

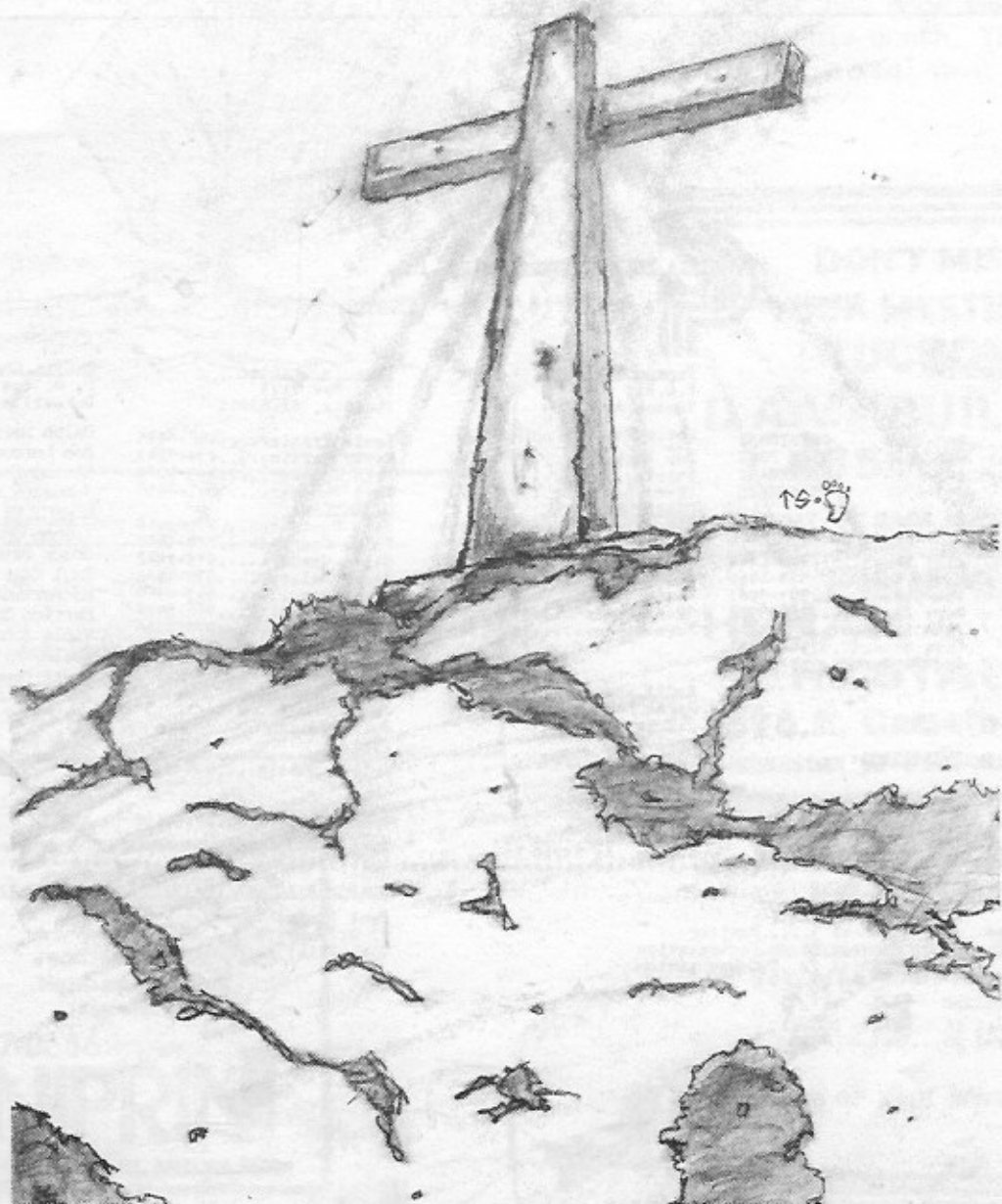
# CHOLLA CHATTER

A stylized illustration featuring a cholla cactus on the left. A fish is shown swimming in the water in front of the cactus, and a bird is perched on a branch of the cactus. The background shows a simple horizon line with a few distant hills.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CHOLLA BAY SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

