

Flying Samaritans

Mother Lode Chapter

SPRING / SUMMER

2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This completes my year as President and gives me a chance to thank all of you who give so much time and talent to our cause. A very important part of our program is providing scholarships to students in San Quentin, and the death of Pat Collins not only brought many people to her memorial service, but led to an outpouring of donations to the scholarship fund of over \$4,000 in her honor. Pat's dedication to student scholarships meant we were able to give over \$8,000 to students last year. More donations continue to pour in, and we now have over \$10,000 in the fund. Currently, we have exhausted our supply of scholarship applications. They will be collected at the July clinic and given to Imelda Priest and Jorge Chavero to select the recipients, then the awards will be given in August. Dawn Morley developed the E-Z Giving program which has enrolled many people for monthly donations. She also organized our members to help at The Chocolate Affair last February, and we will receive a check for over \$2,000 from the Soroptimists of Cameron Park this June.



Al Rabe helped organize the Eastern Sacramento Rotary Club to remodel our clinic in San Quentin – they installed new wiring, fluorescent lighting and much needed fans for the hot weather. I believe Rotary International provided the funds for the materials. Mike

Deal established a web site for our chapter after much confusion with the IBOD site. We have yet to collect funds from IBOD for two members who joined and paid their dues to them. You may now visit our site at www.flyingsamaritans.us. We purchased an auto refractor to measure visual defects, and now can assemble lenses and frames for vision correction. At our last clinic, eight patients received corrective glasses and

six more await lenses for their unusual defects. On July 1, Fred Martinez becomes the new president and Pam Polk becomes the vice-president. All of us will give our best to them as we continue to serve the people of San Quintin.

Gracias, Sr. Bilito



INCOMING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Mission continues. The good works that have been accomplished by those that came before us continues. The volunteers that provide the services at Clinica Alma Luminosa continue to come in spite of personal ever-increasing costs. Aviation fuel is at an all time high with no end in sight. Yet our pilots continue to fly. We must redouble our efforts to maintain the same level of service that has been provided in the past.

For that reason I ask all of you to help us grow our operating funds, by urging your friends and neighbors to join the Flying Samaritans, in this mission to provide preventive healthcare and scholarship funds to the impoverished community in San Quintin.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and myself I extend our thanks to Bill McDavid our president for the past year. Under his guidance our chapter has fulfilled its mission.

As Flying Samaritan MotherLode president for the coming year I ask for your continued support and suggestions to help us succeed.

Sincerely,

~ **FRED MARTINEZ**



MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Minutes are available on the website <http://www.flyingsamaritans.us>

P.O. Box 686 Fair Oaks, Ca 95628-0686
<http://www.flyingsamaritans.us>

MARCH CLINIC REPORT — Bill McDavid, MD

Another great clinic. Joel flew Heidi, John, Susana Gonzales, April Mraz. Gaisford flew Watson, Fallo, and Martinez. I flew Joanne Shope, Helen LeVasseur, and Cathy Capaldi. Nice flight down.

Thorough inspection at Ensenada checking for out of date meds-none found. Upon arrival at clinic, four soldiers in a Hum Vee inspected papers of pilots determining their point of departure etc.

Al Rabe has included a list of good things that Carroll and Chris Dudley and Lou and Becky Donhost have done to the clinic.

Saw 125 medical patients and see Al's note on the dental clinic. Thanks to Joe Zachwieza and Hanna along with Alice Kidd for their help. We departed Sunday for Laguna San Ignacio and had a great time whale watching. That afternoon we flew to Serenedad, had a few drinks and most of the group walked to town.

We departed Monday A.M. for the long flight back home.

~ Sr Bilito

MARCH CLINIC REPORT — Al Rabe

A very busy dental clinic. We saw over 30 patients at clinic (I think maybe 34), the first 25 patients were all treated surgically (extractions). Patients ranging in age from 4 to 65. Again, we are seeing a large number of children with rampant decay on their primary (baby) teeth; related mainly to diet, too much sugar and poor hygiene. Last patient of the day was very happy, we were able to restore an upper front tooth which supported her partial denture and to get the color to closely match as well.

Many thanks to the Rotarians, who installed new cabinets in the dental clinic, finished rewiring the medical clinic and assisted in operating the dental clinic. Extra kudos to Becky Donhost, RN, who learned to administer local anesthetic to the dental patients (effectively too!) thus allowing us to see more patients. Patti Rabe (my better half) acted as dental assistant.

More on the Rotarians in another email.

