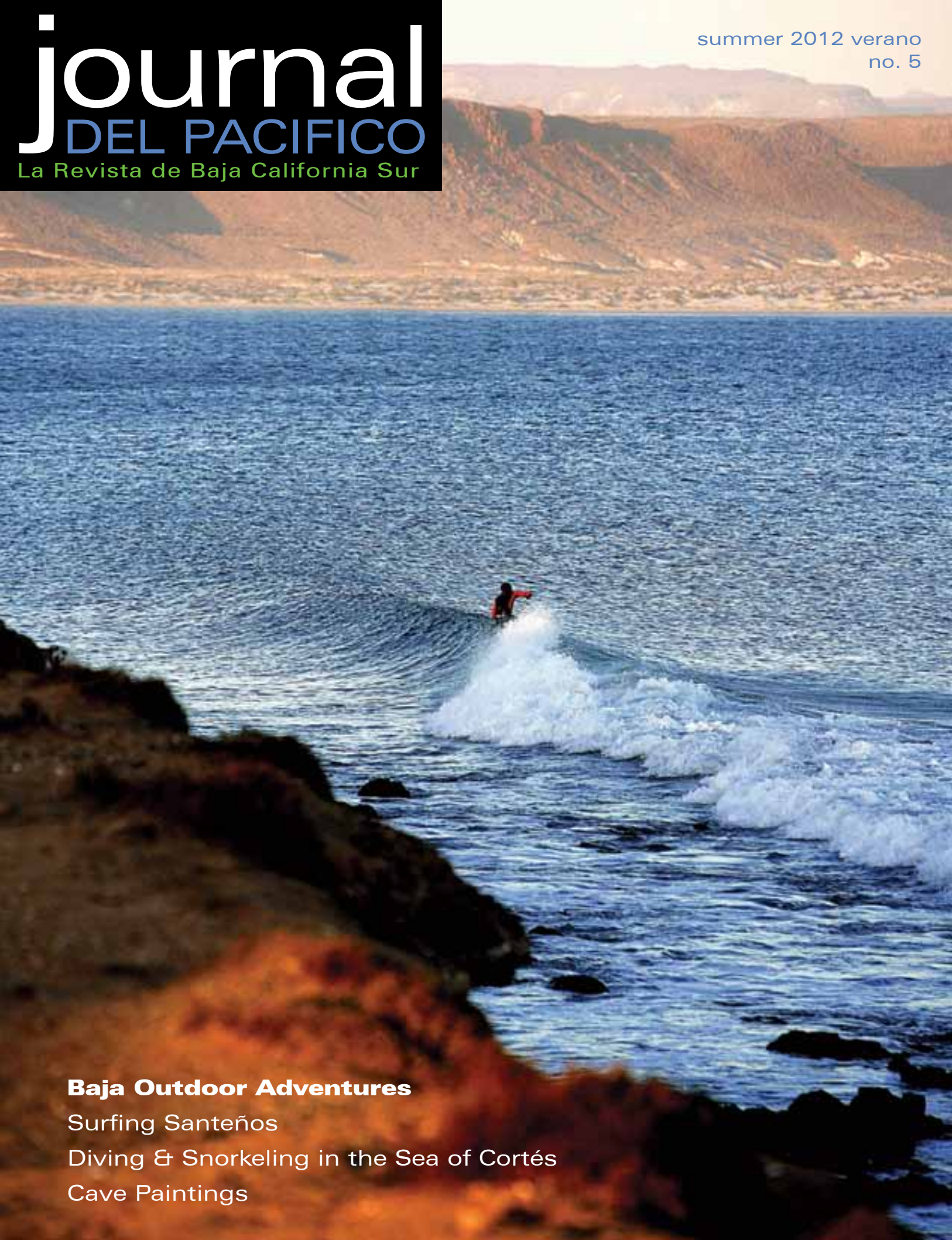


journal

DEL PACIFICO

La Revista de Baja California Sur

summer 2012 verano
no. 5



Baja Outdoor Adventures

Surfing Santeños

Diving & Snorkeling in the Sea of Cortés

Cave Paintings



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journal

DEL PACIFICO

La Revista de Baja California Sur

**PROUDLY PUBLISHED
& PRINTED IN MEXICO**

Monday - Friday 10 am – 5 pm
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On the COVER

Jocelyn Mathe
traducido por Rodrigo Ventura

I was very excited to have the opportunity to illustrate a surf story about Baja California surfers and our Todos Santos surf community. It is always great for a surf photographer to have his work published. Why? Because when you're "behind the lens" you're the witness to such a show, such an unreal picture. Waves are liquid mutants that change shape and color every fraction of a second, always creating a new background. Surfers have to deal with those changes and speed, with balance, self-control, glide, traction, performance, fear. Some like to get everything under control, others surf loose with abandon and elegance.

On a good day, considering how powerful, steady and rich the light is in Baja California Sur, those guys become like "modern knights" in my viewfinder, they're my heroes. Most of the Baja Sur waves are raw beauties—well known by surf communities around the world. The blend of the gorgeous Baja light, the magic point breaks and the real Baja surfer at work, are a true visual must.

As a surfer, but also as a photographer, I feel the need to share this "Art sport form." For me, "Old Baja surfers" are the best to shoot when it gets big and heavy, I can feel and read their Baja wave knowledge, the way they line up and charge the best ones, the focus on their faces; they are like War Lords or Poseidon for the ride.

When you belong to such a land, such a sport, and your personal lifetime's challenge has been to deal with liquid mutants, sometime triple overhead you can, perhaps, understand why these local rippers, the Baja surfer expats "glow" when you pass by one of them between the Pemex and the Hotel California. Thanks to the *Journal del Pacífico* for publishing our surf stories, it's cool.

Jocelyn, from behind his Canon 600mm

Jocelyn, detrás de su Canon 600mm



de la PORTADA

Estaba muy emocionada de tener la oportunidad de ilustrar un artículo de surf sobre los surfistas de Baja California y nuestra comunidad de surf en Todos Santos. Siempre es fantástico para una fotógrafa de surf ver su trabajo publicado. ¿Por qué? Simplemente porque cuando estás detrás de la cámara, eres testigo de tal espectáculo, de una imagen tan irreal. Las olas son mutantes líquidos que cambian de forma y color cada fracción de segundo, siempre creando un nuevo fondo. Los surfistas tienen que lidiar con esos cambios a velocidad, con balance, auto control, agarre, tracción, desempeño, miedo. A algunos les gusta tener todo bajo control, otros se dejan llevar, con elegancia y abandono.

En un buen día, considerando lo poderosa, estable y rica que es la luz en Baja California Sur, esos hombres se convierten en "caballeros modernos" en el visor de mi cámara, son mis héroes. La mayoría de las olas de Baja Sur son bellezas salvajes -reconocidas por surfistas de todo el mundo. La combinación de la hermosa luz de Baja, la magia de cuando revientan las olas y el surfista de Baja haciendo lo suyo, son una delicia visual que no te puedes perder.

Como surfista pero también como fotógrafa, siento la necesidad de compartir este "deporte en forma de arte," Para mí, los mejores para retratar son "Los surfistas viejos de Baja" sobre todo cuando se pone grande y pesado, puedo sentir y leer el conocimiento que tienen de las olas de Baja, la forma en que se alínean y cómo toman las mejores, el enfoque en sus caras; ison como caballeros de batalla o como Poseidón cabalgando!

Cuando perteneces a una Tierra como ésta, a un deporte como éste y tu reto de toda la vida ha sido lidiar con mutantes líquidos, a veces del triple de tu tamaño puedes, tal vez, entender por qué estos destripadores locales, los extranjeros que surfean en Baja, brillan cuando rebazan a alguno de ellos entre la gasolinera y el Hotel California. Gracias al *Journal del Pacífico* por publicar nuestra historia de surf, fue muy amable.



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by Bryan Jáuregui
& Mario Becerril

Surfing SANTENOS

fotos: Jocelyn Mathe

In the age of jet-setting surfers pursuing monster waves across the globe for fame and money; of California surf breaks so crowded it is not uncommon to see 100 boards or more in the water; of jet skis towing surfers to catch waves that the human body could never conquer on its own, it is wonderful to hear Todos Santos resident Steve Merrill recall the age in which he first saw a surfer. "It was 1956 and I was six years old. My parents were driving the car along Pleasure Point in Santa Cruz, California, and I saw a guy standing on a giant wooden board gliding across the waves, completely alone on the water. It is impossible to describe the impact that vision had on me. I knew then and there that surfing was what I had to do." Steve's immediate enthrallment with surfing is echoed in the voice of the young narrator in Australian writer Tim Winton's surfer-coming-of-age novel *Breath*, "How strange it was to see men do something beautiful.

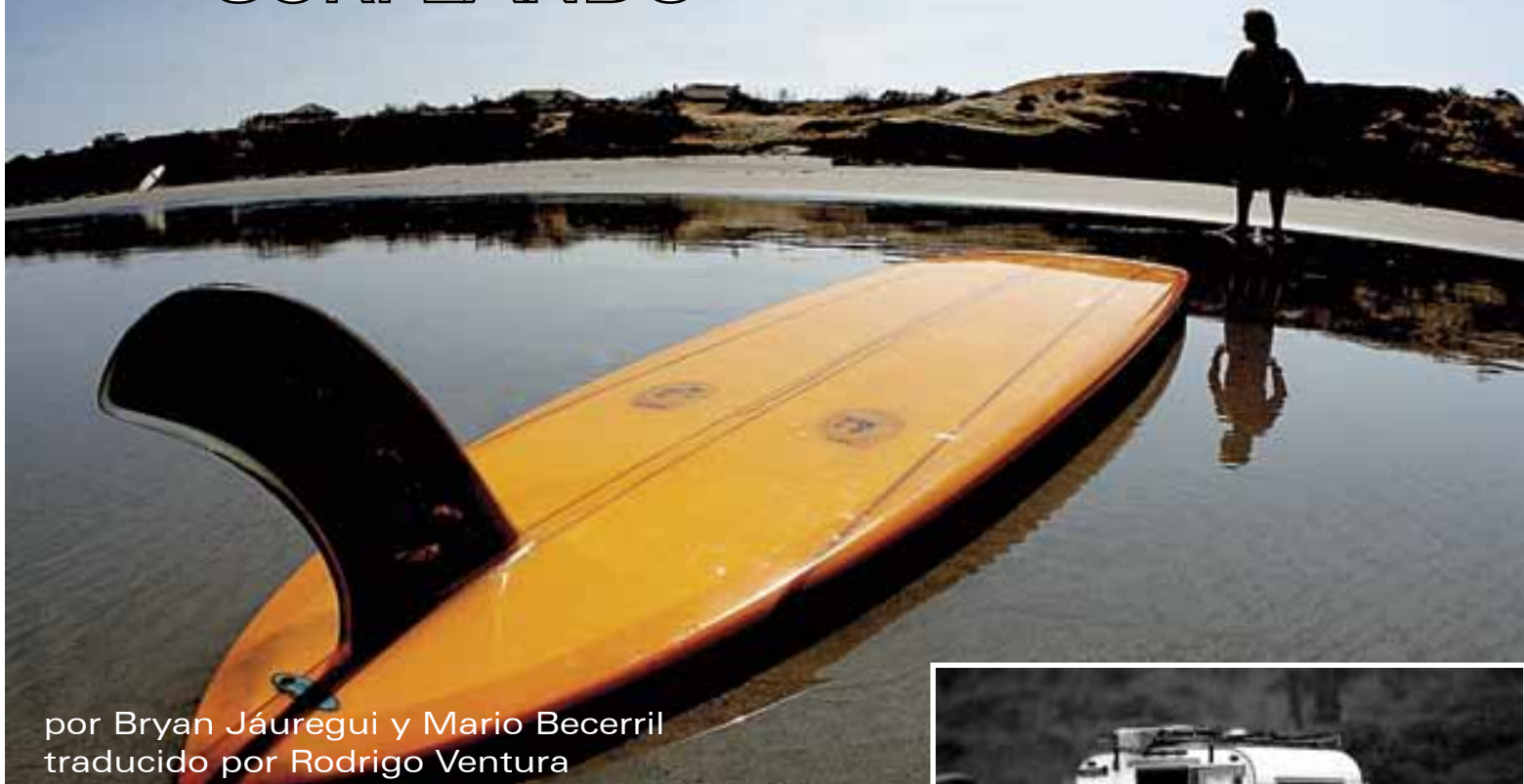
Something pointless and elegant, as though nobody saw or cared...as if dancing on water was the best and bravest thing a man could do." Back in the day, Winton tells us, surfing was the closest a man could get to poetry.

If surfing is akin to poetry then Todos Santos today is the City Lights Bookstore and the Beatniks are having a poetry slam. "We're living the bonus years here in Todos Santos," says surfing resident Billy Girvan. Like many expats in the Todos Santos surfing community, Billy grew up in California just as surfing culture was taking root. "In 1959 I was 12 years old and saw these guys surfing in Santa Barbara. All I wanted was to be like them. It wasn't just the surfing; it was the life style that was so appealing, the beach life, the freedom. They were so different from everyone else. I traded my go-cart for a surfboard and never looked back." Todos Santos surfer Jim McRoberts

[SURFING continued on page 42](#)

Santeños

SURFEANDO



por Bryan Jáuregui y Mario Becerril
traducido por Rodrigo Ventura

En la era en que los surfistas de elite persiguen olas monstruosas por todo el mundo a cambio de fama y fortuna; de playas de surf tan abarrotadas en California que es común ver más de 100 tablas en el agua; de surfistas remolcados por motos acuáticas para alcanzar olas que el cuerpo humano no alcanzaría por sí mismo, es maravilloso escuchar a Steve Merrill, residente Todosanteño recordar la edad en que vio un surfista por primera vez: "Fue en 1956 y yo tenía 6 años de edad. Iba con mis padres en el carro por Pleasure Point en Santa Cruz, California y vi a un muchacho de pie en una gigantesca tabla de madera, deslizándose por las olas, completamente solo en el agua. Es para mí imposible describir el impacto que tuvo en mí esa visión. En ese instante supe que surfear era lo que quería hacer." El encanto automático de Steve por el surf tiene eco en la voz del joven narrador de la novela *"Respiro"* del escritor australiano Tim Winton, que es sobre un joven que madura a través del surf: "Cuán extraño era ver hombres haciendo algo tan bello. Algo sin sentido y elegante, como si nadie los viera o le importara como si bailar sobre el agua fuera lo mejor, lo más valiente que un hombre pudiera hacer." De vuelta a esos días, Winton dice que surfear era lo más cerca que un hombre podía estar de la poesía.

