

manzamigos messenger

August 2009

People making news

Manzamigo, Nathan Peach, is the Operations Manager for "Aquatic Sports and Adventures" in Manzanillo. He has been growing his hair for a long time. (3+ years I believe.) He was very concerned about getting it cut in Mexico and then shipping it back to the USA (human hair, some weird import/export thing, lost mail) and how it got cut to keep with Locks Of Love standards. He was concerned that after all these years of growing some minor oversight would make his hair unusable. Anyway, he made a return to the USA on a Friday and got it cut the very next morning to "Locks Of Love" standards. (I think he was tired of it.)

"Locks of Love" is a public non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children in the United States and Canada under age 18 suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis. *Terry Saul*

You can reach Nathan at: nathan@aquaticsportsadventures.com
Nathan's Haircut story at <http://terrys.phanfare.com>
Information about Locks of love ; <http://www.locksoflove.org/>

Many congratulations Nathan, some, now lucky but previously not, child will love to get into your hair.



A few Happy & Thirsty Manzamigos at Toscana's on 30th July 09

Amigos in trouble

This has been a bad year for several Manzamigos as they have become stricken with life threatening illnesses requiring emergency surgery and, in a couple of cases, succumbed to their infirmity.

We are pleased to report that news of imminent and complete recovery has been received from Nancy Martin regarding Pat Martin, Nigel Rumford is recuperating from medicinal side effects and Sue Ellis, although far from out of the woods, has still got her incredible sense of humour. Other dear friends do not wish to be named but are also in crisis at this time.

Manzamigos A.C. sends everyone their very best wishes for continuing recuperation and a speedy return to total good health.

Should you hear of someone requiring help, please let us know.

The New Look of Toscana's



Photos by Jack Akers

Letters to the editor

Regarding the new IMSS Identity cards mentioned in July's messenger

Those IMSS- I.D. cards (like a drivers license) are available at our Clinic (#17) in Las Garzas. They are set up in the front foyer, with a camera to take the required pictures!

We took with us our two passports, FM3's(2's), IMSS, CURP, electric or phone bill (joint names and correct address) all original (no photocopies)

-Be Frame

Thirsty Thursday for 6th Aug

Will be at SCHOONERS (previously Rosalbas). This is a small place so please advise us at manzamigos@gmail.com if you intend to be there.

Many apologies to Ross Bevin who forwarded this information which was missed from the last newsletter. We decided it was still newsworthy:

June 22, 2009

Construction Exports Canada's TransCanada Corporation wins contract for Mexican pipeline

TransCanada Corporation won a contract to build, own and operate a US\$320 million pipeline in Mexico.

The proposed Guadalajara Pipeline will follow a 310-kilometre route from a liquefied natural gas terminal under construction near Manzanillo on Mexico's Pacific Coast to Guadalajara, the second largest city in Mexico.

The 30-inch-diameter pipeline will be capable of transporting 500 million cubic feet a day of natural gas.

The majority of the capital expenditures are expected to be made in 2010, with a targeted in-service date of March 2011.

The project is supported by a 25-year contract for its entire capacity with Comision Federal de Electricidad, Mexico's state-owned electric company.

THIRSTY THURSDAYS TO COME

In the future it will be imperative to notify of attendance at any Thirsty Thursday if you intend to eat dinner. People who now advise us ahead of time are finding that they are sometimes being pushed on one side whilst those who don't do so get served first or have friends save them seats. This has to change so that everyone can have a good evening.

In the weeks ahead, if you don't advise us ahead of time, you are welcome to stay for cocktails and a chat but seating for dinner will only be possible if the restaurant has both sufficient food and seating.

How this will work will be discussed at a meeting in the near future where your suggestions will be most genuinely welcomed.

It is the easiest thing in the world to just hit the reply button when the notice comes out from Jack. If you are bringing guests he needs to know that too.

Those interested in following the journeys of the "STOUT ZLO MISSION"

Will find their web page at

<http://missionzlo.blogspot.com/>

Steve and Diana Stout

Warden Message

**Date: July-21-
2009**

Violence in Michoacán

The U.S. Consulate General in Guadalajara advises U.S. citizens residing or traveling in the state of Michoacan, Mexico, to be aware of recent violent attacks in that state targeting state and federal police officials. Several Mexican officials have been killed at various locations throughout the state. The U.S. Consulate General in Guadalajara is not aware of any attempts to target U.S. citizens with this violence, but until it recedes, citizens are advised to defer any unnecessary travel to or around the state, and to avoid large crowds and demonstrations.

For the latest security information, Americans traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department's Internet web site at <http://travel.state.gov>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2009/2010

Once again, Darcy Reed is taking on the mammoth task of listing all of the coming events that could possibly be of interest to those

living in or interested in Manzanillo.

