

Welcome Packet

Raquet Club

Welcome Team



## Welcome to the Raquet Club

Living in Mexico is an adventure, an adventure full of questions. Those of us who have arrived only recently and those who have been living here for many years have decided to compile answers to some of the questions that fill our lives in the Raquet Club. There are two free Lakeside publications in English that are good sources for events and services; be sure to pick up your copies monthly of “El Ojo del Lago” and the “Lake Chapala Review”. The Membership Directory of the Lake Chapala Society (LCS) includes “Yellow Pages”, with classified advertising for goods and services. All paid-up members of the LCS receive a current directory each year.

Additionally, the “Guadalajara Reporter” is an English language newspaper available weekly, late on Friday afternoons. There are many informative resources on the World Wide Web, of which “Chapala Living” and “Mexico Connect” are typical. The “Ajijic News” has a wealth of information about the Lakeside Area.

This Welcome Package includes the twelve categories below.

I. All About the Raquet Club	The Fraccionamiento, History, Governance, Facilities & Services
II. Water, Electricity, Gas, etc.	Utilities
III. How to Get Coverage	Insurance
IV. Doctors, Clinics, etc.	Medical Help
V. Maids & Gardeners	Household Help
VI. Buses & Taxis	Local Transportation
VII. Where to Shop	Shopping
VIII. Speak the Language	Spanish Language Learning
IX. Fiestas	Holidays
X. Local Traditions	Customs
XI. LCS	Lake Chapala Society

XII. Administration of Raquet Club	Raquet Club Board of Directors, Committee Structure & Employees
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Disclaimer: The names of companies and service providers that appear in the following pages are suggestions only, based on favorable experiences from Raquet Club residents. They in no way imply a guarantee of product quality or service satisfaction.

We would like to extend our gratitude for their diligence in translating this document to Armando Estrada Nuñez, Sendy Hernández Orellana, and Linda Rudisell-Hines.

The Welcoming Committee invites your comments. We are your neighbors:

- Alicia Salcido
- Judie Keck
- Leslie Rantschler
- Dee Mistrik
- Beckie Mara

**I. Fraccionamiento Raquet Club**

**History and governance:**

The Raquet Club was first created on September 22, 1972 for Señor Louis Wertheimer Fuchs. Subsequently, it was granted an Acta Notarial on the 12th of November of 1979. It is referred to as a “Fraccionamiento” because when the land was divided into lots, the result was that each lot became a “fraction” of the whole. There are certain rules that apply to “fracs,” including regulations that appear in our Constitutional by-laws. The rules and by-laws can be found on our website.

We are governed by an elected Board of Directors, individuals elected serve for a three-year term. Elections are held at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), which takes place within the first ninety (90) days of the calendar year. From within the elected board, individuals are appointed to the various executive positions. These elected volunteers have to be aware that our Fraccionamiento is within the jurisdiction of the Municipality of Jocotepec and, as such, our rules have to conform to those of the municipality. The Raquet Club consists of four hundred and 24 lots (424) and each owner, regardless of how many lots he/she may own, has one vote at the AGM. These votes may be held by proxy, but make sure that you understand the conditions necessary for a valid proxy, so that it may be put into use at the AGM.

## **Facilities and services:**

The Raquet Club facilities are open to all members in good standing. Each year you will receive: up to two free vehicle identification passes (hang-tags), two free identification cards, and 4 additional day passes for each 2 months the member is currently paid that can be used for your guests when you accompany them to the club. The maximum number of day passes that can be used in any one day is 4. Up to four (4) additional identification cards can be purchased for your family members or long term renters at a nominal fee.

The Raquet Club is open seven days a week, Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The dog park hours are extended in the summer to 8pm. The clubhouse is open seven days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The club office is open Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 9am to 2pm. The office is closed from 11am to 11:30am and 3pm to 3:30pm for the staff to take a break. The office telephone number is 387-761-0129 (+52-387-761-0129).

The Raquet Club includes 2 outdoor hard tennis courts, a semi-Olympic sized pool, a wading pool, grilling facilities, tables, chairs, loungers, a soccer field/dog park with walking track , a meeting room with a bar, a small fitness gym, pool table, ping-pong table, and foosball. We have also created a self-serve lending library with over a thousand books and a hundred DVDs (and still growing!). The library is open when the Club facilities are open and is based on the trust that you will return any books that you take from the shelves.

