



# CHOLLA CHATTER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CHOLLA BAY SPORTSMANS CLUB

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**CHOLLA CHATTER**  
 Official Publication of the  
**CHOLLA BAY SPORTSMEN'S CLUB, INC.**  
 P.O. Box 7171, Phoenix, Arizona 85001

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**CHOLLA CHATTER**

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**From the Editor's Desk**

I regret to announce that the supply of 1967 Puerto Peñasco tide calendars has been exhausted and that there will not be a second printing for 1967. We will continue to print the current portion of the calendar each month, however, for at least the balance of this year. The 1968 calendar will be published in December 1967. I urge all of you to make sure you don't miss out on next year's calendar by reserving a copy now from Dr. Donald A. Thomson, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Arizona, Tucson, 85721.

I wish to thank those of you who have contributed articles for the Chatter. I have had to defer some and shorten others because of limitation of space, but please keep them coming. It's better to have more than I can use than not enough. While we need mostly short articles, don't hold back on the long ones. We will get them in sooner or later. Incidentally, the size of the Chatter (except for the Derby issues) is dependent upon the amount of advertising we get so anyone who wants long articles in the Chatter should get more advertisers--or arrange for someone to pay the extra printing costs (as was done with the article on Murex shells in this issue).

Since the size of the Chatter is dependent on the amount of advertising, it is to everyone's advantage to get new advertisers and keep the old ones. So please mention the Chatter when you patronize our advertisers and, if you know of any place that might put an ad in the magazine, tell them about the Chatter and also write or phone the advertising manager or either editor.

**Would You Believe?**

By Mel Jarvis

EVERY once in a while I hear a fish story that's one for the book. This is one of them! You know in my shop, the boys get together and really get to telling some whoppers. The other day Joe Smith comes out with this one.

Seems he and Fred Green, Bob Jelt and Ray Sutton were fishing 18 mile reef in Bob's boat. Bob gets a strike. He sets the hook and the fight's on. Finally a big pinto breaks the surface but spits out the hook. But being stunned from such a fast trip up off the bottom, he just rolled over and floated on the surface. Joe makes a pass at him with the gaff, but in the excitement Joe's rod and reel went over board. After two or three passes, however, Joe finally managed to gaff the pinto.

Well, after a few chosen words and a beer or two, they went back to fishing. Hours later, with Joe now using a borrowed rod and reel, and still at 18 mile reef, Joe gets a strike. When he reels in, would you believe he had hooked his own rod and reel off the bottom? And with a four foot sand shark on the line?

Well there are three other guys that do 'cause they were there!

P.S. He landed the shark.

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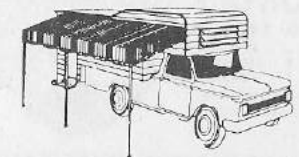
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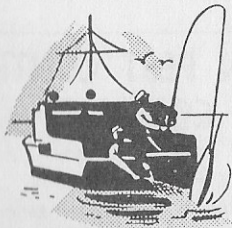
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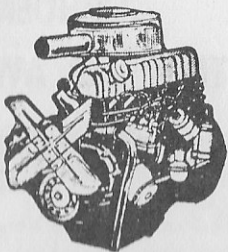


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By Mel Jarvis

This year the Club is going to have its first full time search and rescue team. The first duty of the team will be to encourage safety and the use of safety equipment in boats used at Cholla Bay. Its second duty will be search and rescue.

Part of our new trailer that is to be our new radio shack will be for the search team and its equipment.

The first step in boating safety is to make sure your boat is in seashape and the engine tuned. With the Derby coming up, and good fishing weather just around the corner, its time you gave the old scow a second look.

Check over the hull for any sign of weak points. Check your steering system, electrical system and don't overlook testing the battery.

