



Bienvenidos!

MEMBERS' EVENTS & NEWS SPLASHES

SUMMER 2024



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Manager's Report

Dear Ocho member,

Summer is magical!

That's what a song was called when I was a teenager in 1991. The summer is magic, and it was sung by an artist named Playahitty. It played on all the radio stations and made you feel that this season of the year was pure magic and life. It's how I feel working in Ocho. I can tell you that indeed, the summer in Ocho Cascadas and the entire Puerto Vallarta is truly magical. It has everything for you to spend a truly happy week or a long time.

Mountains, rivers, palm trees, flowers, beach, whales, dolphins, iguanas, sea, and lots of sun. Multicolored sunsets that are among the most beautiful and spectacular in the world. But Puerto Vallarta is much more than its natural beauties, it is culture, it is friendly people, it is history. It is a place that you fall in love with for its essence and its soul. It is still a Mexican town with all the flavor and tradition. Puerto Vallarta is one of the 10 safest cities in the country, a safe port where you can walk its streets and feel its tropical climate without pending or worry.

I invite you to get caught up in the magical of a summer or a life in Ocho Cascadas.

Sincerely

Rosario Chávez,
General Manager



President's Message

Dear Members,

We've had another great season and we all look forward to an awesome summer filled with great weather, tropical rain showers, incredible lighting shows, good times and a constructive Summer Maintenance Period in September!

This past year was filled with meaningful stories from our Members and Guests about their family gatherings, first time experiences, anniversaries, birthday parties, adventures, and the list goes on.

My wife, Cristy, and I have enjoyed various recent trips to Ocho where we have spent time with the staff, adventured in and around Puerto Vallarta, spent incredible times in downtown Vallarta at our favorite restaurants, and just enjoyed being in the town I was born in.



Cristy and I still spend a lot of time with my mom, always talking about Ocho Cascadas and Cascadas de Baja. My Mom hasn't traveled outside the US in a few years but not a day goes by that she and I are not talking about the resorts.

She has told me dozens of stories about Vallarta all the way back from her first visit in 1962 where she met my father, Edward Giddings, later getting married and then eventually having me.

She believed then as she does today that meeting my father was the greatest gift she could have ever been blessed with. His creativity, passion for Mexico and his ability to think and build outside the confinement of conventional architecture was pure inspiration!

This reminds me of a story my mother and father told us many times about when they were living in the same apartment building as Richard Burton. Elizabeth Taylor would visit him there frequently and had high hopes of marrying Richard there in Puerto Vallarta. This is when they were shooting the movie, The Night of The Iguana, directed by John Houston, starring Richard Burton and Ava Gardner in 1964.

At this time, my mom was working with a local seamstress designing clothes for women in town and movie stars that were coming to Vallarta for a getaway.

My Mom ended up designing several wedding dresses for Elizabeth Taylor as she had proposed to Richard, or as my mom told me, demanding Richard propose to her, which he did not at the time, but did later ending up eventually marrying Elizabeth.

My parent's adventurous nature kept them in Vallarta designing and building homes for foreigners, hanging out with movie stars, directors, writers, spending afternoons down at Playa Los Muertos and cocktail parties at night. Wow what an incredible experience that must have been!

I hope everyone continues to have that same inspiration, passion and love for Puerto Vallarta and our home away from home.

Ocho Cascadas is in our family's heart and soul. It continues to encourage us to slow down, live life to its fullest and enjoy our loved ones while sipping on a margarita, watching the sun set over the bay from our villa and realizing how blessed we truly are to enjoy this wonderful place!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Giddings".

Mark Giddings
Developer and Board President

Meet Your Board Member: Steve Farrel

Hola!!!

