

Dear Friends,

Greetings from **Yuma, Arizona**.

We are back in Yuma for a couple of days after a wonderful trip to **Puerto Penasco (Rocky Point)**, Mexico. Because we did not have adequate insurance for our motorcycle, we left it in Yuma and that left us without transportation once we got set up in Mexico. That was unfortunate because there was so much more to see beyond the range of the inexpensive taxi rides into town. To see everything in the area, you need to be able to drive at least 2 hours southeast. Rental cars are hard to come by and very expensive. In the whole town, there was only one available and that was \$90 a day. Oh well, we will be better prepared next time.

Because we loved Puerto Penasco, we wanted to share a few more pictures with you.



**Rocky Point in foreground, Sandy Beach in background.**

This photo looks down on Rocky Point from a hill above the town. On top of the hill are two excellent restaurants. This photo was taken from **El Casa de Capitan** restaurant. Right next door is **The Lighthouse** restaurant. The Lighthouse was pricey by Mexican standards, but the service and the food were exceptional and worth every penny. In the center of the photo on stilts over the water is **The Point** restaurant, which was also very good. All three of these restaurants were far superior to the Playa Bonita Hotel's restaurant which was next door to our coach.



**Chuck at lunch at The Point restaurant.**



**Kid in a tire at The Point restaurant.**

Three young boys had invented quite a sport at The Point restaurant. One boy would wedge himself tightly into the tire and another boy would launch him down a ramp to the street. A third boy would shove the tire over before it went out into traffic. They were having a heck of a good time.



The Mayan Palace Condos about 12 miles south of town. Photo taken from 6th floor.

One morning we took a sales tour of a resort called **The Mayan Palace**. As an incentive they promised us a breakfast and a \$60 certificate for The Lighthouse restaurant. We decided to do it as it would be fun to get out of town. The Mayan Palace is out in the middle of nowhere all by itself and, oh my God, it is indeed a palace. It is Mexican owned and part of a chain of upscale condos. It sits on 50,000 acres and has 4 miles of perfectly groomed white sandy beach on the mainland side of the Sea of Cortez. The ultimate goal is to build an entire town with a marina and an airport. It already has a golf course, beautiful outdoor and indoor pools, and the grandest lobby and restaurant you could ever imagine.

Our breakfast was a buffet feast. Perhaps the grandest breakfast of our lives. Wow, we were off to a great start. The tour and the facility were certainly interesting to say the least. What they are selling, of course, is very upscale timeshares. For some reason, they hate that term and deny any connection to timeshares. We don't know if that's a marketing decision or whether there are some Mexican laws we don't know enough about. What they say they are selling is the 25 year use of the facility on an interval basis. Basically, a one bedroom unit for 4 weeks a year was \$49,000. Multiple bedrooms, much more. Studios a bit less. If you didn't take the first deal, then a second gentleman would try to work some other deal such as eliminate the golf privileges, drop the time from 4 weeks to 2, etc. and now a one bedroom was around \$16,000. If you said no to that one, a third guy tried to sell you a vacation package. One week a year for 6 years for \$3,000. Finally, it was no money down, no interest, and 6 months to come up with the \$3,000. In the meantime, move in right now and enjoy yourself. Wow, these guys were good. We really enjoyed watching them work. Well, okay, so we're a little weird. But, in the end, it was a great breakfast, a fun day, and a wonderful free dinner.



Typical street in Cholla Bay.

North of Rocky Point and Sandy Beach is an interesting residential community on **Cholla Bay**. This community, like everything else near Rocky Point, is under heavy development. Investment money has poured into the whole area and fortunes have been made and are still being made. Cholla Bay is a funky little area with small lots and small houses. This is definitely not a high rise area. But, on the other hand, they sell little lots by the square foot and they are not cheap. How about a 2,500 square foot lot, perhaps 50 by 50 feet? Well, guess what? That postage stamp will be over \$100,000 and you can bet it's not on the water. It will be wall to wall with your neighbors in the middle of town on a dirt road. Oh by the way, there is no water. Each house has a tank and they truck the water in just like the propane. No water now and no water in the future. Hey, for a lousy \$100,000, you didn't expect pavement, sidewalks and water, did you?



JJ's Cantina, Cholla Bay.



Chuck at JJ's Cantina in Cholla Bay.

Chuck's cousins, **Paul and Ellie**, visited Cholla Bay before the start of time and very much enjoyed a bar called **JJ's Cantina**. They had a hamburger and couple of beers and described the bar as funky. They were afraid that by now it would have been modernized and lost its funky charm. Fear not, cousin Paul, whatever you saw in the old days is what we saw last week. This dive has not changed one iota! It's the only game in town and for sure is where the locals congregate. It's a very popular place and appears to be making money hand over fist. That is the good news, cousin Paul. Your funky bar is still the same. But here is the bad news. If you had purchased a half dozen water front lots the last time you visited the area, you would be a multi-millionaire now. Have a great day!

Until next time, home is where you park it.

Chuck & Donna