

THE PHOENIX FLYING SAMARITANS

ANNOUNCING JANUARY 2012

WAKE UP

Don Downey, editor



Well it looks like the clock is still ticking away and a lot of you have hit the snooze alarm. You know the old saying “you snooze you looze” This month we are headed to Loreto for our overnight stay. We haven’t been there for several years as the hotels changed and were not “user friendly” for the Flying Samaritans. Now it seems that we will be able to do a few trips there each season. Loreto is my favorite Baja town. A lot smaller than La Paz and not the tourist trap that Cabo San Lucas has become.

At times the airport at Loreto has had it’s challenges, but as we know from our last several trips into Guaymas they all have their challenges from time to time. Loreto’s management changed a few years ago and on the bulletin board at the Baja Bush pilots there hasn’t been any bad press about Loreto in recent months. We have a taxi ride to and from the airport but most every thing in town is within walking distance so we save a little there. A lot of us will fly direct from our Phoenix area departure to Loreto and returning home will be able to refuel and go directly to Nogales. That will save a take off and landing each direction so may save a little fuel and help off set the extra cost of the Hotel and taxis.

We are not abandoning Mulege, just spicing up a few of our trips as part of our wake up plan. I started flying with the Sams in 1990 and have close to 170 trips to Mexico. Some times only one night and some times three or four nights and a few time a full week. I am guessing I have spent over 100 weekends in Mulege so it is old home for me. I can remember when almost all the streets in town were dirt. There is a chain of restaurants in Baja call El Nido and there was one in Mulege just down the street from Las Casitas, it has been closed for many years but served the best beef on the Baja (there is still one In Loreto and San Felipe) The owners have their own cattle ranch so the quality control is great, and they also serve great sea food too. Mulege is where I asked Suzanne to marry me (figured a few Mexican margaritas would help).

Mulege is nice and easy with no airport to check in and out of, we know the town and the Taxi cabs and drivers that take good of us. But we want to share more of Baja and Guaymas with the new Sams and keep every one awake. So stay tuned for a report on the fun we have in Loreto. Help us rock and roll and we will be back to Loreto for a follow up later this season.

When you get to Reina’s article if you can read the first paragraph, then she wants YOU, if you can’t read it, then the rest of us want YOU.

dd

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ANNOUNCING JANUARY 2012

A Note from our President (some of you have seen this as an email just after the trip)

Dennis Gerlach.



Fellow Samaritans,

Just wanted to send a few quick one liners about last month's clinic to those who are members and those who have not yet renewed for this year. (But I'm sure your checks are in the mail).

Trip down was good for the six airplanes, but we ate some headwind.

Christmas party in Mulege for the Hotel Serenidad worker's children was a big success as usual. Hard to have it any other way when you've got Santa Claus handing out backpacks full of toys, a piñata and enthusiastic children. We thank Joe Patterson for his performance as Santa, and Bob and Linda Funk for assembling those backpacks.

The main event – the clinic. I'll steal a few of Alicia's words from her blog. "As a result of the 6 planes landing in Lopez the Flying Samaritan's clinic saw 85 chiropractic patients and 10 dental cleanings. General medicine helped 26 folks while OB-gyn saw 5 and pediatric patients accounted for 5 who were seen. We also had a plastic surgeon who helped 5 folks out. I guess that brings the total of patients seen at December clinic to 147 which is just wonderful."

If you would like to see more of her comments, I hope this link works. <http://samaritansmovil.blogspot.com> If not you can work your way to it on our website under Alicia and Patrick's blog re El Movil.

Hotel Serenidad took care of us and fed us well, along with good food from Ray's, Los Equipales and others.

The trip back had its weather challenges, mostly from Nogales north, but it worked out.

Next Clinic is scheduled for January 20-22nd. Hope to see you there!

Dennis Gerlach

President – Phoenix Chapter

Flying Samaritans Arizona

Hello Dental Volunteers,

Laurie Kramer, RDH, Dental coordinator



"Happy New Year" to all the Dental Volunteers. Do I have a New Year's gift for you. Our Flying Samaritans of Arizona has been recognized by the AZ. State Board of Dental Examiners as one of their "Charitable Organizations". This means that the time you spend working on our patients in the Baja can be added to your list of Continuing Education hours. Isn't that

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ANNOUNCING JANUARY 2012

wonderful? The maximum will be 24 in the 3 year term.

When you return from a trip, e-mail me stating your hours with patients and I will mail you a certificate. I am so hoping this will be an incentive to increase our volunteers. We are in desperate need as only a few of you have rejoined for this season. Please look at your calendars and call or email me with which 3rd weekend of the month you can join us on a trip.

I have currently sent in a letter to ASDA requesting a complimentary booth at the Western Region Dental Convention. If they approve this I will need volunteers to set up and man the booth. I am thinking positively and awaiting an affirmative answer.

Please send in your memberships and contact me for a trip.

We need you!!!

Happy New Year,

Laurie Kramer

NEXT CLINIC

JANUARY, 20,21 &22

THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

www.flyingsamaritans.com

All the dates are there

Hello from Triage!

Beth Diedrich, NP, Nurse /Triage Coordinator



Hello from triage! As we begin 2012, I would like to take a moment to thank you all for your hard work and dedication to serving the great people of Lopez Mateos. Let's make this a great year for the Flying Samaritans. Welcome our

new members and welcome back those who have been away. We need you, so please sign up for the clinics. Triage is the first contact with our patients and can greatly benefit the flow of the clinic. We need you, and please recruit your friends!

