

Flying Samaritans

Mother Lode Chapter

WINTER

2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is with great pleasure that I announce the recipient of the Flying Samaritans of the year Award Joseph Zachwieja. Joseph for the past years has attended every clinic at San Quintin by driving the distance from San Diego to San Quintin in the best and worst of fog conditions. He has recruited several nurses from his place of work, for which his employer Pfizer has donated \$ 500.00 each to the Flying Samaritans. Joseph represents the dedication to our cause that so many of you have demonstrated. To all of you to many to cite by name, thank you for the service and dedication that you have provided. We can now look forward to the challenges that await us in 2009

Operating Expenses

Our funds are at a new low. We need to get creative and explore new ways to obtain money so that our health services and our scholarship awards can continue. As one approach to obtaining more monies, we are recruiting a Grant Research Administrator to identify grant opportunities and submit grant applications. Even though this position provides zero pay, there are still great rewards -- the gratitude of our patients who depend on us for basic healthcare, and the gratitude of those students to whom we offer the opportunity, through education, of a more productive life.

Newsletter Editor

We are seeking a Newsletter Editor to work in collaboration with our Network Administrator. This position requires obtaining feedback from our membership and readers to establish regular features that are appealing to both members and non-members. Our newsletter is a valuable tool as an information source for our membership and as a device to perk the interest of others to join/contribute to our organization. The Editor will also need to resume acknowledging our sponsors so that they feel recognized and encouraged to keep supporting us.

Pilot Participation

In May 2009 the FAA will require that all aircraft install an "Emergency Locator Transmitter". The cost of purchase and installation is estimated at \$1500-\$2000. This expense, especially in what may be an unusually long and tough recession, could result in fewer Flying Samaritan pilots being able to afford flying for us. The impact of this is yet to be known..

Annual Gathering

This year, we failed to meet the minimum attendance requirements for our Christmas Dinner and had to cancel that event. Several individuals have suggested a summer picnic instead of the Christmas Dinner. If you like this idea, let us know – or, if you have another suggestion, please speak up.

Now that you know the challenges that lie before us, you may contact any of the Mother Lode Board of Directors to volunteer your time and talent to the above needs. The email addresses are available on this website

We, the Motherlode Chapter Board of Directors look forward to working with you to address the above challenges..

~ FRED MARTINEZ



My First Trip to San Quintin

The October clinic was my first trip to San Quintin. I didn't really have too many expectations because I had never been on a trip like this before. I have to admit I was a little apprehensive only because I didn't know a soul that was going on this trip. Any fears I had were quickly relieved as I met and got to know some of the friendliest and caring people. My Friday morning started a little on the stressful side. First of all, I had picked up a few gifts for the kids at the clinic and I was attempting to pack them into my backpack and still appear to be packed light as instructed. Since I had never met anyone, I didn't want to show up with all this stuff and get all these looks like, "Who is this and what is she bringing!" It was a challenge, but I think I managed pretty well. Secondly, I was assigned to fly with Joel Prosser out of Sac Executive Airport. I had never been there before and since I was driving from Pollock Pines, I wanted to allow plenty of time to contend with any traffic I may encounter.

As I pulled into Placerville (about a half hour into my trip) in a panic I realized that I forgot my check for the pilot! I drove (very safely of course) back home to retrieve my contribution for the fuel. Now I was all worried about traffic and being late and holding everyone up...all these people I had never met before. Anyway, I had absolutely nothing to fear. There was thankfully minimal traffic, I showed up on time, and everyone was so relaxed and extremely nice.



The flight down was for the most part smooth. The other passengers were Mariana, Lisa, and Joel's wife Heidi (they are the cutest couple ever!) Joel was very gracious to answer all my questions about flying and about his plane, even when I asked the same questions more than once. However, I would recommend to future flyers that if you are sitting in the front seat of Joel's plane that you bring a few extra napkins. It can get quite messy up there with the snacks and all. Joel is a wonderful pilot and he landed his plane with great finesse on the dirt airstrip in San Quintin.

There we were greeted by more friendly Flying Sams (Watson) and busy Sams preparing the clinic for the following day. I was shown around and prepped on what I would be doing the next day (Thank you, Debbie!) We then went back to the hotel to secure our rooms. Lisa and I shared a very nice room that faced the ocean. Sr. Bilito secured two pitchers of margaritas for later and said to meet back at the patio around 5:00. Lisa and I put our stuff away and took a walk on the beach. We returned to the patio at 4:45 to find one empty pitcher. (You've got to watch those guys!) We had fun talking and then went out to a delicious dinner. At the restaurant, Sr. Bilito had introduced me to one of the waiters whom they had fitted with a carbon fiber leg/foot brace on a previous trip. It was great to see him getting around comfortably and working within his community.