Volume 30, No. 9

September, 1987



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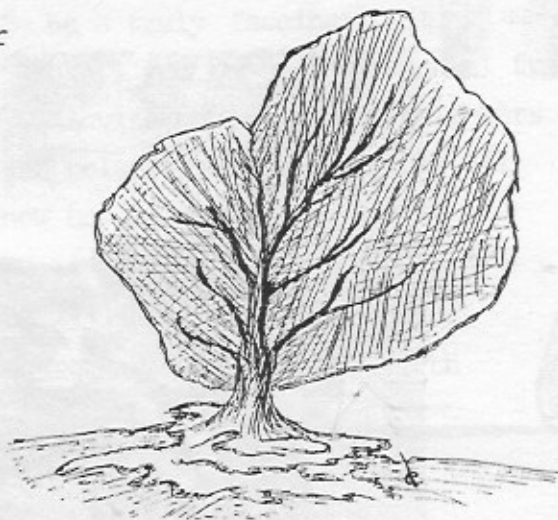
# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## PHOENIX\*\*\*\*\*

Mack & Sharon Chandler  
Thomas & Micki Banks  
Nancy O'Connor

## TUCSON\*\*\*\*\*

Carl Stahmer



September 1.....NO BOARD MEETING-CHOLLA BAY  
September 1.....NO BOARD MEETING-TUCSON  
September 7.....NO BOARD MEETING-PHOENIX  
September 8.....Meeting-Tucson  
September 9.....Meeting-Phoenix  
September 10.....Council Meeting-Casa Grande  
September 22.....Meeting-Cholla Bay

Tom Soles 15 year old grandson of Paul and Joan Vanover has done the front cover this month. Thanks Tom for a real neat job.



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2nd TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH---7:30 P.M.

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**CHOLLA BAY**

See your Chapter Officers  
for time and Place.

2nd TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH---

TELEPHONE SERVICE IN CHOLLA BAY!!!!

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The telephone is located at Cabin #357  
in the Cabana Pescador Tackle Shop.

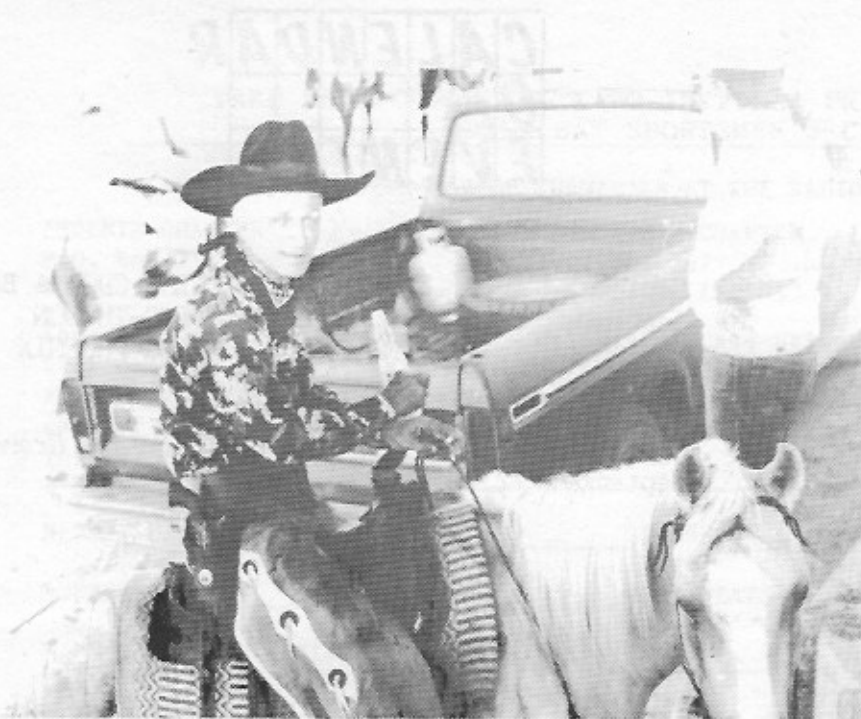


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Mr. & Mrs. Swamp Frog had company at the Bay a few months ago and while thier cousin Claude McCoy was visiting he painted this beautiful frog on the wall

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Horace Hitchcock from all of your friends.



No News at this time from S&R at this time.



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PHOENIX CHAPTER GENERAL MEETING  
 By: Marie MacGill



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 and relatives along so we'll all  
 know how we're getting there,  
 even if we don't know where we're  
 going !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

WEDNESDAY NITE --- SEPT. 9th

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 sick people this month.



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Thanks to the O.B.S.C. for the  
 clean-up job around the Tucson  
 Beach and in front of the Raido  
 Shack after the 4th of July week-  
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## Happenings on the Hill

### Semper Fi

What a week-end, Aug 1st and 2nd at the bay. The weather was good to those that were there, fairly cool and a little breeze and shower of rain 4:00 Saturday morning.

