

Vientos Bajos Codger

Activities in and around San Ramon

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November 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)
- Beginning/Advanced Contract Bridge Class: (1:30 PM, THURS)
- **Movie Matinees, (1:30 PM, MO, WE, FR) (Pending!)**
- Ukulele practice: (10:00 AM, WED)
- Recorder Ensemble practice: (1 PM, WED)
- B-Flat Instrument practice: (2:30 PM, WED)
- Poker: (1 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:

- TubaChristmas, Christmas Madrigal Dinner, DEC 11 and DEC 12, 2021

Vientos Bajos is a private activities center. Free membership for general activities and facility use is extended to owners and tenants of Jardin La Torre/Vientos Bajos. Membership for these same activities is available for 10k CRC/month per person for those not owning or renting from the facility. The use of the golf simulator requires an additional membership fee and monthly dues of an additional 10k CRC/month for those not living at JLT/VB. The price of all special events is based on our cost and applies to owners and tenants of JLT/VB as well as VB general members.

1. Vientos Bajos Update

- On Monday, November 8, we are scheduled to have a sound technician visit the Vientos Bajos Activities Center to integrate our new sound and light systems. We have added a Bose speaker surround-sound system, theater light system, mixer board with microphone system, and a high-end controller for movies, music, etc. Fingers crossed, with luck everything will be in place for *TubaChristmas* and the *Christmas Madrigal* next month.
- As we enter November, we are in final rehearsal for our Christmas show, with dates now set for Saturday, December 11 and Sunday, December 12. It's time to send in your RSVPs!
- **New Vaccination Policy for Vientos Bajos Activity Center:** As a privately owned facility, we are doing our best to ensure the comfort and safety of our participants. Since vaccinations are readily available in Costa Rica for everyone, we are modifying our participation requirements at

Vientos Bajos Activity Center. You must be fully vaccinated (one shot of the Johnson and Johnson or two shots of all the others) to participate in any Vientos Bajos activity. To establish proof of vaccination, present your original Ministry of Health vaccination card, or similar official proof of full vaccination in another country when arriving for the first time at any Vientos Bajos activity. Your status will be recorded and you won't have to show your card again. If you are unable or unwilling to get a vaccine, you will not be able to participate in activities at Vientos Bajos going forward. We appreciate your understanding, and hope to see you soon.

- **Christmas Lights:** We've got all the pieces in place to put up the annual Christmas lights, the next item on the agenda. We hope to turn them on before Thanksgiving!



Activities Room Control Center

2. Current Events

TubaChristmas and Christmas Madrigal Dinner, 11 and 12 December, 2021!



Presentation of the Boar's Head, 2020

Opening with our twelfth consecutive *TubaChristmas* at 11:15 AM, we will follow at 12 noon with our tenth annual madrigal dinner on Saturday and Sunday, 11 and 12 December. The madrigal dinner will be a full-course meal, headlined with Las Tinajitas' famous smoked pork steak. Of course, we will do our best to entertain you before, during, and after the meal! Cost is 10k CRC

per person, BYOB. If you have any dietary issues, please let us know at the time you make your reservation so we can provide a main course substitute. Now is the time to make reservations. Reservations will be limited to 40 persons per day/performance. Please contact us at jcbuford18@gmail.com

3. Regular Activities: Here's what's happening at Vientos Bajos now

a. Beginner Contract Bridge Classes: Thursdays, 1:30 PM.

This is an ongoing class and we have openings for those wanting to learn the basics of contract bridge. This class is for those who may or may not have card-playing experience but have not played bridge before. There is no cost, but please contact us if you're interested so we can set up the correct number of tables.

b. Continuing 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. 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.

c. Pickleball: Since most expats have received their second job and more continue to retire to the San Ramón area, we find more people wanting to join our pickleball groups. We now offer the opportunity to sign up via SignUp Genius. All sign-ups limit play to two hours per sign-up time, and up to six players per sign-up time. All levels of players are welcome to sign up. There are three sign-up times daily: 8 AM–10 AM; 10:30 AM–12:30 PM; 1:30–3:30 PM. If you're interested, please contact us to get on the SignUp Genius list.

d. 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. Al Sargent has allowed us to use his set of women's LH, so if you're a left-handed man 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 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.

e. Poker: The time slot for "Penny-ante" poker has now been stabilized at 1 PM on Saturdays and goes until 4 PM, but feel free to come late or leave early. If you want to get in on a big game, this isn't the place. The bets are small, but the fun is big. Please get on our WhatsApp list to ensure you're included for the "big" game.

f. Music groups. Our music groups are finalizing rehearsals for the 2021 Christmas show. In February, we will open enrolment again for all music groups. We provide sheet music for all groups, and instruments for many.

i. Ukulele Band, 10:00 AM, WED. This is a fun beginning music group. Please check in with us if you play the ukulele or guitar and enjoy singing along with the rest of us Bremen Town musicians. For the Christmas show, we are playing five sing-along numbers. We can provide a ukulele if you need an instrument. This is a beginning music group. You do not need a music background to participate. A basic knowledge of ukulele or guitar chords is extremely helpful, but not required.

- 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. **B-flat instruments, 2:30 PM, WED (Open to those with some experience).** Trumpets, clarinets, oboes, trombones, baritones/euphoniums, and tubas. All musicians in the group should be able to read music and have experience with their instrument. Our sheet music is generally level 1.5 to 3.0 and we have sheet music for both bass and treble clef. We have an extra trumpet and baritone for your use. If you need a different instrument, please let us know and we'll see what we can do.

- iv. **Mixed Chorus.** Depending on the status of the Covid virus, we are considering opening mixed chorus in February. No formal musical training is required. Just bring your voice and we'll go from there. The numbers we will be singing will be unison or two-part, and all will be beginning-easy level. If you're interested, PLEASE contact us so we can start a roster. Because these numbers are easy, rehearsals will begin in early November.

- g. **Movie Matinee (New):** This has been a moving target due to issues with an integrated sound and projection system (see above). By December, we hope to be ready to offer movie matinees. Watch our Facebook page for the announcement! We plan to set up to offer matinee movies weekly in our activities room. If you are interested, please let us know. We would like to set up a small committee to select movies and take responsibility for set-up and break-down.

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