy and two helpers was supplemented by two local translators and an optical provider.

As I mentioned in the membership meeting notes, Dr. Morale, our local benefactor and sponsor agreed to help us evaluate patients with needs beyond those that we can treat at the clinic. There were three cases that will be forwarded to him for evaluation.

The results - I'll again steal from Alicia's blog. *"There were five airplanes this month resulting in 170 folks treated at the Flying Samaritan clinic in Lopez Mateos. That breaks down to 34 general medicine patients and 16 OB-Gyn as well as 12 pediatric folks seen. Chiropractors chimed in with 72 while dental took care of 16 folks. Our eye doc helped 20 folks with glasses and the pharmacy was kept busy throughout the day. We had wonderful tacos prepared on the spot for lunch and very comfortable temps in the 70s for the entire clinic. WAY TO GO SAMSI!"*

The flying weather down and back was just excellent. Pilots, a word about Mexican fuel prices – I calculated the Guaymas fuel cost to be \$5.90/gallon. That's a big change from when fuel was 50 cent to a dollar cheaper there. In the past and to the extent I could stand the extra weight, I would try to tanker fuel so that I was burning more Mexican fuel than US. I'll be doing the opposite now. Next Clinic is scheduled for May 18-20.

DWG

THE FIESTA

April 14, Pam and Spencer opened their home for a Flying Samaritans "Mixer" a great chance to bring the other parts of your family to meet the people you travel to Mexico with. The invitation went through "Evite" a great invitation tracking set up, but some of our computers dump the Evite into the spam

folder. I tried to follow up on the list where it said "Not opened yet" and send you a reminder of the date and time. Dennis made good use of the group being together and we had a short meeting. Here are the high lights from that meeting that are not covered elsewhere

Special Need Patients

Gail Brown discussed an important development in the sponsoring of special needs patients for those who are seeking help beyond what can be provided at the clinic. She informed the group that the Samaritans previously brought some of these patients back to the US for treatment, but that this avenue has become severely limited because of other stresses on US hospitals. She indicated that treatment at the Mexican facilities would be a more viable option and cited the example of a very young child that was recently treated for sever colorectal problems at a facility near Mexico City. There was a small cost to our chapter to provide transportation for the mother and child. She also indicated that our local benefactor and sponsor, Dr. Morale, has agreed to screen these patients. We believe his knowledge of local options and situations will make this approach highly effective.

Clinic week (2nd or 3rd Saturday)

Pros and Cons for 2nd vs. 3rd Saturday were discussed, but those present supported the management teams recommendation to stay with the 3rd Saturday. We apologize to those inconvenienced by this choice, but factors included the availability of additional support from local providers that support Aeromedicos on the second weekend and reduced stress on Mulege facilities by having our clinic on a different weekend than the Aeromedicos . We are just now getting patients use to the 3rd weekend, so why change again.

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Constitucion will become the automatic backup and overnight when the runway is not available at Lopez Mateos. The paved runway at Constitucion and an improvement in the road between Constitucion and Lopez Mateos are factors. Having this in place may have avoided cancelling the November and February clinics. An overnight in Constitucion means we don't have to race the sunset on the shorter days.

DWG

From the Dental Coordinator



On March 29-31 Kevin James, Steve Jacob and myself had the pleasure of meeting hundreds of potential members in the Flying Samaritan booth at the Western Regional Dental Convention held in Phoenix. We distributed 400 brochures, shared our enthusiasm, and answered many questions to the curious. It was just amazing how many people said they had heard about us and wanted to know more. The attendees were very surprised and pleased to know 6 Continuing Education Credits could be earned while providing care to the needy of the Southern Baja.

Upon leaving we had acquired 94 names of dental providers from out of state and AZ and one RDH who joined on the spot and going this month! I am looking forward to contacting everyone and keeping them abreast of current Flying Samaritan events through our newsletters and trip reports.

If you are reading this, that means you will want to review your calendars and e-mail me (lauriebabe@cox.net) with the 3rd weekend of the month that you reserve for a trip. We now

have SIX dental chairs in our expanded Lopez Mateos dental room and we need YOU to fill them.

Thank you so much for doing something small for such great people.

