

HOW TO READ ATENAS TODAY

Many of the pages in Atenas Today are in two column format, and the default “view” in the *Adobe Reader* will present these pages in a large size that requires you to scroll up and down to read the whole page.

By changing the “view” to “**Full Screen**” you can fit the page to your screen and avoid the scrolling.

When in “Full Screen” view, left click to advance to the next page, or right click to go back a page.

If the text is too small for your taste, push the “escape” key to exit the “Full Screen” mode, and change the “zoom” level to get the size you want.

THE NEW YELLOW PAGES

Don't forget to download and save the latest version of the Yellow Pages. Many new businesses have been listed. This section will help you find the goods and services you need.

October 22, 2010



ATENAS TODAY is a free English language newsletter for the residents and potential residents of Atenas, Costa Rica. It contains informative articles and creative compositions submitted by our readers, and is distributed via email approximately once a month to over 400 email addresses. To get on the distribution list or to submit material, please send an email to Fred Macdonald at fredmac222@yahoo.com.

Compositions from back issues are archived on the Atenas Chamber of Tourism and Commerce website, www.atenascatuca.com. Click on the English version and then [Atenas Today](#) on the business page.



DIRECTORY OF ENGLISH-SPEAKING PEOPLE IN THE ATENAS AREA

New names and numbers have been added to the directory. With each issue Atenas Today subscribers will receive an updated file containing the names and contact information of people who have chosen to be listed. Simply download the PDF file attached to this Atenas Today email and print it or save it on your computer.

If your name is on the list without contact information, it is because you are a subscriber to the newsletter, but have **not authorized the publication of your email address or other information**. To add or correct data please send an email to fredmac222@yahoo.com.

In This Issue:

Interview — Tony Wineapple (Don Tadeo's)	p. 3
Interview — Cristian and Andres (Harvest)	p. 6
Art Gallery	p. 9
Bettie Nebergal — electronic readers	p. 11
Fred Macdonald — inflexible bureaucracy	p. 13
Ron Bell — book review	p. 14
Martin Lively — fishing tournament	p. 17
Humor Page	p. 23
Marietta Arce — Chilean miners	p. 24
Gordan Klatt — digital devices	p. 26
Announcements	p. 27

Advertising

SSOL	p. 8
EJD Housekeeping	p. 8
New Bridge Club	p. 12
Finca Huetares	p. 16
Linea Vital	p. 21
Imperial	p. 22
CRWIFI	p. 22
Fuzz Productions	p. 28
Advertising rates and policies	p. 28

Atenas Today Interviews
Tony Wineapple

Owner of the new Don Tadeo Sports Bar



AT: Your new sports bar in Atenas seems to be a big success. I have been here three times, and it is always almost full.

Tony: So far so good. A new restaurant usually draws people in the beginning to try it out. The key will be to keep them coming back.

AT: It is certainly different from other Atenas restaurants. How would you describe the concept of a “sports bar”.

Tony: The idea is to provide a friendly venue where people can gather and get to know each other. The multiple TV’s showing sporting events gives people a reason to be there and provides a comfortable focus if they come in alone. You can share the experience of watching a game and strike up a conversation.

AT: I notice that few people seem to be actually watching the screens. In fact in most cases the sound is turned off.

Tony: Yes, but the action is still there to watch when you don’t have someone to talk to. And for particular sporting events, believe me the sound will be on. Groups will form and come in together to watch their favorite teams. We have all the sports tickets so we can bring up just about any game the customers want.

AT: Well, with most of the programs in English, showing American sports, it is a very welcoming place for us Gringos. Are most of your customers from the U.S.?

Tony: From what I can tell, about 30% are local Gringos, 30% are local Ticos, and 40% are both Ticos and Gringos from surrounding towns. It is very mixed. The Ticos see it as something new and exciting.

AT: What do you see as the key to being successful?

Tony: The location and décor are of course important. But the key to long term success in the attitude and dedication of the staff, from the cooks to the waiters to the bartenders. It’s simple: good value for your money in food and drink, and over-the-top service.

AT: How do you motivate your employees to perform this way?

Tony: I am a hands on manager, and I am very demanding. When I can’t be here, my partners, Michael and Michele Clutter, are doing the same thing. I tell our employees to imagine that they are in a boat and one of them sees a hole with water leaking in. If they don’t speak up and plug the leak, the boat will sink with all of us in it.

AT: Give me some examples of the kind of extra service you expect.

