President’s Preflight

By Bob Schumacher

Have you caught or know of someone dear who has caught the bug this winter? It’s going around, even right here in our own Chapter and it’s dreadfully contagious, attacking members and coordinators indiscriminately! The diagnosis is an infectious enthusiasmitis!!! The symptoms were that as a group we:

- Flew an unprecedented number of planes to the clinic – 9 total!
- Transported home a beautiful 4-year old, Alma, wrapped in a full-body cast after a successful hip operation from Shriners Hospital using a custom-designed, last-minute built, FAA approved gurney (see article from Lisa Wagner)
- Serviced all specialties such as Psychiatric, Chiropractic, Optometric together with the Medical, Dental, Pharmacy and Translator support staff
- Printed and donned name-badges for every participant, including children and guests that had not only the name and position of each volunteer, but also emergency contact and telephone numbers.
- Appeared on ABC Channel 7 Eyewitness News on Valentines Day at 5pm and again at 11pm for a long 10 minutes documenting the extraordinary story of the Sams (see video snippets at the next General Meeting – be there!)
- Photographed breathtaking gray-whales and no one fell overboard while petting calves, this time
- Configured another dental chair, installed a new dental suction system, and performed annual maintenance on the diesel generator (see article from Dale McLeod)
- Enjoyed the laughter of children who traveled with their parents to the clinic for an unparalleled experience
- Updated the web site with new officer contact information given that Lisa Wagner resigned from the Presidency due to understandable time commitments, and fortunately for all, continued to serve as Clinic Coordinator
- Received unsolicited cash donations from philanthropists entrusting the Chapter
- Recruited several new members, specifically in the Optometry department, and secured donations for approximately 200 frames and eyeglasses

And we had fun. While slowly trolling for whales on the dinghy in the lagoon, I remember another vessel quietly approaching along side, those aboard watchful, pensive, when suddenly, they wildly pointed in the opposite direction across (continued on page 2 – President’s Preflight)

Gordon Gray, Chapter Founder

Interviewed by Carlos Granda, ABC Eyewitness News

Alma’s Story

By Lisa Wagner

This story about Alma seems pretty simple but it in actuality it’s been far from it. It has been extremely complicated and time consuming at the very least. So how do we get this done? You mix a group of compassionate people together with a common cause and it happens. All of you Sams have been a part of it…whether direct participation in Alma’s care, participation at the clinic, donations or just paying your dues. Here are the ones who have been critical for getting this done:

Dr. Lupe Cendejas and her family - Lupe for finding the patient, getting the ball rolling at Shriners Hospital, taking care of transportation to the hospital, and providing a home for Alma and Victoria to stay; Joan Scully for organizing the paper work and calls to Shriners; Bob Schumacher for flying Alma and Jim Wells for building a custom-made gurney in Bob’s airplane at just a moment’s notice; Juan Salas and his children for translating and transporting Alma and Victoria to appointments; Ray Hendrickson for coordinating border-crossing details.

Mark your calendar and attend the General Meeting at 8pm on:

March 5    April 9    May 14    June 4    July 9    August 6    September 10    October 8    November 5    December 8
Dr. Lupe Cendejas is a relatively newcomer to the group but has gotten very involved in taking care of our Jesus Maria patients. Lupe made her first trip with the Sams three years ago. The patients love her not only because she’s a great chiropractor but also because she speaks Spanish fluently since she spent her childhood in Chihuahua, Mexico. Lupe has found her work to be inspiring because she knows that the big segment of the population in the Jesus Maria area really depend on the Flying Samaritans for health care. She feels that working the clinics and seeing the way of life in Baja helps her to put her priorities in her daily life into perspective.

Lupe is excited that her family has had first-hand exposure to the Sams. Her son, Rene Christian, made his first trip down to the clinic this past September but also her husband Rene and her daughter Roxy as well as brothers, sisters and friends have also been involved back at home. Lupe and her family have hosted in their home one of our Jesus Maria patients on several occasions. Lupe thinks that her family has received so much from this opportunity of being able to serve and care for others.