~ Al Rabe

APRIL CLINIC REPORT — Bill McDavid, MD

Joel flew his son John, Fred Martinez, Ilya Khamishon internist, Dawn Morley and her sister Kara Morley-Smolek pediatrician. I flew Bob Haining physiatrist, Pam Polk, and Debbie Marino. Beautiful flight down and back. At Ensenada, you must now fill out a customs declaration including listing your US passport number but fortunately no charge at this time. Verlin and Sterling drove down along with Angie. They changed the oil and filters on all of the vehicles plus repaired the sliding door on the red van. Verlin requests that we close the door gently to prevent damage to it. Brad (aka Big Boy) and Paul drove down and served us a cold cervesa upon landing. Joe Zackiewja and daughter Hannah arrived around midnight Friday.

Joel and John attached the otoscope and ophthalmoscope equipment to each of the cubicles which makes it look like a doctor's office. We saw 88 patients keeping Ilya and Kara busy. Fred and Joe performed 12 eye exams, dispensed 9 pairs of read glasses and one prescription.

The Tucson dentists examined and treated so many patients on Friday that they had to borrow our supply of bupivacaine 0.5% and promised to replace it next clinic. Saturday evening a van full of amputees arrived from Ensenada and Haining, Brad, Paul and Pam Polk made casts for prosthesis and plan to return to Ensenada later to apply them. After clinic Saturday, Lupe baked a tres leleche cake for Hannah's 16th birthday and most of us had trouble eating dinner after eating that cake. Sunday A.M. a Cessna 182 R.G. flown by one of the Tucson pilots was departing and veered to the right hit a pile of dirt. No one was injured, but Joel said it sustained major damage including loss of part of the wing. Haining took pictures which we will share with all of you later.

Fuel is now \$4.79 per gallon at Placerville.

~ **Sr Bilito**

MOTHER LODE CHAPTER CALENDAR

Board meetings start at 7:00 p.m. at Sacramento Executive Airport
6151 Freeport Blvd.. Sacramento, CA
Meetings are open to everyone

2008	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Board Meetings	8	5	4	7	13	10	8	5	9	7	4	9
Clinic in San Quintin	12	9	8	12	17	14	12	9	13	11	8	13

I have been back from my weekend for 3 weeks and I am still processing the experience and trying to figure out how to put my thoughts down into a paragraph. Let me introduce myself first. My name is Kara Morley-Smolek and I am a pediatrician. I currently live in Michigan, but my roots are in California and my connection to Flying Samaritans is my sister, Dawn Morley. I had never done anything like this before and was, quite frankly, rather nervous. What would it be like flying in a small plane? What is rural Mexico like? And biggest question of all, would I make a difference in a child's life? So, I will share with you the answers to my questions.

Joel was our pilot and I felt completely comfortable with his ability. It was a cozy trip, and rather long, but the views were amazing. And as for rural Mexico, it was an eye-opener. Rugged and beautiful, but the degree of poverty was at a different level than I usually see. And I was continually amazed at the places we went to eat. Many were a ways down a pot-hole-studded dirt road, but always nice and clean. And the final questions, did I make a difference?

I think so or at least I hope so. I was impressed by the clinic and how well stocked it is with medicines and supplies. I think the ability to screen vision and give away glasses is a wonderful service and can really improve someone's quality of life. It was a busy day and I lost count of how many patients I saw. I saw mostly children and the variety wasn't that different than what I see in my own clinic. Some of the 'worried well', an ear infection, some asthma, a possible bladder infection, lots of rashes, and one girl who I am pretty sure has a seizure disorder. Many times I couldn't practice medicine in the same fashion as I would in the states, but I adjusted my expectations to what was available. But I did give out some antibiotics (when appropriate), several inhalers and lots of vitamins.

So, overall for me, it was a successful weekend. I enjoyed myself, and really enjoyed meeting the others on the trip. Everyone was very friendly and welcoming and appreciative of my help. Although I feel like I am the one who should be grateful to have had such an opportunity.

Thank you.

~ Kara Morley-Smolek

Joel flew Heidi, Eric Thomson, Ginny Gillotte & Bruce Hultgren. I flew Debbie Marino, Gwen Douglass & Mariana Locke. Turbulent ride down, but we made it. Arrived in Stockton to pick up Debbie & Gwen and had great difficulty extracting them from all of the young bucks back from Iraq; the girls have never seen such a display of “eye candy.” We all thanked the troops for what they are doing for our country. Arrived in San Quintin with the temp at 68 degrees. There is a new form to fill out from the Mexican FAA, given to us by Valentine’ basic info as to where we are based, etc.

The Tijuana School of Medicine visited the area with 60 students & 10 professors, holding clinic in the enclosed village where we were to have a new clinic built. We thought our clinic numbers would be really low, but we saw 90 patients. Joe Zachwieja (Hannah did not drive down with him) examined 19 patients & dispensed three sets of prescription glasses and six pairs of reading glasses. Mariana saw a 10-year-old girl who was normal until age three when seizure activity commenced, without fever or trauma. The seizures have never been controlled with meds. She was seen by a neurologist in Ensenada four years ago, who ordered an MRI. He told the mother that her daughter did not have an adequate amount of cerebrospinal fluid and would probably die having a seizure. Multiple meds have been tried without any success in reducing the seizure activity. I have the MRI and will show it to one of our radiologists for an opinion. I’m doing this at Marianna’s request, trying to give the mother some hope that we are attempting to help.