Tony: Waiters should anticipate your needs, for water, drink refills, condiments, etc. They should always be looking to see if someone is trying to catch their eye. If they see a table where people are having trouble conversing because the TV or music is too loud, they should offer to turn it down in that area. Bartenders should give good service to everyone at the bar, not get caught up in conversations with friends. Cooks should worry about the presentation of food, not just following the recipes. It’s all obvious stuff, but needs constant attention.

AT: What about people drinking too much? How do you cater to a crowd that can get boisterous and still attract people who want a peaceful dinner?

Tony: If you are drunk you will be asked to leave, and we will keep your car keys. At night I have security personnel to help me enforce this. There is nothing that will ruin me faster in a place like Atenas than being seen as the cause of trouble.

AT: It sounds like you have had prior experience in managing bars and restaurants.

Tony: I have owned and managed sports bars all over the world, from Jerusalem to New Mexico to Vancouver.

AT: What is your background?

Tony: I was born in Poland in 1956. My father was a well known Polish newscaster who broadcast against the policies of the Communists. He was sent to prison for three years, but offered release after one year if he would leave Poland. So when I was eleven months old we moved to Italy.

AT: Did he continue to oppose the Communists?

Tony: For 18 months he worked for the Voice of America, broadcasting into Eastern Europe. He must have been very good, because even though we were not Jewish, the Israelis offered him citizenship and great benefits to move to Israel and broadcast from there.

AT: So you grew up in Israel?

Tony: Yes. I went to Israeli schools and served as a captain in the Israeli army. At age twenty two I moved to South Africa to study interior design in the university. Four years later I got my degree and an English wife.

AT: So that's where you developed your fluency in English.

Tony: Of course I had studied it in school. In Israel we also had to learn English and Arabic.

AT: What languages do you speak now?

Tony: I can converse in Polish, Hebrew, Arabic, Russian, Spanish, and English.

AT: It's hard for us Americans to understand how you can possibly do that. Where did you go after you graduated?

Tony: My wife and I moved to her hometown of Manchester, England. Unfortunately our marriage lasted only two years. Her

family moved to California, and she went with them, along with our two children.

AT: What did you do then?

Tony: I moved back to Israel and got into the travel agency business. Over the next few years I opened seven travel bureaus in Israel and Russia. I was the first one to promote the idea of Russians visiting Israel. I created tourist packages and got over 10,000 Russians to visit the historic sites in Israel. Along the way I met and married a beautiful Russian woman, and together we started the first sports bar in Jerusalem.

AT: Was it successful?

Tony: Very. We had the first liquor license in Jerusalem for an establishment that was primarily a bar, not a restaurant. But after ten years, my wife Marina wanted to leave Israel.

AT: Why?

Tony: Russian women, particularly handsome ones, were discriminated against by Israeli women. During that period over one million Russians immigrated to Israel, many of them beautiful young women. The competition was not appreciated.

AT: Where did you go?

Tony: We had a friend living in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and moved there, where I bought property and opened a bar called The Tavern Pub. It was successful, but after two years Lowes wanted the land and made me an offer I couldn't refuse.

AT: Then what?

Tony: You probably won't believe this, but I closed my eyes and spun a globe of the world. My finger came down on Vancouver Island. Off I went.

AT: Your wife agreed to this?

Tony: She was a good wife, flexible and adventurous as well as beautiful. I went first and bought property in a town called Sooke on Vancouver Island. Marina followed with in a U-Haul with the dog.

AT: Did you open another bar?

Tony: Yes, along with a pet store. Sooke was an agricultural and fishing town of about 17,000, much like Atenas. We were able

to provide a different kind of entertainment and eating place, and it worked well.

AT: How long did you stay there?

Tony: After about three years Marina began to complain about the weather. She wanted to go someplace sunny and warm.

AT: How did you pick Costa Rica?

Tony: I am a professional poker player, and about that time I came here to participate in a tournament. I liked it and called Marina. Her first question was, "Costa Rica? Where is that? Africa?" She was joking and in a few days she was here with me.

AT: What led you to Atenas?

Tony: We started in Liberia and drove all over the country. A guy in a bar in Manuel Antonio suggested that we look at Atenas. Like many tourists we had driven by Atenas several times, but never stopped. When we came back we knew this was the place. This was three years ago.

AT: Did you buy property?

Tony: I found a good deal on land in Santa Eulalia, and we built a dream home: 8,000 square feet on three levels, designed by a well known architect.

AT: Were you looking to open a sports bar?

