

## ***Notes from a Frequent Ensenada Traveler***

My relationship with the City of Ensenada goes back to my first visit in 1972, arriving not by sail, but for a motorcycle enduro, just south of town. Soon, I was a frequent weekend guest camping at Kings Coronita Trailer Park, next door to what would become the Hotel Coral and Marina.

Eventually, I took up sailing and I crewed on my first Newport to Ensenada Race in 1984. By 1994 I was hooked; I bought a boat that sailed N2E 15 times, sailing a total of 20 races. When the crew got too old, I moved ***Foggy Notion*** to Coral's Marina where it still lives.

Now traveling by car the last 5 years on behalf of NOSA, to make sure all the details for a smooth race are in place, I've discovered Valle de Guadalupe, home to some incredible food, friendly people and very good wines.

Incredibly, I've now travelled to Baja California more than 350 times. And despite reports of turmoil over a variety of issues through the years, not once have I been pulled over by the police (justly or otherwise), or ever feared for my safety.

Occasionally, there's been a military presence at the toll booths, but rarely in the last five years. Even in the last year, the entire NOSA team, who makes at least 5 visits to Ensenada on race business each year, concurs; even our return border crossings have been made without incident.

The new toll road that runs down the coast and into this lovely, scenic city makes for a smooth and easy drive. And for those taking the bus back, it's a quick and simple trip. From personal experience, I can tell those hesitant about making the trip due to concerns over exaggerated viral claims on Twitter or what they've seen on TV, that these fears are largely unwarranted. Neither I nor NOSA can guarantee that our destination city is a 100% safe place to visit, but we could not claim that parts of Chicago, Miami or Los Angeles are any safer.

And given the volume of US visitors every weekend and low statistics of trouble involving Americans, the realistic choice is to concentrate on the upside of this adventure: friendly people, great food and wine at reasonable prices.

So, if you have any fears about participating in N2E and your visit to this lovely, warm and welcoming city, we ask that you only give in to the fear of missing out.

Adventure awaits. Won't you join us?

Tom Kennedy  
Skipper of ***Foggy Notion*** and  
Jr. Staff Commodore of NOSA