Many of these facilities are available for rent. For further information on availability and rates, please check the website or with the office.

The swimming pool has thermal water pumped into it. Water aerobic sessions, lasting one hour and comprising aerobic exercises and full-body stretches, are led by experienced members on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays free of charge for club members at 9am. There are changing facilities complete with lockers and showers at the club house. A snack bar is operated 7 days a week at the clubhouse; its hours are 9am-1pm M-F and 9am-5pm Sat-Sun.

## **Phone Bills:**

Your Telmex bill will be delivered to your house (often slid under your garage or garden door). However, since Telmex sends out its bills on the 16th of the month, if you wish to pay your bill sooner than the 25th, Telmex can supply a copy of your bill when you go to pay. The process is simpler if you take a copy of your previous month's bill with you.

## **Email:**

Please provide your email to the main office. Minutes of the Raquet Club Board are sent out monthly by email; and are also posted to the RC website. Announcements of other events are sent out by email also and those announcements are usually posted in the office.

## **Potluck Gatherings:**

Traditionally, on the first Friday of a month, a Pot Luck is held at the Club under the palapa when weather allows and inside the meeting hall when it doesn't. These run from 5:00 p.m. to around 7:00 p.m. Residents bring a covered dish to share with all along with their own table settings (plates, silver ware, glasses, napkins, table clothes) and drinks. Drinks are also typically available for purchase.

## **Special Gatherings:**

Some PotLucks are more organized and for these there is usually a small charge. The July PotLuck is a celebration of Canada Day and the Fourth of July. The September PotLuck is usually held closer to the 16th of that month in order to celebrate Mexican Independence Day. In December we celebrate the traditional Posada which is well worth attending; the food brought to this pot luck is some of the best. The Raquet Club does have a social committee which manages these and other events held at the club. If you wish to help, please contact the chair of the social committee.

## **II. Utilities**

### **Water**

Water is included in the Raquet Club fees; water is distributed to different areas of the fraccionamiento on different days of the week. A list of the days of water distribution is available at the office. The water from our main well, just like most water in San Juan Cosala, is thermal water and it is pumped at 140 degrees Fahrenheit.

An aljibe is a cistern, a water storage area; most Lakeside residents clean out their aljibes every six months. However, because water in the Raquet Club is thermal water, not all residents here feel it is necessary to clean aljibes that often. There are villagers who clean out aljibes for a living.

In addition to an aljibe, some houses have a tinaco on the roof. The tinaco acts as a reserve for the house and the garden and uses gravity to bring water into the house when electricity is out, and the pressurized pump system stops working. Most people

add a chlorine tablet to their tinaco each week or every two weeks. Most houses have a water purification unit also. These systems differ according to make.

Bottled water and swimming pool supplies are also available at various suppliers at Lakeside. Garrafontes (large plastic or glass bottled water containers) may be refilled.

You may also buy your bottled water where you shop for groceries. Prices usually include the return of the garrafón. Bottled water is also delivered door to door in the Raquet Club by several companies.

## **Garbage Collection in the Raquet Club**

The schedule for garbage collection is Monday through Friday from 10am to 5pm and Saturday from 8am to 11am. Garbage bags, as established by the regulations, must be in receptacles that prevent animals from breaking into the bags. Please DO NOT put garbage out after 5 pm, it will stay out all night, and it is very likely that the animals will break them. If this occurs you will be fined by the FRACC.

For yard waste. Please place small yard waste in a bag separate from your normal trash and in a separate area in front of your home. We also remind you that tree branches must be tied up and in pieces no larger than 1 meter, otherwise they will not be collected. Moveable trash cans should be stored on your property when not in use.

## **Electricity**

Electricity coming into our houses is nominally at 110 Volts, although in practice, the voltage can range from 118 to 139, which can stress your appliances, designed as they are for 110 Volts. It is a good idea to install a whole-house regulator that keeps the voltage at a steady level. Some electric ranges and clothes dryers require 220 Volt supply, and the Electric Company (CFE) provides this by a three-phase service. Some houses here are wired in two different grids in case of black outs. When we have a black out, you will discover that some of the receptacles in your house will have current while others don't. In some kitchens, a single receptacle will have one outlet that has current while the other doesn't; during a black out, you can switch your refrigerator plug from the non-functioning to the functioning outlet. It is always a good idea to have a flashlight (torch) or an oil lamp or two handy for such emergencies. Since flashlights may get only occasional use, check the batteries every once in a while. If your power is out for a lengthy period, you may want to telephone CFE at their office in Jocotepec at 01 387 763 0017.