Si el surf es poesía, entonces Todos Santos es hoy la librería de la Ciudad Luz donde los apasionados tienen un duelo de poesía. "Estamos viviendo tiempos dorados aquí en Todos Santos," dice Bill Girvan, surfista residente. Como tantos expertos en la comunidad de surfistas de Todos Santos, Billy creció en California, justo cuando la cultura de surf se

arraigaba: "En 1959 tenía yo 12 años cuando vi a estos jóvenes surfando en Santa Bárbara. Lo

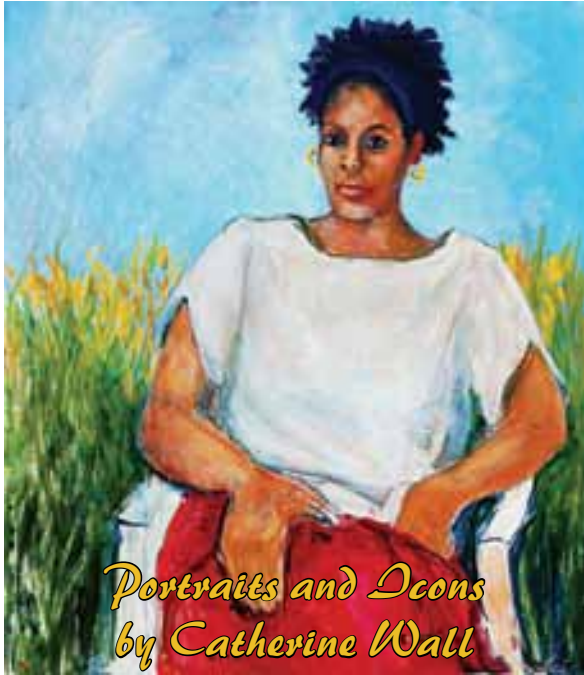
único que quería era ser como ellos. No era sólo el surf, era el estilo de vida lo que me atraía tanto, la vida en la playa, la libertad; ellos eran tan diferentes de todos los demás. Cambié mi go cart por una tabla de surf sin pensarlo dos veces." Jim McRoberts, surfista de Todos Santos sabe cómo se siente eso: "En 1962 yo tenía 15 y vivía en Sierra Madre, California. Mi tío fue miembro fundador del club de surf San Onofre y me llevó con él a la playa un día. Esa primera vez que tomé una ola, la sensación fue simplemente maravillosa. Me enganchó de inmediato y no se me podía ocurrir hacer algo más. Mi pasión nunca se ha disminuido desde ese momento a la fecha." Al igual que Billy se enamoró de la cultura del surf tanto como del deporte mismo: "Todo lo importante ocurría en la playa."

Billy, Jim, Steve y un sin número de americanos que viven en Todos Santos pasaron de ser "grommets" o "gremmies" (modismo para decir jóvenes surfistas) a adoptar el estilo de vida surf como jóvenes y posteriormente, adultos. Perdieron muchos estudios, persiguieron muchas muchachas, consumieron muchas cosas que no eran



[SURFISTAS continúa en página 44](#)

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artTALK

by Jill Logan

My friends Ruth Asercion and Margie Woodall took a class from Frank Gardner in San Miguel de Allende in the Spring. I was curious as to why they chose this particular artist and what they got out of the class.

by Ruth Asercion ▼

Ruth got her art degree from the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire in 1969, after which, she worked in corporate America for Boeing Computer Services and Lockheed Martin utilizing her art degree in corporate presentations. After retiring to Todos Santos, in 2006, she returned to her roots in art, exploring her talents and working on developing a style.



by Margie Woodall ▼

Margie Woodall received a Bachelor of Arts in Art History from the University of New York, Buffalo. She lived, painted and exhibited in Taos New Mexico from 1987 to 2003 and has lived and exhibited in Todos Santos since. Her medium is oil and pastel and her work is on display at the Mangos Gallery across the street from Caffé Todos Santos.



Frank Gardner was born and raised in Poughkeepsie, New York. He graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design in 1986 with a BFA in Painting. A desire to find true inspiration for his paintings eventually led him to Mexico. He has been living in Mexico since 1990 and now resides in San Miguel de Allende with his wife and daughter. Gardner paints on location and in the studio using paintings or sketches done on the spot and or photo references. His style adeptly captures his subjects' moods and emotions, whether it is paintings of dramatic landscapes, colorful marketplaces, or boats in a harbor. The combination of confident brushwork, dynamic compositions and lively color invokes true character in Frank's work.

Ruth and Margie attended the five day workshop in San Miguel, which began in a wonderful old building with a roof patio view of the hillside town. San Miguel, with its wonderful rooftop vistas, has a distinctly European feel with cobblestone streets and several cathedrals. Ruth and Margie commented that the hardest thing was trying to simplify the complex view onto a small canvas. Classes were from 9:30 am to 5 pm and for the first three days were on the rooftop and then moved on location out of town. The cost was \$680 U.S. dollars. Frank demonstrated often during the course and in the afternoons when the students were tired, he would get up and demonstrate to keep the energy flowing.

Frank works on a white canvas, usually 8" x 10" in

size. He mixes his colors with a palette knife and uses mostly titanium white, cadmium yellow medium or light, cadmium red, alizarin crimson and ultramarine blue, all on the left side of the palette board. On the right side he has his phthalo blue which he uses sparingly. He works very meticulously. There is no overworking a piece with Frank; he has a very delicate type of approach. As he says on his website: "Paint application is very important to me. It is a very personal facet of my work. An artist's brushwork and paint handling is what sets their work apart from another artist's interpretation of the same view. It is as unique as a fingerprint. I not only brush paint on, but lift it off, or smear it with a finger or paint rag. It is often the lifting off of the paint or moving it around after it is on the canvas that gives the look I am after."

JILL: Why did you take this class?

MARGIE: I was in a down spell artistically and needed a jumpstart back into my work. I liked Frank Gardner's style and thought it would compliment my own. He does use oil and not pastels so this was challenging and I ended up jumping back and forth between oil and pastel in the class.

RUTH: I took his workshop once before and really loved the experience. Especially going out into the countryside around San Miguel and painting there on location. I really appreciate Frank's work for the quality of his approach and how he develops the work. And just for the whole experience

JILL: Did you learn or get inspired from the other students in the class?

RUTH: Well there was a certain energy I liked, to be with other like minded people. But I was not inspired by anyone's work in particular. There were engineers and architects doing meticulous drawings and that is not a direction I want to go in.

JILL: What are the best things you came away from the class with?

RUTH: I think the thing I came away with was the ability to see better. To see the shapes, tones, colors and values in what I am viewing. To see illuminating shapes, to simplify while capturing the essence of what lies in front of me. Although then transferring that to a canvas is very challenging.

MARGIE: What I noted that was lacking in myself was patience. Patience with my work. Patience to slow down and design the piece very carefully first. What I noticed about Frank is that he was very careful with his selections not only in composition but in the colors he used before he even put anything down on the canvas. He premixed his colors on the palette before applying them. I jump in and get so excited that I just go for it. I can see where slowing down and considering the design and execution is very valuable. Then there are less mistakes or changing things mid way.

JILL: How did you feel about the work you did in the class?

RUTH: I feel like I was there to incorporate ideas and create studies for future works, not about painting a masterpiece. So in this case I feel fine about the small studies I worked on.

MARGIE: I had to remind myself to learn. I had to let the idea go that I'd better do at least one painting that I could sell so I could recoup my costs for the workshop. I have one study with a limited palette that I like a lot. I am much more comfortable working in pastels then oils.

RUTH: I really enjoy the whole idea of traveling and going to a new location to paint and learn at the same time. This is very refreshing for me.

You can view Frank Gardner's work online at www.frankgardner.com

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story and photos by Kaia Thomson

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The SCUBA diving and snorkeling areas around La Paz consist of islands, islets, seamounts, coves and white sandy beaches. Some of the best time in the water is during the summer and fall months, when sea life abounds in the warm clear water. The main attraction, at most sites, is the numerous array of inhabitants, full of color and diversity, that abound just a *panga* ride away from La Paz. Whether you are a swimmer, diver or snorkeler, spending a day, or several, with the Cortez Club in and on the Sea of Cortez is an amazing experience!

BALANDRA BAY is located near the tip of the La Paz Peninsula. This beautiful turquoise bay is great stop for lunch between dives or a snorkel trip around the famous "mushroom of Balandra Bay," one of La Paz's most photographed natural monuments. The rocky reef that extends off the peninsula is home to many colorful fish and eels, as well as several species of puffer fish that like to hang out in the sandy areas further into the bay.

BONANZA BEACH, located on the southeast side of Isla Espiritu Santo, is a great beach to go snorkeling or for beginners, an easy "walk out" dive site from the beach where huge red crabs sit on the rocks and fish, eels, starfish and sea urchins decorate the reefs.

EL BAJO is 8 miles or so to the east from Los Islotes, and is famed for a chance to swim with the "big stuff!" Advanced open water divers find many amazing sea creatures on and around the 3 seamounts, located about 60 feet below the surface. Hammerheads, giant mantas, large schooling fish and even a close encounter with a whale shark is possible here. Octopus, colorful eels and colonies of huge green Panamic moray eels almost seem to piled on top of each other

in the crags and crevasses of these pinnacles rising up from the ocean floor.

FANG MING WRECK: At 70 feet maximum depth sits the Fang Ming. She was sunk in 1999 off the west side of Isla Espiritu Santo to create 185 feet of artificial reef and marine habitat for hundreds of fish and mollusks. Quite often a sea turtle takes up residence on the bow. This is a great site for divers, photographers, students and those who might just like to hang around on the conning tower 20 feet below the surface and watch the world swim by.

ISLA BALLENA (Whale Island) is the largest of 3 islands sitting to the west of Isla Espiritu Santo. Around the entire island, that resembles a sleeping whale on the surface, are many dive and snorkel sites. Surrounded by inlets, caves and huge boulders that taper away from the island, this is a great site for all to enjoy and explore.

LA REYNA, a small rock islet, is located north of Isla Cerralvo and is home to several sea lions, giant manta rays and numerous schools of brightly colored fish. Below the surface are several slight canyons that are host to zebra and jeweled moray eels as they make their way through the gorgonian fans and large structures of brain coral.

LA REYNITA is directly off the coast of Isla Cerralvo. This mini-pinnacle has a constant current flowing around it that attracts schools of fish that utilize the constant flow of water for feeding. Small canyons, arches and walls that rise from the sandy floor create even more habitats for a diverse group of underwater residents.

LOS ISLOTES is where the underwater circus comes to town! Complete with sea lions, sardines and swim-throughs, Los Islotes is famed for nonstop action and fun. Located about a half a mile off the northern tip of Isla Espiritu Santo, these two large rock islets offer endless possibilities for divers and snorkelers. Large schools of blue and gold snapper, King Angels, orange-gold cup corals and chocolate chip sea stars are all right there for your viewing pleasure accompanied by the playful sea lion pups.

PUNTA LOBOS, on the east side of Isla Espiritu Santo, offers divers a chance to explore some of

SEA OF CORTEZ continued on page 18



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Profile: Dany Torres Lepine

When you head out to the surf breaks of Todos Santos you don't see many people who can trace their ancestry back through five generations of Todos Santeños, but 23-year old Dany Torres can. While many Mexican residents of Todos Santos prefer to leave the water well enough alone, Dany's grandfather used to go body surfing at La Poza (please don't try this at home!) and his father met his Canadian mother while working as a dive instructor in Cabo. It's a family that clearly loves the water, but it was an American who gave him his first surf board at the age of 12 and, like his surfing American neighbors, it completely changed his life. Now a budding architect in Todos Santos with several projects underway, Dany says "Surfing defines my days. I surf early in the morning during the week because of work commitments, but on the weekend I'll often surf all day long." As a dual Mexican-Canadian citizen he has plenty of options for places to launch his career. But for Dany, there's no place like home. "I've surfed all over mainland Mexico, California and Canada and I really love surfing at home the best. Not only are the waves great, but there is no territoriality. I'm actually one of the youngest surfers around which is great because the older surfers are very laid back and really happy to share the waves. That relaxed atmosphere just adds to the magic of this place."




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Cuando te das una vuelta por las playas de surf en Todos Santos, es raro ver a alguien que sea un Todosanteño de quinta generación, pero Dany Torres, de 23 años es la excepción. Mientras que muchos mexicanos que residen en Todos Santos mantienen su distancia de la playa. El abuelo de Dany solía ir a hacer bodysurf en La Poza (¡No lo intenten en casa!) y su papá conoció a su madre canadiense mientras trabajaba de instructor de buceo en Cabo. Su familia evidentemente ama el agua, pero fue un americano quien le dio su primera tabla de surf a los 12 años y al igual que sus vecinos surfistas americanos, esto le cambió la vida por completo. Ahora como un flamante arquitecto con diversos proyectos en camino, Dany dice: "El surf define mis días. Surfeo temprano por las mañanas debido a mis compromisos de trabajo, pero normalmente surfeo todo el día los fines de semana." Al tener la nacionalidad mexicano-canadiense, Dany tiene un sinfín de opciones para lanzar su carrera en distintos lugares, pero para él no hay lugar como el hogar: "He surfado en el interior de la república, en California y Canadá y donde más disfruto es aquí, en casa. No sólo por sus olas increíbles sino porque la gente no es territorial. Soy uno de los surfistas más jóvenes en el mar lo cual es increíble porque los surfistas de más edad son muy relajados y les encanta compartir las olas. Esa atmósfera tranquila le agrega magia a este lugar."