We would like to express our Thanks to all that helped with the birthday party at J.J,S Cantina and to all our friends and neighbors that came. We had a wonderful crowd. Gabby even sang Happy Birthday to me with the Band.

There was B-B-Q goat again this year Joe and Rhoda did the cooking. There was salads, relish tray, beans, flour tortillas, and to top it all off, cream puffs. We had a band from Puerto Peñasco and they were terrific.

I'd like to add, Sunday, Horace Hitchcock had a birthday party at the O.B.S.C. Horace and 5 of his buddies came on horses they rented from the stables. They looked great in their levy's and boots, or 'shorts' and boots. They served Mountain oysters that they went to Chihuahua, Mex. to get. What a great party, even Gus Brown Jr. cooked some and served them with a Mex. sauce. They were delicious. To top it off, the tub of manure everyone stepped in, to be initiated, was thrown on Horace while he was setting next to "The Old Cowboy".

I'd also like to share with you our grandson's honor of winning the "MR" part of the "MISS and MR" Summer Sunday pageant in July held at the Civic Plaza in Phoenix. He's quite a guy Shea Morse. He's to be on the Wallace and Lad-mow show with the little Miss soon.

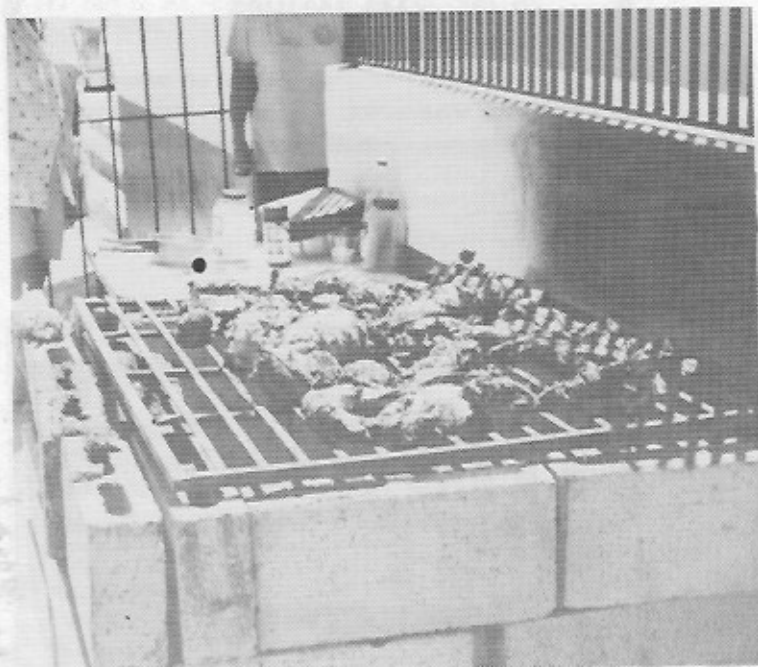
Thanks Joe and John for use of cantina.

Until next time

Shirley and Gabby Gayne



MR. SUMMER SUNDAY 1987 is the grandson of Gabby and Shirley Gayne his name is Anthony Shea Morse.



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# A Sea of Cortez Getaway—

## Little Puerto Penasco

By REBECCA BRUNS

**PUERTO PENASCO, Mexico—**From the melancholy Arizona border town of Sonoita, Mexico's Highway 8 ribbons southwest through the lonely reaches of the Sonora Desert. It looks like another road to nowhere, vanishing into a dusty haze stippled with cactuses.

Dark volcanic hills gang up like shadows against the plains. Vultures wheel in the hot blue sky. A roadside sign announcing "Dunas—10km" (dunes—10 kilometers) catches the corner of your eye as you dodge a snake on the asphalt and drive on toward Puerto Penasco, one of the least-known getaways on the Sea of Cortez.

Visitors know it as Rocky Point, although Puerto Penasco actually means "Rock Port," named after the crag on which the fishing town was founded. Other Sea of Cortez resorts such as Guaymas-San Carlos, Loreto and Cabo San Lucas have gone in for big-time tourism, but this unassuming coastal town of 40,000, with no commercial airport, barely exists in the minds of most travelers.

What's here? Long white beaches and dunes, fine fishing and sailing, plump, juicy, shrimp, several good restaurants, a delightful frontier atmosphere and abundant peace of mind—during the week, at least.