There are also the inevitable electric surges; it is a good idea to use surge protectors on your appliances (especially your computer), including small appliances like irons and hair dryers. Surge protectors are sold at Soriana's, Home Depot, Costco and Sam's, Mega, Gigante, and most local hardware stores.

Electric bills are due every two months. Payment months are February, April, June, August, October, and December. Methods for payment include:

- At the CFE office (note if your bill is past due you must go in to pay at the office as the other methods can't accept late payments); The Jocotepec office is located at: Comisión Federal de Electricidad - CFE, C. Hidalgo Eje Sur 202, Cruz Verde, 45800 Jocotepec, Jal.
- At a participating Mexican bank: Afirme, Banco Ahoro Famsa, Banco Azteca, Banco de Mexico, BBVA Bancomer, Banbajio, Banjercito, Banorte, Bansefi, HSBC, Inbursa, IXE, and Santander. You don't need to have a bank account in these banks to be able to pay your CFE bill;
- CFE Mexico online payment (you will need to create an account on their website for this option);
- At a participating business: Calimax, Chedraui, Ley, Comercial Mexicana, Coppel, Oxxo, Sam's, Soriana, Suburbia, Telecomm, and Walmart.

## **Telephone and Internet**

Telmex is the main telephone company in Mexico. The Telmex office is located at #133 on the Carretera in Ajijic, opposite Plaza Bugambilias. Usually, when you buy a home in the Raquet Club, a telephone line comes with the house.

The telephone bill comes out every month and is delivered to your home if your home address is what you gave Telmex when you did a name change for your service. The telephone bill is due on the 27<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup> of each month. You may pay your bill via several options:

- Pay Telmex bill through the mobile app
- Pay Telmex bill online (desktop computer)
- Pay Telmex bill via Mexican banks
  - Banco Azteca, Banco del Bajio, BBVA Bancomer, BanCoppel, Banjercito, Banorte, Banregio\*, Citibanamex, HSBC, Inbursa\*, Santander\*, Scotiabank\*
- Pay at Oxxo
- Pay in person at Telmex office
- Pay via Telmex "ATM"

The telephone number for a Telmex operator who speaks English is 01-800-368-0500. If she cannot answer your question, she will transfer you to an English-speaking tech. The hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Telmex offers DSL and high speed internet, but it is often difficult to get the service to your home in the Raquet Club especially for high speed.

As an alternative a relatively new company to the area, but not to Mexico is TotalPlay. They provide several different internet packages some of which have phone lines and cable TV included.

At Lakeside there are many computer technicians who can help you with computer concerns. Please check sources mentioned earlier for services and goods or ask your neighbors for referrals.

## **Taxes**

Property taxes are due each year in January. The Raquet Club Office can provide you with your “numero de cuenta de predial” which is your tax account number as well as the amount due. The tax office is located in Jocotepec on the east side of the Main Plaza, which is the Tesoria Municipal, Oficinas Administrativas and their telephone number is (387) 763-2287. You can also generate your tax bill online and take it to Oxxo to pay there.

## **Gas**

One of the most distinctive calls on quiet mornings in San Juan is the call of the “Gaz” man! Several Gas trucks patrol the Raquet Club and you will learn which you prefer to deal with. Some residents have observed that it is prudent to go to the gas tank before filling, record the current reading on the meter, then observe the process of filling the tank and record the meter reading after filling, to be sure that the amount billed on the gas provider's receipt agrees with the amount that was supplied to the tank.

If you have a gas barbecue grill and want to use a small tank for it, you will have to drive beyond Chapala to get the tank serviced so many of us have had our grills hooked up to our main gas tank.

## **Television**

Satellite Television service is available in the Raquet Club from a number of companies. Ask your neighbors for suggestions about reliable providers. Many of the local internet providers also can provide television packages. Many homeowners utilize devices such as Roku or an Amazon firestick to watch various programs over their internet.