I am Steve Farrell from Phoenix, Az. Born and raised in Phoenix, I followed my father's footsteps into real estate. My Dad had a lifetime career in residential...I jumped into the commercial side of the business almost 40 years ago and I am a founding partner in Lee and Associates...we have 50 offices nationwide. I am also an ASU grad and a Sun Devil! I live in Phoenix with my partner Kyle Dayson and 2 critters....Sochi, a white Golden Retriever and Marley an American Bully. We are both Mexico aficionados and own a week in Cabo as well, and we travel often to Sayulita and Tulum and other great cities.



Steve & Kyle

My wonderful experience with Ocho....started 30 plus years ago....On a walk on the beach below and I spotted sunlight striking some amazing waterfalls coming down a building....My next trip I ventured up the hill and found a sign on the lower gate....that said....Private Club/The Giddings Company. My next trip I peeked through a crack in the wooden door on the street level of the penthouse... at this point I said to myself...I need to figure out how to get a stay in this place. Many years of repeated phone calls to the Giddings Company in Newport Beach and I finally got a call when a cancelation occurred. Ever since then....it has been one life changing trip after another. At the time of the enhancement (2014)....Pat Giddings contacted me about the opportunity to join the board... and I jumped in!!!

We have an amazing board of directors....EACH one of us has expertise in our respective passionate areas... we bring a complete package to every member. My lane is the aesthetic....the guests visual experience... when you arrive to the front desk....and hopefully a full and stunning week in your villa...that hits every one of your senses!!!!!! Also, I am committed to taking care of our friends, the staff...the new tipping guidelines have brought much needed money to our favorite folks that work so hard for all of us.

Your Board of Directors is passionate about giving you an incredible experience every year....Recently we have planted over 1200 new tropical plants....100's of new light bulbs, new information & rules books in each villa and new PH chef menus. And we are currently in the middle of a long-term project to replace EVERY fabric and cushion in each villa....along with a few other nice subtle changes that we hope you enjoy.

We own a week in Villa 6, 9 and the amazing Penthouse.... Both summer and winter weeks....we ALL get to live in a piece of art....!!!! Every time we walk into Ocho we say.... how did we ever get so lucky to have another week in this awesome place! I also find the beach, the sunlight, and the colors of Mexico very inspiring for my artwork.... www.stevifarrellart.com. I am also an avid fitness guy....A runner for over 40 years...many marathons and triathlons in my history and I use the Ocho stairs on the south side....to earn my nightly margaritas!!!!!! My personal best is up and down the stairs 10 times in a morning.... At 63.... I am not sure I have any more in me! I hope you all enjoy Ocho as much as we do!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Sochi



Marley

Member's Comments

Fantastic Staff

In an e-mail to Dave Stoenner:

Dave, this is Carolyn Spann who was just in Ocho Cascadas over Thanksgiving. I just want to let you know how much my family and I love it down there. It is kept up so well and the attention to detail is amazing. Both Gabi and Rosa take such pride in their work and always have a smile on their face. The new pool guy Adrian is a wonderful addition and was very attentive to our needs. We had a very small group this year so we had time to really get to know Victor and of course think of him and Lalo as family. Lalo tried some new recipes and it's obvious how much he loves his job and being a chef. Marcel, David, and Angie were always helpful getting us cabs, rides to the botanical gardens and helping us rent a boat. We did miss seeing Luisa but know she loved being with her daughter in Oregon. There were beautiful improvements to the landscaping and repairs to the villa from the hurricane were handled by the time we got there. Thanks for all you and the Board do to keep Ocho our favorite place in the world. We are already looking forward to our 2 weeks next year!! Sheila and Denny McGrath and Brian McGrath join me in these sentiments!! Thanks again and please let the team know they are doing an exceptional job!!

Carolyn

Penthouse and Staff

In a note to Dave Stoenner:

I know you always like feedback. I thought the property looked terrific. The little touches in the Penthouse: upgrading the chinaware and utensils-the small things that continue to make it better. As always Lalo outdid himself-presentations, new items, his homemade breads, and I think Victor has really come into his own.

Most remarkably the pool renovations made the biggest impression. I know it is expensive and ongoing to get them all done but it really makes the whole property sparkle and look cleaner.