A special thanks to Karen Guthrie for purchasing the triage cart to help keep our supplies organized. Thank you all for informing me when supplies run low on the trips that I am unable to make. We do have new temporal thermometers and blood pressure cuffs, which I brought last summer. Hopefully, we can make triage both efficient and enjoyable. Any suggestions are always welcome. Hope to see you in Lopez!

Peace and happiness in 2012!

The World is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page. ~St. Augustine

THE PHOENIX FLYING SAMARITANS

ANNOUNCING JANUARY 2012

Murmurs from the Stethoscope

Gail Brown, NP. Medical coordinator



Hopefully everyone has had a wonderful holiday season! And now that the holidays are almost over, everyone is ready to sign up and volunteer. We need you!

Although this current clinic year has started out slowly, we seem to be building more momentum each month. Our first clinic in October was sorely lacking medical volunteers. We were “a lean mean fighting machine”! We (okay, me!) saw patients while our pharmacist, Bob Smith, did quite a few prescription refills. And our triage team, Karely Castiller checked blood sugars and blood pressures.

November turned into a rather interesting trip. It seems there was a little too much rain in Lopez prior to our clinic weekend, so the runway was a little too wet for us to land.

Those of us who received the news after we arrived in Mexico decided to stay in Mulege and help out the local economy. We were tourists for the weekend, something I highly recommend! As Flying Sam's, we seem to be able to make lemonade out of lemons, or probably closer to the truth, margaritas out of limes! We hired our regular taxi drivers in Mulege to take us sightseeing in Santa

Rosalia where we had a great time “touring”. This town is famous for its French influence, mainly in its architecture, and the church reportedly built by Gustave Eiffel. The bread and gelato weren't too bad either!

However, in December we really picked up the pace thanks to an increase in medical volunteers. We were able to see general medical patients, along with pediatrics and OB/gyn patients. Our pharmacist, Debbie Forrester, was kept busy too. Big thanks to Dr David Bryman and Dr Michael Dunn (and his wife Holly, an interpreter), and nurse practitioner students from Tucson, Vien Swaney-Belcher RN and Lynn Musick RN. Along with Tomas Ortega RN and Karen Guthrie RN who interpreted, assisted, triaged, and problem solved! An added bonus, Dr John Bass, a plastic surgeon from Phoenix who performed some minor procedures which the patients really appreciated. He also brought some fantastic interpreters and assistants, Bridget and Ben Bass. I must say, having three physicians who are also pilots certainly made life easier for our group in December!

A huge thank you to everyone, and a plea to have more volunteers as we head into 2012. Happy New Year!

Gail

*Knowledge can be communicated, but wisdom cannot. A man can find it, he can live it, he can be filled and sustained by it, but he cannot utter or teach it.”--Hermann Hesse,
German-Swiss writer and poet*

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ANNOUNCING JANUARY 2012

Interpreter Coordinator

Reina,



Feliz Año Nuevo
queridos amigos
Samaritanos Voladores!

Ya entramos a un año nuevo. Todos tenemos metas que queremos realizar. Porque no

tratamos en incluir un viaje (o mas claro) con los Samaritanos en su lista de metas? Su talento y bendicion de poder hablar español y traducir con nuestros pacientes en Lopez Mateos es muy agradecido. Como es el dicho mexicano... "Ay que echarle ganas!" Enpezamos el año con mas valor y gracia!

Happy New year to all my dear Flying Samaritans!

As we start in the new year, we all have goals we want to accomplish. Why not try to include a trip (or more of course) with the Flying Samaritan on your list of goals? Your talent and blessing of being able to speak Spanish and interpret to our patients in Lopez Mateos is much appreciated. We miss you and hope to see you soon! Blessings to everyone for a great year!

Reina

Pharmacy Report:

Bob Smith, Pharmacy Coordinator

Hello fellow Sam's. I started my adventures with the Flying Samaritans two years ago and last summer agreed to be the Pharmacy Coordinator. The fact that we are all very busy with our personal and professional lives makes it that much more rewarding to be able to spend a few weekends at the clinic helping out the folks in Baja Sur. It is great to see the smiles (often less a tooth or two from when they arrived in the morning) of the patients that have been served from the pharmacy. Thanks to contributions from a few closed UrgentCare facilities, we are well stocked with meds in the pharmacy but are always in need of volunteers to staff the pharmacy during the clinics. If you have any kind of pharmacy experience, speak Spanish, or can just count by fives, we would love to have you help out in the pharmacy. Please contact me if you have any questions or want to sign up for a clinic.

I want to sign off with a shout out to our pilots who give up their time, energy, and some tough hours on their aircraft to transport us comfortably and safety on clinic weekends. And we always arrive thirsty!

Bob Smith

Experience teaches you things you wish you didn't know. unknown

THE PHOENIX FLYING SAMARITANS

ANNOUNCING JANUARY 2012

Just as in the last Newsletter I get the beginning and the end. Our clinic trips will be the **THIRD** Saturday of the month. Our open board meetings are the first Monday of the month. Every one is welcome, check the web site for a map to the location in our current web sites. Check it out, look it over. There are some things that don't work, and that is because the soft ware that the site was built with, is a little out dated. We are building a new site that will let us keep a "members only" area secure and we will be able to fill out forms on the site and email them.

By the time you read this there should be a link on our web site to pictures of the December trip from Dr. John Bass and the twins. Remember to share your pictures. Send a link to an online photo sharing site or send me the file. Don Downey editor / web master

OUR NEXT CLINIC IS JANUARY 20-22 MARK IT ON YOUR CALANDER AND SAVE THAT THIRD SATURDAY FOR EACH OF THE NEXT 10 MONTHS. CHECK US OUT FEBUARY CINIC WILL BE THE 17-19 www.flyingsamaritans.com

\$end your checks to

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Don

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