



# Vientos Bajos Codger



## Activities in and around San Ramon

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### Upcoming Activities and Events

#### Daily:

- Walking Club: 7 AM, Vientos Bajos
- Gym: Open: 7 AM-4 PM

#### On Call:

- **Libraries:** DVDs, CDs, Books, Picture Puzzles

#### Activities:

- Contract Bridge: 1:30 PM, TUES (Join WhatsApp List)
- Ukulele practice: 10:00 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 FRI (Join WhatsApp List)
- Golf Simulator: Reservations required. (Join WhatsApp List)
- Pickleball: Per reservations. (Join WhatsApp List)
- Exercise Classes **(New)** See below.

#### Events:

- Celebration of Everything and Anything, SUN, JULY 4
- Cruise Costa Rica, JAN 22-29, 2022

### Vientos Bajos Social Calendar Update

June saw a very noticeable increase in vaccines administered to the over 55 crowd in Costa Rica. In checking with friends and neighbors, both Ticos and Gringos, we've found that all above that age with whom we've talked have received both shots.

Given that most of our group now has the vaccine, we are going ahead with our musical and theatrical presentation this coming Sunday, July 4, 1:30 PM. We're aware that Costa Rica has extended the license plate restrictions to every other day based on even or odd ending numbers on plates, and we know this may cause a hardship in getting to the show. Please see the information below concerning the presentation.

## Current Events

- 1. Celebration of Everything and Anything, Sunday, July 4.** In January of this year, we began rehearsal for a show in March, hoping the Corona Virus threat would have dissipated in Costa Rica. We were overly optimistic and accordingly, slipped the show date to May, and then to June. We have decided to hold the show this Sunday at 1:30 PM, here at Vientos Bajos.



Yes, it's true that July 4 is Independence Day for the US. It also is three days after Independence Day for Canada, July 1, and we hope to honor both countries briefly with a short musical tribute. However, there is really a much greater driving force than the fact that many expats celebrate these dates. The truth is that, after six months of weekly practices, we musicians are getting just plain tired of rehearsing the same numbers. By holding a show, we can present what we've been working on, and at the same time clean our plates to begin a whole new bill of fare after the show. Yes, it's true that we could just throw out our current repertoire and start anew, but let's face facts. We also enjoy an audience to suffer through the numbers with us!

Because of the continued restrictions and the desire for a little more spacing in time and distance, we have canceled the potluck and will start the show at 1:30 PM to give everyone time to eat brunch or lunch before coming. You can stay for a non-alcoholic drink and some snacks after the show (and of course, to congratulate the participants), but there's no requirement. Of course, we will provide glasses for those who would like to BYOB. We request a donation of 1k CRC/person to cover set-up, service, and clean-up, and we also request that all bring and wear masks—shots or no. Obviously, those on wind instruments will remove their masks, but we'll put them in the front of the room and ask them not to blow too hard. Seating is limited, and we've extended sign-up to 2 July. We're planning to set up only 40 seats, and 25 of them are already spoken for—so get in your reservation--. The event is open to any and all. RSVP NLT June 30 2021.

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



Yes, it's still on the books and there is still room for anyone wanting to join us. As a reminder, the cruise ship 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. 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. It stops at a different port each day, giving all an opportunity to walk around and explore. 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 website: <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.

## Activities

### 3. Here's what's happening at Vientos Bajos now.

- a. **Pickleball:** We continue to offer space for two pickleball groups. The first group is a private group, limited as long as the Corona virus remains a major issue. The second group is open. All levels of players are welcome in this group. Because of the popularity of the game, we have instigated the use of SignUp Genius. If you're interested, please contact us to get on the SignUp Genius list.



- 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. We have clubs available for all except men's LH. We DO have women's LH, so if you're willing to play with a club that's shorter by 1", you're welcome to use these. 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 remains a moving target because of license plate restrictions. Depending on the restrictions, play can be either Friday or Saturday, so check with us. 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 "big" 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, and play is more social than competitive. 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.** Hallelujah! Once the July 4 show is over, we can begin all new repertoires. I'm sure this is good news, not only for the musicians, but also for the listeners—especially those who have had to put up with significant others' individual practice in their homes. We're going to take a four-week break and begin again in late July, so all groups will begin again on Wednesday, July 28 and Thursday, July 29. We provide sheet music for all groups.

- i. **Ukulele Band, 10:00 AM, WED.** This is a fun beginning music group. 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.** This could also be 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 July 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. Our sheet music is generally level 1.5 to 3.0. 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.



- v. **Mixed Chorus (NEW)**, TH, 1:30 PM. With most having received their second vaccination, we've had requests for and are willing to try to re-start mixed chorus. If we get enough interest, I'll do everything I can to find an accompanist and we can begin from there. I think we're going to need at least six singers to make this work. There will no doubt be a fee in order to pay the accompanist, but we'll keep this as low as we can—and of course, the more singers, the smaller the contribution per singer. If you're interested, PLEASE contact us so we can start a roster. Also, if Thursday afternoon doesn't work and you're interested, please let us know what does work for you and we'll see if we can arrange a different day and time.



"No, this is the choir, NOT your backup group!"

- f. **Exercise Group (NEW) (now forming)**. With the completion of the activities room, and the arrival of the Covid vaccine, we now have the ability to offer organized exercise classes via DVDs in our collection. These classes could be offered in the morning once or twice weekly. Based on participant interest, classes could be stretching, Pilates, or general low-level work-out. There will no charge for the class(es), but monthly activities center membership of 10k CRC will be required. Please contact us at [vientosbajos.com](http://vientosbajos.com) to discuss.



- g. **Other:** The gym and library remain available for members.

### Jardin La Torre Update

4. **New Website:** We've updated our website. Please take a look at [www.jardinlatorre.com](http://www.jardinlatorre.com) and let us know what you think!



- 5. New Apartments, Vientos Bajos.** We're making great progress on the remaining three apartments in Vientos Bajos. All are two-bedroom, one bath. All are spoken for except Bugarvilla, our final construction, which should be ready by mid-August. Fully furnished, \$1,000/month, minimum six-month lease required.
- 6. Vista Alta Subdivision.** Lots in our new subdivision, Vista Alta, are now available. Lots vary in size with the least expensive lot beginning at \$40,000.



**7. Residence Availability:**

**Jardin La Torre: Mariposa**

Two bedrooms, three-bathroom home with lock-out/mother-in-law apartment, two-car parking. Furnished or unfurnished, \$1,200/month; \$169,000 sale price.