## **Septic Tank**

Most of Raquet Club homes are on a septic tank; however several pre-existing as well as all the new homes have a treatment plant instead. Many people here in Mexico do not flush their toilet paper; you will find trash cans for toilet paper disposal in most public restrooms and in the Raquet Club restrooms also. Certainly, the septic tank does not fill up as quickly or run the risk of clogging the registros (collection points in the plumbing system) if toilet tissue is not flushed down but this custom is a matter of choice. There are products available to encourage bacterial work in the septic tank, available at some hardware and water services stores in the towns.



Also recommended is cleaning and servicing the septic tank once a year. There are different companies that can be hired in Guadalajara and at Lakeside. To locate a company for this service we recommend you call The Office of the Municipality of Jocotepec at 763-2287 and ask to speak to a representative of Simapas.

### **III. Insurance**

House insurance is available here. Many do not use house insurance because construction precludes the threat of fire. However, you may want to insure your household contents; those who have had a fire appreciate the fact that there is a fair amount of combustible material (doors, frames, kitchen cupboards, etc), so you may want to consider some coverage. Additionally there is the possibility of mud slides during the rainy season. Insurance can be bought on household possessions. Insurance may be found on the Internet.

### **IV. Medical Help**

There are many doctors and dentists in Ajijic and in Jocotepec. If you are a U.S. citizen and a veteran, you will want to contact the American Legion in Chapala for information because there is a reciprocal program with the Mexican Army Hospital in Guadalajara.

Mexican law allows anyone living in Mexico under the age of 70 to sign up for IMSS (Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social). IMSS is the Mexican social security system and it offers health care to anyone living in Mexico. The emergency coverage is well worth the (fee) charged yearly. Because the Raquet Club is in the municipality of Jocotepec, signing up for IMSS is done at their Jocotepec office located on Calle Donato Guerra, just opposite the end of Calle Independencia. More information can be found at the Lake Chapala Society <https://lakechapalasociety.com/public/activities.php>

Since there are so many doctors in the area, it might be best to ask neighbors and friends for suggestions. Most of us have had good experiences here lakeside.

### **Hospitals and Clinics:**

There is a Hospital Ajijic located on the Carretera # 33 in central Ajijic. The telephone number is (376) 766-0500. The Hospital San Antoino del Lago de Chapala is located at Carretera Oriente, Miguel Hidalgo No.23, 45992 San Antonio Tlayacapan, Jal., their phone number is 376 689 0911

### **Clinical Ibarra de Especialidades**

This clinic is located two blocks past the bus central in Chapala on Miguel Martinez #530 and their telephone number is (376) 765-4001. This is a 24 hour clinic with hospital and pharmaceutical services available. Several specialists are also available during the day. For more information please call the clinic.

### **Maskaras Clinic**

Maskaras Clinic on the Carretera in Riberas del Pilar offers 24 hour emergency service and a plan that covers all doctor visits including two house calls for a reasonable fee. English is spoken by all the physicians (or a translator is provided by the clinic), including the night shift physicians. Maskaras has an extended staff including dermatologist, dentist, cardiac specialist, urologist, and radiology is done on the spot. The telephone number is (376) 766-4805.

### **Nuñez Clinic in Jocotepec**

The Nuñez Clinic in Jocotepec has five rooms and an operating room. It is located on Vincente Guerrero #25 (just past CFE). The telephone number is 387-765-0770. English is spoken, although Spanish is appreciated by Dr. Nunez. The visiting specialist speaks English.

### **Clinic in San Juan Cosala**

The clinic in San Juan Cosala has immunization services, dental, medical, and four beds for hospitalization if needed. The medical services/equipment includes basic emergency treatment (i.e. sutures for wounds, treatment for dehydration, and treatment for stings by scorpions). It is located on Avenida La Paz #90. The telephone number is 761-0092. Only Spanish is spoken by employees, although Dra. Liliana Garcia speaks a little English. Treatment is free and open to everyone.

### **Emergencies:**

There is a 911 service in Jalisco: the number is 080. In case of an emergency, call the guardhouse at 334-357-6572 ; they will contact an ambulance for you. If you prefer, you may want to call one of the following ambulance services:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Website</b>
Cruz Roja (Chapala)	(376) 765-2308	<a href="https://www.cruzrojachapala.mx/">https://www.cruzrojachapala.mx/</a>
Cruz Verde (Jocotepec)	(387) 763-1920	

Also available are several individuals who can give injections, and do simple home health care.

