

GOLD COAST CHAPTER: JANUARY 2016 CLINIC REPORT

DR JOESPH LOPRESTI: GENERAL SURGERY

Attendees: (14)	Specialty	Procedures: (9)	Aircraft: (3)
Dr. Joesph Lopresti	Surgeon	Inguinal Hernia Repair x 2	N17745R Beech B36
Dr. Tom Cummings	Anesthesiologist/Pilot	Ventral Hernia Repair x 1	Pilot: Tom Cummings
Dr. Doug Harrington	Dentist	Laparoscopic	
Sharon Cummings	Nurse / Pilot	Cholecystectomies x 2	N6301P Piper PA 24
Sylvia Carranza	Nurse	Open Cholecystectomies x 2	Pilot: Dave Gowan
Vanessa Pina	Nurse	(1 with a common bile duct	
Dani Barsa	Med Student	exploration)	N35MT Beech B36
Lauren Alberstone	Med Student	Excision of an Abdominal Wall	Pilot: Mike Toft
Huy Ho	Med Student	Mass x 1	
Dave Gowan	Pilot	Breast Biopsy x 1	Clinic Coordinator: Josh Wilkinson
Mike Toft	Pilot		Pilot Coordinator: Bob Nicholson
Richard Wallis	Pilot		Clinic Duty Officer: Joe Nutile
Karen McDaniel	Nurse		
Jose Villegas	Translator		

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others" Mahatma Gandhi.



Dear Fellow Samaritans, I trust that you all had a very happy holidays / new year and that you were able to spend it with family and friends. Now that the Holiday season is over, it's time to get back to the work at hand of helping those less fortunate.

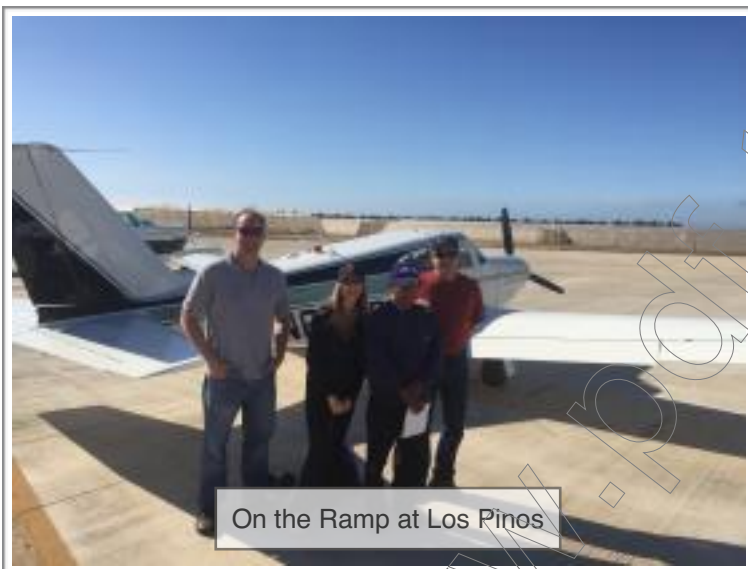
I can report to you that we had another successful start to our clinic and year with our General Surgery in January. I would like to thank all those that help make this weekend a success, Our clinic volunteers, Doctors, Nurses, Pilots, Translators and Support Staff. Bob Nicholson, our **new** Pilot Coordinator (who did a great job stepping in to take over from Dave Gowan), Joe Nutile, our Clinic Duty Officer and Josh Wilkinson, our Clinic Coordinator.



Dani, Doug, Richard and Capt. Dave

We had 14 volunteers participate in the clinic. Three aircraft fly down to San Quintín, Dave Gowan departed from Paso Robles via San Luis Obispo, Tom Cummings from Oxnard and Mike Toft from Camarillo. Karen McDaniel brought 2 patients with her and drove from Rosarito, Mexico.

Weather conditions were typical for this time of year with low ceilings, poor visibility and rain showers forecast along the coast on Friday morning. This caused a slight delay in our departures, but as the morning warmed up and the day progressed, the weather conditions improved to allow for a great flight south with blue skies and plenty of sunshine up and down the coast.



On the Ramp at Los Pinos

Pilots Dave Gowan and Mike Toft transitioned through Ensenada whilst Tom Cummings transitioned through San Filipe, where Sharon had a very favorable experience with Mexican Customs. The transit through Ensenada was reasonably painless, with just the two Flying Sams aircraft on the ramp. No unexpected charges were levied, just the usual landing fee and Mexican Visa Entry fees.

Tom Cummings arrived first in Los Pinos, followed shortly by Dave Gowan and Mike Toft. Now that our vehicles are located at the Airstrip, it made for an easy unload and getaway to the Hospital El Buen Pastor. We did run into some mechanical issues with our vehicles, but thanks to our vehicle sharing arrangement with the Mother Lode chapter, we were able to make some quick substitutions and we were on our way without delay. Our Suburban suffered a radiator hose failure that required a replacement part not available in San Quintín, so it will be repaired during our February clinic. One of our Subarus had a dead battery that we were able to charge and get running. We will hardwire solar battery chargers to the vehicles in an attempt to alleviate this issue in the future. Please remember that the Mother Lode vehicles available for use are the green Dodge van, the



Planes on Ramp at Los Pinos



Dr. Harrington, Dani, Huy, Danielle, Dr. Lopresti, Mike

white Ford van and the white Jeep Cherokee. If you use these vehicles, please return them in the same condition you found them and top off the fuel that you used.