Women Surfers of Todos Santos



Mujeres Surfistas en Todos Santos

Once you have the love for surfing, nothing else works," says Laura Cassity, one of the most dedicated surfers in Todos Santos. "I moved to Todos Santos in 2003 to teach and drove 40 hours down from Humboldt, California. At the end of that drive I pulled right into Los Cerritos and surfed until the sun went down. All I could think of the whole time I was driving was, "Get me to the beach!" Now

6 months pregnant with her second child, Laura is finding it increasingly challenging to surf every day as she likes to do (and as she did in her first pregnancy). "Really, it takes me 10 minutes just to maneuver the wet suit onto this body now." And not just the wet suit—picture trying to paddle out to catch a wave with a 20 pound butterball turkey strapped to your stomach and you get a pretty good idea of the challenge...and the passion for the waves that keeps pulling Laura to surfing with baby on board. Fellow surfer Jeannie Day, a.k.a. Pickle (as in pickled-looking skin from spending so much time in the water) understands that passion well. "I can't imagine anything that would make me happier than surfing. It's a whole different universe." Growing up in states not known for producing surfers, Illinois and Iowa, Pickle didn't learn to surf until she moved to San Diego at the age of 26. And even then she didn't have any formal surf instruction—her friends just threw her in the water with a surf board and she figured out the rest for herself. On a surfing road trip to Mexico in 1993 she connected with an old buddy from California building a house in Todos Santos, Steve Meisenger, and has been here ever since. "Living in Todos Santos is so ideal because I can go surfing any time I want." Adds Laura, "Todos Santos may not have the best waves in Baja, but we do have a nice surfing community. Surviving in Baja can be challenging at times, but being able to surf and maintain this lifestyle connected to art and nature is so important to us and makes it all worthwhile."

"Una vez que tienes amor por el surf, nada más lo sustituye," dice Laura Cassity, una de las surfistas más dedicadas en Todos Santos: "Me mudé a Todos Santos en 2003 para enseñar y manejé 40 horas desde Humboldt, California. Al final de tan ardua jornada de manejo, me desvié hacia los Cerritos y surfeé hasta que se puso el sol, y todo lo que podía pensar mientras manejaba era '¡Quiero llegar a la playa!'" Ahora con 6 meses de embarazo de su segundo hijo, Laura encuentra cada vez más difícil surfear todos los días, como a ella le gustaría (y como hizo durante su primer embarazo). "La verdad es que ahora me toma 10 minutos tan sólo entrar en el traje de surf con este cuerpo." Pero no sólo es eso, imagínate tratando de dar brazadas para alcanzar una ola con un pavo de 6 kilos añadido a tu vientre y te darás una buena idea del reto que representa... y sobre todo la pasión por las olas que sigue llevando a Laura a surfear con un bebé en camino. La compañera surfista Jeannie Day, alias "Pickle" (Pepinillo) (por pasar tanto tiempo en el agua) entiende perfecto esa pasión: "No pude imaginar nada que me hiciera más feliz que surfear, es un universo completamente diferente." Criada en estados poco conocidos por ser cuna de surfistas, Illinois y Iowa, Pickle no aprendió a surfear hasta que se mudó a San Diego a los 26 e incluso entonces ella tampoco tuvo ninguna formación oficial en surf—sus amigos simplemente la aventaron al agua con una tabla y ella tuvo que descubrir el resto por sí misma. En un viaje de Surf por México en 1993 se puso en contacto con un antiguo amigo de California que construía una casa en Todos Santos, Steve Meisenger y desde entonces ella vive aquí. "Vivir en todos Santos es tan genial, porque puedo ir a surfear cada vez que quiero," comenta Laura, "tal vez Todos Santos no tiene las mejores olas de la península, pero tiene una comunidad de surf muy agradable. Sobrevivir en la Baja, puede ser desafiante en ocasiones, pero ser capaz de surfear y mantener este estado de vida conectado al arte y la naturaleza es muy importante para nosotros y hace que todo valga la pena."

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the biggest boulders underwater as they slope away from the island to a depth of around 90 feet. Here amongst the rocks, octopuses, lobsters and giant sea horses are found and the faces of the boulders are covered in colorful gorgonian fans. Don't forget to look up now and then to enjoy the huge schools of manta mobula passing overhead.

SALVATIERRA WRECK, located in the San Lorenzo Channel between the tip of the peninsula and Isla Espiritu Santo, is the remains of the Salvatierra cargo ferry that is still very much intact after striking Swanee Rock in 1976.

No lives were lost when the 320 foot ferry went down in about 65 feet of water that has now become a haven for sea life on this thriving artificial reef. Cortez Angels abound, tiny fish and crustaceans hide and even giant groupers are spotted hovering in the remains of the tires and trailers surrounding the wreck.

SWANEE REEF, fabulous! From 6 feet below the surface to 35 feet deep, Swanee Reef has some of the most diverse sea life, all in one place, than any other site and seems to be buried in millions of fish. Spot tail grunts school by the hundreds while "herds" of Mexican goatfish work their way through the sand with their whiskers. Gorgonians, zebra moray eels and stone scorpion fish sit like sentries on the rocks watching the schools of barracuda swim in lazy circles above the sand. At certain times of the year the male Sergeant Majors lose their yellow stripes as they turn bright bluish purple creating colored nests on the rocks, waiting for their harem of mates to show up.

Sea of Cortez continued from page 15



WHALE SHARK EXPEDITIONS: Generally, the world's largest fish, the whale shark, tend to hang out in the shallow waters off of El Mogote sand across the bay from La Paz. Swimming with these gentle beautifully speckled creatures can be the beginning or the ending of a perfect day on and in the Sea of Cortez. *iDisfrútalo!*... and don't forget your camera!

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baja cave PAINTINGS

Excerpt from: *Miraculous Air: Journey of a Thousand Miles through Baja California, the Other Mexico* by C.M. Mayo (Milkweed Editions paperback edition 2007; Dancing Chiva e-book edition 2011), Reprinted by permission of the author. All rights reserved. www.cmmayo.com

FROM THE CHAPTER "IN THE SIERRA DE SAN FRANCISCO: THE MOST BEAUTIFUL DREAM"

When we woke Oscar was gone. We waited for more than an hour, sipping our coffee. It was a glorious day, sun spilling into the canyon, and we were eager to leave for the cave paintings. Finally, from far up the arroyo, we heard the tinkle of Güero's bell.

The animals had wandered all the way back to Rancho Salsipuede, Oscar said, when he arrived out of breath. He wiped his brow with his shirtsleeve.

Salsipuede! That was more than three hours roundtrip.

"I walk fast," Oscar said. He conceded that he'd been up before dawn. He tethered the two burros and two mules to the acacia tree behind our tent. Macho de Mata gave me a withering look.

We left the animals at camp and began to hike down the arroyo over boulders and rocks and crunchy carpets of fallen palm leaves. Then we made our way up the side of the canyon on a trail so faint we would never have found it without Oscar. In places we had to turn sideways to ease ourselves between the rocks and the cacti. Soon we were edging along ledges, slowly so as not to lose our footing on the loose dirt and rubble; within inches were sheer drops. Far below, the tops of the palm trees shimmered silver-green. A hawk swooped by, its screech echoing across the canyon.

"That was where Erle Stanley Gardner's helicopter landed." Oscar pointed to a widening in the stony bottom that was bare of trees. "My uncle Tacho was their guide."

When we'd stopped to rest, Oscar asked me about Erle Stanley Gardner's education. "*¿Tiene muchos estudios?*" He wondered how he'd gotten the money to travel here



in a helicopter. I told him Gardner was a lawyer, but his money—millions of dollars—had come from the Perry Mason TV show and his pulp novels.

Oscar nodded, frowning thoughtfully.

Half-way up the canyon wall we came to "Gardner's Cave,"—or as the ranchers had always known it, La Cueva Pintada, The Painted Cave—"This grand cave," as Harry Crosby describes it, "the most painted place in the most painted part of the entire range of the Great Murals."

Nothing, not all the reading I'd done nor the photographs I'd seen, prepared me for the Cueva Pintada's stunning scale, its weirdness, its seething black and blood-colored mass of animals and birds and men. It wasn't a cave really, more a ledge with an overhang, like a bubble between the cake-like layers of the canyon wall. The rocky ceiling jutted out, ablaze with enormous figures, many of them ten, twenty, even thirty feet high up the ceiling and the rock face. To view them all fully would have been dangerous—too easy to slip back off the ledge. It was as if the Painters—what wizards!—had worked as they floated in the air.

As at San Borjitas, the human figures faced front, red or black, some bi-colored, arms stiffly raised. But here there were also many animals—bighorn sheep, deer, rabbits—all in silhouette, fat-stomached, many of them pierced with arrows and spears. The figures overlapped, a man imposed on a deer, a red man over a black man, an arm over a hindleg, a head obscuring a head. This was ritual magic, prayers of a people without the written word.

But what people?

The giants, they came from the north, said the Cochimi.

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aventuras

SUBMARINAS EN Y BAJO EL MAR DE CORTEZ



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Las áreas de buceo y snorkel cercanas a La Paz consisten en islas, islotes, montañas marinas, calas y playas de arena blanca y fina. El mejor momento para sumergirse es durante el verano y los primeros meses de otoño, que es cuando la vida abunda en el agua clara y templada. La principal atracción, como en otros lugares, es su gran número de habitantes, llenos de color y diversidad de formas y tamaños, tanta abundancia a tan sólo un raite de panga de distancia desde La Paz.

BALANDRA, está localizada cerca de la punta de la península de La Paz. Esta hermosa bahía color turquesa es un gran lugar para detenerse a almorzar entre chapuzones o hacer un viaje en snorkel cerca de la famosa piedra con forma de Hongo de Balandra, uno de los monumentos naturales más fotografiados de La Paz. El arrecife rocoso que se extiende a lo largo de la península es el hogar de muchos peces coloridos y anguilas, así como diversas especies de pez globo, que les encanta estar en las áreas arenosas lejos de la bahía.

PLAYA BONANZA, al este de la isla Espíritu Santo es una gran playa para esnorklear si eres principiante, es fácil sumergirse y puedes encontrar cangrejos rojos sentados en las rocas y peces, anguilas, estrellas de mar y erizos decoran los arrecifes.

EL BAJO está a casi 13 kilómetros al este de Los Islotes ¡y tiene la fama de que puedes nadar con animales grandes! Los buzos más avanzados acostumbrados a mayores profundidades pueden encontrar ahí creaturas marinas en y alrededor de las tres montañas submarinas, localizadas a más de 18 metros bajo la superficie. Tiburones cabeza de martillo, mantas gigantes, grandes bancos de peces e incluso uno que otro encuentro con Tiburones Ballena. Pulpos, anguilas de colores y colonias enteras de gigantescas morenas de color verde que casi parecen apilados uno encima del otro en los riscos y grietas de estos pináculos que se levantan desde el lecho marino.

LAS RUINAS DEL FANG MING: a 21 metros de profundidad descansa lo que queda del Fang Ming. Lo hundieron intencionalmente en 1999 a el lado este de la Isla Espíritu Santo para crear un arrecife artificial que fuera hogar de cientos de peces y moluscos. Con mucha frecuencia las tortugas marinas habitan la proa. Este es un gran lugar para buzos, fotógrafos, estudiantes y todos aquellos que disfruten darse una vuelta alrededor de la torre de mando a 6 metros bajo el nivel del mar y ver un mundo submarino pasar frente a sus ojos.

ISLA BALLENA es la mayor de 3 islas situadas al oeste de la Isla Espíritu Santo. Alrededor de toda la isla, que se

asemeja a una ballena durmiendo en la superficie, son muchos los sitios para bucear y esnorklear. Rodeado por las entradas, cuevas y rocas enormes que se estrechan fuera de la isla, este es un gran sitio que cualquiera disfrutará explorando.

LA REYNA es un islote pequeño de roca, se encuentra al norte de la Isla Cerralvo y es el hogar de varios lobos marinos, manta rayas gigantes y numerosos bancos de peces de vivos colores. Por debajo de la superficie de varias hendiduras que son hogar de las anguilas morenas y rayadas que hacen su camino a través de los abanicos de gorgonia y grandes estructuras de coral en forma de cerebro.

LA REYNITA se desprende directamente de Isla Cerralvo, este mini pináculo tiene una corriente constante que fluye y atrae a bancos de peces que se alimentan con el flujo constante de agua. Pequeños resquicios, arcos y muros que se levantan del fondo arenoso, crean incluso mejores condiciones para un mayor número de habitantes submarinos.

LOS ISLOTES es donde la diversión submarina comienza. Llenos de leones marinos, las sardinas y pasadizos, Los Islotes es famosa por la acción constante y la diversión. Situado como 800 metros de la punta norte de Isla Espíritu Santo, estos dos grandes islotes de roca ofrecen un sinfín de posibilidades para los buzos y nadadores. Grandes cardúmenes de pargos azules y dorados, Ángel Emperador, de color naranja-dorado, corales y estrellas de mar con "chispas de chocolate" están ahí para entretener la pupila, acompañados por los juguetones lobos marinos bebé.

PUNTA LOBOS, al lado este de la Isla Espíritu Santo, ofrece a los buzos la oportunidad de explorar algunos de los grandes cantos rodados bajo el agua, ya que la pendiente fuera de la isla a una profundidad de alrededor de 27 metros. Aquí, entre las rocas, pulpos, langostas y caballos de mar gigantes se encuentran y las rocas están cubiertas de coloridos abanicos de gorgonia. No se olvide de mirar de vez en cuando para disfrutar de los grandes bancos de manta móbula que pueden pasar sobre tu cabeza.

EL NÁUFRAGO SALVATIERRA, ubicado en el Canal de San Lorenzo entre la punta de la península y la Isla Espíritu Santo, son los restos del ferry de carga Salvatierra que parece intacto a pesar de haber chocado contra la Roca Swanee en 1976. No fue un choque fatal, cuando el ferry 100 metros cayó cerca de 20 metros de profundidad y actualmente se ha convertido en un refugio para la vida marina en este próspero arrecife artificial.

Ángeles Cortez abundan, pequeños peces y crustáceos se esconden e incluso se han visto meros gigantes flotando entre los restos de los neumáticos y remolques que rodean los restos del naufragio.

EXPEDICIONES DE TIBURÓN BALLENA: Por lo general, el pez más grande del mundo, el tiburón ballena, tiende a pasar el rato en las aguas poco profundas fuera de la arena de El Mogote de la bahía de La Paz. Nadar con estas apacibles criaturas moteadas maravillosamente puede ser el comienzo o el final de un día perfecto en el y en el Mar de



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SINGLE

Since David and I had split, I could no longer afford the rent on our five acre California bungalow so I moved into a small guest house in town. Although I missed our old place, I felt a new kind of hope I hadn't felt living out in the country alone. Today was a neighborhood yard sale and I was relieved to see one of the neighbor's children approaching before I went too far down memory lane, more like a dark alley lately.