Ask your neighbors if they know the names of nurse aides who have been trained by AMSIF, an organization run by women in the Raquet Club and operating in San Juan Cosala.

In case of a death, call the deceased's physician rather than an ambulance; a physician can issue a death certificate but an ambulance service is required by law to notify the police who can demand an investigation and refuse to have the body removed for some period of time. The Lake Chapala Society also has created a Post Life Planning Program in conjunction with the San Miguel Funeral Home, in Guadalajara, to facilitate the legal disposition of deceased members.

## **V. Household Help (Maids, Gardeners and Handymen)**

One of the delights of living in Mexico is having a maid (*trabajadora domestica*). Most of us use women from San Juan Cosala. You will find them friendly and pleasant; most of them have their own routine of cleaning, but are willing to change their ways if you can show them an easier way. There are many women in the village who need and want to work. AMSIF, an organization which trains women, is an excellent source of contacts, if you need help with your home.

Many people who employ maids and gardeners have them sign for their pay when it is received to ensure that both parties are aware that the weekly payment is the extent of the employer's obligation and there is no possibility that the worker has not been reimbursed for his/her services.

Another Mexican delight is having a gardener (*jardinero*). It is also a necessity in the rainy season when everything grows like crazy. Again, most of us use gardeners from San Juan or the small towns just beyond it like El Limon. AMSIF is, again, a good source of recommendations for gardeners. Please note that Mexican Law has certain requirement for the payment of Christmas bonuses and severance pay for both maids and gardeners.

There are several handymen in the village also who can repair and paint. Once again, contact AMSIF for recommendations.

## **VI. Local Transportation Services**

### **Taxis**

If you need a taxi to take you to the airport, or other important appointment, it is a good idea to go to the town square "plaza" in San Juan or Jocotepec, where the taxi drivers usually park, the day before the appointment, and arrange with a taxi driver to come to your home at the appropriate time. Contact information for private drivers can also be found on the various Facebook pages that are focused on the lakeside area.

### **Buses**

The small buses start to run at or a bit before 6:55 a.m. on the carretera. They go into the towns, but they stop doing the town routes at 5:20 p.m. The large buses start at 5:30 a.m. and run every half hour on the carretera until 9pm. As an experienced rider explained, the amount of time it takes to get from any point along "the run" depends on how many stops the bus makes between your boarding the bus and your destination.

The "last bus" time depends on whether the driver lives in Chapala or Jocotepec, as he will make his last "run" home!

## VII. Shopping

### Tianguis

Tianguis are the local street markets and almost every town around the lake has a tianguis once a week. Here are the local ones.

Town	Address	Day of Week	Duration
Ixtlahuacan de los Membrillos	tianguis de sabinos, 45876 Ixtlahuacán de los Membrillos, Jal.	Sundays	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Chapala	Priv. Francisco I. Madero #423, Chapala Centro, 45618 Chapala, Jal., Mexico	Mondays	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
West Ajijic Organic Market	Salon De Eventos "La Huerta", Carretera Pte. 520, 45920 San Antonio Tlayacapan, Jal., Mexico	Tuesdays	9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
San Juan Cosala	Main Plaza and Kiosk of San Juan Cosalá, 45820, Porfirio Díaz 26, 45820 San Juan Cosalá, Jal., Mexico	Tuesdays	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Ajijic	Revolución, 45920 Ajijic, Jal., Mexico	Wednesdays	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Jocotepec	Zaragoza Sur 162, Los Mangos, 45806 Jocotepec, Jal.	Thursdays	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

We highly recommend that you wash all your vegetables and some of your fruits in a solution like microdyn before eating.

Lettuce, cilantro, parsley and spinach especially if to be eaten raw, should be soaked in microdren for approximately 5 minutes before draining and drying.

Fruits that grow on trees and must be peeled do not need to be soaked.

The vegetable vendors in San Juan, Blanca and Carlos, will take orders for a particular vegetable that they will bring the following week. For example, eggplant is not a vegetable often consumed in San Juan so if I want an eggplant, I order it the week before and if possible (which it usually is), the eggplant will be on hand the following Tuesday.