If you leave your rig at Cholla Bay the year around, you should give your electrical system a second look as salt air can really play havoc with it. On the engine, inspect the water pump, clean or replace the impellor. Salt water, if left in the engine, will in a short time damage the pump housing. If possible, you should run fresh water through your engine after each trip out. Inspection and replacement of the pump impellor once a year may save you much trouble later on when at sea.

I have often wondered if it isn't a good idea to spend a few minutes cruising around in the bay or close to shore before

heading out to sea at full throttle. This would give you a chance to make a second check and to see that everything was shipshape and in good running order before you were out too far to get help readily in case of serious trouble. Below is a list of the safety equipment you should have aboard your boat for fishing and cruising at Cholla Bay:

1. Life jacket, one for each person aboard (coast guard heads type)
2. Fire extinguisher, 2 1/2 - 5 dry power
3. Anchor, anchor line, 300 ft., sized to boat
4. Flares, day time, and night time type
5. Smoke pot
6. Signal glass, any type or small mirror
7. Flash light, extra batteries
8. Signal cloth, yellow or international orange
9. Radio if possible, C.B. or Marine
10. First aid kit
11. Tool kit, spare parts
12. Hull repair kit
13. Optional equipment:  
Dye marker  
Shark repellent  
Heaving line  
Towing line  
Collision mat

**TUCSON SCUTTLEBUTT**

The April meeting was called to order by President Bob Morris at 8:10 p.m. No reading of minutes or treasurer's report tonight due to Secretary and Treasurer's absence. Visitor Mrs. Bodwell brought a display of beautiful pictures using shells. Dean Fisher reported the trailer is ready for clean-up work and signed up volunteers. Teen-age drinking at the Bay has been discussed in past and the Easter weekend it was brought up again. Entire membership is in agreement that this problem is a difficult one which we should work on to find the solution. Vice-President Phil St. John told of plans to check out sand buggies in same manner as boats to aid Search and Rescue.

Door Prizes - Face mask for divers donated by Tucson Sporting Supply won by Rose Humphries.

Set of spark plugs donated by B & R Auto Service won by Dutch Vreeland.

Welcome to Bill Hazard who brought slides and film of Gulf trip. Adjournment for refreshments. Film, Water Ski with Buick shown.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mrs. Bob Morris

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**HOOK ONTO SOME NEW ONES**  
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## Why I Go To Cholla Bay

By Myron Lusk, Tucson Board Member

How can a person explain all of the reasons he likes to go to Cholla Bay? There is, of course, the obvious enjoyment in catching fish, and the excitement of taking a "lunker" especially when you never know what it might be. For instance, I might tell a story about an unexpected catch I made many years ago.

Dutch Vreeland and I were fishing in a 14 foot boat south of Pelican Point and not far off shore. Something big took my line and I had my hands full for a time. This varmint took line anytime and I worked up a good sweat before it finally surfaced about 50 feet away and then dove for the bottom again. We knew it was a large turtle now and after a short while had it in the boat with very little room to spare.

For many years I went to Cholla Bay and fished from sun-up to dark as did all my friends, but I've noticed a subtle change in recent years. Instead of jumping out of bed, grabbing a spinning rod and rushing to the beach or Pelican Point to fish, returning to eat breakfast, and getting the boat in the water real fast, my friends and I seem to enjoy loafing about as much as anything! Perhaps it's the relaxation from city life and the rush of business which becomes more enjoyable as the years go by, and there is no better place to do just that than Cholla Bay.

My wife and I both love to fish and only wish we could be in Cholla Bay more often and stay longer!