The staff of course is what sets Ocho apart. Longtime help like Rosa, Gaby, Irma, and of course George. Now Angie and Rosario seem comfortable in their positions, always smiling and checking to see if all is fine.

The new pool man Adrian is very personable and pleasant, Marcel, as usual, making reservations and suggestions.

We had one guest have to go to the ER and Rosario and Angie's follow-up were spot on and very helpful. She was there for 3 days and then could return to Ocho and enjoy the end of the week

We were sorry to miss seeing Luisa but health protocols still rule us and there is always next year.

All the best for a healthy NY!

Best Regards,
Bob Hansel & Mike Eagle



New Front Desk Cellphone & Preferred Communications Procedure

The Ocho Cascadas General Manager, Rosario, has implemented a new procedure to improve communications between Ocho Cascadas Members/guests and the Front Desk team. This simple procedure will help to ensure that requests or order changes made to the team have been taken care of promptly. The operation of the Front Desk is very much a “team” business and to ensure top quality, reliable service to our guests, it is very important that the entire team be involved in communications with Members.

The Front Desk will immediately begin using a new cell phone, as well as their existing e-mail address, for all requests to the Front Desk. The new number to use is:

+52 322 318 8583

Please add this number to your Ocho Cascadas Contacts and phone directory. If the Front Desk needs to contact you, they will also be utilizing this new cellphone or the Ocho Cascadas land-line. The Front Desk staff will no longer be using their personal phones for the purpose of supporting Members requests.

This new cellphone number should be used for text messages. Texts are preferred over voice messages, as they create ready documentation for the team. WhatsApp has been installed on this phone and texts via that format can also be used if convenient.

For Future Communications with the Ocho Cascadas Staff:

1. Submit your Pre-Arrival Form, as usual.
2. After submitting your Pre-Arrival Form, if you need to make changes or additions to your grocery list, request reservations, or just ask the team a question, there are now 2 convenient means to do so. Here is how:

Email:

Frontdesk@ochocascadas.com

Please c/c: luisa@ochocascadas.com

- or -

Text or WhatsApp text (please, no voice mails) to the new Front Desk Number:

+52 322 318 8583

Mothers' Day Breakfast Celebration

The mothers who take such good care of us were invited by Rosario to a Mothers' Day celebration breakfast on May 8th. Here are some pictures of these lovely ladies:



From L to R:

Irma, Michelle, Gaby, Vicky, Rosario, Marina, Yuri and Angie.

Mother's Day: an honored tradition in Mexico, as elsewhere in the world.

Thank you, ladies!



Member's Comments

Summertime at Ocho

We are from Phoenix....so we know what hot is...I think we had 60 days over 110 degrees last summer....31 in a row!!!!

On a whim...we said let's try Ocho in July...We ended up loving the weather and bought a week in villa 6!

The villas are shaded so well and the couple hours with the Cascade on does wonders for the temp.

Every afternoon...we slide in for an hour nap in the ice-cold AC...and were good-to-go for another few hours...and then there is the refreshing pool!

Most afternoons....the clouds roll in....blocking the sun and a nice view or a storm happens (often offshore).

Rinse and repeat the next day!!!!!!!



Sports Bars in Puerto Vallarta Old Town

Ever visited Ocho Cascadas while missing your favorite sports teams “big game”? This happened to me in April during the Big Dance (I’m a Purdue Boiler fan!) With no TVs in our Villas (thankfully) and limited availability for sports on the Ocho Cascadas TV in the lobby, I decided to seek-out some good, local places for watching a game (along with a beverage of choice.) Here is a summary that I extracted from a local source. I have visited 3 of these establishment during the Big Dance and can attest that the descriptions are quite accurate.