### **Panaderia**

San Juan has a Panaderia, a bakery one block off the Carretera down the first street to your left after our back gate at Juarez #50. Maria Guadalupe Gonzales Reyes or more simply, Lupita, and her husband, Manuel, offer in addition to dulces (sweets), fresh baked bread, bolillos that are ready every Monday through Friday at 5:00 p.m. The bakery doesn't open until 4:00 in the afternoon. Lupita's phone number is 761-0562 and she will take orders and bake such delights as apple raisin strudel. Be sure to walk through the first room and into the courtyard where you can see the baker putting in and taking out the bolillos from the wood burning oven.

The bakery in Ajijic, Panaderia Rojas, is in a lane off Calle Juarez, Privada Angel Flores. From the carretera, walk northward on Calle Juarez, a few meters to a lane on the left, with a brick arch, immediately opposite Calle A. Flores. The bakery is on the right, near the head of the lane. If driving eastward, left turn off the carretera is not permitted. Breakfast rolls, bolillos, are ready at 7 a.m. and loaves, multigrano and cactus among others, pan dulce, cinnamon rolls, croissants and other pastry, are available at 12:30 p.m. Don't delay - it all goes very quickly, but you can order bread to be made for you and they'll keep it for you on the side, 376-766-0635 or 766-0347.

San Juan has several butchers. One where English is spoken is *Carnicera Donã Kary*, run by Ray who has recently returned to Mexico after 20 years in the United States. His well-equipped store is on Porfirio Diaz, near the junction with Vicente Guerrero Sur.

Tony's Carneceria is on Carr.Chapala-Jocotepec#147, San Antonio Tlayacapan (by SuperLake) 01-376-766-1614 (English spoken, many imported meats and cheeses).

The restaurant is noted for its ribs.

### **Pescadorias**

Try to go before noon. There is both fresh and frozen stock and it is NOT from the Lake. The fish has been of excellent quality and the prices are reasonable. The names and addresses are as follows:

Name	Address	Telephone
Pescaderia Las Playas	Carretera Pte. #2, Ajijic	01-376-766-5294
Pescaderia Tres Islas	J. Ortiz de Dominguez Nte #22-A, Jocotepec	

### **Provisions, Cash and Other Items**

Inside of Wal-Mart (San Antonio Tlayacapan) and Soriana (Chapala) you will find one or two ATM machines past the customer service desk. Guadalajara Pharmacy, beside Lloyd's in Ajijic, sells groceries and other household items, as well as drugs and medication. The ATM, beside the Photo counter, dispenses 500 peso bills, as well as the smaller denominations. Guadalajara Pharmacy has a branch in Jocotepec, on the right just past the traffic light, on entering town from the east. Here there is no ATM. However, there is one just across the street in Bodega Aurrera, a branch of Wal-Mart, where competitively priced produce, meats and dairy products are available, in addition to household goods, clothes, and pharmaceuticals. Banco Santander a block east of the Jototepec square on the right of the main street, Calle Miguel Arana, has two ATMs.

ATMs are also located at the front of El Torito in Ajijic and Super Lake in San Antonio Tlayacapan; both are small supermarkets that stock many food items imported from across the world.

### **VIII. Spanish Language Learning**

Learning Spanish is not always easy but there are teachers here who are a delight and have helped a lot of us. Lake Chapala Society has Spanish classes for different levels; check their calendar of events for times and prices. In San Juan Cosala directly across from the town square is the yellow and blue building which houses AMSIF, the organization which helps our town's women. In the AMSIF building Spanish lessons are offered (check with AMSIF for schedule of classes). There are a good many private teachers also.

### **IX. Holidays**

Mexican Holidays are listed with comment in the Lake Chapala Directory.

San Juan Cosala has two big holidays with parades well worth attending.

