

Newsletter for October & November 2011



Our 2011-2012 season is in full swing. We have had three ER clinics and one LSI clinic so far. We also had a general membership meeting, a rummage sale, and a party.

Carl the Flying Curmudgeon (and Newsletter Editor)

September El Rosario Clinic

by Mary Jean Wells

The medical portion of the September ER clinic did not transpire as planned. Unfortunately, the aircraft that was transporting our doctor (David) and nurse practitioner (Lynn) did not make it in to ER. By the time we arrived at the clinic on Saturday, dental was in full swing. Samantha was running triage and doing a fabulous job. She also had a sign up list for medical that included over 30 names. Once we had confirmation of our missing medical personnel, Sam told the crowd waiting in the courtyard the unfortunate news and explained that we only had a general nurse (me; yikes!) available. Sam explained that we would be limited on our abilities; assistance would be limited to general health inquiries and assessments. Some chose to leave, others stayed to request vitamin/supplement refills and a few chose to see if I would be able to assist with their needs.

We began the medical portion of the clinic with Sam running triage for both medical and dental. Steve helped me with interpreting, and Sam interpreted as well when he was available. I was able to attend to about 20 patients while Sam and Steve covered the requests for vitamins, supplements, and eye glasses. I performed a couple pregnancy tests, did some blood pressure and glucose testing and provided general health care assistance.

A group from the orphanage showed up with some of the children who had chicken pox. Due to the highly contagious nature of chicken pox, I had to keep them outside the courtyard to reduce the risk of exposure to the rest of our clients. We provided them with some topical ointment for the sores and some children's Tylenol. We educated the caretakers about the disease, answered their questions, and gave them a large bottle of children's vitamins.

There were a few patients that I was unable to assist because their medical needs were beyond my scope and capabilities. We recommended that they try to pursue medical attention in San Quentin rather than wait for our next clinic in October. In total we provided about 30 patients with some type of medical service. The day was very challenging yet successful. We did our best to provide needed assistance and that is our goal.

Mary Jean Wells (MJ) RN

by Ken Reed

Vince took off about an hour late and cleared Customs in Rocky Point. The hand pieces were given to Vince's airplane in Rocky Point - I didn't ask why someone in Rocky Point had all of our dental hand pieces. [I didn't know this until looking for them in the clinic for a long time.]

We cleared Customs in San Felipe, and then waited on the ground about 90 minutes figuring that when we got airborne, we should be close to Vince. After we took off and hooked up by radio, Vince told us that Rocky Point didn't have fuel so he had to stop again in San Felipe.

I only had a partial set of keys and knew I did not have clinic keys so we took one of the vans to ER and got keys for the clinic from Mama Espinosa. I currently have all of Glen's keys and will make a copy of each to keep. Bottom line, before we could get to clinic and get the hand pieces from Vince's airplane so we could see patients, it was close to 1 pm.

We still saw about 25 patients on Friday, mostly children, and didn't get on the road to the hotel until after 6 pm, though. Saturday morning we left the hotel at 7:30 am and had breakfast at Mama Espinosa's. We were seeing patients by 9:30 and again didn't leave the clinic until after 6 pm. Even without Bob Smith and a hygienist, we still saw about 35 patients.

The clinic ran very well. Samantha did an excellent job of triage. We ran completely out of lidocaine but we managed by using other local anesthetics. The supply needs list is very extensive and that's the one glaring mistake I made. I left it in the clinic :-)

I only have one concern/thought/request. That is that we finish earlier. I had a bunch of first timers this trip that never got to walk on the beach before/at sunset. For as hard as they work, I think they deserve that little bit of luxury.

Ken Reed

More El Rosario News

As some of you know our 1989 Dodge van that we keep in El Rosario has been running very poorly recently. At the August work trip it was missing, backfiring and hardly made it up the hill to the mesa airstrip. In September Vince reported that the exhaust pipe fell down and they had to remove the muffler to drive it. In October Wally got a tune-up kit and a new muffler. Carl took it all down and turned the parts over to Giraldo to have it worked on.

When we got down there on Friday, November 11th it was all fixed up. It runs unbelievably well, starts instantly, has more power than it's ever had, and the shifter/ignition interlock problem is fixed. The muffler was welded on by a welder friend and he did a really nice job. Giraldo did the tuneup himself and didn't even want anything for his labor. Wally gave him 300 pesos anyway and hope he is not insulted by so little. Giraldo found one of the spark plug wires that had completely burned in two from

short-circuiting and others were cracked and leaking out spark. It is a pleasure to drive now and hopefully it will serve us well for a while again.

Meeting Schedule

All board meetings, unless stated otherwise, are held at St. Gregory Preparatory School on Craycroft just south the Rillito. The meeting schedule is on the [schedule](#) page of the website.

The original purpose of the board meetings was to plan the upcoming clinic trips. With the advent of the Internet and better communication, the planning can be done through emails and phone calls. The board felt that meeting with members who were not directly involved with clinic trip planning was not adding content to the board meetings. There are now four general membership meetings per year, and the board hopes that everyone can attend and participate in the chapter operations.

Website

The website has the current schedule in both table and calendar formats. We also added a PayPal link to facilitate both donations and dues payments. Now you can pay dues using your PayPal account or a credit card. Bear in mind that you still must send in your completed and signed application and waiver each year. Licensed providers must also submit signed Professional Standards Forms when the previous ones expire. [Website Link](#)

Fundraising Activities

Rummage Sale

We had a Rummage Sale on November 19th at the VFW parking lot. The event was a success, thanks to all of the volunteers who helped out.

Christmas Party

Our annual Christmas party was held on Saturday December the 3rd at the Outback Steakhouse on Ina and La Cholla.

Look for pictures of these events in the next newsletter.

Continuing Education Dental Conference

Lastly, we have secured a date for the Dentist Conference for Saturday April 7th to be held at PCC campus on the northwest side. We have been working closely with Ken Reed to set this up. This will be a great event and we will definitely need lots of help from the dentists in our group in getting the word out.

Thanks everyone and these events will only successful because of you.

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