



The Wolf <disperser.wolf@gmail.com>

More Thoughts

8 messages

Michael Wolf <disperser.wolf@gmail.com>

Wed, Oct 24, 2018 at 12:59 PM

To: X-Ray Magazine Office - Peter Symes <office@xray-mag.com>

Peter,

I had some more thoughts on the matter of Mexico's diving and environment issues and the facility I am at which I wanted to share with you.

My primary observation about this place is that it includes a significant amount of wasted potential. The government is keen to develop tourism here, as it is their primary source of income. I had been from the ultra rich who came here to use it as a playground, but the environmental regulations kicked many of them out and the area is now struggling to replace the missing income.

What I see with the facility I am at, and the area here in general, is a complete lack of knowledge of the potential of this place for tourism. This is some of the greatest diving in the world, some of the best sailing in the world, some of the best scenery and wildlife in the world, and some of the best outdoor activities. And it's all in one place. And right where I am is the center of it all. Yet, this dump that pollutes and wastes doesn't even utilize 1/10th its capacity for providing tourism.

So, perhaps having someone come here and look at the wasted potential, perhaps someone with an investor in tow who can see the development from that angle, can provide a better eye on things here than strictly looking at lax regulation and enforcement of regulations that no one

even cares about.

Oh yeah, I should relate something that I saw that is probably quite important: the other day there was a significant emergency, a pesticide container was opened and/or spilled and the entire area was closed off. If not for the wind, they would have evacuated us. The command center for the containment and decontamination was set up on the opposite side of the fence of an oil disposal center - which had oil and fuel and filters obviously leaking into the ground all around it and on it - an obvious issue with pollution. I made sure to spend as much time there, even going so far as to open containers and show my reaction to the harsh odors within. Yet, out of all those people tending to a chemical leak and cleanup, not a single one did anything more than just look at me. These people DO NOT CARE. If I were to try to do something about this myself, it would be more likely I would be taken care of than the problems I report.

Thus, hitting them where it really truly hurts, the wallet, is the ONLY way to motivate these people. So, showing them what the potential for tourism and income from tourism is compared to what they are doing now is, in my opinion, the ideal way to address this issue.

That's all for now.

Regards,

Mike Wolf

X-Ray Magazine Office - Peter Symes <office@xray-mag.com>
To: Michael Wolf <disperser.wolf@gmail.com>

Fri, Oct 26, 2018 at 6:14 AM

Thank you

Just real brief, as I am on my way to the airport and trade show over the weekend, I have taken note that next time any of my associates travel through the area that we should look into this matter, Exactly when that would be I can't say at present but our photo journalists get about on various

assignments

Best regards

Peter S.

Peter Symes
Editor-in-Chief & Publisher
X-Ray International Dive Magazine
www.xray-mag.com

Established 2003 | The first digital diving magazine

- *Best ranked scuba publication in the world on Alexa.com, since 2009*
- *Winner of the MTA Press Awards, 2011*
- *DIWA Award Winner, 2016*
- *EUROTEK.2016 Media Award nominee*

Main Office: AquaScope Media, Ahornsgade 6, 2200 Copenhagen, Denmark
Phones: Skype: xray-mag. Direct: (+45) 3696 5744 or US (+1) 925 246 5744

[Quoted text hidden]

Michael Wolf <disperser.wolf@gmail.com>
To: X-Ray Magazine Office - Peter Symes <office@xray-mag.com>

Fri, Oct 26, 2018 at 8:34 AM

Thanks for the note.

If it's a dive show, the owner of this place is the one who goes to all the shows. If I can find out if he is at a show, I will let you know.

Enjoy yourself.

By the way, I am taking a DVD showing multiple instances of illegal fishing to the navy today. We'll see how that goes.

-Mike

On 10/26/18, X-Ray Magazine Office - Peter Symes <office@xray-mag.com> wrote:

> Thank you

>

> Just real brief, as I am on my way to the airport and trade show over
> the weekend, I have taken note that next time any of my associates
> travel through the area that we should look into this matter, Exactly
> when that would be I can't say at present but our photo journalists get
> about on various assignments

>

> Best regards

>

> Peter S.

>

> -----

>

> Peter Symes

> Editor-in-Chief & Publisher

> X-Ray International Dive Magazine

> www.xray-mag.com

>

> /Established 2003 | The first digital diving magazine

>

> - Best ranked scuba publication in the world on Alexa.com, since 2009

> - Winner of the MTA Press Awards, 2011

> - DIWA Award Winner, 2016

> - EUROTEK.2016 Media Award nominee/

[Quoted text hidden]

Michael Wolf <dispenser.wolf@gmail.com>

Fri, Oct 26, 2018 at 12:20 PM

To: X-Ray Magazine Office - Peter Symes <office@xray-mag.com>

By the way, if anyone does come here, there are many employees who will be quite revealing about what goes on here, all of whom are on the evening shift (4pm to usually 9:30pm - no one is usually here

after that time.) The best are Orlando and Porfirio.