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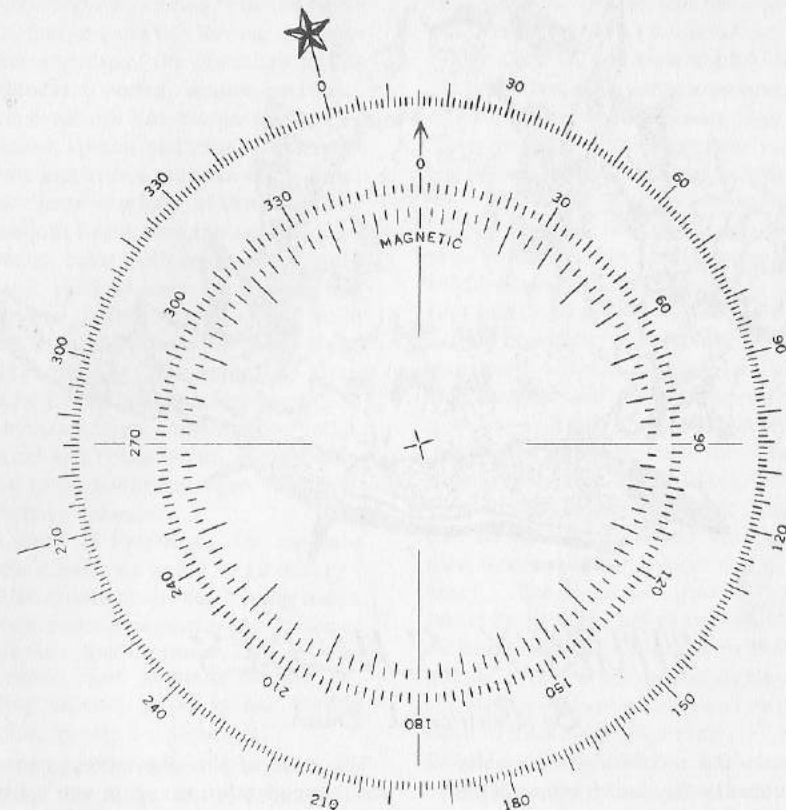
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CHOLLA CHATTER

## COMPASS VARIATION OFF CHOLLA BAY

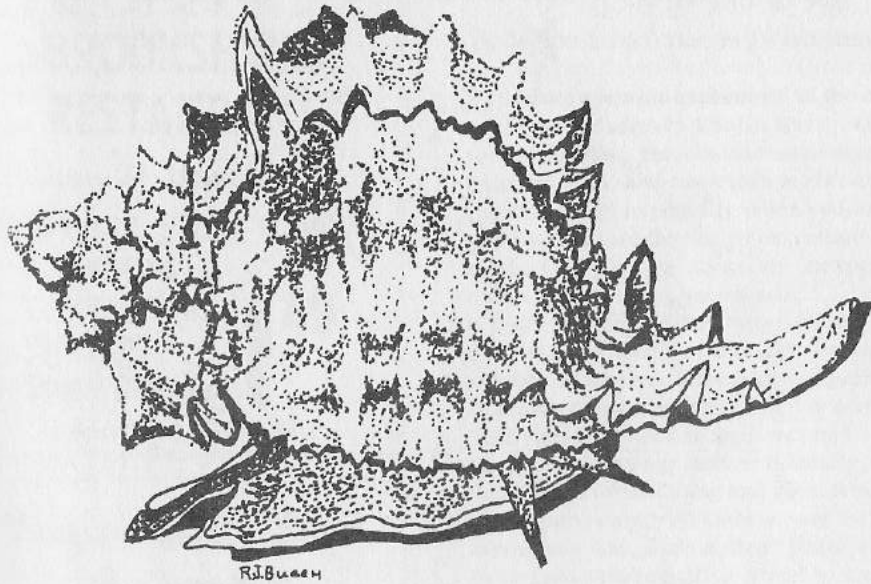


NAUTICAL charts are drawn with true geographic directions. North on the chart is based upon the geographic north pole which is at the approximate center of the Arctic Ocean. The compass which we use to find directions, however, points to the magnetic north pole, located in Baffin Island, Canada.

Furthermore the compass is attracted or repelled by the magnetism of the iron and steel in the boat. The first type of compass error is called variation and the second deviation. The summation of the two is called compass error. The compass reading must be corrected for this in order to find true north or steer a true course.

