



# Vientos Bajos Codger



## Activities in and around San Ramon

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### Upcoming Activities and Events

**Daily:** Walking Club, 7 AM, Vientos Bajos

**On Call: Libraries:** DVDs, CDs, Books, Picture Puzzles

#### Activities:

- Contract Bridge (1:30 PM, TUES) (Join WhatsApp List)
- Ukulele practice (10:30 AM, WED)
- Recorder Ensemble practice (1 PM, WED)
- Bluegrass pick-up band (2 PM, WED)
- Low Brass practice (3 PM, WED)
- Poker (12:30 PM SAT) (Join WhatsApp List)
- Gym open 7 AM-4 PM DAILY
- Golf Simulator (Reservations required. Join WhatsApp List)
- Pickleball: Per reservations. (Join WhatsApp List)

#### Events:

- Ben Knab Celebration of Life **(New)**
- Veterans of Service Organizations Day, SUN MAY 16, 2021
- Osa, Golfito, Paso Canoas, JUN, 2021 **(New)**
- Cruise Costa Rica, JAN 22-29, 2022 **(New)**

**Vientos Bajos Social Calendar Update.** COVID vaccinations remain a rarity among the San Ramon expat community, so we continue our small bubbles in the activities listed above and detailed below. You're welcome to join us, but please check in first so we know you're coming. We continue to plan and practice for a SUN MAY 16 *Veterans of Service Organizations Day*.

### Events

#### 1. Celebration of Life for Ben Knab, 2 PM, Wednesday, April 15.

Susan Knab is hosting a Celebration of Life for our very good friend, Ben Knab, who passed away FEB 26. This will be held in the third floor Vientos Bajos Activities room (ADA accessible). Although all are welcome, space is limited and you must RSVP to Susan at [nurese@aol.com](mailto:nurese@aol.com) by Tuesday, APR 14.



2. Please feel free to honor and celebrate those who have served at our **Veterans of Service Organizations Day, SUN, MAY 16**. Saturday, May 15, is US Armed Forces Day. We plan to celebrate it on SUNDAY by hosting a recognition day for anyone and everyone who has served in uniform. This includes first responders, such as police, medical, or firefighters, and also uniformed government veterans such as postal workers and state and national park employees. The celebration will consist of a noon potluck and be accompanied by entertainment provided by our various musical groups. There will be a small fee to cover set-up, service, and clean-up, and it will be BYOB. The event will be open to both veterans of any service organizations and those who want to celebrate the contributions of these veterans. RSVP NLT MAY 1, 2021. If you are a veteran of a service organization, please let us know which organization so that we can recognize it at the dinner. If interested, please contact us [vientosbajos@gmail.com](mailto:vientosbajos@gmail.com)



3. **Trip to Osa, Panama Border, Monday, 1 JUNE--Friday, 4 JUNE, 2021**



It's still in the planning stages, but how about a five-day trip south from San Ramón, open for convoy or carpool? The open agenda will be defined by the participants. Your trip can include remaining at a beach resort and chilling for the entire time, Golfito tax-free buying trip, Paso Canoas (Panama border) visit, Corcovado National Park sight-seeing—all to be arranged among those going. There are many places to stay, from Uvita south to Puerto Jimenez, Golfito, and nearby areas. Once we've formed our group, we'll make decisions on the various activities and places to stay. Contact John Buford at [vientosbajos@gmail.com](mailto:vientosbajos@gmail.com)

4. **Naturally Costa Rica, Star Legend, Windstar Cruise Line, 22-29 JAN, Puerto Caldera to Puerto Caldera**



Need a break? We've been working with *Windstar Cruise Line* to put together a cruise package for those of you who want to try something a little different. Several things drew us to this line and this cruise. First of all, it departs and returns to Puerto Caldera, only an hour's drive from San Ramón—no expensive, long flights to get to or from the port. Second, this is a great cruise line offering first-class service. Caryl and I cruised with them in JAN 2020 and were impressed with their small ship experience. Third, it stops at a different port each day, giving us an opportunity to walk around and explore. And lastly, it's an opportunity to share some time with people you know and like—and also to meet



and enjoy people from outside the area. We're working through Tye Rogerson, [tye.rogerson@windstarcruises.com](mailto:tye.rogerson@windstarcruises.com) an employee and direct representative of Windstar. In order to get the best deal, please mention *Vientos Bajos*. You can get more detail on the ship and the cruise on the Windstar web site, <https://windstarcruises.com>

**Overview:** Visit Nicaragua's San Juan del Sur, then relax on one of Corinto's white-sand beaches and swim in the inviting clear blue water. Enjoy breathtaking views in Playas del Coco, then visit Quepos for rainforest adventures in Manuel Antonio National Park. From Quepos, head to UNESCO site, Bahia Drake, and stop at Bahia Herradura before returning to Puerto Caldera. This cruise highlights history, flora and fauna by local naturalists and has a naturalist aboard who provides lectures.