Friday afternoon was taken up with triage and surgery. Karen McDaniel, from the Rosarito chapter had bought two patents that needed Hernia surgery and Dr. Lopresti opted to perform those surgeries Friday evening. As the surgeries were going to run late, half of the volunteers headed to Jardines for dinner with the intention that the remaining surgical staff would join us after they finished up. Unfortunately the surgeries ran later than planned and our surgical staff had to get a late dinner at the Taco stand on the way back to the hotel around midnight.

Saturday morning was off to a busy start with a full day of surgical procedures. All our student volunteers got the opportunity to help out in the surgery and gain some valuable experience.

Dr. Doug Harrington (DDS) from Paso Robles, joined us on this clinic. Dr. Harrington has expressed an interest in providing Pediatric Dental Care during our clinics and took this opportunity to come down to San Quintín to assess the need. I took the opportunity in the morning to show Dr. Harrington the Dental Suite at the Mother Lode clinic and to introduce him to the resident Dentist at the Hospital El Buen Pastor. Through the help of our translator, Patty, both Dr.'s were able to have a constructive conversation and we hope that Dr. Harrington will be able to provide Dental services in the future.

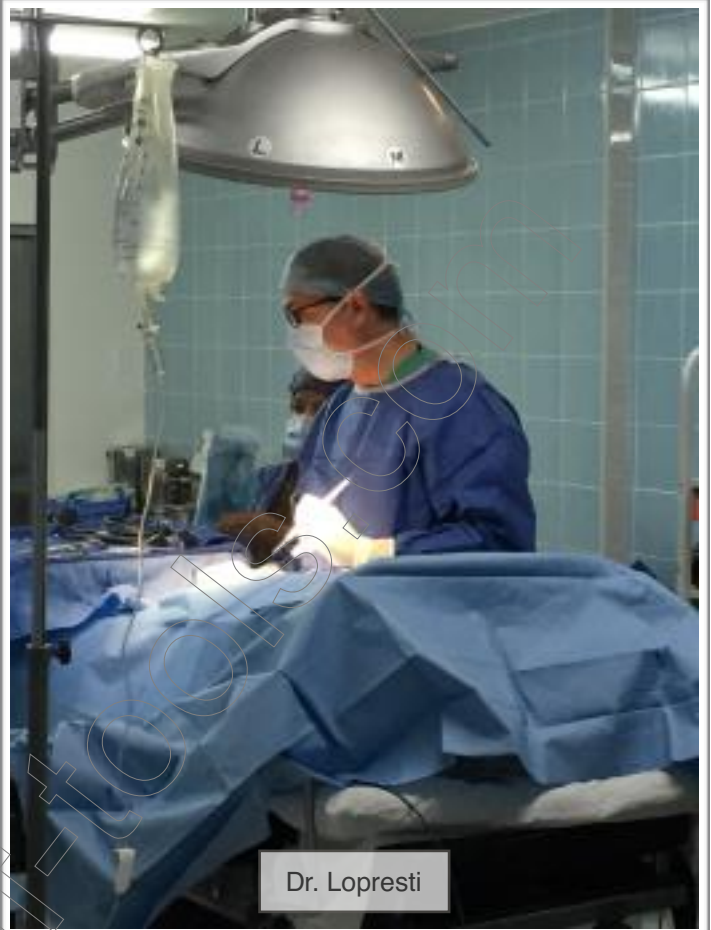
I also had the opportunity to speak with Dr. Gonzales, and he has asked that we step in to fill a need for Ophthalmology and OBGYN clinics. Also in my discussion with Dr. Lopresti, we have need for additional General Surgery clinics. If you know of any Doctors that would be willing to help us out in these fields, please reach out to them and ask if they would



Rosarito patient "Cowboy" recovering after surgery



Dr. Cummings



Dr. Lopresti



Mike Toft explaining how it's done



Huy and Dr. Lopresti



Dr. Gonzales scrubs in



Dani and Danielle get some down time



A very busy O.R..



I don't know, I'm just a pilot!

consider joining us. You can contact me directly or through the FS at flyingsamsmail@yahoo.com

As support staff, we spent the rest of the day checking the condition of our vehicles, trying to resurrect the Suburban, running errands, supporting the local economy and getting lunch for the medical staff.

Dr Lopresti performed seven surgical procedures, completing the last around 10:00pm. After a long day of surgery we retired to Miguel's for a lobster, fish and shrimp feasts.



Supporting the economy



Mmmmm Lobster!



Need I say more



Coffee and Beach, Life is good!

Sunday morning was a leisurely start. Postoperative care was performed and all aircraft headed for home. Clear skies and fair winds made for an uneventful flight.

Once again the letter from the Flying Samaritans is sufficient to prove that we meet the requirements of a charitable flight and are not subject to overtime charges from Mexican Immigration



I would like to thank all of our clinic participants for helping make the January clinic a success. Thank you to Dr. Lopresti and Dr. Cummings. Thank you to all our Gold Coast Chapter volunteers, nurses, pilots, translators and students. It is due to your hard work, dedication and compassion, that we are able to complete our humanitarian mission. Without each and every one of you, the magic does not happen.

Richard Wallis
Gold Coast Chapter
Flying Samaritans