

Fellow Samaritans,

This was the final trip of the season and I think all would agree we ended on a fine note. This will be a bit different than my normal clinic report because it has three parts. The first will be a recap of the trip we just completed, the second a reflection on this clinic season as a whole and finally a discussion of things to come for the next season starting in October.

### **July Clinic**

The flying weather was good for July, with only the need to skirt some easily avoidable storm activity between Hermosillo and Guaymas on the way down. Four planes on Friday were supplemented by one on Saturday. That Saturday scheduled worked for pilot and providers alike.

Our compliment of Arizona providers- three dental, a medical, four translators, a pharmacy and five helpers was supplemented by a local doctor, an orthodontist and a dental hygienist. It was a tribute to our coordinators that this cast came together so well, given the many conflicts with family vacations and other commitments

The results - I'll again steal from Alicia's blog. "Not that numbers are important, but in order to maintain our clinic permit from the Mexican government this is where we report the results of our clinic. So 15 general medicine patients were seen along with 14 OBgyn ladies on the medical front. Dental jumped in there with 20 folks walking away with brighter smiles from professional cleaning and another 25 patients were helped in general dentistry. If my math is any good that brings our patients total to 74 patients helped today by the Arizona Flying Samaritans. Add to that I am informed that the pharmacy filled 72 prescriptions throughout the day." If you would like to see more of Alicia's 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.

Hotel Serenidad did their usual fine job of taking care of us including a buffet breakfast, provided on short notice, which helped us get on our way Saturday morning. We were all happy to see the hotel really busy. That's a nice contrast to the times when were almost their only guests.

For those of you who look forward to my culinary comments, the highlight was Neli and Guillermo clinic lunch and the really excellent fish tacos complete with trimmings.

### **The Season Just Ended**

The most remarkable thing for me was the change from just driving the bus (OK, serving as a Piloto) to becoming involved in administration. I got a much closer look at the energy and creativity the coordinators, the Lopez Mateos locals and others put into making this all come together. It is truly something special to be a part of this volunteer effort that does so much for so many. A review of Alicia's blog

is a good reminder of all those who served and all those who were helped by our efforts.

We did at times get out of synch with those we were trying to help. Some were confused by the third Saturday of the month vs. the traditional second Saturday. The first clinic of the season, October, was light on medical providers though dentistry had a strong clinic. This was followed by a weather cancellation in November and a December clinic date that was really close to the holiday weekend. After the first of the calendar year, we had a few clinics well staffed with providers, but we did not have as many patients as the providers were capable of helping. We know that some patients travel a long distance and may arrive the day before to get in line. It certainly wouldn't take many times of no opportunity to see a provider to discourage them. We got our attendance back, but it took several months to hit our stride.

### **A Look Ahead**

With last season's lesson in mind, I hope we can start next season with a strong clinic in October. To get us refocused, we are planning a social event in the Phoenix area on the evening of Friday, September 21 at a location and time TBD. We hope to see members and potential members alike. Please also mark your calendars for the first clinic of the season, October 19-21. As you recall we are continuing with 'third Saturday of the month' for next season.

In addition to a good slate of providers, a successful clinic needs patients. If you are able to commit to a trip earlier rather than later, it allows time to 'get the word out' to those potential patients in more remote areas. It also takes stress off our coordinators and helps them maintain their youthful appearance.

Please check out [flyingsamaritans.com](http://flyingsamaritans.com) where you will find a new site that is easier to navigate, has a really good look, and best of all, offers you the option to join, renew and pay dues online.

I hope to see you at the September event and look forward to October when we will start the new season off with a very strong, well staffed and well attended clinic.

Dennis Gerlach  
President – Phoenix Chapter  
Flying Samaritans Arizona