**5. Here's what's happening at Vientos Bajos now:**

- a. **Pickleball:** We continue to offer space for two pickleball groups—one a more competitive group, the second a leisure group. Because of the popularity of the game, we are setting up SignUp Genius in the near future. If you're interested, please contact us to get on the SignUp Genius list. Both groups continue to protect their bubble, playing with people with whom they've been playing for months, if not years.
- b. **Golf Simulator:** Our golf simulator remains popular. Rick Reimer, our resident golf pro, has played all fifteen courses and will walk you through the use of the simulator. Play requires knowledge of the system, and Rick will be happy to set you up and accompany your initial play. Please contact Rick, [rickreimer49@gmail.com](mailto:rickreimer49@gmail.com) to schedule a time if you want to try it out or join the league, now forming. Regular use is for golf club members only.
- c. **Poker:** Penny-ante poker continues on Saturdays. If you want to get in on a big game, this isn't the place. The bets are small, but the fun is big. Play begins at 12:30 PM and goes to 3:30 PM, but feel free to come late or leave early. Please get on our WhatsApp to ensure you're included for the Saturday game.
- d. **Contract Bridge:** Tuesdays, 1:30 PM. Also known as party bridge, this is for those who want to spend a couple of hours together playing a little less competitive form of bridge than duplicate bridge. Most of us are pretty rusty on our skills. Please contact us beforehand if you want to play. We'd like to form groups in tables of four and would hate to have you come without having enough to complete a table.
- e. **Music groups.** All practice groups are now in session. Since we're now in practice for a MAY show, we're not open to new players unless you know your way around your instrument. We provide sheet music for all groups.
  - i. **Ukulele Band, 10:30 AM, WED.** We're now well on our way to perfecting our program for the MAY 16 presentation. This is a fun beginning music group, and although we're now closed to enrollment until after the May performance, please check in with us if you're

interested in learning to play the ukulele and enjoy singalong with the rest of us Bremen Town musicians.

- ii. **Recorder Ensemble, 1 PM, WED.** This group is for those who read music and have been exposed to the recorder. We currently have openings for all four parts—soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. We can provide a soprano recorder, but if you want to play an alto, tenor, or bass, you'll need to provide your own instrument.
  - iii. **Blue Grass, 2 PM, WED.** Right now this is considered a Blue Grass jam. We're currently blessed to have Terry Handler for a cello fiddle lead, along with a mandolin, guitar, and bass. Although we're focusing on the May program, if you play, you're welcome to join us. Advance notice is appreciated since we're playing from sheet music and we'll need to make copies for you.
  - iv. **Low Brass, 3 PM, WED.** Trombones, baritones/euphoniums, and tubas. All musicians in the group can read music, but none is ready to play in the Boston Pops Orchestra. Our sheet music is generally level 1.5 to 2.5. As with all the other groups, we're currently closed to new players unless you've played with us before or can sight read easily. If you fit that category, you're more than welcome—but please let us know ahead of time so we can copy music for you.
- f. **Other:** The gym and library remain available for members.

6. **VB Construction/Changes:** Conversion of upper pickleball court to Activities Room. We now begin our fourth month in converting the third floor from pickleball court to activities room—and we're almost done. This 36' x 40' room will hold concerts, community theater, music rehearsals, ping-pong matches, card and other table games, potlucks, big-screen cinema, and any other recreational and social activities that fit comfortably into this large space. We are also installing a small kitchenette, which will be available for the various activities. Design also includes an additional area for storage, the library, and a music practice room. Completion is expected by mid-April.



*9' x 16' Big Screen*





*Kitchenette on right, sound and light tower on left, theater lights in foreground*

7. **Residence Availability:** Jardin La Torre & Vientos Bajos Residences for sale or rent.

a. **Mariposa:** Two bedroom, three bath home with lock-out/mother-in-law apartment, furnished or unfurnished, \$1200/month.



b. **Loro House:** Two-bedroom, one-bath home with 1,150 square feet of living space. Fully furnished, including utilities, flat screen TV, DVD player, washer/dryer, Internet, and assigned parking. Rents for \$950 per month for six or more months. Sale priced at \$145,000. Available May 15.



c. **Amapola:** Two bedroom, two bath, furnished or unfurnished (\$1100/month), Vientos Bajos.

