

manzamigos messenger

APRIL/MAY 2005

EDITION 1 - 1

THIRSTY THURSDAYS

This year's Thirsty Thursday has been a huge success, as on several occasions more than 45 people from all over the United States & Canada met at the Sunset Lounge on Boulevard de la Madrid.

In several instances it was the re-meeting of old friends but in many more it was people who had discovered Manzanillo for the first time.

Many times our friends at Sunset Lounge were challenged by the influx of people, which is totally unpredictable, with the result that the members of the board are looking at a new program for Thirsty Thursday in the next Season.

Listening to members who said they would like to try different restaurants rather than the same one each week but mindful of the necessity to keep other people informed, it has been decided that a calendar will be available in November, which will give the destined restaurant for the entire winter season.

There are many delightful small restaurants available in Manzanillo but all are not able to cope with a large group of unexpected guests, so in the height of the season we will be using the more established places, such as Colima Bay Café, La Pergola & El Tablao.

Thirsty Thursday at Sunset Lounge
in February 2005



UNITED STATES PASSPORTS

In a change from previous law, travel between the United States and the rest of the Western Hemisphere will now require passports or other secure, accepted forms of documentation, says the U.S. government. The new requirements are designed to strengthen border security and make it faster and simpler for U.S. citizens and foreign travelers to both enter and leave the United States, the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security said April 5. The new plan, called the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, is required under a law signed by President Bush on December 17, 2004. That law, called the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, represents a change for U.S. citizens and citizens of other countries, including Canada, who were not previously required to present a passport to enter the United States. Other forms of identification, less secure than a passport, had

historically been accepted.

This item was taken directly from the web page of the United States Government 5th April 2005, which can be found in entirety by logging on to <http://www.usembassy-mexico.gov/emenu.html>

President Bush has since rescinded this item but check for further updates.

A STRONG WARNING FROM THE UNITED STATES

Due to an ongoing budgetary crisis, a number of Cancun municipal employees, most notably police and fire fighters, have been on strike since August 2004. There have been some reports of local police officers extorting tourists in the hotel district. Federal law enforcement agents have been sent to Cancun to help ensure that basic law enforcement functions are carried out, but visitors should exercise extra caution until the dispute is resolved and public safety services return to normal.

WHAT'S NEW PUSSYCAT?

Got any news to share or require information? What would you like to see in your newsletter? All contributions gratefully received

manzamigos@yahoo.com



Latest Restaurant News

El Tablao has now reverted to summertime hours. Pascal is now open until 6 p.m.

La Pergola is open for breakfast until 11 a.m. then closed until 7 p.m.

Pedro's Cazuelita & Grill

(formerly Tejas) in Miramar, is owned by Pedro formerly of the Loco Lobster opposite Juanito's, is open for all meals. The umbrellas on the beach are free for the day with restaurant service.

Squadron 1 has closed permanently but through the grapevine we hear that the "Willy's" family will take it over next season.

El Costeno has opened another location on Av. Audencia. Three locations now offer breakfast: Las Brisas, Downtown & Audencia. Lobster dinners in Las Brisas have ended for the season.

El Rincon offers a buffet until 1 - 6 p.m Saturdays & Sundays. Reports say that it is excellent food & value.

Shopping report

Sam's Club in Colima carries breakfast sausages in the frozen deli section with the cheeses. They also have Cheddar cheese regularly (not always) and many other imported cheeses.

Editors note: the Brie is not nearly so good as that purchased in Commercial Mexicana in Manzanillo, nor are the large packs of bacon.

La Marina in Colima have a furniture expo for the week of 24th April.

Commercial Mexicana currently has a supply of New Zealand butter.

Roosters in Melaque has closed for the season

Excellent Steaks can be purchased from the butchers next door to "Curves" on Blvd. de la Madrid.

Correspondent required

By mutual agreement, Freda Rumford & Guadalajara Colony Reporter have parted company. If you are a writer or know someone who is, contact Sean Godfrey at reporter@guadalajarareporter.com



Thirsty Thursday

For Thursday 28th April, the restaurant will be **El Caribe** in Las Brisas.

For Thursday 5th May it will be El Rincon Espanol in Las Brisas. The regular time is 6 p.m. until approximately 9 p.m.

For further dates, call Dorothy at 335-1343 or Deanna at 333-0040. With so few people left in Manzanillo after the great Easter Exodus, this would be a good time to invite friends who may not have been to such an evening. It is always fun and there is always someone interesting to meet.

Crocodile tales

Further to the news breaking in February about crocodiles appearing in the Bay, Larry McNish reported that a baby croc was found clinging to the anchor of his boat when it was pulled out of the water for dry docking. The little critter tried desperately to bite its finder and was unceremoniously tossed into adjacent bush.

These are not generally a threat here but it is always wise to be alert.

Many of the animals can be found up and down the coast in lagoon type environs.

Consumer information

Candy King & Darcy Reed have compiled an excellent list of trades people, shops, doctors etc. which is available for the asking. This is not a "Good Housekeeping Guaranteed" list but services used with reasonable satisfaction by a number of visitors to the area & with people setting up home in Manzanillo.

This can be had by emailing deerdarcy@yahoo.com

Canadian Consul in Puerto Vallarta

The following has just been received from the Canadian Consul in Puerto Vallarta, Lynn Benoit.

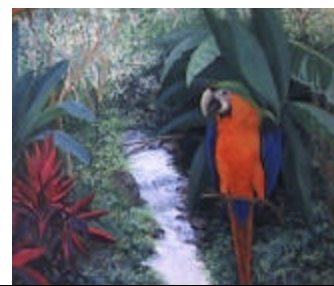
PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF NEW SCHEDULE

Office hours: 8:45AM/ 2:00PM and 3:00PM/5:15PM (Phone answered during this schedule)

Open to the public: 9:00/2:00PM and 3:00PM/4:00PM

Phone numbers: 293 0098 / 293 0099

Emergency hours: After 5:15PM and during the weekends: 01 800 7062900 (no charge and connected directly to Foreign Affairs Canada in Ottawa with the after hours agents)



This mural by Robert Hill can be seen in Juanito's restaurant.