

S P R I N G 2 0 1 2

Los Colores del Caracol

Los Residentes de la Península Caracol. A.C.



Courtesy of Alex Martinez, Viva San Carlos

Effort to Protect the Tetas Underway

La Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas is working on a decree to have the Tetakawi Mountains declared a protected area before the end of President Calderon's administration in 2012. As reported in *El Vigia*, the commission has already received public comments and is now drafting a regulatory impact statement. The area is sacred to the Seris and the Yaquis and home to a diverse array of wildlife including mockingbirds, cardinals, woodpeckers and bats.

Many people ask about hiking the Tetas. There are two marked trails: one beginning at the Km-15 marker in the Bahía and the other at Playa Piedras Pintas. The 600-ft. ascent takes about 30 minutes, with the last portion being very steep with loose rocks.

Semana Santa Crowds Pegged at 216,000

El Vigia reported that more than 216,000 visitors descended on San Carlos and Guaymas over the holiday weekend stretching from April 5-8, 2012. Although Mexican students and government workers generally have two weeks of vacation to celebrate *Semana Santa* (Holy Week), the busiest days for beach towns such as San Carlos are Holy Thursday through Easter Sunday. This year was no exception with the traffic mounting each afternoon, until by sunset cars, ATVs and trucks inched forward at a rate of 1-2 km/hour along Beltrones between the entrance to San Carlos and Algodones Beach (*pictured above during the daylight hours*).

San Carlos Comisario Miguel Dominguez and Guaymas Mayor Mónica Marín both commended police, firefighters, the Navy, the Captain of Ports, Rescate and the Red Cross for their coordinated efforts to ensure the safety of vacationgoers. The Caracol Association once again hired guards for the front entrance and Cotton Cove, and the hill was tranquil throughout the weekend.

Save the Date!

Labor Day
Día del Trabajo
May 1, 2012

National holiday and banks, government offices and schools will be closed

Next Board Meeting
May 9, 2012

Caracol Board meets monthly at Tequila's at 10 a.m., except in July, August and September

Mexican Election Day
July 1, 2012

National holiday for federal elections (president, senators, deputies)



April 12th Board Meeting Update

As of April, the Association has reached 67% of its 2012 budget target with 87 homes contributing their annual dues. We hope to reach our goal of at least 120 of 210 homes by the year's end. Increased participation by homeowners will allow more improvements to the hill's aging infrastructure; road repair, water supply and sewage management continue to be our biggest challenges. Last year, the Association completely repaid all of its loans, and this winter, we completed construction of a pedestrian walkway at the front entrance to provide safe and well-lit passage around the gates. Additionally, installation of a direct connection from our security system to CyberCo's office has improved monitoring and communications. Reports from the policia indicate the gates are significantly reducing burglaries and vandalism in the neighborhood, and saving homeowners a significant amount in gate labor costs.



Website Getting a Facelift

Former Boulder, CO, print shop owner and native Spanish speaker Nidza Busse is leading efforts to redesign the current Association website, to create an updated welcome package for newcomers and to appeal to residents who have yet to join the Association, and to revise outdated Association by-laws. An updated introductory packet will be available in the fall for new residents, members and real estate agents. English and Spanish versions will be available. The Board has authorized up to \$700 for a user-friendly website redesign.

FALL 2012:
www.caracolassn.com

Super Fruteria Remodels & Reopens

At the base of the Caracol, the Super Fruteria, a San Carlos institution for nearly five decades, since the days of the Shangri La Trailer Park, has reopened. Under lease from the Ramos family, Osmar Lozano has streamlined the stock to focus most on beer, soft drinks and snacks. Alongside the store, Juan and Fidel Chavria have opened Tacos El Compiri, with hours Thursdays to Sundays starting at 3 p.m.





Photos by Janet Peiffer

New Committees Set to Tackle Challenges

At the February 15th Annual Meeting, it was proposed that the Association form new committees to revitalize the organization: 1) *the Neighborhood Committee* (Nidza Busse, Chair) will promote community involvement to enhance the quality of life on the Caracol; 2) *the Utility Committee* (Michael Peiffer, Chair) would continue to work to improve our relationship with our utility companies to provide timely service as needed; and 3) *the Road Management Committee* (Roger Stevens, Chair) would be charged with procuring effective and reliable services for the management, maintenance

and performance of the Caracol roads and access systems. The three groups will join the standing Architecture Committee, headed up by George Anderson, in preparing a status of infrastructure report, including suggestions for long-range improvements. Roger Stevens, an architect by training, has already begun 3-D modeling of alterations to the front entry design that would make it easier for drivers to stop while they punch in their front entry codes. Stay tuned for more exciting developments!