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. . . . OCTOBER CLINIC REPORT — Cindy Ashmead

The day of the clinic flew by as we saw about 40 families. We managed quite well (even though we had to share some of our Samaritans with the Arizona Dental Clinic Sams—thank you Mariana and Gwen!) Chronic disorders such as diabetes and hypertension were evaluated and treated as necessary. Glasses were prepared for those who needed them, including many of the students from the previous day's school vision screening (Yeah Fred!). Pain medication, antibiotics, inhalers, eucerin cream, and lots of vitamins were dispensed as needed.

I was first assigned to vital signs but quickly moved on to prenatal ultrasounds, ECGs, and giving injections. I helped wherever I was needed throughout the day. It was rewarding to see how many people were helped and how grateful they were. The community residents were all friendly and patient with my limited Spanish. Thank goodness for all the translators and their patience as well! I learned a lot and am encouraged to practice up on my Spanish (as well as learn more about ultrasounds) for my next trip. We went out to another wonderful dinner, this time at Jardins.

Sunday morning was calm and beautiful. Lisa and I took an early morning stroll on the beach before breakfast and heading out to the airstrip. I flew with Sr. Bilito to Brown Field and then back to Sac Exec with Joel. Thanks so much, guys! The flight home was a little slower due to a headwind, but very smooth. I had a great time getting to know everyone and am looking forward to my next trip.

Muchas gracias para la experiencia divertida!!

~ **Cindy Ashmead**



MOTHER LODE CHAPTER CALENDAR ~ 2009

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

2009	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Board Meetings	6	10	10	14	12	9	7	4	8	6	10	8
Clinic in San Quintin	10	14	14	18	16	13	11	8	12	10	14	12

OCTOBER CLINIC REPORT — Vision Team

The Vision Team for the school screening consisted of Maureen Mckibben, Fred Martinez and Alfred Alvarez Carillo our local representative. We arrived bright and early Friday morning at a primary school in the Poblado Santa Maria.

There was a warm welcome and then we were shown our work area where we immediately set up our screening charts, measured out the distances and opened for business. The students were brought to us chain gang style, in order of listing, twenty at a time.

We quickly realized thanks to Maureen's experience that the youngest of the students needed to be checked on the ten-foot distance symbol chart. Refer to photo.

Out of 140 student at the school we screened 138 and 30 were selected for further screening at the clinic on Saturday. Out of the 30 selected 22 came to the clinic and were tested on the autorefractor operated by our newest Vision Team member Hannah Stull, Joseph Zachwieja's daughter. Joseph was mounting the lenses in the frames and Fred was attending to the non-school vision tests using the wall charts.



The total number of vision patients screened was 65. This includes the 22 from the school. Of the 22 from the school 9 could not be supplied with glasses at the school. Fred will order and assemble those frames and lenses to be delivered to the school principal on the November visit by Alfred.

The consensus of the Vision Team group is that the school visit was a success and we will be planning for future school visits.

~ Submitted by the Vision Team

MEETING MINUTES

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

Fred Martinez, Debbie Marino, Maureen McKibban and I flew down to clinic on Thursday-nice tail winds. Friday, Fred, Maureen, and Alfredo visited a local school and did eye screening exams on 145 children, of which 29 needed further evaluation. On Saturday, 22 showed up at clinic for glasses. Fred will give a separate report. On Friday, Debbie cleaned most of the day as there was dust everywhere. That afternoon, Joel arrived with Heidi, Lisa Ashley, Cindy Ashmead, and Marianne Locke. Mike Gaisford arrived with Bob Watson, Gwen Douglas, and Gail Beasley. They enjoyed 30 knot tailwinds.

Joe Zachwieja and Hannah arrived Friday night. On Saturday, Hannah was trained in use of the auto refractor adding another person to the optical department. On Saturday, the wind was probably 30 MPH with dust swirling everywhere. Hopefully only a small amount entered the clinic after Debbie's hard work.

The Tucson group was left without a medic and translator as hurricane Norbert interfered with the second group of planes bringing the them. Bill Hunt recruited Marianne Locke and daughter Gwen to help them promising a dentist to us in the future. They saw 20 medical patients. We saw 89 patients plus a large number having eye exams. Flor received the polyvalent pneumococcal vaccine as recommended by Dr. Teitel plus given 100 chewable amoxicillin tabs to be taken once daily and also pediatric vitamins. She will receive a dental exam next month. I had a long talk with her mother explaining the prohibitive costs for Flor's treatment, but I assured her we will continue to try and find a way to treat her.

