

GOLD COAST CHAPTER: NOVEMBER 2016 CLINIC REPORT

DR JOE KUNTZE: UROLOGY

Attendees: (8)	Specialty	Procedures: (9)	Aircraft: (2)	
Dr. Joe Kuntze	Surgeon	Cystoscopies x 2	N17745R	Beech B36
Dr. Tom Cummings	Anesthesiologist/Pilot	Open prostatectomy x1	Pilot:	Tom Cummings
Sharon Cummings	Nurse / Pilot	Transurethral Prostatectomies x 3		
Portia Carter	Nurse	Peyronie's Repair x 1	N95U	Cessna C195
Karen McDaniel	Nurse	Varicocele x 1	Pilot:	Kevin McAtee
Kate McAtee	Student	Orchiopexy x 1		
Averi Kerr	Student			
Kevin McAtee	Pilot			
			Clinic Coordinator: Don Alderman	
			Pilot Coordinator: Bob Nicholson	
			Clinic Duty Officer: Joe Nutile	

“We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone” : Ronald Reagan



Dear Fellow Samaritans, I trust that you all had a very Happy Holidays, I can report to you that, despite mother nature's best efforts to disrupt our travel plans, we managed to complete another successful November Urology clinic. Although the weather on our day of departure was beautiful, the forecast for our scheduled return on Sunday was anything but, calling for heavy rain, low ceilings and poor visibility in San Luis Obispo County. I would like to thank our volunteer pilots, Dave Gowan, Dave Varner and Tony Gaspar for their prudent judgement and for putting safety first. These pilots worked collectively, assessing the forecast conditions and unanimously came to the conclusion that we should cancel the flights from San Luis Obispo.

As the weather was less impactful in Southern California, we were able to operate two aircraft from Ventura County. Kevin McAtee departed from Santa Paula and Tom Cummings departed from Oxnard, while Karen McDaniel drove from Rosarito.

We had a total of 16 volunteers sign up's for the November clinic, but due to the unsettled weather we were not able to accommodate everyone. Thank you to clinic volunteers, Jen Nicholson, Bob Nicholson, Missy Beedle, Yanlei Wu, Janet Windman and Jeremy Fields for their patience and understanding. I hope that this has not discouraged you and that you will sign up for another upcoming clinic soon.

Planning for our clinics starts months in advance, and when we encounter unforeseen circumstances, such as this past clinic, the behind the scenes volunteers leap into action to try to keep the clinic operating. Pilots, planes and passengers have to be coordinated and reassigned, hotel rooms canceled and rebooked, coordination and communication with the hospital to ensure that the local community and patients are informed. So on behalf of our chapter, 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. Special thanks to Bob Nicholson (Pilot Coordinator), Dr. Don Alderman (Clinic Coordinator) and Joe Nutile (Clinic Duty Officer).

We also had our Junior Sams join us on this clinic. They traveled down from Paso Robles to San Quintin to continue their charitable project of renovating a disused hospital building into a Family Medicine clinic. I urge you to check out their website at <https://www.juniorsamaritans.org/> and to support these fine young individuals as they continue with their good work.

Junior Samaritans

- Josh Taylor
- Brooke Taylor
- Aiden Kerr
- Bradie Taylor
- James Southward
- Cori Southward
- John Schram
- Paul Schram
- Jeff Marcove
- Nick Marcove
- Jennifer Glossner
- Ben Glossner
- Abe Glossner
- Bill Long
- Vidal Perez



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

Dr. Tom Cummings: *Fortunately the weather problems along the central coast did not extend into Southern California and we completed another busy clinic. The hospital parking lot was full of cars when we arrived and Dr. Kuntz worked late into the evening Friday seeing patients. On Saturday he performed 2 cystoscopies and seven major surgeries under general or spinal anesthesia: 3 transurethral resections of the prostate, one open prostatectomy, a Peyronie's repair, a varicocele repair, and an orchiopexy on a five year old boy. It was great to see the enthusiasm of our two students, Kate and Averi. In appreciation for all the support we get from the hospital, Sharon brought Christmas gifts for the nurses and staff.*



Averi Kerr: *After interning in a urology practice for five months, I decided to join a local non-profit group known as the Flying Samaritans. Being a member of this group allowed me to apply for a urological surgery clinic held in San Quintin, Mexico. This clinic is held biannually by volunteer doctors, nurses, medical students and translators. They get first priority in the planes because there is limited space. Despite being the youngest person to apply, I was notified one week prior to departure that there was room on a plane for me. Originally, five planes were scheduled to fly, but three aviators canceled due to bad weather. Dozens of patients were anticipating medical treatment and it was imperative that the clinic go on despite the limited staff. My intentions were to observe surgeries and gain knowledge about urological Operations, but little did I know I was going to be scrubbing in for the first time! I*



had to quickly learn the proper way to scrub in for surgery, which became routine for me after working diligently from 9 am to 9 pm. The lack of helping hands required me to adopt skills which were foreign to me. All of a sudden I was tasked with angling retractors, suturing internal organs such as the bladder and testicles, and closing an incision with staples. This was done under the close guidance of the surgeon, who delegated to me the tasks usually performed by medical students and nurses.

Any anxiety that I once had was quickly relieved by the adrenaline rush. Being so heavily involved in surgery was breathtaking and fueled my desire to become a doctor. Seeing the health benefit this clinic supplies for patients in need inspires me to want to continue participating when I am older. Ultimately, my skill level went from watching urethral catheterization during my internship to putting in a catheter by myself in San Quintin. The fact that I could master hands-on tasks in high-pressure situations helped me realize that I will have what it takes to keep calm and professional while having someone's life in my hands.



I would like to thank all of our clinic participants for helping make the November clinic a success. Thank you to Dr Kuntze for making an early morning drive from Paso Robles to Santa Paula. 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