



Binational Quarterly News

Binational Emergency Medical Care Committee
Spring/Summer 2007

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1. ANNOUNCEMENTS

BEMCC Welcomes Dr. Robbie Martin

BEMCC welcomes Dr. Robbie Martin to the Board of Directors. Dr. Martin has been instrumental in helping BEMCC grow over the past 20 years. Recently, she has provided expert advice on BEMCC's transition to [online and mobile medical records](#). She brings to the table many years of experience as a practitioner and kidney specialist. We are happy to have her join our team.

Tell Us About Your Trip to Mexico

If you had an especially fun trip to Mexico recently, please [send us your story](#) and some pics for publishing in the next newsletter! We want to hear about the good times too!

Update Your Information

New address? New email? New insurance? If you need to update your information, please [email or call BEMCC](#) with those changes. If an emergency arises, we'll be able to help you much more efficiently if we have all the right information.

BEMCC General Fund

Please help us to help you! BEMCC has established a general fund and we need your monetary donations. For more information, please contact us.

\$100 Discount on Deep-Sea Fishing Tour for BEMCC Members

Calling all anglers! [Allure Sportfishing](#) is offering BEMCC members \$100 off the price of a full day of fishing in Cabo San Lucas onboard their 36 foot sportfisher. When you book your trip, [Allure Sportfishing](#) will donate \$50 back to BEMCC! You must show proof of membership on the morning of the charter.

2. BEMCC GETS A MAKEOVER!

New online store. New membership cards. New website. These are the things BEMCC members can look forward to in the upcoming months. Read ahead for a closer look at what's to come.

New online store

BEMCC members can soon visit the BEMCC site to purchase emergency preparedness products. The store will include, but is not limited to the following items:

- Medical Record Key - Secure USB key chains that hold your medical and emergency contact information ensure the availability of critical information in the event of an accident. For your privacy, a password protects access to information on this device. You can also opt to have your information stored in our secure online database.
- Emergency Road Kits - These kits will contain essential tools needed to enhance your safety when waiting for help, such as flares, a flashlight, a raincoat, and a 10 by 5 inch canister good for storing non-perishable foods.
- Resource Directory - It's taken BEMCC 30 years to build the contacts and relationships needed to eliminate red tape for emergency evacuations from Mexico. You can have access to those contacts by purchasing the BEMCC Resource directory available soon.

New membership cards

Our current members are familiar with the current paper membership cards. Though the current cards are efficient, BEMCC will be upgrading the cards to a more durable plastic that will endure those many trips to Mexico in your wallet.

New website

After many months of planning and hard work, the new BEMCC website is up and running! The website address is now <http://bemcc.com> - though the old address works too. Please visit the site and feel free to tell us what you think.

3. OMAR ELIZONDO EVACUATED FROM MEXICO AFTER EXPERIENCING A HEART ATTACK

"...One of the doctors in Cabo San Lucas was a Diaz, then there's Mrs. Celia Diaz and my grandmother was a Diaz. I was very close to my grandmother ... I think she was taking care of me."

In 1996, fisherman Omar Elizondo traveled to Cabo San Lucas in Baja California Sur, Mexico for the first time. He's been in love with it ever since and returns often for what he says is "some of the best Marlin fishin' in the world".

He became a BEMCC member five years ago after reading about our services online. For many years, Elizondo traveled to Mexico without problems. But on August 30, 2007, Elizondo used BEMCC's services for the first time. [More...](#)

4. LOOKING BACK ON THE OCTOBER 2007 WILDFIRES

Emergencies happen in all sorts of unimaginable ways at unexpected times and have the power to affect lives, not only in the precious moments of the event, but also in the days, months and years to come. The October 2007 wildfires are long behind us, but the rebuilding process has been difficult for many families. BEMCC is proud to have helped reunify families by contacting and communicating with several burn centers throughout San Diego County. In addition to providing assistance in the reunification process, BEMCC helped several families who lost children, parents, spouses and other loved ones get back on their feet.

To learn more about the impact of the October 2007 wildfires on families, you can watch the documentary [The Devil's Breath](#), produced and hosted by Laura Castaneda of UCSD TV. BEMCC's Executive Director, Ms. Celia Diaz, was interviewed for this film. You can [watch the film online](#) or on UCSD TV. If watching online, you can see Diaz's interview at the 17:22 minute mark. For the UCSD TV broadcast schedule, visit <http://www.ucsd.tv/search-details.asp?showID=14381>. If you're interested in donating specifically to this cause, please [contact us](#).

5. NEW TIJUANA LAW - NO VEHICLE TINT ALLOWED

On May 4, 2008, a new law banning after-market tint on vehicles went into effect in Tijuana, Mexico. Drivers going into Mexico from San Diego County and elsewhere in the U.S. are required to peel off tint from their vehicles or face a \$50 fine and have their vehicle towed. Drivers of vehicles towed under this new law will not be allowed to reclaim their cars until tinting is peeled off and all towing fees are paid.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/mexico/tijuana/20080509-9999-1m9glass.html>

<http://www.kpbs.org/news/local/id=11587>

6. SEND US YOUR BLANKETS AND TOYS

BEMCC collects new, packaged blankets and toys throughout the year for the annual blanket and toy drive. On average, 5,000 - 6,000 blankets and toys are delivered each year to needy children and families on both sides of the border. Due to the October 2007 wildfires, our last drive yielded well below the average with only 1,000 blankets and toys. Please help us to make up for it this year! If you can't send blankets, monetary donations are accepted and volunteer opportunities are available.

The blanket and toy drive take place in the winter. Exact dates and times will be available soon.

7. Friends of BEMCC

BEMCC cannot operate alone. In addition to grants and donations, we have many friends who contribute to our ability to evacuate Americans from Mexico in emergency situations. The list is long, but this quarter we'd like to especially thank Angeles del Desierto, or Desert Angels, an organization that provides food and water for migrants in the desert. Angeles del Desierto were especially helpful in assisting BEMCC to locate bodies during the October 2007 wildfires that plagued San Diego County. Our other friends include:

*Cruz Roja Mexicana
 United States Coast Guard
 California Department of Justice
 California Highway Patrol
 Grupo Beta
 San Diego County District Attorney's Office
 San Diego County Sheriff's Department
 San Diego Police Department
 U.S. Marshals Service
 U.S. Navy Shore Patrol
 Tijuana, Mexicali and Rosarito Police Departments
 Mexico Law Enforcement Officers
 Segunda Zona Militar
 Segunda Zona Naval
 UCSD Medical Center
 Sharp Health Care
 Flying Samaritans
 Flying Doctors
 Loma Linda Medical Center
 Hospital General De Tijuana, Tecate, Rosarito, Ensenada, Mexicali, Mexico
 Bush Pilots
 Angeles Del Desierto (Desert Angels)
 Rescue Teams
 Air & Ground Ambulance Companies*