[Quoted text hidden]

X-Ray Mag Office <office@xray-mag.com>
To: Michael Wolf <disperser.wolf@gmail.com>

Sun, Oct 28, 2018 at 5:11 AM

Greetings from the Diveshow In Birmingham, UK. The only Mexican operator I have seen here is from Yucatán

Sent from my iPad

[Quoted text hidden]

Michael Wolf <disperser.wolf@gmail.com>
To: X-Ray Mag Office <office@xray-mag.com>

Sun, Oct 28, 2018 at 6:28 AM

Yeah, that's Fernando, his father, operating Krakken.

I do have an update:

Two days ago, we saw police here. I've only seen them here three times in three years and I called them one of those times. Only when we got back from town did we hear that a dinghy was stolen, supposedly from right next to my boat, and the brand new Yamaha 4stroke commercial 60hp high thrust motor removed and the dinghy ditched. The owner had just bought four of these. I later heard that the captain the the new liveaboard got in a fight with the owner and was fired. I do believe there was a connection because I would not put it past the owner to not pay the guy, especially as I then heard that the propellers on Cassiopeia had been destroyed in the canal, certainly with the captain who was fired at the helm.

So, I expect that the former captain stole the dinghy, likely in coordination with other employees.

Things are probably going to fall apart here on their own. But, I am concerned that it will happen due to a catastrophe. These people believe in luck and superstition regarding boats to some extent.

Another boat, a very large panga, has been nothing but problems, starting out with hitting a whale shark, then constantly breaking down (another like it was just purchased). Cassiopeia was said to be bad luck too. And if the crew of a ship believe it is cursed, things can happen simply because of the mindset in times of snap decisions. So I have a genuine concern about the safety of that vessel. Alas, there is nothing I can do but stand by and wait for the consequences.

Given Mexican laws, I think I'll probably be living in a deserted marina and resort pretty soon. Maybe then you'll be writing a story about my working with the government to restore the business and do it right. We'll see huh?

In the meantime, talk to Fernando. He's a genius from what I've seen of his work around here. Too bad his son isn't anything like him.

Have fun over there.

[Quoted text hidden]

Michael Wolf <disperser.wolf@gmail.com>
To: X-Ray Mag Office <office@xray-mag.com>

Thu, Nov 8, 2018 at 10:05 AM

Can I get an address I can mail you a DVD or SD Card with all the photographs and videos I have of the problems here? I'd like someone to have a copy just in case something should happen to me.

Michael Wolf <disperser.wolf@gmail.com>
To: X-Ray Mag Office <office@xray-mag.com>

Fri, Nov 9, 2018 at 1:26 AM

Peter:

I wrote this draft review for TripAdvisor.com mostly as an exercise and for some stress relief, but also as one possible avenue to get what I really need, namely the opportunity to work on my ship.

Take a look at it and see what you think, from the perspective of the

article idea I mentioned promoting the splitting off of the business. The thought I had which made this draft of review seem like something I could actually post, if it were coordinated with contact with the owner to suggest an article promoting the splitting of the business. I don't know if it would work, and right now my instincts seem to favor letting the place fall apart on its own, but I can't be sure I'm not just overly afraid to confront this guy to get him to give me use of what he doesn't even use himself so I can fix my ship. I think that because I think that he is more widely believed to be a poor manager than I am what he accuses me of. People around there know better than to believe him. But, he makes a lot of money, there is a lot at stake, and I can't trust that I'm not paranoid for a reason I can't understand. So, I leave this as a draft, and consider it as a bit of a chance to have relieved some stress. In the meantime, it seems like waiting around for this place to get shut down isn't a bad choice for now.

I hope all is well. No worries on the delay in responding if you don't mind the messages in the interim.

-Mike

Cantamar is run so poorly that a long-term marina tenant is suffering as a result despite doing nothing wrong. I highly recommend avoiding Cantamar due to the many problems created because it is not at all well managed. Cantamar is unsafe – an accident waiting to happen. How they are treating me goes far to explain how and why Cantamar is not suitable for providing any services whatsoever:

I came to Cantamar marina with my ship three years ago and was quoted a rate which I have paid faithfully since, often several months at a time in advance. Given that the rate seemed low to me, I believed it necessary to avail myself to the facilities to provide what I could, where I could. I have installed water on the docks, helped manage the marina, saved several of Cantamar's boats from imminent doom thanks to hurricanes and lazy staff, and otherwise assisted with making sure things don't fall apart here. The arrangement worked well for the

most part until a German national, in an apparent effort to protect his fraudulent claim to federal property next door which I was interested in leasing, made false statements to the owner which disparaged me, and which the owner believed without question.