**VARIATION:** The difference in degrees between true (geographic) and magnetic north at a given place. This may be either east or west and usually fluctuates from year to year and place to place. Information concerning these annual changes is marked on charts in the center of the compass rose. The U.S. Navy Oceanographic chart number 620 shows the variation in the northern Gulf of California to have been 13 degrees 45' in 1963 with an annual decrease of 1'. Thus the actual variation in 1967 is 13 degrees 41' E. For most purposes, however, it's satisfactory to use 15 degrees E as variation off Cholla Bay.

**DEVIATION:** This is the angle a boat's compass needle makes with magnetic north. It is caused by magnetism in the boat's hull, equipment, etc. The amount of deviation can be corrected by means of adjusting magnets located on or near the compass housing. A deviation card or table should be prepared to indicate compensation for uncorrected deviation while steering a course.



## MUREX SHELLS

By Beatrice L. Burch

These handsome snails are frequently collected at Cholla Bay and farther south in the Gulf of California at low tide. These snails (Gastropod class of Mollusks) are beautiful and unfortunately are avidly gathered by the most casual shell collector. This group of shells can be over-collected resulting in elimination of a species such as has happened to other animals. So take a few, or better yet, admire them and leave them to perpetuate the species.

The snail consists of an elaborate shell and soft animal within. The animal contained in the shell consists of head, body and foot. The head comprises the snout containing a narrow tongue with rows of rasping teeth called the radula, tentacles and eyes. The snout also contains the mouth and openings from the salivary glands.

The rest of the digestive, excretory and reproductive systems are contained in the coiled body inside the shell. There is a feeble circulatory system and a nervous system. The foot is very muscular with a horny operculum or door at its posterior dorsal surface. The operculum closes the animal into the shell as the body is withdrawn for protection. The lower surface of the foot in some of these Muricacea (as this superfamily of snails is known) have an accessory boring organ which enlarges during feeding. The organ works alternately with the snout containing the rasping radula by the animal shifting position to either drill or dissolve the shell of the victim by the powerful enzymatic mucus from the salivary glands.

The shell is formed primarily from the mantle edge, (though the entire surface

of the mantle can repair shell damage) with rest periods occurring between periods of intensive growth. During the rest period the outer lip of the aperture thickens in elaborate nodes, spines or ribs.

This superfamily has the ability to reabsorb these spines and ribs as the animal grows and rotates on the body axis. Thus the inner surface of the shell remains smooth to protect the soft body.

Muricacea have both male and female snails and vase-shaped fertilized egg capsules are fastened to the underside of rocks in the intertidal zone in clusters of 30 to 175 capsules. The females, often assisted by the males, frequently brood the egg masses. Egg capsules are tough and creamy and translucent. They may contain 30 to 60 spherical eggs suspended in nutritive albumen.

At the time of hatching, the capsule membrane dissolves and 6 to 12 embryonic shelled snails crawl out having eaten their less fortunate brothers and sisters. Some species feed immediately on tiny tube worms, then juvenile barnacles, proceeding as they grow to eat larger gastropods, clams and oysters.

The Muricacea that drill eat much more slowly than the large carnivorous Pink Murex (*Hexaplex erythrostomas*) or Black Murex (*Muricanthus nigritis*).

In Great Britain, Drs. Graham and Fretter report that *Nucella* (a relative of the pink murex) may take upwards of 134 to 144 hours to bore a hole near the hinge area and suck out the meat of an oyster or mussel.

Another very destructive member of the same group, *Urosalpinx cinera* eats fragile larval oysters and clams in vast numbers. It is very destructive to tremendous numbers of the tiny developing seed oysters in the commercial beds preferring them to the adult oysters. Oystermen wage a constant battle on these oyster drills picking them off by hand in vast quantities up to 10,000 per acre in the commercial beds.

The oyster drills were introduced with seed oysters into Great Britain and established there as readily as did the oysters. On the West Coast, the Japanese

oyster drills were brought in along with the Japanese oyster and have proved almost impossible to eradicate.

