

# The Mexican Connection Wine to Whales Baja Caravan

## A February 2018 to Remember...

Hola Amigos... we are jumping for joy as our Wine to Whales Baja Caravan takes shape into its final action-packed form. We have completed two of our three preliminary Baja scouting trips to uncover the most enjoyable events and scenic wonders to be found in Baja California.

While we appreciate all the SKPs who have asked to sign up, registration will not begin until September 1st. All indications point to the Caravan selling out early and, should there be a cancellation, SKPs on the wait list will be called in the order that their reservations were received.

The "secret to success" of our Mexican Connection events is the volunteerism that every SKP can bring... and that is even more important in a Caravan of this magnitude. The registration form will have check boxes for participation in a wide variety of voluntary activities to increase Caravan enjoyment and camaraderie.

Caravan participants will assemble in San Diego County's idyllic Potrero County Park (just north of Tecate Border Crossing). The Caravan will travel in groups of 8 rigs with a Group Leader and Tail Gunner. There will be a time interval between each group to avoid the traffic congestion that larger groups of RVs tend to be for local traffic.

While at Potrero, everyone will brush up on the skills that make travelling in Mexico easier, safer and FUN! We will take a short trip to Tecate to pick up pesos, FMM tourist cards and enjoy lunch near the massive Tecate Brewery.

It is a Chapter 8 policy that all rigs have a CB radio with an outside antenna to communicate on the road. A CB with antenna needs to be purchased before Potrero as no stores in the area sell CB radios or antennas.

Mexican insurance can be quite costly for longer trips.

Mandatory Mexican liability insurance may be purchased by phone, online or at the border. For us, the Mexican liability insurance is tied to our Driver License which allows us to be covered for any vehicle we drive in Mexico... at less cost less! Many U.S. insurance policies now include collision and comprehensive for Mexico in their standard policy. Check with an agent to be sure. Those with diesel rigs before 2007 and all gas rigs will find fuel in all stations. Those who use Ultra Low Sulphur Diesel (ULSD) will have designated stations along the Caravan route to fuel up with USLD.





# Caravan Registration Begins September 1st

Our Baja route features a preferred border crossing, a valley where 90% of Mexican wine is made, a variety of urban and rural Mexican cultures, magnificent ocean beaches, prehistoric cave paintings, mountains with giant 2,000 year old cacti, otherworldly boojum trees, and the world's largest salt producer adjacent to the salty lagoon which in February has the largest concentration of gray whales anywhere!

Your Wine to Wales Baja Caravan's diverse, fun-filled itinerary is nearing completion with a sparkling array of included events plus optional events that may tickle your fancy. There's even the option of kicking back and enjoying the waves, mountains, and exploring on your own. We are happy to report that we have been able to include several fascinating destinations and events that have never been in any rally or caravan! You will find the Caravan Itinerary on the Chapter 8 website as soon as it is complete.

The annual Chapter 8 Charity Auction is always a highlight event. This year the day begins with a Folklorico theater presentation with a silent auction in the foyer, followed by an outdoor Caravan Fiesta! Enjoy live music, Baja BBQ on the grill, authentic sides & drinks aplenty. Then its back to the theater where the live auction items are on display for your inspection. When the gavel drops... the fun begins!

For 36 years, Chapter 8 has ended its annual event in Mexico. Alternate return routes are posted for members to choose. One can return by themselves or join one of the groups. To add to the adventure, each rig will get a printed copy of places to visit further south or on one of the scenic routes to the border crossing choice.

Each year, Wagonmasters start fresh picking a destination, finding events, securing campgrounds and negotiating a fair price for the benefit of participating SKPs. We could not build a caravan of this quality without the help of the Board, former Wagonmasters and Mexican Connection records. To all who made this Caravan possible, thank you and, now, come enjoy it with us!

Kassandra & Ed Dennis  
Wagonmasters 2018  
Chapter 8 The Mexican Connecton  
**More in the next newsletter...**