Best Sports Bars in Puerto Vallarta

Players Sports Bar

Players Sports Bar is located in the Romantic Zone near Los Muertos Pier on 138 Rodolfo Gómez street, between Amapas street and Olas Altas street, next to Barra Light. They specialize in burgers, with the half-pound Players Burger being their most popular. They also serve chicken wings, fish tacos, fish ceviche, and other typical sports bar fare, as well as Mexican and American beer. You can watch your favorite games on their six television screens. They have TV service from the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. They show soccer, NFL football, basketball, baseball, and hockey games, including games with French language commentary.

All Access Sports Bar

All Access Sports Bar is located in the Romantic Zone next to Lazaro Cardenas Park, at Lazaro Cardenas 175 and is one of the more well-known sports bars in Puerto Vallarta. They serve Mexican and American foods for breakfast, brunch, lunch and dinner. They offer dine-in and takeout. They have an outdoor patio. The menu includes eggs benedict, breakfast burritos, pancakes, biscuits and gravy, country fried chicken, wings, burgers, fried jalapeños, nachos, green chili, salads and finger foods. In addition to beers, wines, and spirits, they also serve handmade cocktails such as the “Mezcalita” which includes mezcal, Triple Sec, and lime juice, and the “Creamsicle” which has Captain Morgan spiced rum and Fanta orange soda. When it’s not game time, they have live music. On Tuesdays, Chef Eddy offers a pop-up menu, featuring different savory dishes each week. Drink specials days like Wine Cooler Wednesdays and group hiking trips round out All Access Sports Bar’s offerings.

Nacho Daddy

Nacho Daddy is a sports bar, Tex-Mex style restaurant, and concert venue also in the Romantic Zone located at 287 Basilio Badillo. They show all your favorite major league sports games including NFL, NHL, NBA, MLB, FIFA, curling, and more on their eight large TV screens, which are all connected to cable and streaming sites. Of all the sports bars in Puerto Vallarta, Nacho Daddy may have the most to offer in regards to activities and nighttime fun. They have trivia, bingo, poker, karaoke, and live music, depending on the night. The Texas Embassy Blues Band plays every Friday night, and they are definitely worth checking out. You will be impressed by lead singer Sean Moore’s blues vocals, backed up by a solid band.

Los Muertos Brewing

Again, in the Romantic Zone, you will find Los Muertos Brewing, Vallarta’s first craft brewery and brew pub, at Lázaro Cárdenas 302. They opened on the Day of the Dead (Día de Muertos) in the year 2012 and served their very first pint of Agave Maria Amber Ale one month later. Now they brew 14 different kinds of beer, including ales, IPAs, stouts, and seasonal beers. They show sports games on the TVs inside the restaurant. It’s a fun place to watch the game, eat some woodfired pizza or burgers, and order a flight of beer to try the different kinds they make.

Staff Spotlight

Meet Alex Diaz. Alex is the newest addition to the Ocho Cascadas family. He is a true native of Puerto Vallarta, having lived his entire life (all 31 years of it) in a small suburban area of Puerto Vallarta called Ixtapa.

His Birthday is on August 9th, making him of the best zodiac sign there is, Leo (eat your heart out Sagittarius). He is somewhat of a rebel, where he is from, you would be lucky to find a young guy listening to anything but “banda music”, yet his favorite genre is classical rock, with some of his favorite bands being The Doors, Queen and Black Sabbath, he has an uncle to blame for acquiring those tastes. He also enjoys dancing to Salsa music.

When he is not working at Ocho as our new Night Watchman keeping the Coatimundis at bay, he enjoys reading Historic Sci-Fi novels, a couple of his favorite books are The Count Of Montecristo and The Great Gatsby.

Fun Fact: Alex is a certified massage therapist.