"I know you, you're..." I hesitated, studying the little girl's face but not remembering her name. Her mother had sent her over to my house just last week to tell me about sale.

"Angela," the little girl blurted out, tossing back a mane of long silky blond hair.

"Of course, Angela. Sorry, I'm awful at names."

"How come?" Angela wanted to know.

I wasn't really sure. Maybe I was so self-absorbed these days that I didn't pay attention when people said their names. And of course there was the little voice in my head that chattered so incessantly. I was surprised I ever heard anything anyone said.

"Old age, I guess," I answered, wishing I hadn't said that. I always worried I would say the wrong thing to a child, that he or she would find some error in what I said and correct me. "But I won't forget again. You have such beautiful hair, just like an angel's. Angela the angel."

"How do *you* know what angel hair looks like? Have you ever seen an angel? My mom says they aren't real."

Now I've done it. Three minutes into a conversation with the kid and already my integrity is on the line. "Well, it's how I imagine angel hair—fine and soft, like yours."

"Did you know you're the only single person on the block?" Angela announced out of the blue.

"Oh really," I answered, not quite sure what else to say.



"Yeah, everyone else on this block is married. Did you know there aren't very many single people in the world?"

I was sure this was Angela's parents speaking. "Well, I might be the only one on the block, but there are certainly lots of us around, I can guarantee that," I said a bit argumentatively.

"Well, my mom says there aren't."

So screw your mom, I thought. "I wasn't always single, Angela," I said. Why was I defending myself to this child? I took a deep breath. "You just happen to live in a neighborhood where there are lots of married people. Single people don't usually live in this kind of neighborhood."

"Then why do *you* live here?"

Now I've done it. I didn't want to tell this young girl I barely knew how terrified I was at the old house after David moved out. There were five acres surrounding it and not another house in sight. The isolation had seemed romantic when we were together. Without him the dream ranchette had become a Truman Capote farmhouse, cold, stark and isolated waiting each night for a murder to take place. I had decided to move into town, to a safe neighborhood with cheerful little houses, close enough for neighbors to hear if I screamed.

"I moved here, Angela, because I heard you lived on this block." Angela giggled but was too sharp to be satisfied with that answer.

"Well, where do the other single people live?" she asked, peering into my eyes, tilting her head like a dog waiting for its master to speak. Even though I liked dogs, I disliked people who had dog-like traits.

How the hell do I know where single people live? The more I thought about my few single friends, I realized they did live in neighborhoods like this, amongst married families. How could you not? Families were everywhere.

TINY TOWN continued on page 33

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elcielo

by Roc Fleishman

THE BAJA SKY



Welcome to the Summer 2012 edition of El Cielo, highlighting the more visible movements of the heavenly objects in the Southern Baja sky. There is a lot going on, so keep this list close at hand and enjoy the sky.

JUNE

4th – Partial lunar eclipse. Around 3 am, the penumbral phase will start to darken the bright Full Moon. The partial phase starts at about 4 am, with the Earth's shadow obscuring the Moon with the maximum shadow depth at 5 am. It will lighten but set still eclipsed just after sunrise at 6:43 am.

5th – Transit of Venus. At the most a twice in a lifetime event... Venus will cross in front of the sun's disk from our viewing location on Earth. With proper viewing methods, you can see Venus as a small black disk on the face of the Sun. It starts from here at 4:06 pm in the afternoon and continues until the sun sets at 8:05 pm.

8th – Earliest sunrise of the year.

17th – The waning crescent Moon rises with bright Jupiter at about 5 am with Venus rising 6 degrees below the Moon.

19th – New Moon, good chance to see it on the 21st.

20th – Summer Solstice 5 pm. Star notes: Omega Centauri is a great fuzzy ball at 18 degrees of altitude in the south (southwest end of June) at sunset, a great binocular or telescope target. The Southern Cross is due south at 9 pm on June 1, but by June 30 it is heading down toward the sea by sunset.

JULY

Last week of June through the first half of July, closest on the 1st, Jupiter above Venus rises in the East around 4 to 4:30 am.

2nd – Latest sunset of the year.

18th – New Moon. Probably can see it on the 20th.

AUGUST

11th – Jupiter 4 degrees below and left of the moon, rising at 2 am.

11/12th – Perseid Meteor Maximum. Our usual big summer meteor shower runs from the later part of July until late August. We don't have much of a moon this year, so for the Maximum, watch from 10 or 11 until the moon interferes after it rises at 2:30 am.

13th – Interesting but hard to see when Venus passes behind the Moon during afternoon hours: immersion at 3:07 pm and egress at 3:58 pm.

15th – Mars passes less than 3 degrees from Saturn in the evening sky in the West. They will be close for many days before and after, and joined by the moon on the 21st (new on the 17th).

SEPTEMBER

8th – Jupiter close to the moon when they rise just after midnight, closest around 4 am.

15th – New Moon, visible on the 17th.

22rd – Equinox 8 am.

27th – Equilux—same length day and night

OCTOBER

7/8th – A meteor shower centered on the northern constellation Draco exhibits noticeably slow meteors. There will be no Moon interference, so enjoy the view from about 10 pm (nice and dark) until around 2 am when the radiant has set.

16th – Possible good view of Mercury and the New Moon in the sunset.

21st/22nd – The Orionid meteor shower might have a long maximum this year, so viewing could be good any night between the 17th and the 21st. Try anytime after moonset.

EL CIELO continued on page 37

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MLS

Sea of Cortez

by Kaia Thomson



Swanee Reef



Los Islotes



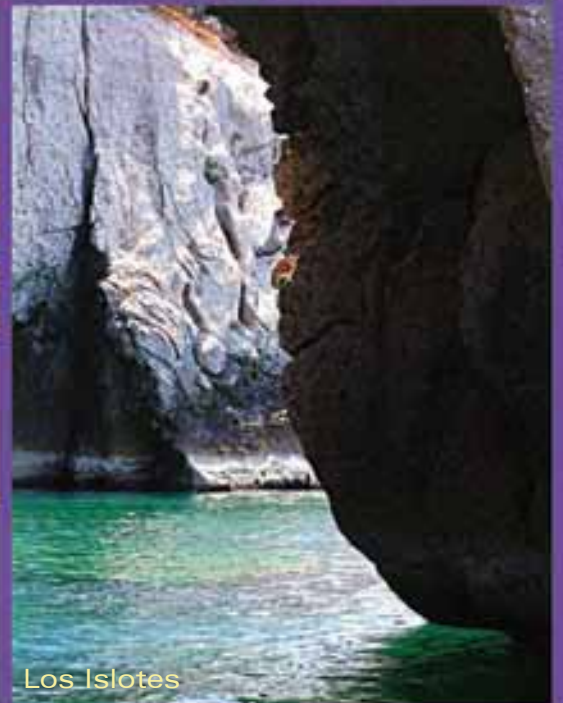
Playa la Bonanza



Playa el Tecolote



Isla Cerralvo



Los Islotes



Playa el Coyote



Isla Espiritu Santo



Fang Ming wreck



Playa Pichilingue



Isla Espiritu Santo



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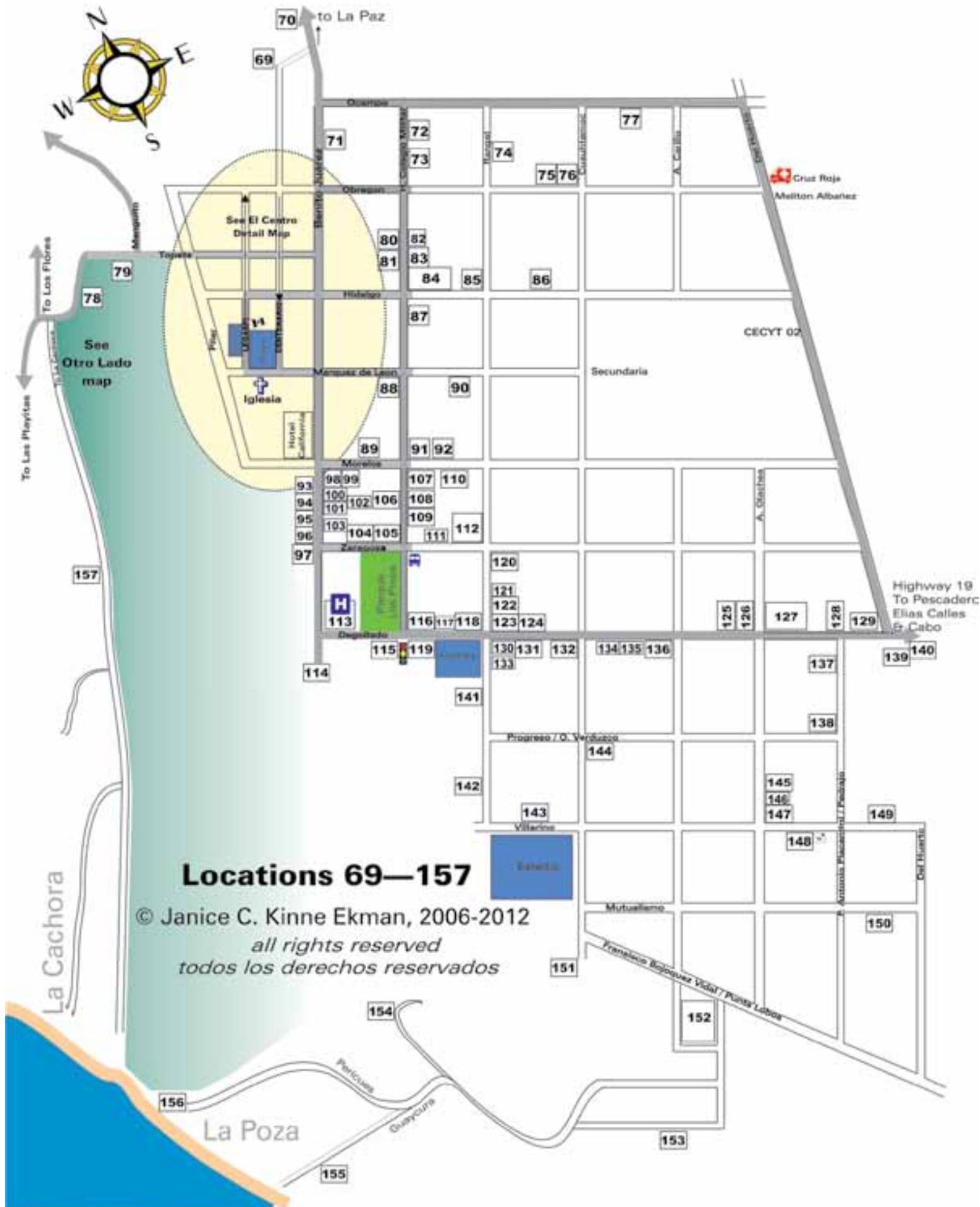


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VOCES DEL PUEBLO

by Janice Kinne

Summer is the perfect time to enjoy an outdoor adventure in Baja California Sur. Our feature stories include *Surfing Santeños* with beautiful photography by Jocelyn Mathe throughout the issue and the stunning underwater photography of Kaia Thomson in *Aquatic Adventures in and on the Sea of Cortez*. **Todos Santos Eco Adventures**, **Mario's Surf School** and **The Cortez Club** are ready to help you plan your quest today! To see a slideshow of surfing and surf culture photographs by Jocelyn, go to our website at: journaldelpacifico.com

La Sirena Eco~Adventures is pleased to introduce "Creating Sushi 'n Ceviche." Learn to fillet sushimi, roll sushi, and marinade the perfect ceviche Todos Santos style! Classes can follow your Eco~Fishing Charter or be arranged as a Special Event. Creating Sushi 'n Ceviche can be brought to your Todos Santos or Pescadero location. They are also available to cater parties and events.

The Junior Lifeguards/Salvavidas Junior de Todos Santos program returns this July. Participants will learn basic water safety, flotation, snorkeling, kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding, surfing, responsibility and teamwork. For more information go to www.lasirenakayaksurf.com

The gracious **el Encanto Inn Hotel Spa & Suites** is a small hotel with an intimate ambiance located in the heart of the Art District in San José del Cabo. All twenty-seven rooms are beautifully decorated in an upscale rustic style with American luxury linens. Their onsite **Encanto DaySpa** will heal your mind and body with their state of the art, yet relaxing facility that includes pool, steam room, lounge area and private treatment cabins.

Torres Architecture is now open in Todos Santos on Topete. They offer complete design, construction and renovation services as well as property management. Contact builder Marco Torres or Architect Dany Torres for more information.

Pura Vida Organic Health Food Store and Deli is now in their new location, #141 on the Todos Santos map.

Casa Catalina y Galería in Todos Santos has hand-carved David Luna purses, genuine Panama hats, blown glass, mountain pottery and features Ezra Katz paintings.

BajaTrader.com is a new, free, member-posting site for all of Baja California Sur. Show your stuff, trade, barter, buy or sell. The 2013-2014 **Todos Santos/Pescadero phone book** will be in production August through November, go to www.todossantos.me, at the beginning of July, for the on-line form for new residents and number changes.

La Pazta Restaurant, one block off the *malecón* in La Paz, invites you to visit and enjoy their eclectic cuisine.

Now you can work on your Spanish over the summer. **Se Habla... La Paz** Language School offers one on one, one hour classes using SKYPE, a video camera and microphone. Classes can be scheduled daily or intermittently during the week according to your schedule. Visit their website www.sehablalapaz.com for more information and to set up a free 30-minute trial lesson with an instructor.

The accounting office of **Frimar Group** with Raquel Martinez provides accounting and administration services including IMSS, SECOFI, immigration, bill payments and more. You can find them right behind El Tecolote Bookstore in Todos Santos.

CaboMagic offers first class and affordable Sport Fishing adventures in Cabo San Lucas. Call them on their Vonage line for reservations or visit their website at www.cabomagic.com

Congratulations to Alvaro Colindres and Lisa Welsch of the Todos Santos **Coldwell Banker Riveras** office for being the first and second place top producers in the BCS region, which includes San José del Cabo, Los Barriles and Todos Santos!