At around the same time, I discovered significant damage to my ship and contacted a local electrician and boat surveyor to inspect the damage and confirm the source. Cantamar's electricians failed to reconnect physical ground to the leg of electrical circuit my ship is connected to, and all stray current went through my boat, which was significant considering other faults with neutral and hot circuits in the marina, which is not wired in a legal or safe manner. My galvanic isolator was burned up and my engine, sea cocks, rudder shaft, propeller shaft, propeller, and armature of my ferro-cement ship all suffered damage which has rendered my ship inoperable.

I asked Cantamar for access to otherwise unused facilities in order that I might enact repairs to my ship. I was granted permission to use a shop which I had to improve and buy materials for in order to use, including cleaning, organizing, constructing walls, properly rewiring electrical outlets and lighting, and installing security all of which created a useful shop from what had previously been a place where only trash had accumulated. When it came time to give me use of a condominium, required as I cannot do the repairs to my ship while I am trying to live on it, things changed, and I was met with significant delays in responding to my inquiries. I spent several weeks and hundreds of dollars to improve a shop I cannot use, not only because I cannot work on my ship, but because massive obstructions in the shop which were not removed as promised by Pedro. Cantamar benefits from my work which was supposed to allow me to repair the damage done by Cantamar.

After the passage of several MONTHS, I was told by the owner/operator, Pedro, that I had to apologize to the Baja Pirates fishing fleet, a tenant of the marina, for things I supposedly did to them, or I would be kicked out of the marina. I have done nothing to the Baja Pirates except to complain to them when they break marina rules and disturb me in my ship (a very heavy vessel which does not move except when there

is sufficient wake to damage the fragile homemade fiberglass docks of the marina.) And I only complained to the Baja Pirates because my complaints to Cantamar staff were always unanswered.

The owner is being extremely unreasonable and has even gone so far as to threaten me, via my live-in caregiver, to have me deported. I have been told I am trouble by an owner who previously told me that everyone in Mexico does business the way he does: under the table, and lacking any consideration for the law or even the environment he offers tours to see. In truth, if I were truly "trouble" as the owner suggests, he would probably no longer be in business, but he would certainly have fewer floating boats and a lot less money for all I have helped with around here.

I will summarize my review of Cantamar thusly: this place should not be in operation. It effectively serves as a boatyard for the three large liveaboard dive excursion boats which service areas outside Baja California Sur. There is almost no oversight of the resort and marina and as a result, the facilities continue to degrade and incidents occur with increasing frequency and severity, such as a recent incident in which a divemaster was gravely injured when he fell out of a dinghy he was not sufficiently experienced with nor at all trained to use – he didn't even have the dead-man switch attached to his person! Most disturbing to me of this incident, besides being 100% preventable, is that despite occurring at a dive facility, there were simply not sufficient first-aid resources or training to handle the situation. I had to apply a proper tourniquet, provide a trauma dressing, and provide a blanket to prevent deep shock during the 30 minutes it took for an ambulance to drive from La Paz to Cantamar. I very likely saved this person's life because this facility simply is not prepared for accidents which are becoming more and more likely as things get worse here, especially considering Pedro recently purchased a headache known as Casseopeia which has taken even more of his time and money to deal with.

I firmly believe in the potential of Cantamar to provide tourist services, though I do question whether or not this place is suitable as a resort to host tourists for extended stays due to the pollution

of the adjacent commercial port including rich exhaust from diesel generators and massive amounts of dust. But until management is changed, Cantamar is not capable of providing safe, reliable services for diving or tourists.

While all I care about is getting my ship repaired, I am sufficiently familiar with this facility, how it runs, and how it doesn't run properly that I can opine that the best way to improve Cantamar is for Pedro to leave with his three dive boats and let Cantamar to be run by someone can properly attend to the facilities and ensure that things run well. Pedro has simply taken on too much and needs to let go of the resort and concentrate on what he knows best; diving; and let someone else run Cantamar.

Bottom line: Avoid Cantamar until they change management. If they can treat someone whose boat they damage as they have treated me, how would they treat someone who suffered physical injuries as a result of the same faulty management? I don't believe Cantamar is worth the money, or the risk.

As for me, as soon as I find a place to fix my ship, I am leaving. If I can find a way to leave sooner, I will. I do not like this place, I am not enjoying having my lungs filled with soot and dust and diesel exhaust, I do not enjoy that I cannot even clean my boat because the water is unsafe, I am still traumatized because I witnessed the divemaster's accident firsthand, and I especially do not enjoy a facility believing such outrageously false accusations as this place has about me, nor how the owner and some of its employees treat me despite all I have done to help around here.

I highly recommend that you avoid Cantamar.

[Quoted text hidden]