

# Vientos Bajos Codger

## Activities in and around San Ramon

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### Upcoming Activities

<b>Daily:</b>	Walking Club. 7 AM, Vientos Bajos
<b>On Call:</b>	Libraries. DVD, CD, Books, Picture Puzzles
<b>Varied:</b>	Pickleball
<b>WED 10 AM, Weekly:</b>	Ukulele Band
<b>WED 1.30 PM, Weekly:</b>	Recorder Ensemble
<b>WED 3 PM, Weekly:</b>	Low Brass
<b>FRI PM, Weekly:</b>	Poker
<b>Early NOV tbd:</b>	Golf Simulator
<b>SAT, NOV 5:</b>	TubaChristmas
<b>SAT/SUN DEC 12/13, Noon:</b>	Madrigal Dinner

### **Vientos Bajos Update - At Vientos Bajos, We're Still Maintaining Our Bubbles**

Coronavirus cases and deaths in Costa Rica, and in the San Ramón area, continue to rise. As of September 30, Costa Rica reports 70,000+ total cases and more than 600 deaths. CR is now beginning to open the country to foreign tourism for countries with lower rates than CR is experiencing. This does NOT mean the country is safe. Continue to protect your bubble. And with all that caution, listed below are our ongoing activities and planned events.

#### **1. Activities.**

- a. Pickleball:** We continue to offer space for two pickleball groups, one a more competitive group, the second a leisure group. Days and times vary, so if you're interested, please contact us at [vientosbajos@gmail.com](mailto:vientosbajos@gmail.com) to get on the WhatsApp list. Both groups continue to protect their bubble, playing with people with whom they've been playing for months, if not years.
- b. Poker:** On Friday afternoons, we continue our small group for penny-ante poker. Again, this small bubble is about eight in size. If interested in either of these groups/activities, please contact us.
- c. Music practices:**
  - i. Low Brass.** 3 PM, Wednesdays. Calling all B-flat instrument players! We have both treble and bass clef sheet music and have just begun practice for

*TubaChristmas* and the Madrigal. If you play or have played and are interested in joining us, please contact us.

- ii. **Recorder Ensemble.** 1:30 PM, Wednesdays. You remember the fourth grade—yes, they're the same instruments you learned way back then—although we've added alto, tenor, and bass recorders to flesh out our ensemble. If you've played any instrument and can read music, you're invited! We can definitely put an instrument in your hands. Again, contact us if interested.
- iii. **Ukulele Band.** 10 AM, Wednesdays. We currently have seven players and we'd be thrilled if you want to join us. For ukulele band, you don't need to read music. So if you're interested in a beginner, fun music group, this may be your cup of tea. Contact us if interested.
- d. **The Christmas Madrigal Dinner.** We're now in rehearsal for much of the musical part of the upcoming Christmas Madrigal Dinner. As all of you who have attended one or more of our seven consecutive annual Christmas Madrigal Dinners know, the annual Dinner is the Vientos Bajos major event of the year and a major undertaking with LOTS of moving parts. Our usual complement of those bringing you the show and meal is 30 to 40 people. We're still two and one-half months from performance date, which is plenty of time to put together a show worth attending—or participating in. If you would like to participate with behind-the-scenes coordination (decorating, set-up and break-down, serving, preparing, parking, seating, table hosting, marketing, sales) —let us know.
- e. **Golf Simulator:** We hope to have the golf simulator set up and ready to play by the first part of November—to our knowledge, the only simulator available outside private use in Costa Rica:
  - i. **Buy-in and monthly cost.** The cost of the system, to include installation, will be between \$3,000 and \$4,000 USD. We do not feel general membership should cover this cost. For those who want to play, we see a one-time buy-in of 90,000 CRC (about \$150 USD) per person. This, plus the usual monthly membership fee of 10k CRC/month, will allow simulator members to book times for the use of the simulator—as individuals or group players, courses or range—at least twice weekly.