Should you have anything that should be included please contact her as soon as possible at deerdarcy@gmail.com

It is an extremely difficult task in Mexico, to have an actual program of events as most things seem to be announced mere days before happening. We have tried many times to get the input from the Tourist Board in Manzanillo but without success. So, despite all of her incredible efforts, there will still be events of great interest that we don't hear of until almost too late, so - please assist Darcy by telling her if you hear of plans or contact the editor of this newsletter. Thank you so much.

A copy of Darcy's list will accompany this newsletter.

An aside:

At one time it was almost impossible to get any information in Manzanillo but now, with this Manzamigos Messenger, the Mujeres Amigas newsletter, the Music Lovers newsletter, Manzamigos Website, manzanillosun.com web site and gomanzanillo.com plus many others, we are really getting into the groove with modern day local affairs and happenings.

None of this comes without many hours of hard and mostly, volunteer labour by people who may never have done these things in their previous lives. Co-operation comes from many other people living in Manzanillo and surrounding areas and all of us on this information crusade, thank them immensely for keeping us "in the loop".

In these dangerous times, it is good to know there is a network

keeping us aware of happy things as well as those of vital or imperative importance. The more we all know at all times the safer we all will be.

Both the Mujeres Amigas Luncheon Group and Manzamigos A.C. with their Thirsty Thursdays are other vital components of keeping the lines of communication open and we are all justifiably proud of the successes we have had in this regard.

Manzamigos was not designed to be a money making or charitable association but a network of friends who help friends. If someone needs information there is someone within the association who can tell them just where to get that information if they don't know themselves already.

Many of our members will take people new to Mexico or Manzanillo and introduce them to Immigration or Health care officials without thought of recompense. All we ask is that you become a Manzamigo and return the favour to someone else along the way.

Membership to Manzamigos is only 250 pesos or \$25 a year and is a great investment in living in Manzanillo.

Membership Chairman is Linda Breun who can be reached at lbgringa@gmail.com and Vice President Jack Akers can be reached at manzamigos@gmail.com in regard to the whereabouts of Thirsty Thursday any given week. President Gerry Szakacs & Secretary Dorothy Szakacs can be reached at zeolucky_1@hotmail.com

RESTAURANT REPORT

16th JULY - DONA CONCHA

There were about 40 diners who attended this evening and mixed reports were given. A few people thought that the meal was the same as available in every other restaurant in Manzanillo and absolutely nothing to write home about. Prices were reasonable service the same, although with different people bringing the food from those taking it did cause some confusion. Had the number of the diner been with the meal it would have been easier.

Other comments:-

This is not our favorite but it's OK. Not one that I would pick to go to. LB

My take was that it was near impossible to get them to start bringing drinks before 6:00 - it was 10 to 6 when we arrived. I found the food mediocre and no where I would like to return to. DS

I'll agree the meal was OK, but at those prices it should be. The waiter confusion is something I'm afraid I've gotten used to. The numbers on the name tags should solve the problem but it doesn't seem to help. I might go back but there are so many other places. JA

Result : General feeling, this is just an OK place and there's no reason to return.

23rd JULY - EI INDIO

It really does depend on who gives the opinion as to how the evening is perceived. To a lot of people, it seemed crowded and claustrophobic in the restaurant and several people were really plagued with no-seeums or mosquitos. (ADVICE NOTE – this time of year if this is a regular

problem take insect repellent to any restaurant because the little devils are there) The meal & service was fair to middling with nothing monumental occurring.

Other comments:

Definitely not on my personal list of restaurants. Food was so so. LB

I thought the service was quite disorganized though I had always wanted to go there and see why there were so many cars parked along the road. The food was O.K. and I would probably drop by for a lunch another time for certainly not for dinner. DS

I was surprised at the prices. I guess I figured a palapa restaurant, even on the beach, would not have the menu priced like Toscana. I just had four quesadillas for 85 pesos and they were no better, and certainly no better presented (wrapped in tin foil and laid on a plate) than I can get at any sidewalk taco stand for less than half the price. That and dodging traffic trying to walk from my car down the highway? I won't go back. JA

Result: Would we go again? Probably not.

30th JULY – TOSCANA

Everyone was ready for us here and two specials were available, they being swordfish with a spicy sauce and Black Angus Arrachera both with salads.

Those not wishing the specials were advised they could order off the menu, which caused one waiter some consternation. This was confirmed by Francisco, so all was well. The salad that came with the set meal looked so good that those ordering off the menu could not resist and were so

pleased they didn't. The meal was good, the service good but prices are going up people.

Everything was a little more expensive than expected but good. Reports on the sailfish was that it was a little on the dry side (a common complaint with this particular fish) and not particularly spicy but those who dined on the Arrachera enjoyed it.