“Jerry-Rigged” Margaritas

Always a crowd pleaser at the many parties given over the years by Jerry and Flo Lebo

blender of ice
4 oz. frozen ripe lime juice
4 oz. Jarabe
4 oz. Cointreau
8 oz. Tequila

Fill a blender nearly to the top with ice and crush the ice. Then add the remaining ingredients. Enjoy!

Know Your Neighbors Flo & Jerry Lebo

“Hablo tres palabras en español,” Jerry jokes. “People always ask me what they are, and when I tell them, ‘Tacos, tamales and tequila—son igual en ingles,’ they laugh and laugh.”

This sense of humor has held Jerry and his wife, Flo, in good stead throughout their 64-year marriage, their work as owners of two Loveland, CO, jeep dealerships and their nearly 40 years as Caracol homeowners.

Jerry and Flo first heard of San Carlos in 1972 when Lentz Realty of Denver, in collaboration with developers Jim Lancaster and Hector Lopez of Siesta Construction Co., had a slide show at Cherry Creek Shopping Center, extolling the virtues of San Carlos and offering anyone who came down to see the new development two nights free accommodation at the Creston Motel.



So on March 15, 1973, Jerry and Flo, together with another Colorado couple, flew into the local airstrip, which at the time was behind Jax Snax in the Ranchitos. (The only other structures out there were the chicken coops that remain to this day.)

The Lebos were so taken with the area that they ended up buying a lot for \$6,000 and commissioning a 1,200 sq. ft. 2-bedroom, 2-bath home on it for Jerry’s parents for another \$11,500 USD.

Built by Wilfredo Aldana, it was one of the first ten homes on the Caracol. The building crew placed a plank between the Lebos and the house next door, and the two places were constructed simultaneously.



A manifest of whoever was flying in and out allowed developers to keep track of home owner visits, so building would regularly halt when owners left and resume when they returned.

By 1974, however, the home was complete, and by 1976, with their parents unable to move in, Flo and Jerry decided to use the home themselves as a winter getaway.

Seven couples from Colorado ended up atop the Caracol forming their own society—complete with trips geode hunting in the Bahía, shelling at the estuary by Condominios Pilar, motorbiking in the hills behind Guaymas, and clamming at Cochorít Beach in Empalme.

Over time, the group expanded to include luminaries such as Charlie Tate, president of Standard Oil, Dr. Carlos Tapia, president of the Orthopedic Surgeons of Mexico, and Angelo Barroero, a limited partner in the Oakland Raiders, and residents traipsed in evening gowns across the Caracol’s cobblestones to one another’s homes and holed up in the March winds to play nickel, dime and quarter poker.



“In the old days during Semana Santa, we used to have progressive dinners on the Caracol at different houses each night...”

Poker and boating were particular favorites of the late Dr. Tapia. Jerry laughs, “Neighbors asked us ‘Did you really take Dr. Tapia and your yardman out *together* on your boat,’ after we took them out on one of our skipjacks!”

They organized beach clean-ups, followed by picnics at Cotton Cove, and collected cactus in the desert to decorate their gardens. “Everyone was crazy about cactus,” Jerry recalls.

A highlight of their days here was “the tour of a lifetime” organized by Caracol resident and historian extraordinaire Gabriel Estrada for his neighbors of 17 Mexican states in one month.

“We got to see the real Mexico—the snow-capped mountains, dense jungles and stunning cities. It was incredible; it was a gift.”



Life on the hill had its frustrating moments to be sure. “Half the time, we didn’t have water,” Flo reports.

But overall the Lebos have fond memories of the old days when there were no phones and people used CB radios to keep in touch with one another, and neighbors helped neighbors.

Once the Lebos went away and left a faucet running, and neighbor Gordon Brown discovered it and took care of it.

It was this spirit of neighborliness that inspired the creation of the Association in 1987, then called not surprisingly *Los Vecinos*, and Jerry was its first chairman.



Issues then were much the same as they are today: water and sewage pipe and pump repair, road maintenance, efficient communications, well-lit streets and preservation of the beautiful vistas...all the same concerns people have 25 years later.

With enough energy to put much younger people to shame, Jerry and Flo show few signs of slowing down.

Despite Flo breaking her hip and having three-way heart bypass surgery last year, the pair spearheaded a project to repaint the sidewalk along Calle Abulon this year.