Vicbi's at the southern entrance to Todos Santos is open early to late, serving up fresh coffee, empanadas, burritos and delicious ice cream treats (including mango ice cream) Stop in on your way in, or out, of town.

MerciTODO / TODOInteriors on calle Márquez de León in Todos Santos makes custom cushions, blinds, roman shades, and curtains and stocks a large variety of designer fabrics, upholstery, Sunbrella, notions and more!

SPEED Shower Car Wash (#149 on Todos Santos map) **VOCES continued on page 37**

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El Pescadero

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beaches

PLAYAS

by Janice Kinne

Todos Santos lies inland along the rugged Pacific coast. There are miles of beautiful white sand beaches accessible down unmarked dirt roads.

This stretch of the Pacific Ocean is a very dangerous place to swim at any time of the year. Strong rip currents and backwash are common. People have drowned in waters near Todos Santos simply because they were too close to the ocean while on beaches with steep drop-offs. PROPLAYAS Todos Santos A. C. have placed warning signs at the most dangerous beaches and have lifeguards on duty daily from 9 am to 5 pm at Los Cerritos Beach.

You can access the **LA POZA** and **LA CACHORA** beaches via the La Cachora road. Both are suitable for walking, fishing, whale watching, relaxing or sunbathing. They are not swimming beaches. Because of the big waves breaking on the shore, La Cachora beach has become popular with skim boarders.

La Poza has a large freshwater lagoon that is great for bird watching.

When the lagoon is full, exercise extreme caution, especially if it has begun to overflow. People have drowned at La Poza beach in front of the mouth of the lagoon when the dune has broken and the lagoon flowed into the ocean.

- Do not attempt to surf or boogie-board the overflow.
- Do not swim in the lagoon when it is close to overflow; do not walk or drive across the mouth of the lagoon if it is even close to overflow.
- If you are going to swim in the lagoon be very careful. The lagoon may appear to be shallow, but has many sudden drop-offs and is actually very deep.

PUNTA LOBOS, named for a sea lion colony, is also known as the fisherman's beach. Simply follow Calle Francisco Bojorquez Vidal (formerly calle Punta Lobos) south out of town, or turn off at km 54 from highway 19. You will pass an old cannery from the days when fisherman could harvest sea turtles legally. There is a small freshwater lagoon at Punta Lobos with a shrine to the virgin.

The fishermen ride their panga boats on the waves onto the beach between 1 and 3 pm. Their return is exciting to watch and you can usually buy fresh fish from the cooperatives.

The two fishing cooperatives have exclusive rights to the "launch zone" at Playa Punta Lobos. For reasons of safety and due to past problems, boat launching at Punta Lobos is not permitted without their express permission.

The only recommended swimming beaches are outside of Pescadero. **SAN PEDRO**, also known as **PALM BEACH** (Playa Las Palmas) is near km 57. Its entrance is across highway 19 from the Campo Experimental—stay to the left as you pass the abandoned hacienda. Las Palmas is a beautiful, secluded beach surrounded by a palm grove with

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Beaches continued from page 31

a fresh water lagoon that is home to a variety of plants, birds, and wildlife.

Due to strong currents (especially near the rocky point), swimming is safer 50 meters from the rocks (Swim with caution and always have a land reference). The property surrounding Palm Beach is privately owned. The gates are open from 6 am to 9 pm daily. Car break-ins have been reported at Palm Beach. Leave your valuables at home!

PLAYA SAN PEDRITO is a rocky surfing beach around km 60, about 4.6 miles (7.4 km) from Todos Santos. There is a large San Pedrito RV Park sign at the entrance off the highway. (The trailer park is closed but usually open to cars.)

PLAYA LOS CERRITOS is located at km 64 about 8 miles (12.8 km) south of Todos Santos. Look for the sign at the turnoff at the very top of the highest hill south of Puente El Pescadero. Los Cerritos is a popular spot for surfing, boogie boarding, swimming and fishing. Swim with caution due to strong riptides near the rocks. It is recommended to stay at least 50 meters from the rocks. The most secure swimming area is in front of the restaurant/bar. (Swim with caution and always have a land reference). There is a long stretch of beach to the south that is perfect



photos: Jocelyn Mathe

for walking or running. Surfboard rentals and other services are available.

La Sirena Eco-Adventures, #145 on Todos Santos map, provides kayak and snorkeling tours, fishing trips, beach shuttle, surfing lessons, surfboard and boogie board rentals.

Mario's Surf School provides surfing lessons, board rentals, repairs and accessories. Call for information.

Pescadero Surf Camp, #26 on the Pescadero map, provides surfing lessons and surfaris.

San Pedrito Surf Hotel, #8 on the Pescadero map, offers board rentals and surf lessons.

Todos Santos Eco Adventures, #155 on the Todos Santos map, offers surfing lessons, fishing trips, guided cliff and beach walks, bird-watching at the lagoon, swimming with sea lions, and whale watching in Magdalena Bay.

Surf reports: checkout Baja under Mexico at www.wetsand.com/swellwatch

There are no restrictions for beach fishing at any beaches. Please respect our beaches and help protect the sea turtles, don't leave trash or drive on the dunes or beaches.



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Tiny Town

continued from page 22

No, no, I was giving in too easily.

"Well, they're just all over, Angela, I don't know where exactly, but they're out there, believe me." I was quickly remembering why I had decided not to have children. They made me feel hypocritical, like I had to lie to them. After all, hadn't I done everything my parents told me not to do, and wasn't it a miracle I was still alive? If I had children and was truthful with them about my own life, how could I stop them from pulling the same stupid stunts? I would be overly protective, and they would hate me for it. It had been an easy decision. Well, that and the fact that I had no husband.

"Yeah, well, you're still the only one on our block," Angela repeated in a sing-song voice. What had her parents told her about single people for God's sakes? *That woman down the street is single, poor thing. We all have to be nice to people like that.* I could just imagine the conversation.

"So how come you're not married?" Angela asked, tilting her head at that annoying angle again.

"I just like it better this way. I like being free," I added, immediately sorry I had said it knowing Angela would repeat every word to her parents.

"Free?"

Christ. Now she had me. "Free—like time to do whatever I want."

"So what do you do?" I felt trapped. All I could think of was that I go to work. Free to screw around? That's a nice thing to tell a kid. Maybe I should turn the tables and ask *her* some questions, but Angela was sharp and I doubt she'd let me off the hook on this one. Kids are so damn observant, not like most of my friends who ask a question and go on to something else before you can begin to answer.

I guess Angela finally grew tired of quizzing me and returned to her own house. I had spent little time around children and felt mentally exhausted from her questions. In a span of a few minutes she had managed to call me on things most of my friends never did. I realized that having a child in one's household could really keep you on your toes, a dance I did not want to do. I decided at that very moment that I would get a dog. Companionship, yes, but no questions. Dogs just love you, and I liked that. Maybe later I'd move to a place where I could have lots of dogs, or even find a husband. Nah, dogs are probably easier.

UPDATE: I wrote this when I was single. As many of you know I got lucky—found a husband AND a dog, actually four dogs. And as far as dogs being easier to contend with than husbands, my Mexican dogs don't listen to me either so it's a toss up.



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lapaz by Janice Kinne BEACHES

The *malecón* along the bay of La Paz is the perfect place to walk, run, people watch or enjoy gazing across the water. Crews clean the beaches and walkways daily, fresh sand has been imported and there are *palapas* to offer shade. Locals and tourists visit the beaches north of downtown to swim, snorkel, or kayak. There are several adventure companies along the *malecón* and at the marinas offering panga rides, bay and island cruises, snorkeling, scuba diving, fishing, sailing and kayak rentals.

EL MOGOTÉ is the spit of land that separates the harbor of La Paz from the *Bahía de La Paz*. This natural treasure used to be, for the most part, accessible only with 4WD. Now driving onto the peninsula is restricted due to the construction of golf courses, homes and hotels.

PLAYA EL COROMUEL (4.5 km): is the first beach north of town and an easy walk from downtown. It is within the harbor boundaries, has shaded *palapas* and food / beverage services. The water here gets much better flow with the tide change and is suitable for swimming. The bottom is clean sand and rock. Snorkeling is good further out. The new aquatic park has water slides and an enclosed swimming area for children, and is open on weekends.

PLAYA EL TESORO (approx. 13 km): is a great little beach for children. The shallow, clear waters allow you to walk out for close to 100 meters. Tesoro has about 25 shaded *palapas*, two small restaurants and kayak rentals.

PICHILINGUE (19 km): Home to the La Paz ferry terminus and a large commercial harbor. There are pleasant, small beaches just north of the deep water port, on the *Vieja Bahía*

de Pichilingue. Beachfront food and beverages service and kayak rentals are available and there is a restaurant with an upstairs view. The *palapa* bar is popular in the hot summer afternoons.

PLAYA BALANDRA (23 km): is known for its famous balancing rock formation landmark that resembles a prehistoric mushroom. You can view the rock formation and *playa El Hongo* by walking in the water around the cliff to your right. The large beach and surrounding area are beautiful. The waters surrounding Balandra are shallow and safe for children. Sheltered from wave action from nearly every direction, the water warms early and is very safe for swimmers and kayaking. There are also several little beaches (coves) and mangroves to explore. The beach has no services, so pack your own lunches and drinks for the day. There are beach *palapas* for shade and BBQ pits to the south.

PLAYA EL TECOLOTE (26 km): is by far the largest and most visited beach in La Paz. Two restaurant/bars offer shade *palapas* and a large number of beach vendors offer refreshments. RV camping is available, along with a wide variety of water sports rentals. Usually there are no lifeguards on duty, but they may be present during *la semana santa* and in the summer. The beach has a beautiful view of Isla Espiritu Santo and panga rides to the island are available—a 6.5 km crossing across the San Lorenzo channel. Bus service from the station on the *malecón* to playa El Tecolote is available for a nominal charge.



Sting rays are the biggest hazard at the playas and tend to be present on the bottom in shallow waters during the summer. When walking in the water, shuffle your feet on the bottom to avoid stepping directly on a resting ray.

Notary & Legal Services



**Aldo Francisco
García Collins
Attorney**

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Tortugueros Las Playitas A.C. (www.todostortugueros.org) will be constructing the new incubation greenhouse in July with the help of Tom Arie-Donch and Community Built. Sea turtle nest relocation patrols will begin in October. Look for the new greenhouse in the Las Tunas area of Todos Santos.

Visit **www.AllAboutTodosSantos.net** to enjoy the ocean view from the live webcam at La Poza.

Las Casitas B&B is now closed. Wendy Faith opened the doors of Todos Santos' first B&B in 1993. Good luck Wendy with your new ventures!

If you missed the first Festival GastroVino in Todos Santos, look for Rodrigo Ventura's story on our blog. You'll also find every issue online at: **journaldelpacifico.com**

All of us at ***Journal del Pacifico*** hope that you have a great summer! Look for the next issue of Baja's favorite magazine in fall. Contact us for feature article and advertising information.

For more information, check out the web links below, call me on my cell phone (612) 348-5468, or visit my Pescadero Properties Real Estate office, #94 on the Todos Santos map.

LINKS OF INTEREST:

TROPIC OF CANCER:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Axial_tilt#values_&
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Circle_of_latitude

TIME:

<http://www.time.gov/> and
<http://www.worldtimeserver.com/>

SATELLITES:

<http://www.heavens-above.com/> user "elcalendario"

WEEKLY SKY REPORT:

<http://www.griffithobs.org/skyreport.html> or
http://www.space.com/spacewatch/sky_calendar.html

SATURN:

<http://saturn.jpl.nasa.gov/home/index.cfm>

METEOR SHOWER:

<http://www.imo.net/calendar/2012>

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This 1,832 m² parcel has access on three sides
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Los Cerritos Knoll Lots

Three adjacent 2,000 m² lots with beach,
 mountain, and valley views.
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Beach Lot

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 small hotel or rentals. **\$455,000/\$100m²**

events

june

JUNE 8, 5 – 9 pm, 3RD TIANGUIS TURÍSTICO, in the Parque Acuático El Coromuel in La Paz. Promoting the conservation of the whale shark in the Sea of Cortés. Presented by the Universidad Internacional de La Paz. Artistic presentations, raffles, food and much more. For more information visit: www.unipaz.edu.mx

JUNE 29, 6 pm, GRADUATION CEREMONY for students from the BECA program of The Palapa Society of Todos Santos A.C.

july

JUNIOR LIFEGUARD participants will be trained by certified teachers, lifeguards and master divers and receive instruction in the following: Basic Water Safety, Flotation, Rip Currents, Emergency First Aide, Snorkeling, Kayaking, Boogie boarding Stand-up Paddle boarding, and Surfing. Participants must be between the ages of 9 to 18 and be eager to learn. July 9 to 12 or July 16 to 19, 10 am - 3 pm, \$80usd/ per session. For more info: www.lasirenakayaksurf.com, or call 145-0353

october

OCTOBER 5 - 12 FIESTAS TRADICIONALES DE TODOS SANTOS. Celebrates the town's founding with food booths, rides, and live music in the plaza.

november

NOVEMBER 24, 5TH ANUAL TIANGUIS for The Palapa Society of Todos Santos A.C. BECA program. For information email: info@palapasociety.org or call 145-0299

2013

JANUARY 10 – 26, TODOS SANTOS MUSIC FESTIVAL

FEBRUARY 3 – 10, XVI FESTIVAL DEL ARTE TODOS SANTOS

FEBRUARY 21 – 28, FESTIVAL DE CINE TODOS SANTOS
For more information visit: www.todossantoscinefest.com

farmer's markets

sunday

9 am – 1 pm, SUNDAY COMMUNITY MARKET at Baja Beans, Pescadero.

monday

9:30 am – 2 pm, Basilfield ORGANICS FRUIT & VEGETABLE STAND, Todos Santos.

tuesday

9:30 – 11:30 am, LA PAZ FARMER'S MARKET at calle Revolución and Constitución, La Paz.