Other comments: Always good and the service is good. Prices have risen but if you want good, you have to pay for it; just like back home. I'm sure their costs have gone up too. LB

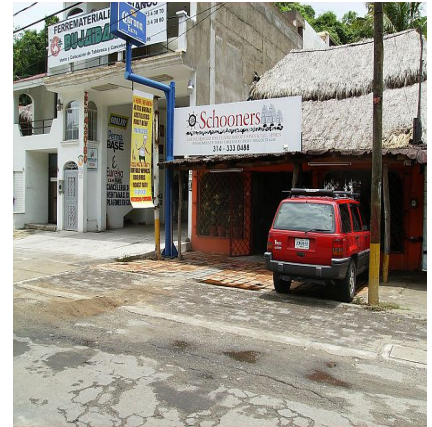
As always the food and service were excellent. He was asked to keep the price at around \$110 pesos but chose not to do so. If he is put on the rotation for the winter I think he needs to realize that aside from us - there was only one other table in the whole place. DS

It has to be a special occasion and at a special place to get me to pay 145 pesos for dinner, so I had spaghetti. You are correct that ordering off the menu caused at least one waiter some kind of problem.

Maybe it should be confirmed with management before we arrive that ordering off the menu is an option. The food was good and the service was good and I will go back. JA

Result: Still a favourite but for special occasions only. Pricing to be looked at for fall. Definitely worth a return visit.

6th AUGUST - SCHOONERS



Here are the specials for the evening from Manny, but you can order from the regular menu:

First choice would be none other than the BBQ ribs,
second choice; grilled breast of chicken with fine herbs with a nice spinach based salad bathed in a mustard honey dressing
third choice a succulent red sauce shrimp spaghetti with dried tomatoes and spinach salad, garlic bread will be on all tables.

At the beginning for finger food we will serve platters of fresh carrot and celery sticks and onion rings with a blue cheese dip.

For dessert; tapioca with strawberries and/or Cranberries.

Price same as before \$110.00 pesos per person / Drinks not included

House wine 35.00 Red / White

Two Oceans red wine (Cabernet/Merlot)	50.00
Beer (Corona-Victoria-Pacifico)	18.00
Sodas (Coca-Cola bottled products)	15.00
Bottled Water	15.00
Margaritas	65.00
Vodka - Gin (Oso Negro/Smirnoff/Bombay Sapphire)	40.00 / 55.00
Brandy	40.00
Scotch Red Label.	55.00
Tequila shots	50.00

We Hope that we can see all of you again and if you can tell us how many with which choice we will be able to serve them better.
Thanks again

T & Manny

Please let Jack know your preference ASAP
manzamigos@gmail.com

WHATS ON IN AUGUST

National Exhibition of Gift and Decoration Crafts.

The 35th edition of ENART will be held August 18-22, 2009 at Centro Cultural "El Refugio" in Tlaquepaque. There will be many pieces of decorative works for you to buy.
<http://www.enart.com.mx>

Make your hotel reservations early

EXPO MUEBLE INTERNACIONAL EDICIÓN VERNANO

(International Furniture Industry Expo)

Where: Expo Guadalajara
<http://expomuebleverano.com.mx/>

Av. Mariano Otero No. 1499 Col. Verde Valle, Guadalajara, Jalisco,
Make your hotel reservations early

This is an excellent opportunity to look for unique pieces of furniture for that new house or condo.

VETERINARY NEWS

Dra. Gabby has referred another Vet in Colima that speaks perfect English. Dr. Ruelas took perfect care of a dog that was hit by an ATV. He did X-Rays, sewed the dog up and the result was a happy ending for not much money. Follow is the contact information -

Dr. Ruelas

Hospital Veterinario Aquiles Serdan #594 Col. Jardines Residenciales C.P. 28030

Telephone numbers: - 312-313-0807 and 312-330-5040

HINTS & TIPS

There is a great baker's in Las Garzas just north of the Mercado (opposite Pemex) called "Illusions". Besides making great cakes and pastries they also sell bulk

puff pastry for about 30 pesos per kilo.

It is called - **hojaldre** and may have to be ordered ahead of time but it freezes well and is possible better than the same product available in Sam's Club.

Beware: there is a second "Illusions" in Las Garzas, just a block away but they specialize in saucy underwear.

GREAT TIPS FROM THE LAND DOWN-UNDER

1 Peel a banana from the bottom and you won't have to pick the little 'stringy things' off of it. That's how the primates do it.

2 Take your bananas apart when you get home from the store.

3 Bananas are fine kept in the frig, only the skin blackens and the fruit keeps longer.

4 Store your opened chunks of cheese in aluminum foil. It will stay fresh much longer and not mold!

5 Peppers with 3 bumps on the bottom are sweeter and better for eating.

6 Peppers with 4 bumps on the bottom are firmer and better for cooking.

7 Add a teaspoon of water when frying ground beef. It will help pull the grease away from the meat while cooking.