The Gulf of California pink and Black Murexes are also voracious predators of scallops, oysters, clams and snails. They are important carrion eaters and have been taken offshore in traps baited with fish heads. They do not drill into their victims, but move rapidly to the prey when hungry and open it by using the foot muscles sufficiently for the digestive juices to enter. The soft tissues of large muscles, heavy arc shells and sturdy oysters will be dissolved and liquified by the aid of the powerful salivary gland secretions in 2 to 8 hours.

Victims smaller than the Murex are picked up by the Murex using its foot and rotated until the more delicate shell edges can be crushed and the salivary juices able to enter and dissolve the shell contents. Snails of the genus *Thais* have labial spine at the aperture which it uses to support itself while its proboscis and boring organ work on the victim.

Lately some uncommon and rare members of this large superfamily have been found living offshore from Cholla, though hitherto reported only from much farther south. Other members of the group have been seen rarely at Cholla, but are very common farther south at Kino, Guaymas, and Mazatlan. Some of these shells secrete a purple dye from a special gland. The dye, incidentally, is a type of chemical closely allied to the indigo plant.

The ancient Romans and Grecians used to crush this type of shell in potholes along the shore to obtain the dye for cloth. Later the knack of "milking" the snails was found. While these little snails were abundant, many were needed to dye the cloth a rich purple. This was the precious Tyrian purple so costly that it could be afforded only by wealthy nobles.

Before you begin to collect many shells to get a purple dress, however, remember that unless a mordant to fix the dye is used, the purple will fade to a rather dirty red. The Indians along the shores used lemon juice to fix the dye after the fruit was introduced into the Americas

Presented to Southwestern Malacological Society (Shell Club)

February 1967

by the Spaniards. Even so, the unfixed dye is almost impossible to remove from cotton.

Most of the Muricacea live in intertidal to offshore areas of the tropics and temperate zones with Japan and the Indo Pacific having ornate spiny shells much cherished by the shell collector.

SPECIES OF MUREX SHELLS  
COLLECTED IN CHOLLA BAY AREA  
BY CAROL SKOGULUNG & GAIL AVERY

Muricanthus nigritus (Philippi, 1845)  
(Black Murex)

Common; taken in Sandy Beach area at low tide

Abundant the year around

Pterynotus crinaceoides (Val., 1832)  
Uncommon

Ocenebra parva (E. A. Smith, 1877)  
Rare; found dead only

Euploura muriciformis (Brod., 1833)  
Abundant, if at right place

Muricopsis zeteki

(Hert. & Strong, 1951)

Uncommon

Family Coralliophilidae

Coralliophila carduus (Brod., 1833)  
Rare; found dead only

Family Thaididae

Thais speciosa (Val., 1832)

Uncommon; found on one tide only

Thais biserialis (Blainville, 1832)  
Common

Family Muricidae

Murex elenensis Dall, 1909

Rare; also taken in trap at 18 mile reef

Hexaplex erythrostomus

(Swainson, 1831) (Pink Murex)

Common; taken in Sandy Beach area at low tide

Abundant the year around

Acanthina lugubris (Sowerby, 1821)

Common

Acanthina tuberculata (Sowerby, 1835)

Common

Morula ferruginosa (Reeve, 1846)

Common

Hexaplex erythrostomus

(Swainson, 1831)

The Pink Murex from Sandy Beach



Elegant is the word for San Francisco Sole Superb, a deep sea treat from the land of the Golden Gate. Delicate sole fillets are simmered in a butter sauce made exciting with onion and white wine. Then, for that special touch, the sole is broiled with the thickened sauce to which cream and seedless California green grapes have been added.

