

Vientos Bajos Codger

Activities in and around San Ramon

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Upcoming Activities

NOW!

TubaChristmas, SUN, 1 DEC, 2 PM, SiNEM.
Includes Cookie Exchange! Also: 4 PM, Mall

Daily

Walking Club

Tu, Th, Sa, Su Pickleball (Regular Play)
(Other times available)

DEC 14 & 15 Christmas Madrigal Dinner

Weekly

Ukulele Band Practice

Weekly

Low Brass Practice

Court Sports Basketball, Volleyball, Ping Pong, Badminton—Contact us

1. Please bag cookies in zip-lock bags of four cookies each.
2. You will receive a lottery drawing number on your arrival.
3. Place as many bagged cookies on the cookie exchange tables as you desire. At intermission, we will call numbers in numerical order and the person holding that number will proceed to the table to take **ONE** bag of cookies—your choice! If you brought more than one bag, the numerical list of numbers (and therefore your number) will be called until you have visited the table for as many bags as you brought. In other words, if you bring four bags of four cookies each, you get to visit the table four times and choose from what's left.

What if I can't bring any cookies??

Boo Hoo! But all is not lost!! Vientos Bajos will provide free coffee and lemonade after the performance. Also, we ask anyone who brings cookies to please show mercy and donate a bag of cookies to the “moochers table.” Assuming many kind souls, EVERYONE is welcome to take a cookie or two from the “moochers table” at the end of the performance to enjoy with the coffee, lemonade, and socializing. And the BEST part is that NO ONE need know whether you brought cookies or not!!

This year, as we have always done, we've invited instructors and students from SiNEM, San Ramon (the public music school) to join us. We're unique for being the only one south of the United States in the Western Hemisphere, but we're also unique for encouraging any SiNEM students who play B-flat instruments to join us. So rather than seeing just tubas and euphoniums, you might find a clarinet, oboe, or bassoon in the line!

TubaChristmas, 2 PM, SUN, 1 DEC, SiNEM, sede San Ramon. This year, we'll be hosting the ninth consecutive *TubaChristmas* at SiNEM, San Ramon. **This is a change in location from what we published last month.** The change is due to the addition of a



CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE!

TubaChristmas attendance is **free**. However, if you want to participate in the cookie exchange, here are the rules:



TubaChristmas is an hourlong concert of favorite Christmas carols played by mostly low brass (baritone/euphonium, trombone, and tuba). In Costa Rica, we invite the SiNEM students who play B flat instruments, so you may see an occasional trumpet, clarinet, oboe, or bassoon! This will be Costa Rica's **NINTH** consecutive *TubaChristmas*, and the **45th** consecutive *TubaChristmas* throughout the world!!

Music will begin at 2 PM. We'll follow the performance with some Christmas treats and non-alcoholic drinks, and would greatly appreciate any donations of cookies to help out. So, if you're looking for something to put you in the Christmas spirit, we hope you'll join us. No RSVPs required—just show up!

*SiNEM is diagonally across from the rear right corner of the downtown cathedral. There is LOTS of parking available in downtown San Ramón.

AND this year, we've been asked to follow this concert with one at the **San Ramon mall**, starting at **4 PM**. If you can't join us at 2 PM, please feel free to support us at 4 PM at the mall! (Again, free!)



Details: The Dinner will start at 12 noon. RSVPs are required, but it's Pay-At-The-Door. Cost is 15k colones per person, or for groups of four or more, 13k colones per person. Price includes the full meal and entertainment, but not alcohol. VB has a BYOB policy. RSVP to vientosbajos@gmail.com We only have six tickets left for the SUN performance, but there is more availability for the SAT, 14 DEC show.

Meal: Appetizer, Wassail, smoked porkchop, mashed potatoes and gravy, California vegetable mix, dessert, coffee, ice tea, or water. BYOB. If you have any food issues, please let us know so we can prepare a special plate for you!