9:30 am – 2 pm, Basilfield ORGANICS FRUIT & VEGETABLE STAND, Todos Santos.

wednesday

9:30 am – 2 pm, Basilfield ORGANICS FRUIT & VEGETABLE STAND, Todos Santos.

thursday

9:30 am – 2 pm, Basilfield ORGANICS FRUIT & VEGETABLE STAND, Todos Santos.

friday

9 am – 1 pm, FARMER'S MARKET at Shoppes at Palmilla, San José del Cabo.

9:30 am – 2 pm, Basilfield ORGANICS FRUIT & VEGETABLE STAND, Todos Santos.

saturday

9 am – 3 pm, SAN JOSÉ DEL CABO ORGANIC MARKET (Mercado Organico) just outside the San José historic district in Huerta Maria on the Camino a Las Animas. Look for the signs at the big arroyo off Avenida Centenario.

9 am – 1 pm, SATURDAY MARKETS at La Cañada del Diablo featuring organic produce, baked goods, and crafts. Todos Santos.

9:30 – 11:30 am, LA PAZ FARMER'S MARKET at calle Revolución and Constitución, La Paz.

9:30 am – 2 pm, Basilfield ORGANICS FRUIT & VEGETABLE STAND, Todos Santos.

HAPPY HOUR

Hotel Casa Tota, **Su M T W Th F Sa 3 – 5 pm**, 2x1 beer and well drinks.

Shut Up Frank's **T W Th F 3 – 6 pm**, 1/4 lb. burger, fries and pint of beer \$50 pesos.

The Sandbar **Su M W Th F Sa 3 pm – sunset**, 15 pesos tap beer and 2x1 well drinks & bottle beers.

La Esquina **M T W Th F Sa 5 – 6 pm**, 2x1 beer, wine and margaritas.



ECM. Raquel Martínez Peralta
ASESOR

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- Counseling and immigration assistance for FM2 and FM3
- Property management including payment of utilities, water, CFE, fideicomiso
- Assistance with water rights

every week

sunday

9 am – 1 pm, SUNDAY BRUNCH at **Baja Beans** with live music by Ben and The Men.

10 am DHARMA TALKS at La ARCA.

monday

10 am – 1 pm, Palapa Society LIBRARY OPEN.

5 – 8 pm, WINE SAMPLING at La Bodega de Todos Santos. A selection of three different Baja wines, live music. Through the end of June.

FOOTBALL & PASTA NITE at the Sandbar.

tuesday

1:15 pm, FREE MEXICAN CULTURAL PRESENTATION in easy Spanish. *Se Habla... La Paz* Spanish Language School, La Paz.

wednesday

10 am – 1 pm, Palapa Society LIBRARY OPEN.

5 – 8 pm, BIG RED WEDNESDAYS at La Bodega de Todos Santos. Premium, structured Baja wine by the glass and famous Doña Guillermina's tamales, tostadas, sopes & vegetarian options, 12 pesos each. Through the end of June.

PIZZA NITE at the Sandbar. Kids under 12 eat free.

thursday

5 – 9 pm, ARTWALK in the San José del Cabo historic district through the end of June.

7:30 pm, TODOS SANTOS TODAY with Wendy Rains radio program on **96.3 Cabo Mil FM**, or streamed live at www.cabomil.com.mx

STEAK/RIB NITE at the Sandbar.

friday

10 am – 1 pm, Palapa Society LIBRARY OPEN.

6 pm, ASIAN SPECIALTIES at Michael's at the Gallery.

6 – 8 pm, LIVE MUSIC on the Sky Deck at Hotel Guaycura. Drink specials. Check their Facebook page for details: www.facebook.com/pages/Guaycura-Boutique-Hotel-Spa/304341224352

8 – 11 pm, LIVE TROVA at La Encantada in La Paz.

LIVE MUSIC NITE at the Sandbar.

saturday

6 pm, ASIAN SPECIALTIES at Michael's at the Gallery.

TACO NITE at the Sandbar.

8 – 11 pm, LIVE MUSIC at the Hotel California. Featuring new bands and old favorites. Call for details 145-0525.

8 – 11 pm LIVE JAZZ at La Encantada in La Paz.

**for the latest in
event information, visit:
journaldelpacifico.com/blog**



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eventos

junio

8 de JUNIO, 5 a 9 pm, 3^{ER} TIANGUIS TURÍSTICO, en el foro del Parque Acuático El Coromuel. En pro la conservación del Tiburón ballena, un privilegio de nuestros mares. Presentado por La Universidad Internacional de La Paz. Presentaciones artísticas, rifas, muestras gastronómicas y mucho más. Para mejor informes: www.unipaz.edu.mx

29 de JUNIO, 6 pm, CEREMONIA DE GRADUACIÓN para estudiantes de la programa Beca de la Sociedad Palapa de Todos Santos A.C.

julio

SALVAVIDAS JUNIOR DE TODOS SANTOS está dirigido a jóvenes entre 9 y 18 años de edad. Los participantes reciben instrucción básica en la seguridad en la playa y mar, técnicas para prevenir lesiones, técnicas de entrenamiento para salvavidas, talleres de kayak, snorkel, y surf, liderazgo, responsabilidad, y primeros auxilios. El programa ayuda a formar una base de conocimientos, aptitudes y habilidades para que los jóvenes lleguen a ser futuros salvavidas. 9 a 12 de Julio, o 16 a 19 de Julio, 10 am a 3 pm, \$960 pesos/persona. Para mejor informes: www.lasirenakayaksurf.com o tel. 145-0353

octubre

5 a 12 de OCTUBRE, FIESTAS TRADICIONALES DE TODOS SANTOS.

noviembre

24 de NOVIEMBRE, 5^{TO} ANUAL TIANGUIS para de la Sociedad Palapa de Todos Santos A.C. la programa Beca. Para mejor informes: info@palapasociety.org o 145-0299

2013

10 a 26 de ENERO, FESTIVAL DE MÚSICA TODOS SANTOS

3 a 10 de FEBRERO, XVI FESTIVAL DEL ARTE TODOS SANTOS

21 a 28 de FEBRERO, FESTIVAL DE CINE TODOS SANTOS. Para mejor informes: www.todossantoscinefest.com

cada semana

domingo

9 am a 1 pm, BRUNCH DOMINICAL en **Baja Beans** con música en vivo de "Ben and The Men" y Mercado dominical.

10 am, DHARMA TALKS en La ARCA.

lunes

10 am a 1 pm, Palapa Society BIBLIOTECA ABIERTA.

5 a 8 pm, DEGUSTACIÓN DE VINOS DE BAJA. La Bodega de Todos Santos sirve una selección de tres vinos diferentes de Baja. Hasta el fin del junio.

miércoles

10 am a 1 pm, Palapa Society BIBLIOTECA ABIERTA.

5 pm, NOCHE DE PIZZA 80 MN en el Sandbar. Niños menores de 12 años comen gratis (máximo de 3 niños por adulto).

5 a 8 pm, MIÉRCOLES DE BIG RED en La Bodega de Todos Santos. Copa de un delicioso vino sudcaliforniano exclusivo con cuerpo y desde la cocina de Doña Guillermina, los famosos tamales, tostadas, sopes y opciones vegetarianas. Hasta el fin del junio.

jueves

5 a 9 pm, CAMINATA DEL ARTE en San José del Cabo, en el centro de arte histórico. Todas las galerías que participan estarán abiertas hasta las 9 pm y muchas tienen recepciones y eventos especiales hasta el fin del junio. Los restaurantes del área tienen ofertas especiales.

7:30 pm, TODOS SANTOS HOY con Wendy Rains programa de radio en **96.3 Cabo Mil FM**, ó lo puede escuchar en www.cabomil.com.mx

viernes

10 am a 1 pm, Palapa Society BIBLIOTECA ABIERTA.

6 p.m. ESPECIALIDADES DE ASIA en Michael's at the Gallery. Requiere reservación.

6 a 8 pm, MÚSICA EN VIVO en el Sky Desk en el Hotel Guaycura.

8 a 11 pm, TROVA MÚSICA en en La Encantada galería / cava en La Paz.

NOCHE DE MÚSICA EN VIVO en el Sandbar.

sábado

5 pm, MÚSICA EN VIVO "Happy Hour" en La Esquina.

6 pm, ESPECIALIDADES DE ASIA en Michael's at the Gallery. Requiere reservación.

NOCHE DE TACO en el Sandbar.

8 a 11 pm, MÚSICA EN VIVO en el Hotel California.

8 a 11 pm, JAZZ MÚSICA EN VIVO en La Encantada galería / cava en La Paz.

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mercados domingo

9 am a 1 pm, **MERCADO DOMINICAL** en Baja Beans, Pescadero.

lunes

9:30 am a 2 pm, **FRUTA Y VERDURA ORGÁNICA** en Colegio Militar cerca de Márquez de León, enfrente de la Pescadería, Todos Santos.

martes

9:30 a 11:30 am, **EL MERCADO ORGÁNICO** en el parque en calle Revolución y Constitución, La Paz.

9:30 am a 2 pm, **FRUTA Y VERDURA ORGÁNICA** en Colegio Militar cerca de Márquez de León, enfrente de la Pescadería, Todos Santos.

miércoles

9:30 am a 2 pm, **FRUTA Y VERDURA ORGÁNICA** en Colegio Militar cerca de Márquez de León, enfrente de la Pescadería, Todos Santos.

jueves

9:30 am a 2 pm, **FRUTA Y VERDURA ORGÁNICA** en Colegio Militar cerca de Márquez de León, enfrente de la Pescadería, Todos Santos.

viernes

9 am a 1 pm, **EL MERCADO ORGÁNICO** en Shoppes at Palmilla, San José del Cabo.

9:30 am a 2 pm, **FRUTA Y VERDURA ORGÁNICA** en Colegio Militar cerca de Márquez de León, enfrente de la Pescadería, Todos Santos.

sábado

9 am a 1 pm, **BAZAAR DEL SABADO** en La Cañada del Diablo ofreciendo productos orgánicos, pan, y artesanías hasta el fin del junio. Llame al 612-140-0069 para reservar su puesto.

9 am a 3 pm, **EL MERCADO ORGÁNICO** en San José del Cabo está ligeramente afuera del destrito de arte histórico en la Huerta María en el Camino a las Ánimas. Busque la señal para el gran arroyo junto a la Avenida Centenario. Productos orgánicos frescos, comidas preparadas y bebidas, artesanías, joyería, libros, productos de belleza y mucho más.

9:30 a 11:30 am, **EL MERCADO ORGÁNICO** en el parque en calle Revolución y Constitución, La Paz.

9:30 am a 2 pm, **FRUTA Y VERDURA ORGÁNICA** en Colegio Militar cerca de Márquez de León, enfrente de la Pescadería, Todos Santos.

HORA FELIZ

Hotel Casa Tota, **D Lu Mar Mie Ju Vi Sa 3 a 5 pm**, 2x1 cerveza y bebidas de la casa.

Shut Up Frank's **Mar Mie Ju Vi 3 a 6 pm**, 1/4 lb hamburguesa, papas fritas y medio litro de cerveza, \$50 pesos.

The Sandbar **Su M Mie Ju Vi Sa 3 pm al atardecer**. 15 pesos cerveza de barril y bebidas de la casa y cerveza de botella.

La Esquina **Lu Mar Mie Ju Vi Sa 5 a 6 pm**, 2x1 cerveza, vino y margaritas.



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Surfing continued from page 10

knows just how he feels. "In 1962 I was 15 and living in Sierra Madre, California. My uncle was a founding member of the San Onofre Surf Cub and took me with him to the beach one day. That first time riding a wave, the sensation was simply amazing. It took hold of me immediately and I couldn't think of doing anything else. My passion has never lessened from that day to this." Like Billy, Jim was just as in love with the surfing culture as with the surfing itself. "Everything important was happening at the beach."

Billy, Jim, Steve and countless other expat surfers living in Todos Santos went from being "grommets," or "gremmies"—slang for young surfers—to embracing the full surfing life as older teens and adults. A lot of school was missed, a lot of pretty girls chased, a lot non-food items ingested and a whole lot of waves caught. Poetry? Absolutely. "Poetry is not only dream and vision," says poet Audre Lorde, "It is the skeleton architecture of our lives. It [is] a bridge across our fears of what has never been before." For these boys surfing was the bridge to embracing nature in a most intimate, thrilling and terrifying way. Surfing was the bridge out of an ordinary life into something sublime. Surfing was the bridge to salvation. "Going to the ocean is like going to church for me," says Jim who went on to get a Masters in English and is currently writing a novel about surfing. "If it wasn't for surfing I would have been a drug addict or alcoholic like a lot of my friends. You have to stay physically fit to surf. It saved me." Billy, who went on to become a founding member and bass player for the hard rock band NoXit, agrees. "I was in the midst of living this rock star's life and surfing is definitely what kept me healthy, what kept me alive."

As countless movies and songs throughout the 1960's and '70s glamorized surfing culture, the surf breaks in California inevitably became more crowded and surfers became more territorial and protective of their breaks, often resulting in a tense and aggressive atmosphere. Some surfers, like Steve Meisenger, or "Meisy," started looking elsewhere and in 1973 at the age of 18 the Morro Bay, California board shaper started coming to Baja to enjoy the peninsula's stark beauty and uncrowded breaks. "I was getting a degree in Ornamental Horticulture at Cal Poly and would save all the money I made shaping boards during the year to come to Baja in the summer. We would live in the van and camp on the beach. We never went out to eat; we never stayed in a hotel. All of our money went to surfing and survival." Meisy started a successful, 30-year career as a housing contractor but continued to come to Baja at least once a year. He stumbled upon Todos Santos in 1981 while looking for a mechanic. He was captivated. He found himself returning to surf the breaks here every year, and by 1990 had bought property and started building his house. "The environment in most of Baja is so harsh, but in Todos Santos we get the great waves as well as this lush environment, great weather and wonderful creature comforts."

The magic of Todos Santos surfing has a powerful pull. By the time Billy first visited Todos Santos in 1994 it had been 14 years since he'd last been on a surf board. But much to his joy he found that he could still ride the waves. Much to

the consternation of his wife he also found that he really wanted to surf *all* the time, once again. "But luckily that beautiful woman really loves me so when I said I wanted to move to Todos Santos to surf she backed me 100%. We sold all of our property and here we are." Jim knows just what he means. When he and his wife married in 1989 they moved to the mountains of Oregon so they could pursue her love of horses. "But I thought about surfing every single day and even carved a sculpture of a wave to put over the mantel." A 3-year road trip throughout the North American continent brought them to Todos Santos in 2009. It had been 20 years since Jim was last on a surf board, but the magic returned immediately. "Every good wave that you ride is like a gift. It is this energy that is there for you personally, energy that has come 2,000 miles for you to merge with and take to the Todos Santos shore." Jim and his wife sold their Oregon property and have been in Todos Santos ever since.