*Space ready for the addition of the Simulator package—net, screen, OptiShot*

- ii. **Play-time limitations.** A foursome playing 18 holes generally takes about three hours—a solitary golfer, only one hour. Since we are open seven days a week from 7 AM to 4 PM, assuming any session lasting at most three hours, there is the potential for 21 to 63 “Tee Times” per week. Play would be guaranteed for all “golf club” members twice a week, with options available for more play, booking of tee times to be three days out.
- iii. **Good news.** No one wants to buy a pig in a poke. During the month of November, the simulator will be available to try out for the regular monthly fee of belonging to Vientos Bajos—no buy-in. We will provide instruction as you calibrate clubs, learn how the system works, and take it for a test drive or two. If you enjoy the experience and want to continue, we’ll talk about buy-in during the months of December and January. We have a set of men’s and women’s clubs for your use.
- iv. **More good news.** For those who have been away from golf for a while, Rick Reimer or John Buford will offer mentoring. No, neither of us has played on the PGA tour, but between the two of us, have over 100 years of experience. We’ll offer what we can to instruct on simulator programming and use, and offer as much help as you can put up with.
- v. **And a caveat.** This is NOT a \$50,000 golf simulator—or even a \$15,000 golf simulator. This is a major step-up from Wii, but it will NOT replace a SkyTrak or a great day on a regular course.

## 2. Upcoming Events.

- a. **TubaChristmas.** Now scheduled for Vientos Bajos, 2 PM, Saturday, December 5. And yes, we’re in rehearsal, but still recruiting anyone and everyone who plays a B-flat instrument to join us. Rehearsals are Wednesday afternoons, 2.30 PM, Vientos Bajos.



*TubaChristmas 2019, SiNEM*

- b. **Christmas Madrigal Dinner.** Saturday and Sunday, December 12 & 13, noon, Vientos Bajos. All musical groups are now in rehearsal. Talk about variety—we have cellos, bagpipes, ukuleles, low brass, recorders, and a beer-bottle xylophone group!



*Ready for the Boar's Head Carol!*

**3. Landscaping, and Additions.** Five months along in the process, we have finished the off-road parking lot for 12 cars. Early in the month of September, we received a five-inch rain which caused a mud slide. We have spent the last three weeks repairing damage, and by the first week of October, we should be back where we were at the beginning of September. During October, we plan to finish the service road to the four residences on the upper part of Jardin La Torre. These units will be accessible by golf cart, scooter, or ATV. During the month of September, we also constructed a 40' bodega to house our work vehicles and tools. We hope to have hung our new entrance gate by the end of October.



*New Storage Bodega - a place for tools and toys*

We also have begun the 20' x 20' overlook platform that will also display our new 20' Christmas tree.



*20' x 20' Overlook—a beginning*

4. **Activities Room, Vientos Bajos.** There is no change in converting the upper pickleball court to an activities room yet. The workers continue with the landscaping of the new acquisition and completion of the master suites in Rana and Colibri (see below).
5. **Computers and printers for Kids.** We're still soliciting for working, used computers and accessories. If you have a computer, printer, or component that works but is no longer being used that you would like to donate to "the cause," I'll make sure it/they get into the hands of students whose families don't have the wherewithal to buy even a used machine. This includes the paraphernalia that goes with—mice, keyboards, and monitors.



6. **And finally, the Classified Ad.**

a. **Jardin La Torre and Vientos Bajos Residences for sale or rent.** The slow-down of activities and events at VB and of visitors to JLT all due to the virus has given us the opportunity to expand our number and size of residences. We have added square footage and a bedroom to Colibri and Rana (2 bed/one bath duplex units), and have almost completed Amapola (two-bed, two-bath apartment in Vientos Bajos). Additionally, our new owner, Mark Lemke, would like to rent out Toucan (2 bed/2 bath) for a period of 6 months or more. If you're looking for a fully-furnished modern residence in a secure community of 55+ long-term residents, friendly neighbors, a phenomenal view of the Pacific coast, only 10 minutes from downtown San Ramón, and across-the-road access to a recreation center, visit our websites at [www.latorrecostarica.com](http://www.latorrecostarica.com) and [www.vientosbajos.com](http://www.vientosbajos.com) for more information or contact [vientosbajos@gmail.com](mailto:vientosbajos@gmail.com)

- i. **Colibri.** Two bed, one bath, \$750/month
- ii. **Rana.** Two bed, one bath, \$750/month
- iii. **Toucan.** Two bed, two bath, \$950/month.
- iv. **Mariposa.** Two bed, three bath with lock-out mother-in-law apartment, \$1,200/month.
- v. **Amapola.** Two bed, two bath, located in Vientos Bajos, \$1,100/month.

b. **Residential building lots for sale.** Ocean-view residential lots, an expansion of Jardin La Torre.

If you're interested in any of these, please give us a call or email us.

**Watch our Facebook page for any mid-month updates, keep your heads down, stay safe and healthy. We hope to see you as this pandemic slows down and allows us to circulate more.**

**Again, wishing you the best. Stay safe!**