Tony: Marina was tired of the stress and long hours. She wanted us to buy a pharmacy. I tried, but was unsuccessful.

AT: How did you end up with the Don Tadeo Chinese Restaurant?

Tony: One day I was sitting in the restaurant by the park, the one now called "Delicas del Parque", and I looked across the park at the buildings on the other side and said "that's the place for a sports bar."

AT: Was Don Tadeo's for sale?

Tony: No. But the Chinese man running the restaurant was leasing the space from a person who was willing to sell for the right price. The problem was getting him to leave after I had bought the building. Even though his lease was up, it took me a year and some extra payments to get him out.

AT: I'm curious why you kept the name Don Tadeo.

Tony: Don Tadeo is the name of a frog in an English cartoon series. I thought it was a good name for a bar. There is a statue of the Don Tadeo frog on the wall.



AT: My friends and have found your food to be excellent. I especially liked the "Gordon Blue" chicken dish. And your prices are very reasonable.

Tony: We are trying to make it an economical place to eat and bring friends. There is a lot of space, and for a relatively low price I can set off a section for a private party, with dancing or whatever you want. This is especially attractive for Ticos who want to celebrate their daughter's fifteenth birthday in a big way.

AT: My only complaint is the noise level when you are trying to talk. It's a common problem for us old people.

Tony: You should try the outdoor area in the back. It is much quieter there, and I am in the process of adding a roof over it.

AT: Thanks, I will. And best of luck. You have taken things up a notch in Atenas.



Atenas Today Interviews the owners of
Harvest
the new educational institute in Atenas



Cristian Villalobos Roman
Director General



Jorge Andres Gonzalez Porras
Director Academico

AT: What is “Harvest”?

Cristian: “Harvest” is a new private school in Atenas, whose mission is to provide professional courses relating to culture, primarily languages. At present we are offering structured courses in English, Spanish, French, and Portuguese.

AT: Are you natives of Atenas?

Cristian: Yes, we were both born and raised here. Our idea is to bring a new kind of “harvest” to our town, an educational opportunity for both Ticos and foreigners to acquire language skills that will enrich their lives.

AT: How are you different from other individuals and organizations teaching language in Atenas?

Cristian: Our strategy is to provide education in a more structured and professional way than the traditional language tutor. We have our own facility with several fully equipped classrooms. Andre, who is in charge of developing the courses, has a degree in education and several years of teaching experience. We use proven, structured programs and materials, including workbooks and videos.



AT: Do you teach classes, or individuals?

Cristian: Both. It depends on the student. Some people do better working in a group; others want individual attention.

AT: What are your hours?

Cristian: Our office is open 8 to 5, six days a week, plus we have some evening sessions. The idea is to be a regular business enterprise, and let people know they can trust us to be here for them.

AT: Where is your facility?

Cristian: It is in a renovated historic house next to the Don Juan Farmacia. Previously this building was used by another teaching group, but we are not related to them in any way.



AT: How do you handle the variety of skill levels that your students come in with?

Andres: The first thing we do is discuss the student's goals. Do they want to be able to read and write in the language, or just converse? Do they need to learn the terminology of particular fields? How much time do they have and what is their schedule?

AT: I imagine most of the Ticos have full time jobs.

Andres: Yes, that is why our downtown location is important, and why we are willing to provide classes at all hours.

AT: Do you think young Ticos in Atenas are motivated to learn English?

Cristian: In the past, not so much. But now they are beginning to see how valuable it can be. Recently an American customer service call center opened in Atenas and hired eight English-speaking workers at \$800 a month for a 40 hour week. That's an incredibly good wage, and you don't have to commute anywhere.

AT: How do you go about signing up students?

Andres: Once we know the student's objectives, we give him or her a placement test to access their present skill level. Then we can design an appropriate course.

AT: What would a typical program look like?

Andres: It might be twenty four lessons spread over six months, at the end of which time the student would be given an exam and a certificate of achievement. There would be a detailed course outline with stated learning objectives.

AT: I see what you mean about a 'professional approach'. When did you begin operations?

Cristian: About four months ago. We took the time to set up the company, get the necessary permits, etc. Our first classes are now underway. Already we have some fifty Ticos enrolled in classes learning English.

AT: Any Gringos learning Spanish?

Cristian: Not yet, but we are hoping to get some interest from this article.

AT: How much to you charge?

Cristian: Only about \$12 per hour. We are keeping our prices low in the beginning to build up the business.

