

GOLD COAST CHAPTER: JULY 2016 CLINIC REPORT

DR JOESPH LOPRESTI: GENERAL SURGERY

Attendees: (11)	Specialty	Procedures: (11)	Aircraft: (3)	
Dr. Joesph LoPresti	Surgeon	Mastectomy x 1	N17745R	Beech B36
Dr. Tom Cummings	Anesthesiologist/Pilot	Lipoma Excision x 1	Pilot:	Tom Cummings
Sharon Cummings	Nurse / Pilot	Hernia Repair x 2		
Mary LoPresti	Nurse	Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy x 4	N9JS	Grumman AA5
Vanessa Pina	Nurse	Breast Lumpectomy x 1	Pilot:	Tony Gaspar
Maria Garcia	Nurse / Translator	Mass Excisions x 2		
Karen McDaniel	Nurse		N35MT	Beech B36
Jose Villegas	Translator		Pilot:	Mike Toft
Shannon Malindzak	Student			
Mike Toft	Pilot			Clinic Coordinator: Don Alderman
Tony Gaspar	Pilot			Pilot Coordinator: Bob Nicholson
				Clinic Duty Officer: Joe Nutile

“What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.” Nelson Mandela

Dear Fellow Samaritans, I can report to you that we completed yet another successful clinic with our General Surgery in July. I would like to thank all of those who helped make this weekend a success; our clinic volunteers, Doctors, Nurses, Pilots, Translators and Support Staff. A big thank you to Bob Nicholson (Pilot Coordinator), Joe Nutile (Clinic Duty Officer) and Dr. Don Alderman (Clinic Coordinator).

We had eleven volunteers participate in the clinic. Three aircraft flew down to San Quintín. Tony Gaspar departed from Paso Robles, Tom Cummings from Oxnard and and Mike Toft from Camarillo. Karen McDaniel drove down and brought patients from Rosarito with her.

Weather conditions were very favorable to flying, although our pilots reported that the temperature in San Felipe was very hot. All three aircraft cleared Mexican Immigration and Customs through San Felipe before continuing on to Los Pinos.

(A friendly reminder that all aircraft are required to clear in and out of Mexico through an airport of entry and that the requirement to file a Mexican eApis is in effect.)



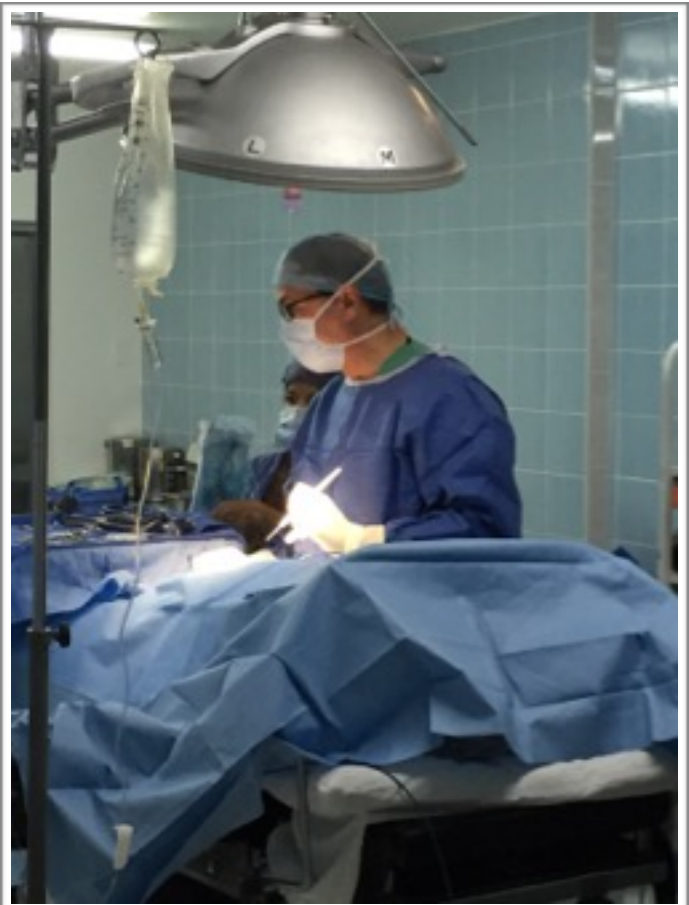
Apparently one of our Subarus had difficulty starting and the Suburban was running below it's best performance. However, our voluntaries managed to overcome these issues and got up to the hospital in time to triage and perform 3 surgeries on Friday afternoon. Saturday was a busy day with 8 additional surgeries. Sunday was taken up with postoperative procedures before our clinic volunteers headed for home.