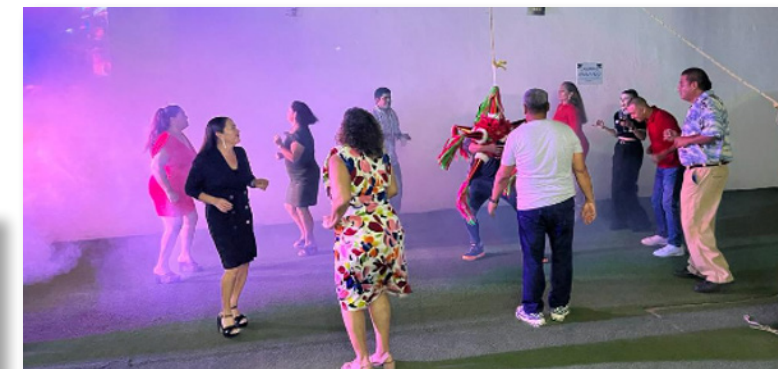


Staff Activites & Fun

It is always wonderful seeing our Staff having some fun together. Such was the case at the annual Christmas party:



And what is a party without Pinatas!



Some dancing!



Rosa



Irma



Walking Into Town, an Update

We are sorry to report that Calle Santa Barbara remains closed to both auto and foot traffic. And from all appearances, the contractor that is building the condominium at the site of the road blockage has no interest in re-opening the road any time soon. There is, as of April, 2024, some major construction activities underway at the site:



Hopefully once this structure is complete, the road will be reopened, but that will likely be awhile.

There remains the alternative walking route into town that minimizes exposure to the traffic on Hwy 200, but this route has been altered slightly due to the recent demolition of the recommended stairs down from Hwy 200. Please refer to the Summer, 2022, Newsletter issue for this route, with the following minor changes:



As you walk along Hwy 200 you will come to this condominium project still under construction on the East side of the Hwy. The same construction site identified in the Summer, 2022, Newsletter. (Picture to the left)

Directly opposite of this condominium construction site, you will find an alternate stair down. (Picture to the right)



These stairs are located about 75' south of the prior recommended stairs. Use caution when starting down, as the handrail is not initially in the best of positions. (Picture to the left)

At the bottom of the stairs, you will see: (Picture to the right)



Turn to your left, and you will be back on the route outlined in the 2022 Newsletter.

To look-up the 2022 Summer Newsletter go to the Ocho Cascadas website and:

1. Click on the "Ownership" tab at the top
2. Click on "Owners" from the drop-down window
3. Enter your "Owner Number," Zip Code, and click on "Enter"
4. Scroll down and click on the "Info & Updates" box
5. Select and click on "Newsletters"
6. Select and click on any Newsletter of interest

The Mexican Peso vs \$US, an Update

The Mexican economy continues to strengthen vs the US, as evidenced by the exchange rate during a 3-week visit to Ocho Cascadas in April, 2024. The "street" exchange rate during this visit varied between 15:1 and 16:1, depending on the shop or vendor. As you will undoubtedly appreciate, this exchange rate is critical to the funding of the daily operation of our facility. A lower exchange rate means we require more \$US to fund the Peso-based operating budget and summer maintenance projects. The budget for 2024 assumed an exchange rate of 16:1.

Where Do you Buy Pesos?

There are lots of options. Local merchants will sell goods for \$US, but they set the exchange rate, perhaps NOT to your advantage! Many Ocho Cascadas Members use their credit cards exclusively when in Mexico. (When doing so it is advisable to request the merchant to bill your credit card in Pesos, not \$US. If you allow the latter, the merchant will set the exchange rate, again, perhaps not to your advantage.) And other Members buy Pesos from their local bank prior to departing for Mexico. This often yields the best, current exchange rate.

One other option is to buy Pesos from store or bank ATMs in Puerto Vallarta. Luisa recommends against using store-front ATM for security reasons. And when using Bank ATMs, be advised that the "advertised" exchange rate is very misleading after applying the bank's "transaction" fees! There is a prominent bank at the West end of Calle Basilio Badillo that in April, 2024, advertised a very attractive exchange rate:



The ATM here is very convenient, and the withdrawal transaction can be done in English. But be advised, the "actual" exchange rate, after the bank applied their fees, was 14.4:1, not 17.2:1, as advertised!