No matter whether they surfed every day for the past 5 decades or abandoned the waves for years, surfing still provides the "skeleton architecture" of these men's lives as they move through their 60s. One of the key reasons they love surfing Todos Santos is, as Steve says, "This is as nice a surfing community as anyone could ever hope to find. There is hardly any localism and everyone on the waves is respectful and supportive of each other in the water." While they may not have the stamina and moves of youth, the men don't seem to mind (much). "Let's face it," says Billy, "the best surfer out there is the one having the most fun. And that's usually me!" Coming from a guy with 2 titanium bars, 4 screws and 3 vertical spacers holding his back together, that's no mean feat. Billy already has days

on the water when his back prevents him from getting up on the board, and he can see a time coming when he won't be physically able to surf any more. "But I'm just not that worried," says Billy. "There is always mind surfing!" Poetry? Oh yes indeed.



SURFARI! BAJA SURF CAMP FOR WOMEN

National Geographic lists Surfing in Todos Santos as one of its Best Adventure Destinations for 2012, so it's safe to say that the word is out about Todos Santos as a surfing hotspot. But there is still a desire among the local surfing community to protect the identity of the more challenging breaks, so if you're an experienced surfer and want to suss these out, you'll just have to hang around town a bit and buy the locals a few beers. But for those of you who are new to surfing or still relatively inexperienced on the waves, there is no place in the world like Los Cerritos Beach. With a smooth sandy bottom, clean, unpolluted waters and a wave dynamic that always creates a safe spot for beginners to practice, it's no wonder that surfing entrepreneur Mario Bercerril chose it for his "office," the place where he developed MIST, Mario's Infallible Surfing Technique. "I developed this technique over many years of teaching, and there are essentially two approaches. There is the 3-step technique for people with better balance and strength, and the 4-step technique for those who need a little more work in these areas. But no matter which option works for them, all my students get up in the first lesson—and have a great time doing it!" Mario is serious about this. If you don't get up on the board in your first surf lesson he'll give you your money back!

Mario and Todos Santos Eco Adventures have teamed up to create the perfect surfing all-girl getaway: *Surfari! Baja Surf Camp for Women*. Featured on the Travel Channel and gaining rapidly in popularity, the *Baja Surf Camp for Women* features yoga classes and surf lessons each morning, a fun/indulgent activity each afternoon, and a fabulous Todos Santos dining experience each evening. Horseback riding, cooking classes, swimming with sea lions and not one but two massages are all part of this fabulous week that features pampering and adventuring in equal doses.

Bryan Jáuregui and her husband Sergio are the owners/operators of **Todos Santos Eco Adventures** and Mario Becerril is the owner/operator of **Mario's Surf School**. Together they operate *Surfari! Baja Surf Camp for Women*. For more information please visit www.tosea.net and www.mariosurfschool.com

photos courtesy: Steve Merrill & Steve Meisenger



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Surfistas

continuó de página 11

alimentos y cacharon muchas, pero muchas olas. ¿Poesía? Absolutamente. "La poesía no es solo un sueño y una visión," dice el poeta Audre Lorde, "es la columna vertebral de nuestras vidas. Es un puente que cruza nuestros miedos sobre lo que nunca antes ha sido." Para aquellos niños el surf fue el puente para acercarse a la naturaleza de un modo más íntimo, aterrador y emocionante; para salir de una vida ordinaria y entrar en algo sublime. El surf fue el puente hacia la salvación. "Ir al océano es para mí como ir a la iglesia," comenta Jim quien obtuvo una Maestría en lengua inglesa y actualmente escribe una novela sobre surf. "De no haber sido por el surf, yo hubiera sido un drogadicto o alcohólico como muchos de mis amigos.

Debes mantenerte en buena condición para surfear. Me salvó." Billy, quien fue miembro fundador y bajista de la banda NoXit, concuerda. "Yo estuve dentro de la niebla del mundo del rock y el surf fue lo que definitivamente me mantuvo con buena salud, me tuvo con vida."

Debido a que un sinnúmero de canciones y películas de los 60 y 70 vistieron de glamor la cultura del surf, en California las playas se volvieron inevitablemente más concurridas y los surfistas se volvieron más territoriales y celosos de sus espacios, dando como resultado una atmósfera más tensa y agresiva. Algunos surfistas como Steve Meisenger, "Meisy," empezaron a buscar nuevos lugares y en 1973 a los 18 los diseñadores de tablas de Morro Bay, California comenzaron a venir a la Baja a disfrutar la belleza austera de lugares deshabitados. "Estaba estudiando un diplomado en horticultura ornamentaria y ahorraba todo el dinero que hacía moldeando tablas durante un año para venir a Baja en el verano. Vivíamos en la camioneta y acampábamos en la playa. Nunca salíamos a comer ni nos hospedábamos en un hotel. Todo nuestro dinero iba a surfear y sobrevivir." Meisy inició una carrera exitosa de 30 años como contratista en construcciones pero siguió viniendo a la Baja por lo menos una vez al año. Dio con Todos Santos por casualidad en 1981 mientras buscaba un mecánico. Quedó cautivado y empezó a venir a playas de surf cada año y en 1990 compró un terreno y empezó a construir su casa. "El ambiente en gran parte de baja es muy duro, pero en Todos Santos están las mejores olas, una exuberante vegetación, gran clima y muchas



comodidades."

La magia del surf en Todos Santos tiene un poderoso atractivo. Para cuando Billy visitó Todos Santos por primera vez en 1994, habían pasado 14 años desde la última vez que había estado en una tabla de surf. Pero para su gran satisfacción descubrió que aún podía abordar las olas. Para mayor preocupación de su esposa, descubrió que al igual que antes quería pasar todo el tiempo surfeando. "Pero afortunadamente esa bella mujer realmente me ama así que cuando sugerí que me quería mudar a Todos Santos para surfear ella me apoyó al 100%. Vendimos nuestra propiedad y nos mudamos aquí." Jim, entiende lo que él dice. Cuando él y su esposa se casaron en 1989, se mudaron a las montañas de Oregon para seguir el amor de su mujer por los caballos. "Pero yo seguía pensando en el surf cada día, incluso tallé la escultura de una ola para ponerla sobre el mantel." Un viaje de 3 años por la parte norte de América los trajo a Todos Santos en 2009. Habían pasado 20 años desde que Jim había pisado una tabla,

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pero la magia regresó de inmediato. "Cada ola buena que tomas es como un regalo, su energía está disponible para ti, energía que ha viajado 3000 kilómetros hacia ti para llegar a la costa de Todos Santos y fundirse contigo." Jim y su esposa vendieron su propiedad en Oregon y desde entonces han vivido en Todos Santos.

Sin importa si han surfado todos los días por las últimas 5 décadas o abandonado las olas por años, el surf sigue siendo la columna vertebral de las vidas de estos hombres de más de 60 años. Una de las razones clave por la que ellos aman surfear en Todos Santos es, como dice Steve: "Esta es la mejor colonia de surf que alguien pudiera encontrar. La gente no es localista y en las olas todos son respetuosos y cooperativos." Aunque tal vez no tengan la misma energía y vitalidad que en su juventud, a estos hombres parece no importarles (demasiado). "Afrontémoslo," dice Billy "El mejor surfista en las olas es aquél que se divierte más, ¡y ese por lo regular soy yo!" Tomando en cuenta que quien lo dice tiene 2 barras de titanio, 4 tornillos y 3 separadores verticales en la espalda, divertirse resulta toda una hazaña. Billy ya ha tenido días en el agua en los que su espalda le avisa que no se suba a la tabla y ve aproximarse el tiempo en el que le será físicamente imposible volver a surfear. "Pero por el momento no me preocupo," dice Billy "Siempre estará el surf mental." ¿Poesía? Sí, de hecho.

¡SURFARI! CAMPAMENTO DE SURF PARA MUJERES

La Revista *National Geographic* enlista el surf en Todos Santos como uno de los principales destinos de aventura en el 2012, así que se puede afirmar que el mundo está enterado de que Todos Santos es un cotizado destino de surf. Pero aun existe un deseo entre la comunidad local de surf de proteger la identidad de *lugar de desafíos*, así que si eres un surfista experimentado y quieres averiguarlo, sólo tendrás que darte una vuelta por el pueblo e invitarle a los locales unas cuantas cervezas. Pero para aquellos novatos o poco experimentados en las olas, no hay un mejor lugar que la playa Cerritos. Con un fondo suave y arenoso, claro, con agua limpia y una dinámica de olas que se convierte en el área ideal para que los principiantes practiquen. No es ninguna sorpresa que el emprendedor del surf, Mario Becerril haya escogido esta playa como oficina. Ahí, Mario creó TIMS (Técnica Infalible de Mario para Surfear): "Creé esta técnica tras muchos años de enseñar, y hay esencialmente dos vertientes; está la técnica de 3 pasos para personas con mayor fuerza y balance y la técnica en 4 pasos para aquellos que necesitan un poco más de trabajo en estas áreas, pero sin importar cuál de las técnicas funcionen para ellos, todos mis estudiantes logran pararse en la primera lección ¡Y se divierten mucho haciéndolo!" Mario lo dice en serio, ¡si no logras levantarte en la primera lección, te devuelve tu dinero!

Mario's Surf School y Todos Santos Eco Adventures han hecho equipo para crear el escape perfecto para chicas surfistas: *El Surfari, Campamento de Surf para Mujeres*. Este campamento ha salido en el Travel Channel crece rápidamente en popularidad, pues integra clases de yoga y lecciones de Surf cada mañana y una actividad divertida para consentirlas cada tarde, cerrando con una fabulosa cena en Todos Santos, cada noche. Paseos a caballo, lecciones de cocina, nado con lobos de mar y no uno sino dos masajes, todo esto forma parte esta sensacional semana que combina mimos y aventura en dosis iguales. Para mayor información visita: www.tosea.net o www.mariosurfschool.com



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Chasing THE WAVES



MARIO'S GUIDE TO SURFING THE CAPE

LAS PALMAS (SAN PEDRITO) Drive 5 km south from Todos Santos on Highway 19. Look for the Campo Experimental building on your left, and turn off the highway onto one of the dirt roads that winds toward the beach. Las Palmas is a beautiful beach with a lot of palm trees, and has a fast, heavy beach break. **BEST FOR:** Intermediate to advanced surfers

SAN PEDRITO South of Las Palmas you will find San Pedrito. Also known as Pescadero Beach, is about 8 km south of Todos Santos. It is a point break with a rocky bottom and breaks best with a north swell. **BEST FOR:** Advanced surfers

LOS CERRITOS This is one of the best beaches in Mexico for learning to surf. Los Cerritos is a beach break with a sandy bottom and has one of the most consistent waves



in Baja. It is also one of the few swimmable beaches in the area. From Todos Santos, look for the Cerritos signs at km 66. Lodging and restaurants are located nearby. **BEST FOR:** Beginner to advanced surfers

LA CURVA La Curva, also known as KM 93, has a long, right point break that only breaks with north swells and mostly in the winter. Watch for three large rocks you can only see at low tide. **BEST FOR:** Intermediate to advanced surfers

MONUMENTS Five minutes from Cabo San Lucas on the way to San José del Cabo, this is a left point break that is best with a south swell, although it also breaks with north swells. Take the road to Misiones Hotel and park on the road. Be aware of sea urchins at low tides. **BEST FOR:** Advanced surfers

OLD MAN'S Also known as Acapulquito, this is one of three close breaks on the Costa Azul Beach. It is east of the Palmilla sign, on the right below the view point off the highway to San José del Cabo. It breaks with a south swell and there is a long, right point break, especially good for long boards. The waves are mushy and easy to read. Watch for rocks at low tide. Surf lessons and rentals are available here, and many restaurants are located nearby. **BEST FOR:** Beginner to intermediate surfers

THE ROCK Another break that needs a south swell, The Rock is located on the Costa Azul Beach, east of Old Man's. It is named for the rocks that are visible from the viewpoint. It is a long, right point break, a little faster than Old Man's. **BEST FOR:** Intermediate to advanced surfers

ZIPPER Last of the three Costa Azul breaks, Zippers is a shorter, faster, right point break. This break is popular with the locals who may seem a little territorial. Only breaks with a south swell. **BEST FOR:** Advanced surfers

SHIPWRECKS Shipwrecks offers a fast, right point break. Be aware of rocks. It is located on the East Cape. To get there travel past downtown San José del Cabo on the bridge over the estuary then drive approximately 20 minutes east. **BEST FOR:** Advanced surfers

NINE PALMS Drive another 20 minutes east of Shipwrecks, and look for the palms at the little rancho, where you may find donkeys and cows resting in the shade. This is a mushy, long point break, good for long boards. **BEST FOR:** Beginner surfers

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GUÍA DE MARIO PARA SURFEAR LA ZONA

LAS PALMAS (SAN PEDRO) Maneja 5 kilómetros rumbo al sur de Todos Santos por la autopista 19, observa hacia tu lado izquierdo el edificio del campo experimental y gira hacia la derecha de la carretera, toma la brecha rumbo a la playa. Las Palmas es una playa hermosa con muchas palmeras y con un oleaje fuerte. **RECOMENDADO PARA:** *Surfistas intermediarios a avanzado.*

SAN PEDRITO Localizado al sur de Las Palmas, es también conocido como la playa del Pescadero está como a 8 kilómetros al sur de Todos Santos. Es una playa con fondo rocoso y rompe mejor con marea alta. **RECOMENDADO PARA:** *Surfistas avanzados*

LOS CERRITOS Es una de las mejores playas en México para aprender a surfear. Playa con fondo de arena y unas de las olas más consistentes en la península. También es una de las pocas playas para nadar en la zona. Viniedo de Todos Santos, busca Cerritos en el kilómetro 66. Cerca se puede encontrar alojamiento y restaurantes. **RECOMENDADO PARA:** *Surfistas de todos los niveles*