2 lbs. sole fillets or other thin fish fillets, fresh or frozen

1 tsp salt

Dash white pepper

1 can (8 3/4 oz) seedless green grapes

2 tbsp butter

1/2 cup chopped onion

1/4 cup grape liquid

1/4 cup dry white wine

3/4 cup half & half cream

1 egg yolk, beaten

1 tbsp flour

1/4 tsp salt

Dash nutmeg

Paprika

Thaw frozen fillets. Skin fillets. Sprinkle both sides with salt and pepper. Roll fillets and secure with toothpicks. Drain grapes, preserving liquid. Melt butter in a 10-inch fry pan. Add liquid and wine. Cover and simmer for 8 to 10 minutes or until fish flakes easily when tested with a fork. Place fish on an oven glass or metal serving platter; remove toothpicks. Keep fish warm. Combine cream, egg yolk, flour, salt and nutmeg. Add gradually to hot liquid and cook until thickened, stirring constantly. Add grapes. Pour sauce over fish and sprinkle with paprika. Broil about 5 inches from source of heat for 4 to 5 minutes or until lightly browned. Serves 6.

Commercial Fisheries Review, 9/66



SURFSIDE COMMENTS  
By Gene Henry



NOT HAVING been doing much in the way of fishing for the past months, the next best thing I could think of was to thumb back through some old issues of the Chatter and do a little reminiscing. In doing so I come across the first story that I wrote for the Chatter, way back in April 1962.

I don't think a man can have any greater or more satisfying experience than in sharing a fishing trip with his son. I have been privileged to be the father of two sons who share my love of the outdoors and fishing. This first story was about one of the many wonderful experiences I have shared with my boys.

Many of you have joined the club since this story was printed so I thought it might be of sufficient interest to run again. For many I'm sure it may recall a similar experience with your own son.

"A LESSON IN FISHING"

One sunny day last June the Missus and I loaded our tribe in the old Suburban for a combined shell hunting and fishing expedition to Black Mountain. We drove as near Trout Ledge as the soft sand would permit and then separated. The wife and our little gals took off in the direction of Black Mountain in search of colorful shells for a sand casting while my twelve year-old son John and I hurriedly set up our surf rods since the tide was nearing the flood stage.

This turned out to be one of those days on which the finny critters wouldn't hit no matter how tantalizing we presented our assortment of spoons and feather jigs. I finally hooked two small pampano strictly through casting until both arms were ready to fall off. In the meantime John, being much younger and wiser, had retired to a comfortable spot on the beach and was leisurely sunning himself most of the time the Old Man was knocking himself out.

This naturally bruised my fatherly

pride and I proceeded to give John a lecture on perseverance and that the only way he would ever catch a fish would be by keeping a lure in the water. Well, this went over like a lead balloon and John retired down the beach out of earshot to find his own private fishing area.

I latched onto a couple more miniature pampano and was feeling quite smug when suddenly out of the corner of my eye I caught sight of John. His light spinning rod was bent practically double and I could see that he had either hooked onto a piece of the bottom or was onto a good fish. I was too far away to help out and after my lecture I'm not too sure John would have wanted my help.

Instead of trying to reel the fish in, John just set the anti-reverse lock on his Mitchell 300 and started backing up out of the surf. Fortunately, the drag was set rather light. He fell down a couple of times before he got out of the water, but miraculously the line held and he didn't let go of the rod. When he hit the beach, he just kept backing up until the fish, which by this time I could see was a big trout, was half in and half out of the water.

At this point, John fell down again and this old granddaddy seatrout feeling a little slack, disengaged himself from the hook. Seeing this, John dropped his rod dashed down to the fish and tried to pick it up. It immediately squirted out of his hands and lay flopping at the edge of the water. Right then, Johnny forgot all about etiquette and started booting that fish like a football until it was safely upon the beach. Then he dove on it with both arms spread-eagled and he was still in that position when I finally reached him.

I don't think I'll ever see a prouder look than the big grin he gave me when he looked up from that fish. And you know what - I don't think I'll ever have a prouder moment, either.

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TUES. - MAY 9, 1967  
8:00 P.M.

