President’s Preflight
By Bob Schumacher

Many individuals have spent countless hours meticulously planning the exciting, upcoming gray whale-watching trip to San Ignacio. These whales are migrating to warmer waters from Baja to the Bering Sea later than usual this year according to the Los Angeles Times. Unfortunately, there are variables beyond our control and disappointingly, we may not go. Had we scheduled the trip in January for example, we would not have gone due to bad weather and a sick pilot – the overcast marine layer did not break until late morning and a pilot became too ill to fly. As such, please be patient, keep an open mind and unquestionably respect the pilot coordinator’s last minute go/no-go decision. Whale watching in Guerrero Negro this month or San Ignacio next month may be an excellent backup plan. I have personally photographed spectacular mother whales and their young calves at both San Ignacio and Guerrero Negro, and each trip was absolutely breathtaking. As a preview, we will be showing a videotape of an encounter with friendly whales at the General Meeting on February 5th. It is a surreal experience and not to be missed. Be there!

Get A Whole New Latitude
By Phillip Granados

As we make our way to the landing strip we see some fog at a distance coming our way, and to make things more interesting, the cows have started to come home. The landing strip is in the direct path they will take to cross to the other side. We board the planes and start the engines right away two planes ahead of us take to the sky without incident. Our pilot Bob Schumacher taxis to the end of the dirt runway and makes ready for take off. Two of the cows closest to the runway appear to hesitate as we rev-up the engine and halt their progress towards the runway. Bob makes the decision that the cows will not approach the runway when they hear the loud noise of the engine as the plane is taking off. He is right the cows closest to us are startled and turn away from the runway, in less than a minute we are airborne, climbing above the fog layer. Our overnight destination is Punta Bufeo, 29.55’ latitude and 114.51’ longitude a small community of 20 to 30 homes on the beach facing the Sea of Cortez. Bill owns a beach house here and that’s where we will be spending the night.

Our plane climbs to 8,000 feet above sea level to clear the mountain range in front of us, there is still plenty of daylight at 1830 hrs we start our descend and making our final approach to land on the beach at Punta Bufeo. We are the last airplane to land we park our plane near the others and unload our overnight bags. It is time to unwind from the week’s preparations that led to this trip. We start to settle in for the night, a few of us opt for a swim in the warm waters of the Sea of Cortez before dinner while we still have daylight. The sun sets at 2016 and is replaced by a bright moon, it shimmers over the still waters, and once our eyes are adjusted to the dark we can see our surroundings.

At 2030 hrs we gather on the porch facing the beach to enjoy some cold “cerveza” and snacks we brought along, and for the first time some social conversation is taking place. By now kerosene lamps and some candles make their way to the snack table. Bill cautions us to be careful where we sleep there are scorpions in the desert and they like to crawl in our shoes, shake them well before we put them on. In the event a scorpion bites us there is venom antidote. Lisa Wagner our clinic coordinator starts the introductions so we can get to know one (continued on page 2– Get A Whole New Latitude)

January Clinic Update

Our thanks to all of the volunteers of the January clinic:

Bob Schumacher John O’Connor
Christine Robison Julie Akins
Kim Burtle* Chris Fernandez
Ray Hendrickson Juana Cavinder
First Timers * Marie Ramos

Trip Share Policy

This has always been the policy of the Orange County Chapter of the Flying Samaritans:

1. To ensure having a seat and for purposes of planning for the required number of airplanes, submit your check to the Chapter Treasurer Thirty (30) days before the trip. If you have not paid one week before the trip, your seat will be allocated to another passenger.
2. If you are unable to make a trip to which you have committed:
   a. Contact your specialty coordinator
   b. Contact the pilot/trip coordinator

If you cancel within the one-week period before the trip, your options are:
1. Forfeit your trip share payment
2. Roll-over your trip share payment to another month

Of course, we always need the specialty positions filled and request that you find a replacement for yourself when canceling with short notice.

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**Dues Reminder**

Just a reminder...please take the time to bring your dues current for this year. Very affordable - just $30.00 for an individual membership; enroll your spouse, or other family members residing in the same household, for only $2.00 each.

Your check should be made payable to Flying Samaritans and mailed to:

Joe Salhi, Treasurer
P.O. Box 3874
Cerritos, CA 90703

*(from page 1 – Get A Whole New Latitude)*

another. We made introductions and recap the number of patients we saw earlier, supplies and equipment to be needed for the next trip. Chiropractic saw 18 patients, Dental 7 patients and 8 dental cleanings and fluoride treatments, Medical 20 patients, Optometrist 16 patients, Psychology 4 family counseling all were cured.

For dinner the locals cooked the catch of the day, we have a very late dinner at 9:30 p.m. The dynamics of the group is working well, after having dinner and a few drinks it is nearing 2220 hrs for the majority of us the day began at 0400 hrs it’s time to lay down and rest. With the sea in front of us and the bright moon above many decide to sleep on the beach in their sleeping bags. The temperatures are now in the low 80’s the beach is the only cool spot to sleep. Next day late morning we prepare to leave Punta Bufeo, the wind direction and dense air is going to make it challenging to take-off. We shed weight by leaving extra water behind and non-essential camping equipment. Some fuel is drained from the tanks to make the plane lighter. The first three planes take off with the wind facing north, we were the last plane on the ground seeing the amount of runway the other planes took, Bob makes a decision to take off facing south towards the wind to get more lift. However as we taxi along the sand to the opposite end of the runway, our front landing gear got stuck in a soft spot in the sand. Immediately Bob shuts-off the engine to prevent propeller damage if the plane bucks.