We arrived home safely Sunday evening enduring 20 knot headwinds most of the way home.

~ *Sr Bilito*



Nice flight down. Steve Gorman flew Paige Jiffs, Bill Volz, and Pam Fallo. Mike Gaisford flew Debbie Marino, Bruce Hultgren, and Ruth Somera. I flew Joanne Shope, Pam Polk and Bob Haining. Joe Zachwieja and Hannah drove down. Patti wrecked her van so Alfredo picked her and brought her to clinic. She has a new job but expects to continue to help us.

Paige Jeffs had a busy clinic and had Mike Gaisford cleaning and suctioning, Pam Polk doing the blocks and Ruth Somera translating. They saw 31 patients including two cleanings and five fillings along with the multiple extractions. He examined Flor and she had five cavities-unfortunately he had to extract one of her molars. Ruth explained to the mother the importance of no soft drink etc.



Our medical clinic only saw 69 patients, possibly because a new gate keeper would not allow the patients to enter the compound-Patti finally advised him to allow entrance for our patients. Also the Tijuana School of Medicine delivered two bus loads of students to the Vergel area so we competed for patients. Haining continued to whittle on the dead tissue on one of his diabetic patients and then make a casting for an amputee-what a guy.

Bruce Hultgren, Joe Zachwieja and Hannah performed eye exams and fitted a couple of people with new glasses. Ceilito Lindo now has Oscar and David playing so we ate there and enjoyed the music. Sunday, Tucson left early due to heavy winds predicted to arrive at their home before noon-probably the same storm which affected us. We departed San Quintin dodging clouds Sunday. I had to land at Tijuana to check out because I told Ensenada tower that I had departed San Quintin and they notified Tijuana which demanded I land there.

At Brown Field Steve Gorman and Mike Gaisford elected to fly home Sunday with 50 knot headwinds and turbulence. I elected to stay overnight and Joanne and I flew home this A.M. with 20-30 knot headwinds, but a smoother flight. Unfortunately Haining and Pam Polk flew SWA to SMF, and then Haining's ex wife drove them to Stockton where their cars were parked. Haining arrived home about 8:30 last night. I'm losing enthusiasm to fly this time of year.

~ *Sr Bilito*

CLINIC PHOTOS



FLYING ANGELS ~ EZ GIVING DONORS

Pauline Chavey
Bruce Forrest
Marshall Graves
Reesa Nelson
Joel Prosser
Bob Watson
Roke Whitson
Bill & Sue McDavid
Susana Gonzalez
Dawn Morley
Leopold Nunez
Tim & Vickie Deal



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

President	Fred T.	Martinez	president@flyingsamaritans.us
President Elect	Pamela	Polk	president_elect@flyingsamaritans.us
Recording Secretary	Marshall	Graves	recording_secretary@flyingsamaritans.us
Corresponding Secretary	Pamela	Fallo	corresponding_secretary@flyingsamaritans.us
Treasurer	Bill	Hurson	treasurer@flyingsamaritans.us
Director1	Bruce	Forrest	none
Director2	Robert (Roke)	Whitson	director2@flyingsamaritans.us
Immediate Past President	Bill	McDavid	past_president@flyingsamaritans.us
Medical Coordinator	Bill	McDavid	medical_coordinator@flyingsamaritans.us
Nurse Coordinator-Scheduling	Pamela	Polk	nurse_coordinator@flyingsamaritans.us
Nurse Coordinator-Clinic Mng	Debbie	Marino	nurse_coord_clinic@flyingsamaritans.us
Translator Coordinator	Dawn	Morley	translator_coordinator@flyingsamaritans.us
Transportation Coordinator	Joel	Prosser	transportation_coordinator@flyingsamaritans.us
Dental Coordinator	Alan	Rabe	dental_coordinator@flyingsamaritans.us
Membership Coordinator	Aggie	Deal	membership@flyingsamaritans.us
Newsletter Editor	Mike	Deal	newsletter@flyingsamaritans.us
Pharmaceutical Coordinator	Robert (Roke)	Whitson	pharmaceutical@flyingsamaritans.us
Scholarship Chair	Imelda	Priest	none
Website Support	Mike	Deal	website@flyingsamaritans.us
Lifetime Board Member	Verland	Benning	none
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.us 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