Lupe has been a very integral part in changing the life on one of our patients. Last March 4 year-old Alma Cristina was brought to the clinic by her mom Victoria for evaluation of her legs and her difficulty walking. Lupe examined her and found that one leg was much longer than the other one and diagnosed her with a probable hip problem. On the next clinic trip we were able to get x-rays to further evaluate her condition. Lupe then made the initial contact with Shriners Crippled Children’s Hospital in Los Angeles. With the help of Joan Scully and many others, we got Alma scheduled for an evaluation in September with an orthopedist, Dr. Mosely, at Shriners.

After this evaluation, she was scheduled on January 30th for hip surgery. Her procedure involved “building” an acetabulum or hip socket on her left side and shortening the femur. She was put in a body cast from her chest area to her ankle on the left side and to her knee on the right. A week after her return home her cast broke and we needed to make an emergency run down to Baja to pick her up and return her to Shriners to repair the cast and be sure there had been no movement in her hip. Alma had this evaluation done on February 29 by Dr. Oates at Shriners. She was x-rayed and an additional hot pink fiberglass casting was put over the other cast. Dr. Oates said that she was making a remarkable recovery and will see Alma again April 16 when she gets her cast removed. You may wonder what a little girl thinks about flying...well, bribery with Barbie dolls helps to overcome any fear of flying.

My Trip To Mexico

By Julia Walker, Age 9

It was 5:00 when I woke up on Saturday and it was time to get ready to go to the airport. We are going on a little plane. A cameraman named J.R. and a reporter named Carlos are on my plane. They were both really nice. The ride on the plane was fun. We saw some whales from the plane. Five or six hours later we
Dental Craftsmanship
Trip Report-Don & Kris Wood & Dale McLeod

We flew to Jesus Maria on Friday, February 22 to do upgrade and maintenance work on the clinic facilities. We had a beautiful flight with visibility at 200 miles. We spent five hours at work on Friday and about three and a half hours on Saturday.

Specifically, we had four jobs to perform. Don had two of these-1)Installing a new suction machine for three chairs in the dental room and-2)Getting the new (to us) dental chair in operation. He accomplished all this with his usual professional workmanship. We did spend some time Friday night and Saturday morning satisfying some unanticipated material requirements (a nice way to say, Don forgot a few things) by visiting various shops in downtown Guerrero Negro. Surprisingly, we found well stocked stores that had everything we needed.

Kris took on the task of straightening out the shelves of disarrayed dental supplies. After chasing away the rats and demolishing their nests, she organized the supplies. What an improvement she made.

Dale performed recommended maintenance on the diesel generator equipment-drained and replaced radiator coolant; replaced oil, air and fuel filters, inspected the belts and all hoses; checked battery for charge and electrolyte level. The generator has been at the clinic for four and a half years and should be good for many more years if maintained regularly.

The new suction machine should be a welcome addition for the dental professionals and will greatly reduce the load on our hard working compressor. The city generator has been in operation by noon on recent Saturdays. We should use it instead of our generator when it is available. All in all we had a good trip. Great weather, great food in Guerrero Negro and fine flying.

First-Timers Quotes

Last trip was my first with the Sams. What a great group!!!! They make me feel like one of the gang from the very start! The pilots were skilled and it showed in their smooth handling of all the turbulence, mine was Chris Fernandez. The whale watching from the plane was limited but good as we left early. I would like to be included for the May trip. ----- Karl R. Bingemann

I realized on this trip how frustrated I am with the Mexican government for not providing better health care for their citizens. But I felt very good and fortunate that I was able to do a small part for the people of Jesus. I felt very positive about the experience. Specifically, a patient was very sick, unable to urinate, and Sandi and I tried unsuccessfully to catheterize him. Through good care and my translating for patient and his wife, we were able to direct the patient to the appropriate type of place for the right care. Again, I felt very sorry for the people, but was very glad for our efforts. I was very appreciative for the hard work and caring attitude that Sandi showed while we worked together in the clinic. ---- Laura

President Bob Schumacher
949-492-5668
BobSchumacher@movepilot.com

Vice President: Open

Recording Secretary: Janet Walker
949-362-2821-h; 888-954-3937-w
Janet.Walker@tlcvision.com

