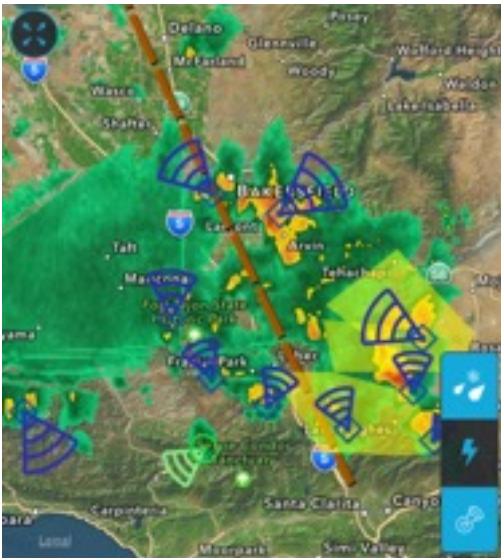


GOLD COAST CHAPTER: OCTOBER 2015 CLINIC REPORT

DR. BERN: RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY and DR ARYA: ENT

Attendees: (8)	Specialty	Procedures: (11)	Aircraft: (2)
Dr. Samuel Bern	Surgeon	Trans-flap Revision	N17745R Beech Bonanza B36
Dr. Paul Arya	Surgeon	Cleft Lip Revision	Pilot: Tom Cummings
Dr. Tom Cummings	Anesthesiologist / Pilot	Sternal Lump Removal	
Dr. Shrilekha Champaneri	Anesthesiologist	Eye Lid Reconstruction	N6301P Piper PA28-250
Sharon Cummings	Nurse / Pilot	Syndactyly (webbed hand)	Pilot: Dave Gowan
Rosemarie Mantes	Nurse	Reconstruction	
Betty Gamez	Nurse	Sacral I&D	Clinic Coordinator: Josh Wilkinson
Dave Gowan	Pilot	Mastectomy	Pilot Coordinator: Dave Gowan
		Implant Revision	Clinic Duty Officer: Joe Nutile
		Facial Hemangioma Removal	
		Nose Revision	
		Cheek & Orbital Revision	

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’” – Martin Luther King Jr.,



Despite the weather issues that impacted Central California this past weekend, we managed to eke out a successful clinic. I would like to thank all those who made it possible. Our clinic volunteers: Pilots, Doctors and Nurses. Dave Gowan: Pilot Coordinator, Joe Nutile: Clinic Duty Officer and Josh Wilkerson: Clinic Coordinator.

Mother Nature played a big roll in the outcome of this months clinic. As Pilot Coordinator, Dave Gowan had been diligently watching the weather the week preceding our clinic, trying to make the best assessment of how the forecast weather would impact our mission.

A low-pressure system was pulling moister up from the Gulf of California and that was causing heavy rains in the mountains. No doubt you are aware of the havoc that those rains played on the roads and in our communities with flash flooding.

The coastal route looked like it would provide fair weather flying, however Mother Nature had other plans and was not going to cooperate. Dave’s flight plan called for him to make a stop in Bakersfield and Carlsbad to pick up clinic volunteers. Due to low ceilings in Bakersfield, Dave elected to pick up his passenger in Shafter instead. He then departed for Carlsbad to pick up his remaining passengers before proceeding on to Ensenada. Even though Dave made a gallant effort, the low ceilings along the coast made it impossible for him to complete his flight and so in the interests of safety and in his good judgement he diverted into Chino where he and his passenger stayed the night before returning home the following day. The good news is that Dave scouted out the Chino airport and has suggested that we organize a fly-in there sometime in the future. All was not lost.





Tom Cummings had better fortune and was able to complete his flight to Los Pinos via San Felipe. Tom brought with him Dr, Bern, our Reconstructive Surgeon as well as Nurses, Sharon Cummings and Rosemarie Mantes. So even though we had to cancel the ENT portion of our clinic, we had a very successful Reconstructive Surgery clinic.

Here is a short review of the clinic, **in their own words....**

Sharon Cummings:

We took off VFR from Oxnard around 11:45 The forecast called for afternoon clearing but Ensenada remained IFR so we decided to fly to San Felipe. MMSF was great, very fast and efficient. They fueled the plane while we were doing the paper work. No problem with customs and our load of medical supplies. We won't hesitate to enter there again if need be.

We arrived at Los Pinos around 2pm with no weather issues. Loaded the suburban and went to the clinic. Tom was texting with Dave and was aware of their situation. We later cancelled the ENT clinic.

Dr. Bern operated on 3 patients Friday night. We were able to make it to Hotel Jardines de Baja for dinner around 9:15. We informed the hotel we only needed 3 rooms, not 5. There was no problem. Tom had been in contact with them throughout the day, so they also knew the situation with the other plane. This was our second time at Jardines, and it has become our favorite if Hotel Mission Santa Maria is unavailable.

The cases we did on Friday: 1) Tram-flap revision; 2) Cleft lip revision; 3) Sternal lump removal.

Saturday we got to the hospital around 8 because we had so many cases. We did 1) Eyelid reconstruction; 2) Syndactyly (webbed hand) reconstruction; 3) Sacral I & D; 4) Mastectomy; 5) Implant revision; 6) Facial hemangioma removal; 7) Nose revision; 8) Cheek and orbital revision. We were then able to get to the taco stand around 10:45.

Sunday we rounded on the patients in the hospital. We decided to fly to Calexico as San Diego was marginal VFR. We arrived in Calexico around 12:45. No problem. Turn around was short as we had fueled in San Felipe. We got home around 2:30. During our traveling, we found out that the suburban's gas tank is empty when the gauge reads just under 1/2 full. Fortunately the engine hesitates but continues to run for a few miles and we made it to a gas station in time. The Subaru ran fine.

I would like to thank Dave Gowan for using good ADM and placing safety first. Thank you to Dr. Arya, Dr. Champaneri and Betty Gamez for your patience and understanding. We hope to see you all at future FS Clinic. Thank you to Dr. Bern, Dr Cummings, Sharon and Rosemarie for completing a very busy and successful clinic. It is due to the hard work, compassion and dedication of our volunteer members that we are able to complete our humanitarian mission.

Richard Wallis
Gold Coast Chapter
Flying Samaritans