I asked those who participated in the clinic to write a quick review, so in their own words....

Tony Gaspar: *It was a great trip. I flew with Maria and Shannon. We landed in San Felipe and cleared there. My OAT showed 129 degrees F when we got back into the plane at San Felipe!!!! When we took off, it was showing 107. Climbing up and over the mountains was a hassle at near gross [weight] and that temperature. I had to do two 360 [turns]. I will clear at Ensenada next time....Shannon was so relaxed in the back seat she was able to study (see photo). Dedicated kid!!! The Subaru without the decals wouldn't start on Saturday because of the battery. We finally got it started and I had the battery replaced. The other battery was 9 years old and the back had cracked spilling some acid..no harm to the car...The two Subarus should have numbers or some way to tell them apart. The Suburban was running poorly. It barely wanted to back up. It was chugging when Tom was driving it. Mike and I organized the storage room at Sharon's request. There is barely any room to move in there. If I remember correctly, Sharon was commenting that some of that equipment is probably obsolete and just in the way...*

Dr. Tom Cummings: *Things went very smoothly this trip. After doing three cases Friday night, we had a great dinner at Jardine's. We got off to an early start Saturday and were able to complete eight surgeries. Lots of hard work by everyone to get it done. Dr. LoPresti performed a total of 11 surgeries. On Friday we did a mastectomy, a lipoma excision and a hernia repair. Saturday we did four laparoscopic cholecystectomies, a breast lumpectomy, a hernia repair, and two mass excisions.*

Sharon Cummings: *As expected, it was a very busy clinic. All the patients were waiting when we arrived. Patty and Karen, from Rosarito, were triaging. Dr. LoPresti saw a lot of patients. He turned away many that will be back in January. We did 3 cases on Friday and were able to make dinner. On Saturday we did 8 cases. One group made it back to the hotel for a late dinner. Tom, Vanessa and I took Flaviola home and decided we*



didn't need any dinner.

Tony brought us lunch on Saturday which everyone enjoyed. As usually, all of the staff at the hospital were very helpful. There were 3 O.R. Nurses which helped rotate the cases. We were able to involve everyone in the surgeries.

We went to San Felipe and it was 100 degrees when we landed. It was very easy completing the paperwork in a nice air-conditioned building. Thankfully, it was cooler at Los Pinos!

As usual the hotel was great. Thanks to everyone who went.

Marcia Elena: Those two days of travel to Mexico, to assist and participate with the Flying Samaritans, will be unforgettable. Since the first moment we got into the plane, having VIP service from Tony as our private pilot and driver during the time we were in Mexico. A new experience in my life, of new ways to enjoy life, giving and receiving...

Shannon Malindzak: Flew to San Quintin with Tony and Maria. Ate a bagel at Poblanos while everyone else ate tacos, trying not to get food poisoning, I probably will still get it. Left for the clinic, but the car battery [was dead]. The clinic was amazing...scrubbed in on a gallbladder removal...the stones were huge! Spent the day in the O.R. watching and helping out on the other cases. Tony saved us with Tacos for lunch. Now flying home, going to try not to fall asleep while Tony talks about the sky.

I would like to thank all of our clinic participants for helping make the July 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

(PS: If you, or someone you know, would like to donate a vehicle to the Flying Samaritans, please contact Joe Nutlie. Your donation may qualify for a tax deduction)