Hurricane Preparedness Plans

Over the past few months Rosario and the Ocho Cascadas staff have done a very thorough and complete update of the facility's Hurricane Preparedness Plans. This work now takes the form of 2 documents: the first is for the benefit and information of Members; the second is a VERY DETAILED plan for our employees at Ocho.

See below for the Member's Preparedness Plan.

The employee plan is very detailed, with roles and responsibilities for employees for the many preparation activities required to secure Members safety and the security of the facility. The plan is based on a risk-based appraisal of the expected severity of the hurricane. The plan begins a week prior to the expected arrival of the hurricane, and by days, outlines the various required activities. The plan also includes for the safety of our employees. To give you an idea of the sophistication and scope of this plan, it is 25 pages long. And the Staff has been thoroughly trained in use and execution of the plan.

Should a hurricane impact Ocho Cascadas during your visit, you can expect your Staff to be organized and well prepared to ensure your safety.

HURRICANE PLAN - MEMBERS AND GUEST

BEFORE THE STORM:

FIVE days prior to the hurricane's predicted arrival the Ocho Cascadas Manager will hold the first information meeting for Members to advise them of the situation. This notification may also be done via e-mail.

Members may choose to fly home or to travel to a safe location (e.g. Guadalajara) prior to the estimated hurricane landfall; at the expense of the Member.

ONE day prior to the predicted landfall of the hurricane, the Ocho Cascadas Manager Cascadas will hold a meeting for Members who chose to stay at Ocho Cascadas and provide them with:

- ✓ Flashing light
- ✓ Candles and matches
- ✓ First Aid kit
- ✓ Bottled or water.
- ✓ Nonperishable snacks
- ✓ Recommended Safe Haven

One day prior the storm: Staff and maintenance will go to each villa to secure furniture, pots, statuary, etc. and place these items in a stateroom. For items that cannot be moved, they will be secured with rope.

RECOMMENDED SAFE HAVENS, by Villa:

PH: Botton bathroom

V9: Junior bathroom

V8: Lobby bathroom

V7: Junior bathroom

V6: Junior bathroom

V5: Junior bathroom

V4: Junior bathroom

V3: Junior bathroom

V2: Junior bathroom

DURING THE STORM

Do not use the elevators!

It is STRONGLY RECOMMEND that Members and guests stay in your Safe Haven until contacted management.

AFTER THE STORM

Management will go into every villa to verify all members and guests are safe or arrange any required assistance; and begin any required clean-up, required repairs and replacement of furniture.





Immigration Procedures at PVR

There are some new Immigration procedures being implemented at the Puerto Vallarta airport. For visitors entering the airport, new electronic passport readers/scanner are being installed. (As of April, the readers were installed, but not yet operational.) Members who have used this new way of entering Mexico in Cancun where they are in use, have reported a very smooth and quick process. Here is a picture of what to look for in the future at PVR:



The procedure for departing PVR has also recently been stream-lined. Your passport will be checked when you check-in with your airline. You will be given a boarding pass (or use the one on your phone). Your boarding pass will then be scanned at one of several readers just prior to getting to the security screening area. No passport is required. Lastly, your passport will be checked again at your gate, just prior to boarding your flight.

Luisa's Corner

Hello Ocho Family,

We have enjoyed an amazing winter season of beautiful weather and whale watching, and now are approaching summer in PV. We have some openings coming up so why not come down and have some fun at Ocho this summer? For those of you who have been telling me that you prefer the winter season, October-December, or January-May, and you would like to have another week for yourselves or your family, now is your chance. This is the opportunity that you and/or your family and friends have been waiting for. Some of our members have listed their Prime Season weeks for resale. We are sad when our Ocho members decide to sell their week and they are sad to go but family, work, and other circumstance change.

Please reach out to me or Dave for the list of weeks for sale/resale, or the upcoming available weeks for rent or a bonus week use.

The former Luisa



The new Luisa!



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