Bill Hunt showed us pictures on his laptop of the aircraft crash last month; the quality of the pictures was awesome. The Rodriguez family has requested \$300,000 from the insurance company for damage to the hot house which was struck by the plane; some of our members thought the damage could be “fixed” for \$3,000.

Saturday was Heidi’s birthday, so Joel asked Lupe to bake her a “tres leche” cake . . . delicioso! Heidi & Joel came down to the bar with Heidi looking like a movie star, and Joel shaved & cleaned up nicely. We then went to Jardines for a fine meal; back to La Pinta by 9:30 p.m. The Prossers had a DO NOT DISTURB sign on their door that night.

We returned home safely this evening

~ *Sr Bilito*

Joel flew Heidi, Eric and Spencer Thomson, and Colleen McEvoy. I flew Fred Martinez, Debbie Marino, and Lisa Ashley. 20-30 knot headwinds going down and 10 knot headwinds coming home. Joe Zachwieja brought Judy Barron R.N. (school nurse).

More hot houses being erected, now east of our clinic site. Also, one of the hangers is being finished off as an office with rest rooms for the pilots and passengers upon arrival(why?).

Saturday mornings we usually go to the Wet Buzzard for burritos, but were surprised to find it is now closed permanently and is being remodeled to become an area to shuck oysters for packaging. A real loss.

Clinic was very busy with a new patient helping translate, Elizabeth Rodriguez. She worked exclusively with Lisa and was very helpful. Lisa has promised to write an article about her first visit to clinic. Colleen kept busy seeing large families with the usual variety of problems. Debbie taught Guillermo how to check urinalysis, measure blood glucose levels and dress wounds. It was necessary for her to teach him as she had too many things to do by herself.

The eye clinic continues to expand. Joe and Fred performed 26 eye exams, dispensed eight prescriptions, and have six others which need unusual lenses which Fred will order. They also gave out seven reading glasses.

The three medic saw 103 patients and were tired by five o'clock. We talked Juan into giving us a free pitcher of margarites (a first and Debbie and I toasted him). Off to Jardines for an excellent dinner and dancing. Tucson group held a special clinic just for women, but had absolutely zero patients show up???? They all accompanied us to Jardines for a good time. We all enjoyed Spencer who is the son of Eric Thomson. Joel let him fly the plane and he told us all that first you must take the plane off before you can fly it. He is a delight to be around.

We returned home Sunday to celebrate Fathers' Day.

~ Sr Bilito

JUNE CLINIC REPORT — Al Rabe

A very busy dental clinic. We saw over 30 patients at clinic (I think maybe 34), the first 25 patients were all treated surgically (extractions). Patients ranging in age from 4 to 65. Again, we are seeing a large number of children with rampant decay on their primary (baby) teeth; related mainly to diet, too much sugar and poor hygiene. Last patient of the day was very happy, we were able to restore an upper front tooth which supported her partial denture and to get the color to closely match as well.

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More on the Rotarians in another email.

~ Al Rabe



"BIENVENIDOS" — WELCOME NEW MEMBERS —

PHYLLIS ALLEN
LISA ASHLEY
CINDY ASHMEAD
LANI CHANG
CAROL DEVINE
VIRGINIA GILLOTTE
CAMERON HARRELL
MYLA HARRELL
ILYA KHAMISHON
ALICE KIDD
EVA MILLER
KARA MORLEY-SMOLEK
SPENCER THOMSON
HOLLY CASSELL
PAIGE JEFFS
DENNIS KOCHER
KATHRYN MENCHACA
SAMUEL MENCHACA

The trip to san quentin was long but fun. When we got to Ensanada I met all the clinic workers for the first time. They were all nice. Some were pretty funny and crazy (Bill McDavid). We finally made it to san Quentin. We went to the bar, popped open a Fresca and ate all the guacamole you can possibly have. We then went out to dinner at this really good place. We had this delicious garlic shrimp and fresh avocados. We then went back to the hotel and went to sleep.

We woke up early and drove to the Wet Buzzard for breakfast. We drove there to find out it was closed forever. We went back to the hotel and had a good breakfast. Then we took a ride over to the clinic. I was amazed at how many people were there. It was very fun helping every one. We brought foam footballs for the kids. I was able to play football with the kids. It was fun being able to communicate with the kids, even though I only speak a little bit of Spanish.