Laurie Kramer

Dental Coordinator

A First Timer Report

Denise Johnson RDH

After watching my employer, Rick Turley DDS, travel with the Flying Samaritans year after year, I decide this was the year I was going to do it too! I had my passport, but with a large family and a daughter getting married, what I didn't have was \$350 to pay my way. So after talking to my husband we agreed that if I could raise the money, I would be able to go to Lopez Mateos this year. The week of the Super bowl I started selling my homemade salsa and in 4 days earned enough money to pay for my entire trip!! I was able to travel with the Flying Sams for the March trip. What an amazing experience! First I was very impressed by all of the pilots. They are well seasoned, by the book pilots and I would have no problem flying with any of the pilots I met on my trip. (Flying in the small planes seems to be the #1 obstacle to getting people to join the cause.) Next I was equally impressed by the people I was travelling with. These are caring, compassionate, dedicated healthcare providers, many whom have been making these trips together for years and years. I was touched by how welcoming they were to me, the new guy, as well as how engaged they were with the locals. Lastly, the purpose of our service, the clinic itself in Lopez Mateos. To be able to help these people from Southern Baja was such an honor. To see people lined up waiting, HOPING, to be seen by a care provider and to know that this clinic might be their only option for treatment was very

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humbling. I felt like I hadn't done enough at the end of the day.

Since my trip, my friends have been telling me that I'm such an amazing person for having done this. I keep telling them that I am just a person who was lucky enough to have participated in such an amazing event. Salsa production starts back up in time for Memorial Day, 4 of July & Labor Day because this was not my last trip with the Flying Sams!

Denise A. Johnson

From the Interpreter Coordinator



Remember the child that had a fever and was not feeling good, but then YOU put a smile on her face when you decided to hold her with gentle compassion and you showed interest in her regardless of her runny nose? Remember the old man who you went and sat with in the waiting area and just thought you would go sit with him for a second and then exchanged a few Spanish words that showed him that you actually cared about his well being? Remember the young woman with the amputation and you went and assisted her for the first time when she received a new leg so she can walk again? Remember the screaming child that came into the dental department with rotten teeth and you consoled him?

You made a difference in their lives... And they still need you there... They miss your communication, love and affection. And so do we!

Reina

Hello from Triage!



Hope everyone is happy and healthy and enjoying the spring weather!

We have been fortunate to welcome some new medical student members that are willing to help in triage. On the March trip, Tania Lebratti, a first-timer graciously agreed to run the triage area. She told me she had a really good time. Julie Furmick will join us this summer. Meeting all the patients and their families as they come to clinic makes Triage a fun job. Starting the document and gathering the first information helps to make the provider's job easier. Please spread the word and bring your nurse and medical assistant friends.

The sun is shining and the weather is perfect in Mexico! Now is the time to join us in Lopez Mateos. Recruit your friends! I know everyone is busy, but aren't you missing that place in your heart held for the people we serve in the Baja?

Hope to see you soon!

Beth

From the Pharmacy Coordinator:

Wow, is this year flying by! Only five more clinics to go this year (we are off Aug and Sept). We continue to need help in the Pharmacy. Dennis and Don do a great job pretending to be pharmacy personnel but it would be nice to have some real Pharmacists or Pharmacy Technicians to volunteer. Please contact me if you would like to help out during any of our clinic. It's a very rewarding, enjoyable experience.

Bob Smith

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First Timer Report.

Marcus Gottlieb DDS

I'm just decompressing on a Tuesday evening after my first trip to Baja Sur with the Flying Samaritans. It was a pretty incredible weekend spent with some wacky, wonderful characters and it was the kind of experience that restores your faith in the goodness of humanity. The flight down to Loreto with ace pilot Phil Merrill was smooth as silk. The plane was very comfortable and it was a very picturesque journey. The Baja Sur is a rugged, beautiful place and Loreto was a peaceful town on the coast of the Gulf of California. The accommodations were wonderful, the hotel was first class and I guess they were doing this to try and impress me. Well, it certainly worked. A camaraderie developed immediately with my fellow Samaritans and the good times

started to roll. Everyone was so appreciative of my being there, but I simply tried to tell people that this kind of experience was the best use I could make of my DDS degree. I truly believe that, too. You are doing good for people in need while at the same time getting to interact with a bunch of really caring folks who do not mind having a drink or two with you. I hope to do a trip again and perhaps this next time I will bring along my wife. Thanks again to everyone for being so warm and welcoming and making me feel right at home. I guess you were acting that way because you knew I would be treating a screaming 8 year old girl once I got to the clinic at Lopez Mateos, but, hey, we got the teeth out and all is well that ends well. And I even got to see some gray whales. Not too shabby. Thanks again to the Flying Sams, I will see you again.

Marcus Gottlieb

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