

Bahia Cayote 1-15 Up late, we slept in and had a nice breakfast and tidied up the boat from the previous night's passage. In the early afternoon I hitched a ride into Mulegé to get the 6 gal tank filled up, otherwise I would be cutting it close with the remaining fuel for the run up to Santa Rosalia. Easy ride in with an American who lives down here and volunteers at the local boarding school for the kids who live on the rancheros far out of town. He dropped me within a couple of miles of the station and right away a Mexican stopped and took me the rest of the way to the station just south of Mulegé. Got the Fuel, some bread and a couple of bottles of water then caught a ride with a Canadian for the ride back. Total time was only 45 minutes.

1-16 Ran into Caleb on his 26 foot S2 who we knew from Marina Secca in San Carlos. The dolphins seemed to be attracted to his boat and there were several always around his boat.



Caleb's boat with the resident Dolphin in the foreground RV's in the background

He actually started out a couple of hours before us on the crossing from San Carlos to Punta Chivato but because he was earlier than us he turned back; the seas hadn't calmed down so much. He knows everyone and all the anchorages, a real font of knowledge. Saturday was Veggie Truck Lady time. She arrived around 9 am with the most magnificent selection of veggies, way better produce than what we had seen in stores. After buying all kinds of fresh vegetables and fruit and a quart of fresh squeezed OJ, we paid the 150 Pesos (less than \$9) It would have been at least twice that in the states.

When we mentioned that we would be going into town the next day to provision, in no time Caleb had arranged a ride with a long time RV resident of Santispac. Char was 81, very sharp and active. She drove a big Pickup truck and graciously took us into town since she was going anyway. Accompanying us to town was Arni from BC who was single handing his Moody 36 *Arbelsque*. He had sailed it down from BC all the way to Jamaica and back then again from BC to here this year. We wandered around town and one thing I wanted was for Alice and I and Arni to have a steak. 7 years previously my brother Brad and I had been sailing down here on the Rhodes and went to Padillia's Restaurant and had the best T-bone steak I ever had. See the following link if you haven't read the story and are interested https://drive.google.com/open?id=0BxSfc27Ri0Z_ZDhMTWRRMEg0eDA

Things haven't changed, the steak was just as good the 2nd time around. It was so huge we had steak left over for dinner and steak and eggs a couple of days later. Had a productive time, got all the stuff we needed, even went into the 2nd hand store and got a backpack to carry our loot around. We split the cost of a cab (around \$15) and made it to the boat with everything including ice.

Mulegé as I mentioned before, is located on a river that flows out from the desert interior. It is lined with palm trees and is in a narrow valley. We found out from Char that Mulegé has been ravaged by something like 6 Hurricanes or their remnants in the last 10 years. Every time this happens the town floods covering the lower houses in 10 to 20 feet of water. Even the houses higher up get flooded because of the tremendous runoff from the hills above the city leaving 6 feet of mud in the homes and businesses. The response from the federal government was well organized and very generous and effective. Still, there are many abandoned homes and businesses in the town giving it a bit of a ragged and slightly deserted feeling. In balance, we really liked Mulegé and its people.

1-17 Today is the "Art on the Beach" festival at Bertha's Restaurant on Burro Beach. This is an annual fundraiser to provide scholarships for deserving kids from the community. In Mexico schooling is free only through 8th grade. After that it can cost a family up to several hundred dollars a month for education and transportation for their child. The festival is organized by the expat community and the restaurant donates most of the food and beer to the effort. There was a poster of the kids who had received a scholarship and what they were doing now. Like any group of students some were more successful than others but all benefited from the scholarships they received. Knowing that, it was easy to spend freely on food and drink at the festival



There were all kinds of art in many different media. There were also donated items from local businesses and individuals, these were offered for a silent auction and several raffle prizes. Though small it was very busy with both expats and Mexicans. In the end the festival raised several thousands of dollars for the kids



It was a wet ride back to the boat in Arni's RIB dinghy; we had another typically Baja Cruiser's day.