



Vientos Bajos Codger



Activities in and around San Ramon

Vol. 3 Number 5

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May 2021

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 FRI) (Join WhatsApp List)
- Gym open 7 AM-4 PM DAILY
- Golf Simulator (Reservations required. Join WhatsApp List)
- Pickleball: Per reservations. (Join WhatsApp List)
- Exercise Classes **[New]** See below

Events:

- Veterans of Service Organizations Day, 2PM SUN, MAY 16, 2021
- Osa, Golfito, Paso Canoas, JUN, 1-4, 2021
- Cruise Costa Rica, JAN, 22-29, 2022

Vientos Bajos Social Calendar Update. April has seen a real increase in COVID vaccinations among the San Ramon expat community; However 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 **SUNDAY, MAY 16 Veterans of Service Organizations Day.**

Current Events

1. Please feel free to honor and celebrate those who have served at our **Veterans of Service Organizations Day, SUNDAY, 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 commence at 2PM, accompanied by entertainment provided by our various musical groups,

followed by refreshments. We request a donation of 3k CRC/person to cover set-up, refreshments, 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 9, 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. As this e-letter is published, there is a driving license plate restriction in place for Saturdays and Sundays. Assuming this restriction has not been lifted, please coordinate with someone who does not have a Sunday restriction for car-pooling, or contact us so we can discuss transportation. Because of the Corona Virus, we are limiting the event to 40 attendees. As of 1 MAY, we have only 12 seats left, so book now: vientosbajos@gmail.com



2. 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



3. Naturally Costa Rica, Star Legend, Windstar Cruise Line, 22-29 JAN, 2022 Puerto Caldera to Puerto Caldera



Windstar Legend: Star of the movie *Speed 2: Cruise Control*

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 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.

4. Activities: Here's what's happening at Vientos Bajos Activities Center

- 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. Play requires knowledge of the system, and Rick will be happy to set you up and accompany your initial play. Please contact Rick at 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 has been moved to Fridays because of weekend license plate restrictions. 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 Friday 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.** 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.** 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 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. 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.

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 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 to discuss.

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

5. VB Construction/Changes

a. Opening of Activities Room. The activities room is now in use. This 36' x 40' room is available for 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. The room includes a small kitchenette, which is available for the various activities, and also includes an additional area for storage, the library, and a music practice room.



b. New Apartments, Vientos Bajos. Our workers continue toward completion of two new apartments, Heliconia and Bromelia. Both are two-bedroom one bath. Bromelia, the smaller of the two apartments, will rent for \$850/month and Heliconia will rent for \$950 per month, furnished or unfurnished. Bromelia will be ready by the end of May. Heliconia will be finished by 30 June.



Bromelia



Heliconia

c. **Vista Alta Subdivision.** The month of April saw major changes to Vista Alta, our new subdivision. In preparation for the rainy season, which began with 6" of rain in a 24-hour period early in April, we asphalted the main street, Calle Vista Alta, and the connector between Vista Alta and Jardin La Torre, Calle Paseo. The month of May will see continued construction of retention walls and placement of sod and other ground-holding plants.



Note the green provisional landscape cloth placed to prevent erosion.

- d. **Jardin La Torre new gardens and erosion control.** The photo below shows the completed construction of more erosion control systems and gardens paralleling Calle Empalme, in front of Jardin La Torre.



Akyra has been overseeing the project with a skeptical eye.

6. Residence Availability - Jardin La Torre, Vientos Bajos. Vista Alta

- **Mariposa:** Two bedroom, three bath home with lock-out/mother-in-law apartment, furnished or unfurnished, \$1200/month; \$169,000 sale price.



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

