

# **BAJA TIPS**

## **Personal Tips**

- Do not ever travel alone (walking through town or driving on the roads)! Always use the buddy system and make sure someone else from the team always knows where you and your buddy are going (even to the bathroom). Chase crews will travel with two trucks together if possible (this is for a reason!) Safety in numbers!
- Drink! Even when you are not thirsty... plenty of water... not just soda or energy drinks... these actually dehydrate you! Cases of bottled water and some Gatorade will be provided, make sure you get some in your chase vehicle! If you want something more than this please bring it with you. Also please bring an ice chest for your chase vehicle.
- **Don't drink the tap water, ice or anything that might have been washed in the water (food items like raw salad). Stick to cooked foods. Keep in mind that if you put your drinks on ice you might want to consider rinsing the can/bottle before you drink out of it.**
- **ABSOLUTELY NO ALCOHOL during the event (even if you are not driving). Be smart! You can drink as much as you want after the event. ☺**
- Warm daytime weather turns cold quickly after sundown. Dress appropriately.
- Carry cash in more than one place – split up cash in “safe” places (in your shoe, a hidden pocket, etc). Carry small bills if possible. Don't flash large bundles of cash or large bills.
- Don't be loud, flashy or obnoxious. You do not want to attract attention. No get out of jail free cards! ☺
- Carry stickers... lots of stickers. Hand them out.
- Do not carry weapons (guns, ammo, etc.) or drugs. You will go directly to jail.
- Bargaining for merchandise is common in Mexico – don't be cheap or waste their time negotiating on something you don't intend to buy.

## **Driving Tips**

- Do not speed.
- Do not drive reckless.
- Obey all traffic signs (Alto means stop! – no rolling stops)
- Many of the roads are dangerous two lane highways, very narrow sometimes (especially dangerous at night). You will be tempted to pass. Beware! Pass only when it is safe and

necessary. Watch for other vehicles passing recklessly. You can control yourself, but you can't control them.

- If you get pulled over... apologize for whatever you did. Do not argue with the police. Tell them you don't speak Spanish. They will usually speak some English. Don't be surprised if they ask for a bribe. They might be subtle about it (might not ☺), so be prepared. You can usually give them a little cash to get out of a ticket, but be very discreet. Don't flash bundles of cash. Ask them who you need to pay for your ticket... then see if they will accept cash from you instead of a ticket. State Policia are in dark blue vehicles with white stripes.
- Always make note of the KM markers on the highway – if something happens you should be able to radio or call and tell someone what highway you are on, what KM marker you are at and what your problem is.
- NEVER DRIVE SLEEPY!!! If you are tired you are at risk. Trade off driving duties with others in your chase vehicle. Take turns sleeping.

### **Fuel Tips**

- Get fuel when you see it! Even if you still have ½ tank or more. Sometimes fuel stations that used to be there are gone and/or they run out of fuel.
- Gas stations are full service in Mexico (Pemex). Green is 87 Octane (Magna); Red is 92 Octane (Premium); Black is Diesel. Pay for fuel in Pesos if you have them. The gas stations love to scam you with change for US dollars. If you don't have Pesos then make sure you know the rate of exchange so they don't short you on change. Current rate of exchange is approximately 50 pesos per 1 US dollar. Some gas stations only accept cash.
- Watch the gas pump and the attendant while they are pumping gas. Always look at the pump before they start pumping to make sure it is at \$0.

In closing, remember a few things... (taken from the great wisdom of many teams before us ☺)

- FINISHING IS WINNING
- THE POLICIA ARE NOT THERE TO HELP YOU
- ANYONE WITH A MACHINE GUN GETS TO TALK FIRST