Always gracious hosts, they are pleased to show people their albums recounting Caracol history and to take people on a spin around the garden.

So stop in and visit them at #402 during the season for a look at their Beefsteak tomatoes, Swish chard, beets, broccoli, roses and citrus trees and for a gardening tip or two.

Photos Courtesy of Flo and Jerry Lebo

It's Never Too Late to Pay Your Dues!

The Association accepts US or Mexican checks, cash, credit cards or PayPal (USD or Pesos). All fees are based upon the US dollar, so the peso equivalent is subject to change based upon the current exchange rate:

Membership or Qualified Donor		
Lot - Built	\$350.00 USD	4,500 Pesos
Lot - Empty	\$100.00 USD	1,300 Pesos

Additionally, the Association accepts donations. If you wish, you can specify that your donation be applied for maintenance only. We also accept installment payments.

2012 Association Board

Jim Straw, President

Lot 590 226-1484

Gil Martinez, Vice-President (Fluent Spanish) Lot 643 226-1442

Jan Ambrose, Secretary

Lot 528 226-0656

George Sutton, Treasurer (Speaks Spanish) Lot 428 226-1758;

Delia Ingram, Speaker (Fluent Spanish) Lot 421 226-0247

Mike Makoid, Speaker

Lot 510 226-1595

Paulette Penner, Speaker

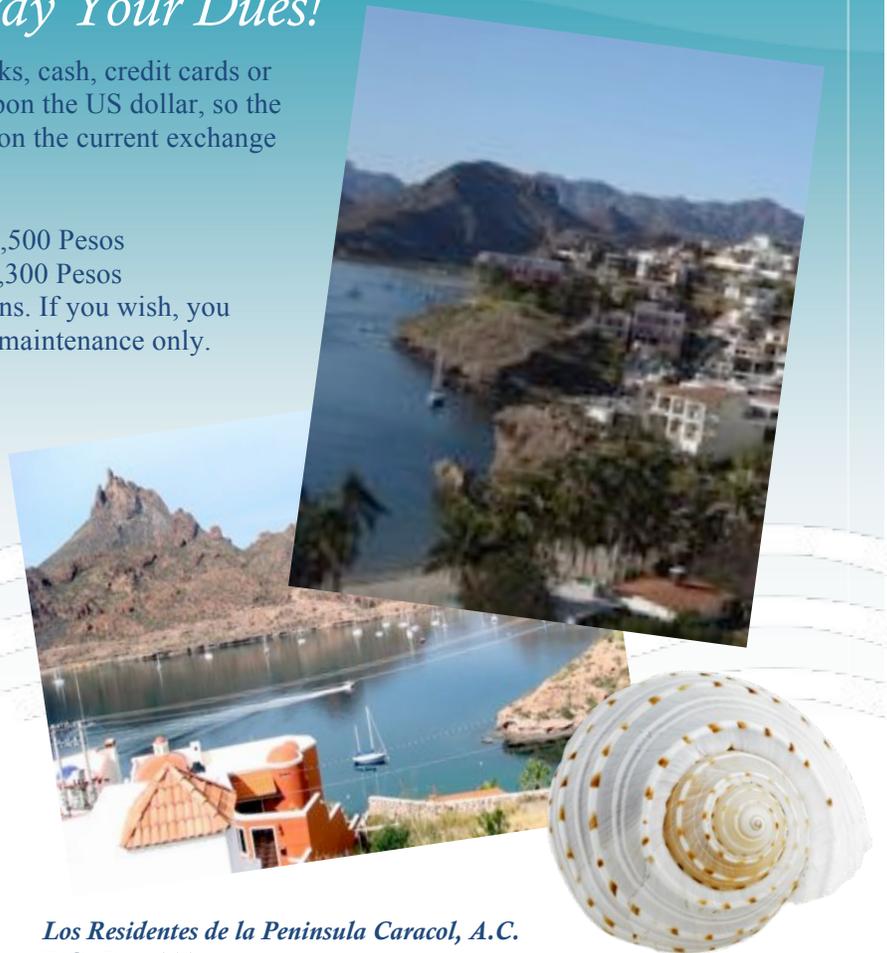
Lot 409 226-1965

Emergency Contacts

Rescate (medical emergencies or fires) 24-hour: 226-0911
Office: 226-0101

Clinica San Carlos
(Dr. Canale): 226-0062

Police: 226-1400
Electricity (CFE): 071
Water (CEA): 226-1310
Phone (Telmex): 226-0050
Security (Cyberco): 227-0300



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