### Small Desert Universe

With its beaches and modest hotels, Puerto Penasco serves as the nucleus of a small desert universe surrounded by satellites, all worth a visit. Just south of town a rocky beach runs down to a swank, white-domed holiday development containing an ocean-and-desert research center with a whale skeleton out front, bleaching ash-white in the dry glare and salty breeze.

Offshore there's an animated sea lion colony on Isla San Jorge, a good spot for diving. Way at the other end, 10 miles northwest of town, the down-home community of Cholla Bay features the area's most popular beach.

Just north of Cholla Bay lies an estuary rich in crabs and containing miles of desolate, shell-strewn shoreline. The wide-open desert beyond, where tourists seldom stray, guards fantastic secret sands.

It's just 65 miles from the Arizona border.

Arizona residents have known about Puerto Penasco for a long time, and have worked to make it their own. More than 15 years ago they began building summer homes at Cholla Bay, then a minuscule seaside suburb of Puerto Penasco.

### Three-Shack Town

Gradually this three-shack town was transformed into a rustic, Southwest version of Martha's Vineyard. Its only pub, the concrete-floored J. J.'s Cantina (home of the Cholla Bay Sportsmen's Club), serves Margaritas in plastic cups to the barefoot crowd that gathers during winter and spring, when the desert temperatures drift down into the 70s.

But Margaritas are not the real attraction of Cholla Bay. Sun worshipers flock like sea gulls to nearby Sandy Beach, the only beach where camping is allowed. With thick, white sand, softly sloping dunes and gregarious waves ripe for windsurfing, Sandy Beach (not even Mexicans call it Playa Arenosa) may be the best sandbox on Mexico's northwest coast. It costs \$2 to enter.

That doesn't stop the campers, cars and trucks with Arizona plates that pour out to the beach on weekends, bringing orange bubble tents, dirt bikes, bikinis, and coolers bulging with icy *cerveza*. The crowd is mostly young and foot-loose.

### Suicide Hill

On a craggy dune-covered mountain hovering over the beach, sometimes called "Suicide Hill," daredevils on all-terrain cycles (ATCs) plummet down steep slopes of sand at breakneck speeds, roaring and skidding out into the desert. Several times a year, dune buggy races also zigzag along the sandy tracks that crisscross the area.

Weekends draw droves of people from Arizona, as do holidays such as Christmas, New Year's and Easter. If it's solitude you're after, go during the weekdays when Puerto Penasco returns to its quiet cocoon of obscurity.

At first glance the town may seem a little too restful. Low, sun-baked buildings amble along Boulevard Benito Juarez, the main drag. Desert sand strays into the side streets. Nary a soul appears. But when you come to a road called Armada Nacional (or Calle Tercera), follow it over the train tracks and continue for several blocks out to the Sea of Cortez.

At the foot of a circular seaside drive where battered Fords cruise, a spacious desert beach stretches to eternity, or so it seems. Playa Hermosa curves for about five miles along the blue-black sea, fading into Playa Bonita and finally into Sandy Beach, near Cholla Bay

Reprinted with permission of the author, R. Bruns.

Rebecca Bruns is also the author of a Mexico guide book.

This article ran in the August 2, 1987, edition of the Los Angeles Times.





to the distant northwest.

Cars and cycles zip along its hard-packed sand, although there are plans to prohibit vehicles on city beaches.

Meanwhile, this wide, generous beach opens its arms to all: the kite-flyers and sailboaters, the man trying to launch a rainbow-colored parachute from the back of his van, the shell-collecting senior citizens with their plastic buckets, and the swimmers who splash in the sparkling tide, shuffling their feet to scare away any stingrays hiding in the sand.

Beach lovers may want to stay at the nearby Motel Senorial (Calle Tercera 81), an inexpensive favorite (about \$20 double) with a quasi-colonial air.

Puerto Penasco sprang up in 1928 on a rocky point, Cerro de Penasco, near today's harbor. Off of this point two wandering fishermen, Victor and Benjamin Bustamante, discovered such untapped schools of beautiful shrimp that they immediately cast their nets

and stayed.

Descendants of those "super shrimp" are sold out of cracked tile coolers at a lively fish market along the Old Town's windy *malecon* (a walkway along the sea).

Fishermen in smudgy aprons and rubber boots shake the ice off bags of tender pink shrimp, fat brown ones and jumbo blues. All this nectar in a shell goes for \$20 per five-pound bag, even less for the small shrimp. Oysters, clams, red snapper, squid and 25-pound flounders also pack the stalls.