Entertainment: The Court, Sir Saturday Knight, Friar Milt, story-tellers, woodwinds, choral group, brasswinds, and strings will all be part of the mix to give you a two and one-half hour package of entertainment that you will not find anywhere else in Latin America! If you've never been to a madrigal dinner, please take a look at what our good friends Jim Watt and Kelly Bennett filmed for us last year:

[Madrigal 2018](#)

Cost: A mere 15k colones (13k colones/person for groups of 4 or more) for an superb meal and two hours of entertainment. Reservations required, but pay at the door: vientosbajos@gmail.com

**Start the New Year Early
with a Resolution—
Get Fit, Start a New Hobby!**

Ukulele Band Classes/Practices (weekly).

Whether you have a music background or not, if you have the desire and are willing to practice, you, too, can learn to play the ukulele. And it's MUCH easier if there is a group of students instead of your trying to learn it on your own.

We now have seven members who have joined our group, learning and playing the ukulele. We're holding weekly classes/practice sessions for the ukulele.

There is no obligation to buy an instrument, although if you have one, please bring it. There

is no charge for sessions, music and practice books will be provided, and although we hope to play a part in the March Variety Show, there is no individual requirement to do so.

This is for fun, sociability, to learn or re-learn something new, and to feel as though you're actually accomplishing something here! Interested? Email John Buford at vientosbajos@aol.com He'll put together the classes and keep you informed of how things are shaping up.

Low Brass Group.

If you have played a brass instrument—trumpet, Flugelhorn, mellophone, baritone/euphonium, trombone, or tuba and are interested in trying it again, have we got a deal for you! We have a small group of players but are always interested in finding more. The music is level 1.5 to 2.5—pretty easy. If you haven't played since high school, not to worry. Several of our players fit that description and haven't had much problem picking it up again. If you're interested, please contact John Buford at vientosbajos@gmail.com to get music and even coordinate an instrument!

Recorder Group.

Do you read music? Are you looking for a hobby or an extra pass-time? We're always looking for new blood. Our recorder ensemble began in 2012 and, as expected in an expat community, we've had changes of people over the years. The recorder is easy to learn—that's why all fourth-graders get one put into their hands!

We have extra recorders available for anyone wanting to learn any of the parts—soprano, alto, tenor, or bass. Our level of play is easy intermediate and we try to rehearse weekly, with performances two or three times a year, especially for the Christmas madrigal dinner.

The bottom line is that this is a social activity that doesn't require a Ph.D.—only the willingness to practice a little at home or with the group. Yes, it IS much easier than learning Spanish! Please contact us at vientosbajos@gmail.com if you're interested or have any questions.

LTG (Little Theatre Group) and High Tea, NOV 17.

The 50 folks who attended the Sunday, NOV 17, performance at the Vientos Bajos Activities Center had rave reviews for the performance. One audience member said:

"This is the best...(play) ...(LTG) has done here, IMO, and I have been watching them since they were in the old theater in downtown San Jose."



Walking Club - Daily.

For the past eight years, walkers have met regularly to experience different parts of the San Ramon area. Some bring dogs. This is a "join us if you want, or don't" activity. We generally meet at the chosen place to begin the walk at 7 AM and finish the walk within an hour. On a scale of 1-5, 5 being high, the walks generally are between 2.5 and 3.5. We walk seven days a week. Walk at your own pace.



Some of the walks are loops, many are 25 to 30-minute walks with a turn-around. We currently have about 25 people on the Walking Club email list. Please contact jsummers721@gmail.com to be added to the email list.

Explorers' Club Fishing Trip, NOV 8, 2019.

It was a Mahi Mahi fishing bonanza for the Vientos Bajos Explorer's Club. On November 15th, twelve adventure seekers boarded four boats at 7 A.M. for what turned out to be an incredible fishing experience. All of us caught at least one grand Mahi Mahi and two of us caught a Tuna. The weather was perfect and the fish gave a good fight with many leaps out of the water. On one boat, they landed three Mahi Mahi at the same time! The previous day we took the ferry from Puntarenas to Paquera and then drove to the Tambor Tropical Beach Resort for a delightful lunch on the beach. The afternoon was spent by the El Castillo pool at the house we rented. Dinner was at great local restaurant. Breakfast was at 6 A.M. After fishing, naps and more pool time while a superb professional chef, Anna Marie Gillespie, prepared what was to be the best fish dinner

imaginable. We plan to repeat this trip on January 28th when we fish for grouper and red snapper. If you want to reserve your spot, contact Ron at roncalhoon@comcast.net