The patron saint of San Juan Cosala is Saint John the Baptist whose June 24<sup>th</sup> birthday is celebrated for a full nine days. During that period of time, rockets and fireworks are shot off every morning and every evening there is a fiesta down on the town square, usually with live music. On the 24<sup>th</sup> of June, San Juan holds a parade which begins around 5:00 p.m. in the town square and winds its way through the village and up the Carretera (all traffic is stopped during that time), back into town and finally ending up at the church. The parade includes pick-up truck floats, most depicting the life of John the Baptist, including his beheading. Along with the band marching, dancers dressed as Aztecs appear in really colorful costumes. Behind the parade, most of the town people of San Juan march; doing penance, wear blind folds and march barefooted, led by family members. If you can, try to see this parade; it is moving to watch and you will see and be seen by your gardeners and maids who appreciate your being there

Every town in Mexico celebrates the Virgin of Guadalupe whose Feast Day is December 12<sup>th</sup>. San Juan Cosala has a parade in her honor on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December which usually forms at the town square around 5:00 p.m. Young children are dressed for the occasion, the boys as Juan Diego, the peasant to whom "Our Lady of Guadalupe" first appeared in the 1530's. The boys wear white pants and shirts, with tiny black mustaches painted over their top lips, and have tiny wooden crates filled with corn strapped on their backs. The girls dress as peasant women with tiny cages on their backs holding live birds. The village trucks are pressed into service as floats, each depicting the story of Juan Diego and the Virgin of Guadalupe, mother of Mexico. The parade travels through the back roads of the town and onto the Carretera, and back to the church. Again, the entire town's people march behind the floats and bands and dancers. It is the highlight of nine days of celebration in early December and is marked with more fanfare than Christmas Day itself. Interestingly enough, your maid and/or gardener may come to work on Christmas Day if you do not tell them not to come. Most of the all Mexico celebrates "El Dia de los Santos Reyes" or Three Kings Day on January the 6<sup>th</sup>, but most have a family Christmas dinner on Christmas Eve and then attend mass.

There are several traveling Virgins who also make the rounds of all the small towns around the Lake. The Virgin of Talpa comes sometime in the last of July, for example. The Carretera is decorated with blue and white, the Virgin's colors. Balloons, paper cut-outs and streamers and traffic breaks to a crawl as the Virgin enters San Juan in her own automobile. The statue stays overnight in the town's church before moving on to the next town. To welcome her visit and to say good-by becomes a fiesta complete with fireworks and rockets fired off in multiples.

## **X. Customs**

In Ajijic, the bell tolls the hour and the half hour, but in San Juan Cosala, we hear the bells far more often. At first, it is difficult to figure out, but this should help:

The bells are usually used to call the people to worship. Thirty minutes before the service, the bell will give 3 distinct peals, followed by an undetermined number of chimes and then 3 distinct peals at the end.

Fifteen minutes before the service, there will be 2 distinct rings followed by many tolls and ending with the 2 distinct rings. At the time of the service, there is 1 distinct ring followed by the peeling bells and ending with 1 ring.

A slow peeling of the bells in mid morning or afternoon indicates a funeral and the number of rings indicates the age of the person who has died.

A cheery chiming of the bells indicates a wedding or a baptism.

Usually when someone passes away the body remains in their home and in the cities most are taken to “Salas de Velacion” for what is called “velar el cuerpo”. Family and friends gather together in prayer usually late into the night and early morning; hot drinks such as coffee and hot chocolate are offered along with sweet breads; and on some occasions tequila and soda are also offered. This is followed by a mass service; the church bells will indicate such service. Once the mass is over the casket is put back into the mortuary car which then drives to the cemetery. Traditionally, most if not all attendees follow the mortuary car on foot and not by car, regardless of the weather, and also depending on the family’s wishes a “Banda or Mariachi” will also perform from the church to the cemetery. The following nine consecutive days after the burial service, family and friends come together for what is called “The Novenario” which is a nine day period for mourning and prayer of the deceased. It is customary for the family to offer dinner to those who attend.

## **XI. Lake Chapala Society**

Most of us who settle Lakeside have become acquainted with the Lake Chapala Society long before we buy here. The Society which is located in Ajijic at 16 de Septiembre #16-A and whose telephone number is 01-376-766-1140 provides a directory of members, and gives various information on a wide range of useful topics from conversion tables for oven temperatures to telephone information. Most of us use LCS’s library and video/DVD rentals and depend on buying our tickets for charity and cultural events in LCS’s garden. LCS also holds lectures, classes, and clinics. On the first Wednesday of every month, the U.S. Counsel General for Guadalajara comes to the Society so members can ask questions and have their problems investigated. It is well worth the yearly membership to belong.