To sample these fruits of the sea, stop in for lunch or dinner at the bustling Costa Brava restaurant (Boulevard Kino and Primero de Junio), one of several popular eating places in the Old Town.

American and Mexican families alike gather under the whirling ceiling fans to feast for \$5 to \$8 a person on exotic Hawaiian shrimp in pineapple sauce, flaming shrimp with brandy, fish fillet with nut sauce or the spicy seafood combination—octopus, shrimp, squid,

clams and flounder drowning in a tomato stew.

If you get homesick for hamburgers or stuffed potato skins, try La Curva (Boulevard Kino and Comonfort), where senior citizens like to party. This simple eatery, which charges about \$5 a meal, serves free nachos with dinner.

Despite its casual air, poshness is slowly creeping up on Puerto Penasco. Just across from the Costa Brava restaurant stands the ritzy new Hotel Vina del Mar (Primero de Junio and Malecon Kino), set on a seaside promontory where you can soak in a Jacuzzi or swing at a video-disco hewn from the rocks. Its attractive hacienda-style rooms run about \$40 double.

South of the Old Town, a string of rocky beaches slides past trailer parks and budding condominiums to the chic holiday community of Las Conchas. Beyond the security gate, a kingdom of lovely beach chalets is mushrooming, with white domes and skylights and two-car garages, mostly owned by Ameri-

cans.

It's all a far cry from the care-free, tossed-together beach bungalows of Cholla Bay, where Rocky Point's tourist days began.

Remember that sign you saw on the way into town on Highway 8, about 18 miles north of Puerto Penasco: "Dunas—10 km.?" A sand road winds west from that sign to one of the most mysterious desert scapes in Mexico, Puerto Penasco's massive inland dunes.

Little orange signs at first mark the route, then disappear as the road snakes its way deeper into the desert. Up ahead, a vision of ghostly amber mountains floats like the Sahara on the horizon, appearing close, yet really miles away. You still have to pass through a rambling black lava field on the fringes of the Parque del Gran Desierto del Pinacate.

Out of this national park (reachable via the distant town of Los Vidrios), a 4,000-foot extinct volcano—El Pinacate—rears its ancient head among the lunar-like

craters and ash cones of an old lava flow 45 miles long and 30 miles wide. This is one of the places where American astronauts trained for their first moon mission.

When the dune road leaves the lava field for a meadow, the sand begins to deepen dangerously. Park and continue on foot.

The dunes rise slowly out of the sparse grass in voluptuous drifts, as smooth as snow except for a delicate tattoo of coyote tracks.

As you hike farther in, the silence grows absolutely pure: not a crunch nor a stir underfoot, not a whisper of air. Everything is so blindingly bright that you squint behind your sunglasses. As far as you can see, higher slopes always beckon over the next crest, like dreams just out of reach.



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**TUCSON CHAPTER GENERAL MEETING**  
By JoAnn Otanez

Tucson will be back from vacation this month. There meeting is going to be a POT LUCK. So take your favorite dish and have a lot of fun.

Sept. 8, 1987 don't miss it

**CHOLLA BAY CHAPTER GENERAL MEETING**  
By Elaine Escher

Cholla Chapter keep in touch with your officers to know when and where your meeting is.

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Lew Frazier

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**FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK**

behind the scenes



Matt helping Sara fold the chatters while Jennifer watches and learns.

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Pack ice wrapped cloth around the wound to slow the spread of the poison (the U.S. tarantula is not seriously poisonous, but its bite is painful and can cause bacterial infection.) Summon a doctor or take the patient to a hospital emergency facility.

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COMING UP!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

NOTE THE DATE CHANGE IN THIS CHATTER

NOVEMBER 1st Sunday.

### FALL PICNIC

Sponsored by Phoenix Chapter. This will be held at the Kiwanis Park in Tempe, Located on Mill Ave south of Baseline Rd. Members and guests from ALL CHAPTERS are invited to attend. This is especially for the kids, young and old. Games and prizes geared for the young at heart. Guests of members are encouraged to come and frolic with the group. Sodas, Hot-Dogs are free. BYO for you drinks. Hope to see all of you there.

Lewie Frazier

## STONE SCORPIONFISH

He has a large spiny head, with a drab gray, black and olive green body. The head and body have abundant skin flaps giving the appearance of an encrusted rock. The poison glands are to be found at the base of the dorsal fin spines. The species found in our waters shed his skin about once every 28 days varying with the food intake.

Indians along the coast were known to milk the poison and concentrate its effects for hunting as the poison is almost instantaneous. It was also used in a diluted form and mixed with roots as a pain killer.