LA CURVA, también conocida como km 93, es una punta que sólo quiebra con oleaje del norte, principalmente en invierno. Cuidado con las tres rocas grandes que sólo se ven en marea baja. **RECOMENDADO PARA:** *Surfistas intermedios a avanzados*

MONUMENTOS A 5 minutos de Cabo, rumbo a San José del Cabo, este es una punta izquierda qué revienta mejor con oleaje del sur, aunque también recibe oleaje del norte. Toma el camino al Hotel Misiones y estacionate en la carretera. Ten cuidado con los erizos de mar cuando la marea está baja. **RECOMENDADO PARA:** *Surfistas avanzados*

ACAPULQUITO (OLD MAN'S) Este es uno de los tres puntos de surf en la playa Costa Azul. Está al este del letrero de Palmilla, a la derecha bajo el mirador de la carretera a San José del Cabo. Rompe con el oleaje del sur y tiene una punta larga que quiebra a mano derecha, especialmente bueno para tablas largas. Las olas son suaves

siguiendo LAS OLAS



y fáciles de leer. Hay que tener cuidado con las rocas con marea baja. Hay tablas de surf y lecciones en esta playa además de un buen número de restaurantes en la zona. **RECOMENDADO PARA:** *Surfistas principiantes a intermedios*

LA ROCA Otra punta que necesita oleaje del sur, localizada en la Playa Costa Azul al este de Acapulquito. Recibe su nombre por las rocas que se pueden ver desde el mirador. Punta derecha larga un poco más rápida que Acapulquito. **RECOMENDADO PARA:** *Surfistas intermedios a avanzados*

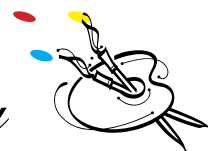
ZIPPER Es la última de las tres playas de la costa azul, Zippers tiene olas un poco más cortas, más rápidas y también revientan hacia la derecha. Esta playa es popular entre locales quienes se pueden poner un poco territoriales. Sólo quiebra con oleaje del sur. **RECOMENDADO PARA:** *Surfistas avanzados*

SHIPWRECKS Las olas en Shipwrecks son rápidas y revientan hacia la derecha. Ten cuidado con las rocas. Está localizado en Cabo del Este, para llegar pasa el centro de San José del Cabo, sigue sobre el puente del estero y maneja alrededor de 20 minutos rumbo al este. **RECOMENDADO PARA:** *Surfistas avanzados*

NUOVE PALMAS Pasando Shipwrecks maneja otros 20 minutos y fíjate en las palmas del pequeño rancho, donde verás unos burros y vacas descansando en la sombra. Estas olas son suaves y largas, ideales para tablas largas. **RECOMENDADO PARA:** *Principiantes*



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art HOUSE PLAYERS

If all the world's a stage, why shouldn't the talented *extranjeros* of La Paz get into the act? The idea to start an English language theatre is now taking hold and gaining momentum. Core members of the new group, dubbed "The Art House Players" for its current digs, an exhibit space on calle Revolución, are pulling together a group of talented and, until now, hidden theatre artists. The idea germinated from Monica Kling, the company's Artistic Director. Kling, a playwright and director hailing from off-Broadway in New York City, seeded the idea with friends nearly a year ago. She held an informal meeting with three amigos, to prepare a sit-down reading for a select audience of friends.

Sidne Byars, Emy Feste, Mauro Pasotti, and Jen Karasek audition at the Art House in La Paz, for next fall's production of "Wonder of the World." photo: Kat Bennett

They were: Kat Bennett co-owner of Allende Books; Patricia De Ville; co-owner of The Bagel Shop; and Jen Karasek, make-up artist. Kling was floored when she heard her pals, who had little to no experience, read. "I was astonished at the quality of their reading. I immediately knew I had the core to actually stage a production in La Paz."

But, as so often happens with such projects, life got busy and the idea went on the back burner. Then, early this winter, things began to revive again when Sidne Byars, now the company's Producing Director, and Maureen Ryan, now serving as Technical Managing Director, got involved. While both are active members of the foreign community with the ability to galvanize locals into action, Byars and Ryan will be also be gracing the boards with their presence. Byars, new to the stage, is no stranger to its charms. According to the modest Byars, "My theater experience goes back to 1967 in Berkeley; (the) plays were closed down before they opened." Ryan, a veteran thespian who acted and worked in many aspects of tech, will benefit the group with her experience onstage, in acting and offstage, in set construction.

But what about boys?

As is often the case in community theatre, it's a bit tougher to release the inner actor from the male of the species. Not to despair, the company is currently auditioning plum male parts (no pun intended) with local masculine talent. So, if there's a hidden Barrymore amongst our male readers, be sure to put in a bid for fame by emailing Kling at: theatre.info@ArtHouse.com

However it seems the guys are not so shy when it comes to the nuts, bolts and design of this community project. Terry Grame, sound designer and musician, will do the sound design, while theatre aficionado Mario Reyes of La Paz has enthusiastically offered his support to the group.

Reyes' involvement is especially gratifying to Kling. "I am so pleased that we are being welcomed by the Mexican artistic community. Although we are, okay I admit it, a bunch of south of the border expats, our bent is to form a true community group, that reflects us AND our Mexican hosts." Kling comments, too, that there are Mexican actors and *Paceños* volunteering for the project. "So it's not only for the *extranjeros* of Baja California Sur."

The company's first play is the comedy, "Wonder of the World" by Pulitzer Prize award winner, David Lindsay-Baire is slated to play early November. Want to get involved? This fall set builders, costume makers, prop makers, rehearsal staff, ushers, ticket takers, and publicity hounds are all welcome. Just drop a line at: theatre.info@ArtHouse.com and join the fun.



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MANOS MAGICAS Se juntan las mujeres de cada martes 3 a 5 pm en el Centro Cultural "Profe. Néstor Agúndez." Se encuentran al mercado de la Cañada del Diablo cada sábado. Para mayor información: Catherine Chambaret, email: chambaretc@mac.com

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Isla Espiritu Santo
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AA MEETINGS Grupo Serenidad in Todos Santos. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 5 to 6 pm. Saturday 11 am to 12 pm. The group meets in the courtyard of the church on the plaza. For more information: Cel. 612-134-0319.

AA Hacienda Group Cabo, upstairs above Ace Hardware behind McDonalds. Daily 4:30 pm and 6 pm.

San José del Cabo—Next to the Calvary Chapel corner of Degollado and Coronado. 6 pm nightly. For more information: 624-147-0478.

BOOK GROUP Will meet again Tuesday, November 20, at 10:30 am at The Palapa Society library. Book selection TBD. All are welcome. For information email: heavenlybliss57@hotmail.com or check www.JournaldelPacifico.com/blog

DHARMA TALKS Guided meditation and Dharma talks with Robert K. Hall, M.D. Sunday 10 to 11:30 am at La ARCA. All are invited and admission is free.

DRAWING CLASS Meets every Thursday at 9 am. All levels and drop-ins welcome. \$100 pesos/class. Contact Tori at oscarntori@yahoo.com

MANOS MAGICAS Meets Tuesday at 3 to 5 pm at Centro Cultural "Profe. Néstor Agúndez." A cooperative of woman of all ages and nationalities working together and making crafts to sell. Please come to visit, bring your sewing needs and shop for original handcrafted items. For information contact: Catherine Chambaret, email: chambaretc@mac.com

TAI CHI CHUAN Instructor Steve Merrill. Ongoing classes Wednesdays 4 to 5:30 pm at the Centro Cultural "Profe. Néstor Agúndez." New students welcome anytime. \$70 pesos per class; first class is free. Steve has 30 years of Chinese martial arts and 18 years of Taijiquan experience. He is a certified teacher with the American Yang Michuan Taijiquan Association, www.aymta.org For more information call (612) 152-7881.

BEGINNING T'AI CHI Instructor, Rhoda Jacobs, over 38 years of experience with the T'ai Chi Foundation. T'ai Chi, Yang Style Short Form. Monday, 8:30 to 9:45 am at the **Healing Arts Center**. Call for schedule and location

information. First class is free. Call/email for more information: 612-157-6088 or barakabaja@gmail.com www.taichifoundation.org

5 ELEMENT HEALING QI GONG CLASSES

Wednesday, 4:30 to 5:45 pm at the **Healing Arts Center**. Ongoing class, come and join at any time. Based on roots in Chinese Medicine—a unique practice of Qi Gong which unblocks the energy of the 5 elements within you and restores their natural balance promoting health, healing and well being. Learn how each organ is influenced and healed by the energies of the Five Elements. Try it, your first class is free. Call/email for more information: 612-157-6088 or barakabaja@gmail.com

YOGA Hatha yoga class meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 8 am, 70 pesos /class at La ARCA. Multi-class discount cards available.

Yoga class at the **Hotelito** with Jessica meets Tuesday and Thursday from 9 to 10:30 am. Suggested donation \$50 pesos.

Yoga at **Rancho Pescadero** meets everyday at 10 am in the yoga pavilion, \$100 pesos class.

Ashtanga Yoga with Zandro meets Thursday & Saturday, 9 am at Alas y Olas Gallery/Casa Franco, suggested donation \$70 pesos / class.

Hatha Yoga in Mini-super Los Arcos in Pescadero. Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7:30 am. For more information: misspithaya@hotmail.com

Yoga class at Tortugas/Villas de Cerritos Beach by the pool every Monday and Friday morning at 8:30 am (mats provided if needed).

ZUMBA with Lucy, Dra. Oliva. Coed Zumba takes place Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 7 am. Women only classes take place on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 8 am and Monday through Friday at 8 pm. All classes take place at the Mutualista, calle A. Carillo between Verduzco and Villarino, 50 pesos per class.

ZUMBA with Jaunita (classes in English). In Todos Santos, Wednesday and Friday, 10 am at Casa Madera on the *otro lado* (call for directions). At **La Esquina** on Sundays in June, 8 to 9 am, those who come are welcome to stay for a juice or coffee after the class!

At **Rancho Pescadero**, Wednesday and Friday, 4 pm. 50 pesos per class, first class free. Tennis shoes recommended. Call Jan Turner for more information (612) 145-0684



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CASA SANTA BARBARA. Beautiful Hacienda style home with spacious living and dining areas. Master bedroom, luxurious bathroom and gourmet kitchen. Covered patio and landscape courtyard with fountain. Separate two individual guest houses.

MLS # 10-1378 Offered at \$649,000 USD



CASA RODEA. Two-story home with spacious floor plan. Living area with fireplace and garden views. 3BR with closets, plus office with connectivity to cable TV and DSL. Gated driveway and parking for three cars.

MLS # 12-667 Offered at \$347,000 USD



CASA SERENATA. 2BR, 2BA home with 1430 sq.-ft. and additional 600 sq.-ft. of covered patios. Features a stylized design in a private and peaceful setting. Gorgeous views across the desert and ocean. Beautiful master suite with ocean views.

MLS # 11-1849 Offered at \$275,000 USD



CASITAS CLÁSICAS DEL CENTRO. Four buildings with six units on ¼ of acre. 2 units with full bath, 2 units with half bath and shared showers, 1 unit with shared bath and 1 unit under construction. Ideal for a B&B or community center. Central courtyard and kitchen.

MLS #:10-1864 Offered at \$225,000 USD



PASTORA SURF PAD. Private 2BR house 200 meters from the miles of empty and pristine white sand. 1 acre of land to expand out on. Absolutely peaceful and private, yet very close to Todos Santos.

MLS # 12-816 Offered at \$150,000 USD



SURF SHACK. 2000 meters lot with a small casita located in the beautiful little community north of La Pastora. Stunning mature cactus gardens in every direction with views of the ocean and mountains in the distance.

MLS # 12-817 Offered at \$39,000 USD



BEACHFRONT ELIAS CALLES. Beachfront property of 4,957 M² in Elias Calles. 50 meters of pristine beachfront and an already elevated building location featuring red rock foundations, municipal water and cistern in place. Owner financing available.

MLS #:12-573 Offered at \$550,000 USD



BELLAVISTA. Premium corner lot of 1980 sq.-mt. in Las Tunas subdivision. Ideal elevated building pad with gentle sloping terrain and clear ocean views down a corridor. Municipal water and electric available at the street.

MLS #:12-581 Offered at \$45,000 USD



CERRITOS BEST BUY LOT. Short walk to the world famous Cerritos Beach and surf. Ocean and white water views. No water or electric, solar is the way to go. Lot measures 50m x 40m = 2,000 M² or ½ acre of prime land. Opportunity knocking at your door.

MLS # 10-2536 Offered at \$40,000 USD



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Casa Temprano



Great 2 BR 1.5 BA home located in a very secluded part of town, about 1 mile from the heart of town, this home is in a gated community, totally fenced, comes completely furnished. 3 gas fireplaces and interior pool! **\$219,000 USD**

Casa Artista



House sits right off the main road that goes to the beaches and you would never know it was there. Hidden behind mature palms, bougainvilleas and other landscaping. 2BR, 2BA house on 1510m² of land. **\$165,000 USD**

Casa Libertad



This turn key 3BR/3BA with a caretaker's unit with its own separate entrance, kitchen, and BA was finished in 2012. Good sized bedrooms and baths with a large master. 2nd story has the kitchen, living and dining rooms. **\$350,000 USD**

Casa Moro



Beautiful 2BR 2BA home located in the middle of Las Tunas on Calle Los Mangos. House has 2 viewing decks that give great ocean and mountain views. Just 5 min walk to beach. Services: Internet, phone, cable TV. **\$285,000 USD**

Properties On Calle De Mango



Great properties nestled in between the arroyo and the palms on Calle de Mango. Accessible to power, municipal water, and Ejido water. Great views.

(whole -3721m²) **\$149,500 USD**

Lote Mariposa



Lot measures 1333m² (1/3 of an acre) w/ beautiful ocean, mountain and farmland views. 2 min walk to the beach. Water connected and electricity right outside the gate. Great location. **\$69,000 USD**

Pescadero Hectare



1 hectare (2 1/2 acre) sits in the Huerta of Pescadero on elevated ground. Tremendous ocean and mountain views as well as the surrounding farmland and palm trees. Owner will sub-divide.

\$160,000 USD

**We also offer Vacation Rentals and Property Admin.
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