Phoenix:  
Goettl Auditorium  
2005 E. Indian School Road

Tucson:  
J.C. Building  
1115 E. Ft. Lowell Road

## '67 Derby June 16-17

A lot of suggestions for additions to Derby activities have been put forth by club members.

We would like to incorporate some of these ideas into this year's Derby, but we need people to step forward and help ramrod the events.

We are badly in need of people to help on the following committees:

If you will help, put an X in the proper place, sign your name and pitch in and help, you'll have more fun at the Derby.

Your Derby will be as good as your help makes it.

Mail to: W. T. Allison, 4701 N. 70th St.  
Scottsdale, Arizona 85251

I would like to help on the following committee, Friday & Saturday, June 16 & 17.

- \* \_\_\_\_\_ Ticket sales(at the beach)
- \* \_\_\_\_\_ Sand Buggy Tour, Whales Grave Yard? St. Geo. Bay? . . . . You name it!
- \* \_\_\_\_\_ Sand Buggy Show
- \* \_\_\_\_\_ Fish Judging(weigh-in at beach)
- \* \_\_\_\_\_ . . . . . Fish Fry

Name:

Address:

Cabin number or location:



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## Expedition to Lobos

by Gail Avery

On January 7, 1967, Marvin and I, started on a shelling trip to Puerto Lobos, Mexico around 8 p. m. We drove a four-wheel drive Jeep pickup with a camper loaded with 40 gallons of water and food for eleven days. We towed our new V. W. sand buggy with a nine-foot dingy on top plus a 5 horse Johnson motor and all the other material for shelling and surf fishing.

We crossed the border at Lukeville and ate dinner in Carborca. We wanted to drive on to Lobos, but made a wrong turn and ended up just outside of Carborca about five hours later. On a dark night and no signs, be sure and turn right down the fence on the second cattle cross; not straight ahead! We knew the road was rough, as we were there last year in May, but the road we went over that night was worse than Baja roads could ever be!

The next morning Marvin drove the jeep and I drove the sand buggy and away we went to Lobos. We found our road and arrived about noon.

The waves were six feet high and the wind blew until Thursday. The huge waves kept us from the places we wanted to shell but Marvin was able to surf fish. One day he caught 18 nice trout in about one hour. We kept two to eat and gave the rest to the Mexicans.

We were able to shell at night with lanterns. That was the darkest place I have ever been. Not one light anywhere. One night we almost got lost in an area

with huge rocks, some six feet high. We learned a lesson. Lantern number 3 will be placed close to the sand buggy.

We collected *Cypraea*, *Murex*, *Strombus*, *Olivella* and some I have not had time to identify yet. We found brachiopods in a wash by the hundreds. This also contained many sea pens. The starfish at Lobos are huge, pale green things striped like snakes. Nothing like any we see at Cholla. Shore collecting at Lobos is very different from Cholla with only a few species common at both places. Marvin and I enjoyed collecting and preserving the various specimens for Mrs. Burch to send to the U. S. National Museum.

Our dingy was of very little use as there was too much wind to take a chance with a small boat.

The fishermen were netting red snapper, trout, totoaba and yellow fin. They were beautiful and they got truckloads of them. Each evening we would watch the men clean the day's catch. We decided we wanted two nice yellow fins to bring home, but after we found out the price we bought only one. Five dollars for one yellow fin! I thought of all the fish we have given away at Cholla, but we enjoyed it and so it was worth the five dollars.

We both liked Puerto Lobos. What a peaceful place! No fire crackers, loud cars, scooters, dust or any kind of noise. What a wonderful trip, and as always, the Mexican people were so nice and friendly. We both love Mexico, and always enjoy each visit and hate to see the time come to say, "Hasta la vista."