Recommended treatment if stung is to use ice on the area of the sting, take Benadryl orally and consult a doctor as soon as possible. Symptoms of the sting are immediate severe shocking pain involving the entire extremity. The victim frequently thrashes about and might drown in shallow water, possible convulsions, vomiting and extreme swelling of the extremity.

All scorpionfish feed on crustaceans and fish, the prey often being one half as large as the predator.

Spawning occurs in the spring, the egg masses form twin hollow balloons which float to the surface to become pelagic as the eggs hatch, the balloon sinks. They can reach up to 17 inches in size and are considered an excellent foodfish.

P.S.

Much of the material used in these articles comes from the "Gulf of California Fishwatcher's Guide", which was Co-Author'd by one of our recently departed residents, Nonie McKibbin. Thanks Nonie for sharing some of your knowledge and life with us.

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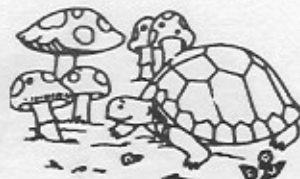
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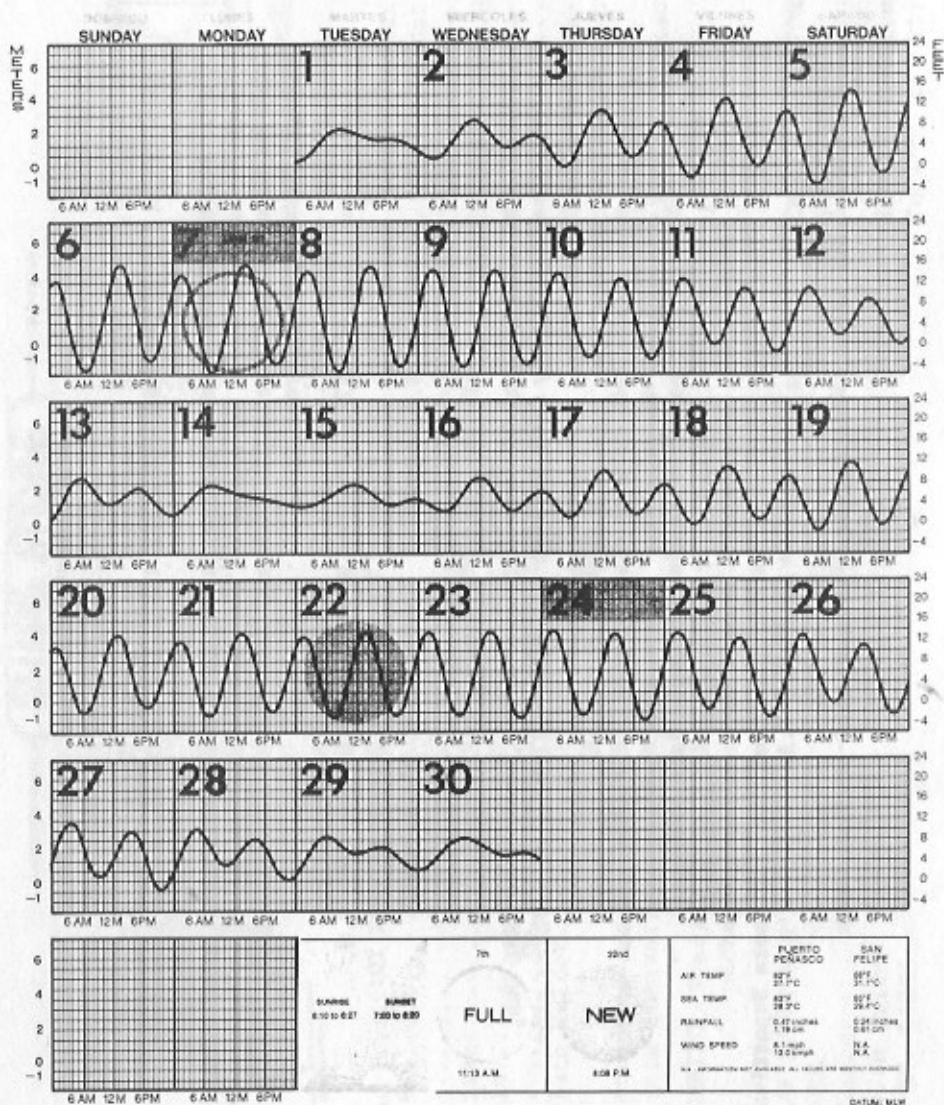
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