Corresponding Secretary: Joan Scully
949-497-7060-h
Jscully@cnmnetwork.com

Treasurer: Joe Sahli
562-860-3115-h
flysam52@aol.com

Pilot/Trip Coordinator: Ray Hendrickson
949-854-8800
rayesqphd@prodigy.net

Facility Coordinator: Bohdan Kniianicky
909-681-7750-h; 562-630-8766-w
kbohdan@hotmail.com

Clinic Coordinator: Lisa Wagner
626-967-0457-h; 626-852-2822-w
wagdoc@juno.com

Chiropractic Coordinator: Doug Gahn
714-963-3468-h; 714-377-5757-w
res04yy8@gte.net

Dental Coordinator: Open

Nurse Coordinator: Mary Jo Stonehouse
714-974-9488-h; 714-279-6047-w
mjstonehouse@earthlink.net

Dental Hyg Coordinator: Joelle Gall
949-637-5561-w
joellez@earthlink.com

Optometry Coordinator: Janet Walker
949-717-1546-h; 949-552-2700-w
howarddfish@aol.com

Interpreter Coordinator: Rene Velasquez
714-730-2700-h; 949-725-9511-w
proplus@pacbell.net

Pharmacy Coordinator: Tom Baker
714-636-5800-h
drtombaker@hotmail.com

Support Coordinator: Boz French
714-544-7793-h

International Board Dir: Jon Litty
626-914-1588-h
caroljonmarco@hotmail.com

International Board Director: Frank Edwards
949-499-7748-h
n761bq@aol.com

Intl Board Director-Alt: Bohdan Kniianicky
(see Facility Coordinator)

Intl Board Director-Alternate: Lisa Fox
949-673-9362-h; 949-275-3736-w
elizabethfox@home.com

Optometry Coordinator: Janet Walker
(see Recording Secretary)

Physician Coordinator: Howard Fishbein
949-717-1546-h; 949-552-2700-w
howarddfish@aol.com

Interpreter Coordinator: Rene Velasquez
714-730-2700-h; 949-725-9511-w
proplus@pacbell.net

University Coordinator: Open

International Board Dir: Mary Jo Stonehouse
714-974-9488-h; 714-279-6047-w
mjstonehouse@earthlink.net

International Board Coordinator: Frank Edwards
949-499-7748-h
n761bq@aol.com

Intl Board Director-Alt: Bohdan Kniianicky
(see Facility Coordinator)

Intl Board Director-Alternate: Lisa Fox
949-673-9362-h; 949-275-3736-w
elizabethfox@home.com

Newsletter Editor: Joe Monteith
714-281-3711-h; 714-865-6226-w
jmoenteith@att.net

Membership Chair: Joe Monteith
(see Newsletter Editor)

Webmistress: Lisa Fox
949-673-9362-h; 949-275-3736-w
elizabethfox@home.com
Clinic Dates for 2002: Mar 9-10  Apr 13-14  May 18-19  Jun 8-9  Jul 13-14  

Meeting Locations/Times

General Membership and Board Meetings:
Held the Tuesday prior to the clinic weekend, unless otherwise announced, meetings are at:
Children’s Hospital Orange County (CHOC) Clinic, 455 S. Main in Orange; parking located off Providence Street
Board Meeting: 6:30pm Conf Rm 1 (1st level); General Membership Meeting: 8:00pm Lecture Rm 2A/B (lower level); arrive early, doors are locked at 8:00pm

Clinic Boarding Area:
Clinics are the second weekend of the month, unless otherwise announced, departing Saturday morning, returning late Sunday afternoon.
Newport Jet Center, John Wayne Airport, 19711 Campus Drive, (949) 851-5061, corner of Campus and Quail
Arrive Saturday morning at 6:15am SHARP. Be sure to obtain an overnight parking permit from the Newport Jet Center staff; vehicles not displaying a permit are subject to tow-away

Newsletter published by: Flying Samaritans, Inc., Orange County Chapter
A non-profit organization
1100 Irvine Boulevard, PMB 567, Tustin, CA 92780

Newsletter printed by: SIR Speedy
13554 Newport Avenue, Tustin, CA 92780

There is a destiny that makes us brothers...none goes his way alone.
All that we send into the lives of others...comes back into our own.   Edwin Markham

Flying Samaritans
C/O Joe Sahli
P.O. Box 3874
Cerritos, CA 90703

Dated Material --- Please Do Not Delay