## XII. Administration of Raquet Club

### Board of Directors

President:	Sergio Orozco Oseguera	oroseguera@yahoo.com.mx	
Secretary :	Calvin Patten Jr.	sec.rc.sjc@gmail.com	
Treasurer:	Mike Lofrano	mdlofrano@gmail.com	
Board Members:	Maria de las nieves Solbes Luis	neussolbes@icloud.com	
	Julika Bond	2shipsct@gmail.com	
	Dixie Nicholson	dixiemx@hotmail.com	
	Betsy Whitaker	betsy.s.whitaker@gmail.com	
	Silvia Flores Martinez	floresmartinezsilvia6@gmail.com	
	Alica Salcido	aliciasalcido2003@yahoo.com	
	Mary Chuy	marichu2k@yahoo.com	
	Alfredo Martinez Fuentes	zlhua16@gmail.com	
	Comisarios:	Phillip Astrada	phillip.estrada@gmail.com
		Beckie Mara	bmara6402@comcast.net

### Board Members Committee Assignments

Committees	BOARD REPRESENTATIVE(S)
Beautification	Betsy Whitaker

Clubhouse and Amenities	Calvin Patten Jr.
Communication	Calvin Patten Jr.
Construction	Julika Bond
Infrastructure and Water	Mary Chuy & Dixie Nicholson
Security and Safety	Alfredo Martinez Fuentes
Socials and events	Betsy Whitaker & Alica Salcido
Statute and Legal	Maria de las nieves Solbes Luis & Dixie Nicholson
Regulations	Mary Chuy

**Office Staff**

General Manager	Antonio Altamirano
Administrative Assistant	Jonatan Flores
Reception	Juan Manuel Calvario

## Emergency Numbers

### **MEDICAL (24 hour facilities)**

\*CRUZ ROJA (Red Cross).....(376) 765-2308 or (376) 765-2553  
CRUZ VERDE (Jocotepec).....(387) 763-1920  
HOSPITAL SAN ANTONIO.....(376) 689-0911  
HOSPITAL (CLÍNICA) AJIJIC.....(376) 766-0602  
HOSPITAL DE URGENCIAS DE JOCOTEPEC.....(387) 763-1920

### **FIRES & NATURAL DISASTERS**

\*BOMBEROS DE CHAPALA.....(376) 766-3615 or (376) 766-5252  
\*BOMBEROS DE JOCOTEPEC.....(387) 763-0784

### **POLICE**

AJIJIC Police.....(376) 766-1760  
CHAPALA Police.....(376) 765-8000  
JOCOTEPEC Police..... (387) 761-0006

### **ROADSIDE HELP - major highways**

ÁNGELES VERDES (Green Angels) .....078  
LIVESTOCK ON THE HIGHWAY.....(376) 765-5600

### **CONSULATES & EMBASSIES**

US CONSULATE in Guadalajara..... (333) 269-2100  
Emergency Assistance for US Citizens.....(558) 526-2561  
CANADIAN CONSULATE in Guadalajara..... (331) 818-4200  
Emergency Services for Canadian Citizens.....(613) 996-8885

**LAKE CHAPALA SOCIETY**.....(376) 766-1140

## Emergency Medical Phrases and Words

Do you speak English? = <i>habla usted inglés?</i>	very sick = <i>muy enfermo</i>
I don't speak Spanish = <i>no hablo español</i>	bleeding = <i>está sangrando</i>
the address is = <i>la dirección es</i>	people are hurt = <i>personas están lastimadas</i>
my house = <i>mi casa</i>	heart attack = <i>ataque cardíaco</i>
I need = <i>necesito</i>	no breathing = <i>no respira</i>
police = <i>policía</i>	death = <i>muerto</i>
firefighters = <i>bomberos</i>	come right away, please = <i>vengan ahorita, por favor</i>
an ambulance = <i>una ambulancia</i>	hurry = <i>tengan prisa</i>
a doctor = <i>un doctor</i>	
there is a = <i>hay</i> (pronounced "eye") un	
man = <i>hombre</i> (om'-bre)	
woman = <i>mujer</i> (moo-herr')	
child = <i>niño</i> (boy), <i>niña</i> (girl)	
traffic accident = <i>accidente de tránsito</i>	
robber = <i>ladrón</i>	
rapist = <i>violador</i>	
fire = <i>incendio</i>	
intruder = <i>intruso</i>	
noise = <i>ruido</i>	
gun = <i>pistola</i>	
knife = <i>cuchillo</i>	