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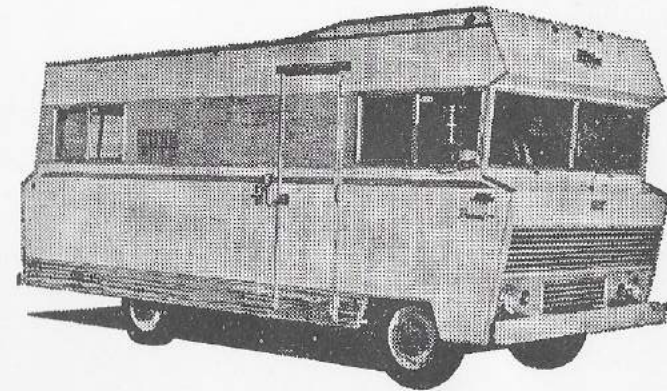
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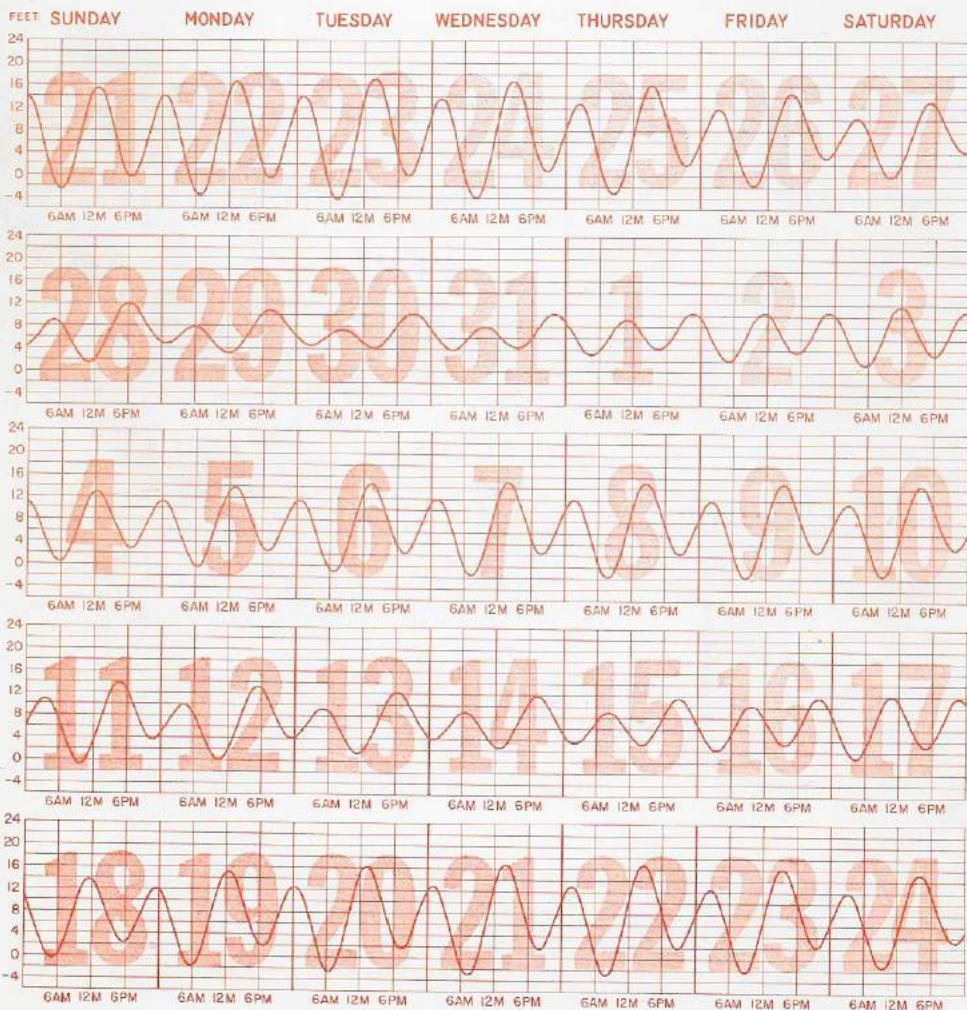
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