We spent the next 80 minutes pulling the plane from one soft spot to the next the Punta Bufeo community came to our rescue. Jim Frisbee (local resident) who has a skip loader provided the needed horsepower to pull the plane to “tierra firma,” but not before they placed wood planks to ease the landing gear wheels. Eighty minutes seemed like an eternity when the desert sun is beating down on you. Henry and Bob must have lost five pounds each during this ordeal; we were all elated when we manage to take-off as safely. Bob did one of those Top Gun “fly-byes” tipped our wings and thank everyone on the ground that helped us. Ray Hendrickson waited for us at San Felipe to make sure we made it there safely. The rest of the trip home was pleasant with clear skies as we enjoyed our view of the Sea of Cortez below us. To take off free like a bird in the air, a sense of adventure, wanderlust of a remote location and the satisfaction of knowing we made a difference keep us all coming back.

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**Get to know a fellow Sam**

Born in Montana, Kim Burtle grew up in Minnesota, knowing from 1st grade that she wanted to be a nurse “when she grew up”. She graduated in Dallas with a BSN and an RN in 1972 and as a Certified Nurse Midwife in 1981 from Los Angeles County USC. For almost 10 years she has served as the Program Administrator of the family planning clinic at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center. In January 2002 she began a new position as Director of Clinical Services at Harbor UCLA Women’s Healthcare Clinic.

Prior to that time, for 7 years she worked at a non-profit reproductive health care clinic for women and for the 2 years prior to that, as a nurse midwife at County Hospital in Los Angeles. Her experience before becoming a nurse midwife was as a labor and delivery nurse in Dallas, at St. Mary’s and Memorial of Long Beach. She comments that although she has been involved with thousands, the wonderful miracle that is the birth of a baby never ceases to move her.

Administration “is fine” but Kim’s true joy is seeing patients, which she does on a regular basis even while managing large healthcare programs. All in all, Kim has been serving mainly Hispanic women for over 20 years.

For the past 5 years Kim has been a single Mom, raising her two pride and joys, her sons Bobby and John. Her eldest son attends CSULB and her youngest is a sophomore in high school. Both are water polo enthusiasts.

Kim enjoys beach oriented and boating vacations as well as snorkeling. In recent years she has enjoyed trips to Fiji, Hawaii, St. Barts, Baja, Jamaica, Costa Rica, and Alaska. Kim also loves to read a broad range of books and has actually read all of Ann MacCaffrey’s novels.

Kim rings hand bells for church and is active in several Long Beach social service clubs. She feels very positive about her new involvement and commitment with Flying Sams. January was her first trip!!!!
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinic Date</th>
<th>February 9-10</th>
<th>March 9-10</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pilots</strong></td>
<td>Bill Allen</td>
<td>Ray Hendrickson</td>
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<td>Bob Schumacher</td>
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<td>Julie Akins, C. Fernandez</td>
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<td>J. Bruce Camino</td>
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<td>Randy Smith</td>
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<td><strong>Standby Pilots</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Physicians</strong></td>
<td>Howard Fishbein</td>
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<td>Aliash Milgrom</td>
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<td>Sandy Milligan</td>
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<td><strong>Nurses</strong></td>
<td>Lori Hespe, Karen Oseid</td>
<td>Anne Ellett</td>
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<td>Kim Burtle, Laura Mirabal</td>
<td>Cheryl Jacobs</td>
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<td><strong>Dentists</strong></td>
<td>Karl Bingeman</td>
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<td>Jan O’Dell</td>
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<td>Jim O’Dell</td>
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<td><strong>Dental Hygienist</strong></td>
<td>Jamie Tanabe</td>
<td>Joelle Gall</td>
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<td><strong>Optometrist</strong></td>
<td>Janet Walker, Optician</td>
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<td>Ian Lane</td>
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<td><strong>Optometry Coordinator</strong></td>
<td>Janet Walker</td>
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<td><strong>Chiropractor</strong></td>
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<td>Deborah Smith, Patient</td>
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<td>Julia Walker</td>
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**Trip share transportation cost ($130) due 30 days prior to scheduled trip. Make checks payable to: Flying Samaritans, Inc.**

**Mail to chapter treasurer:**

Guy Shelton, Dale McLeod
Chris Fernandez
Joe Sahli, PO Box 3874, Cerritos, CA 90703

**All medical professionals must provide a copy of their license and curriculum vitae. Contact your specialty coordinator.**

**Check out The Flying Samaritans revised website at [www.flyingsamaritans.org](http://www.flyingsamaritans.org) and click the Orange County link under Chapters.**

**Is there some special event or honor you’d like to share? Pertinent information you’d like to contribute? Email all newsletter worthy info to joementeith@att.net.**

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**Webmistress:** Lisa Fox 949-673-9362-h; 949-275-3736-w elizabethfox@home.com
Clinic Dates for 2002:
- Feb 9-10
- Mar 9-10
- Apr 13-14
- May 18-19
- Jun 8-9
- Jul 13-14
- Aug 10-11
- Sep 14-15
- Oct 12-13
- Nov 9-10
- Dec 14-15

Meeting Locations/Times

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

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

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

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

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