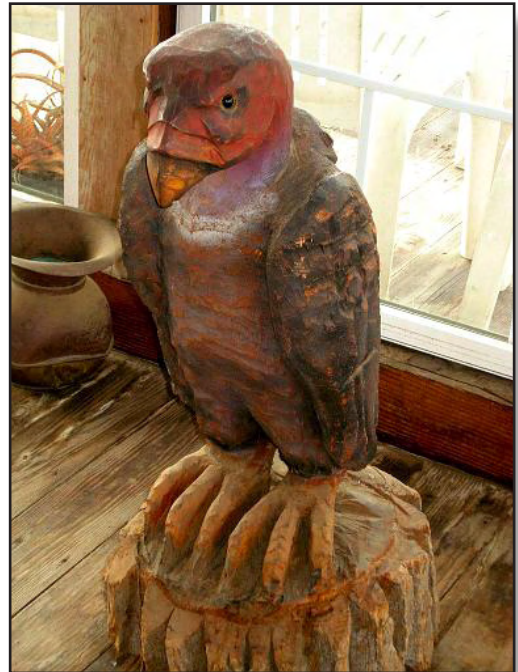
We then went to town to get lunch for everybody. We stopped at a liquor store and bought two big blue bottles of tequila and one bottle of tequila with a worm in it. There was also a life size blue tequila bottle in the store that was taller than my dad Eric. Then we went and picked up some awesome fish tacos at a taco stand. We returned to the clinic and everybody dove into the tacos . After the clinic was over we headed back to the hotel and went for a walk on the beach.

Then we went to the bar and met up with the Arizona group where you could tell there was competition in the air. Then Bill persuaded the whole Arizona group to go to jardins for dinner. We made our way there in three vans. We ordered the biggest garlic shrimp I have ever seen in my life! Then we danced the night away in the bar. We got back to the hotel and passed out. Some of the Arizona group and some of our group members allegedly partied on the beach until the early hours of the next day.

The next day we woke up and met everybody at breakfast. I had some very good huevos rancheros. We all said our good bye and farewells. Than we all packed up and departed from the hotel. We all piled in the plane and took off. That was the last time I saw san Quentin. It was a great trip.

Thanks for a great trip everybody and remember you need to take off before you can fly.

~ Spencer Thomson Age 12



FLYING ANGELS

Platinum (\$2,000 or more)

Ben O'Brien*
Freda B. Runyon Foundation
Delta Dental

Gold (\$1,000 - \$1,999)

Soroptimist Int'l North Sacramento**
Rotary Club of East Sacramento

Bronze (\$240-\$499)

Dawn Morley & Jorge Chavero*
Heidi & Joel Prosser*
Tim & Vickie Deal*
Roke & Cindy Whitson*
Soroptimist Int'l Lake Tahoe
Michael & Maureen McKibban**
Garrick & Julielani Chang
Bob Watson*
Bruce Forrest*
Charles Jones*
Melinda Head*

Friends of the Flying Angels (<\$240)

Glenn Lane*
Leopold Nunez*
Marshall Graves*
Pauline Chavey*
Susana Gonzalez*
Kent Palmerton
Nancy Garton
Barbara Moberly
Reesa Nelson*
Judith Peck*
Gary & Suzanne Lundsford
Michael Considine
Pauline & Richard Roccucci

* ***EZ Giving Program participant, annual estimate based on the monthly amount.***
** ***Scholarship Fund Contribution***

NOTE

A copy of this newsletter can be found on the Flying Samaritans website:
<http://www.flyingsamaritans.us/>

Send articles, photos and trip reports for the newsletter to:
newsletter@flyingsamaritans.us - ed

“WHAT YOUR DONATIONS BUY”

ANALYSIS OF ONE PAP SMEAR TEST — **\$ 15.00**
 CHEST X-RAY AT A SAN QUINTIN LABORATORY — **\$ 15.00**
 BLOOD ANALYSIS AT A SAN QUINTIN LABORATORY — **\$ 14.00**
 EYE GLASSES — **\$ 10.00**
 ONE PRESCRIPTION OF ANTIBIOTICS — **\$ 9.00**
 INFANT VITAMIN DROPS — **\$ 8.00**
 PREGNANCY TEST — **\$ 3.25**



CONTACT INFORMATION

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International Representative	Mike	Gaisford	mbgaisford@sbcglobal.net
International Representative	Bruce	Forrest	none

Baja Beauties

For a donation of \$10, you can enjoy these beautiful greeting cards for yourself or give as a gift to others. Each of the six cards represents an aspect of the Flying Samaritan experience as interpreted by artist and Flying Samaritan, Darlene Knowles. All proceeds benefit the work of the Mother Lode Chapter of the Flying Samaritans. To order go online to www.flyingsamaritans.org and click Mother Lode Chapter and then on the Help Us Help button. We appreciate your support!



Peace from the Storm



Childtime



Baja Sunset



Fish Tacos... Yum!



La Pinta Afternoon



Fog Lifting from False Bay