AT: Where did you guys learn your English?

Cristian: After graduating from the university with a degree in administration I spent eight years working in hotels in Heredia and Guanacaste. I got lots of practice building on what I had learned in school.

Andres: In my case, I was fortunate in being able to live for a time in Oregon. In Portland there was a volunteer organization to help Spanish-speaking immigrants, and I had learned enough English to work and teach informally there.

AT: You both speak very well. I wish you a good "harvest" from the preparation and effort to have put into this enterprise.

Security, Gas, and Control Access Systems

for homes, offices and industries.

We are a family company known in the community of Atenas and close surrounding areas with 13 years on the market offering a range of high quality services and products, with warranty and long-term technical support

We have valuable experience serving customers both Costa Ricans and foreigners living in Costa Rica offering our services and advice about the products that will meet your needs in security, control access and related areas.

Basic Alarm Systems with capacity for future growth.

Advanced Systems Customized for optimal indoor and outdoor protection.

Telephone entry/code access control systems for gated communities

Electric Gate Openers (Sliding and swing gates.)

Surveillance cameras (optional recording).

Audio and video intercoms for residences and offices.



Security Systems Engineer Omar Lizano Madriz and assistant

Propane gas pipe installations:
§ **Stainless steel and rubber hoses.**
§ **Copper tubes.**
§ **Polypropylene tubes.**
Conversion (NAT to Propane)

Free quotes in all our services in Atenas. For other locations please contact us.



2446-4274 8353-6349 ssol@ice.co.cr PO Box 219-4013 Los Angeles, Atenas

EJD Housekeeping Services



If you own a property and it is uninhabited, it can be a source of worry and concern. We offer the service of monitoring your property and keeping you informed of the situation. If work needs to be performed, we will arrange for it and supervise its completion.

Let us be your local contact person for managing your property. We can tailor a program to meet your specific needs.

Our Services:

Inspecting your house from outside and inside (incl. ventilation of all rooms), and checking for damage.
Safekeeping of your keys (also year-round).
Checking the electricity and water supply.
Checking for wetness and leakage inside the house.
Repairing little damages, and commissioning craftsmen in case of major damages.
Paying bills for electricity, water, telephone or workers.
Checking the waterlevel and chemistry of the pool.
Cleaning the pool and the filters and checking the pump.
Cleaning all rooms incl. kitchen and bathrooms.
Cleaning and/or vacuuming all floors and patios.
Dusting furniture and ventilating rooms.
Mowing the lawn and raking away leaves.
Trimming hedges and plants, and spraying crops.

Frank Schornenberg

info@ejd-housekeeping-service.com

2446-3806

Our office is across from the gas-station in Atenas.

The Atenas Today Art Gallery

The Art Gallery is a regular feature of Atenas Today. Local artists are encouraged to submit photographs of their works to be included in the gallery, and to send a new picture each month. The artists may be contacted via the email addresses shown.



Caribbean Fishermen

Steve Wiens

sjwiens@gmail.com

Candida Roso Davila
CandyDavila29@yahoo.com





Autum Afternoon, Madrid

Alice Constantine
www.aliceartworks.com

Still Life With Seagull

Al Alexander
jeanandal@gmail.com



Notice: Last year's successful Christmas art show will be repeated again this year on December 4th and 5th at the Catholic Church in Atenas. Contact Mary Park for more information.
mandgpark@shaw.ca

iRead eBooks with eReader



by eElizabeth Nebergall

My name is Bettie, and I have a reading problem. My addiction first manifested in second grade when my teacher smacked her ruler on my desk in a last desperate attempt to snap me out of a gripping chapter in "See Spot Run." The class had stopped reading long before, gleefully watching while I continued on, oblivious to her escalating requests for my attention. It happened again today in the doctor's waiting room; immersed in my book, I didn't respond after three calls and the nurse had to come get me. Is there a Readers Anonymous?

On my first trip to Costa Rica, I had to remove 6 paperback books from my luggage to meet the airline's weight restrictions. Now I carry a library in one hand. My 5" x 7" Sony eReader weighs only 8 oz and goes everywhere with me. The adjustable fonts allow me to read without digging out my glasses whether I'm in line at the bank, on a treadmill or sipping coffee in the park. Wherever I happen to be, I can

listen to my favorite songs while reading my eBook, online newspaper or eZine, play an audio book, even watch an eMovie, all for FREE!

For those purists who think it sacrilege to read without the feel of paper in hand, the well-organized lending library at Kay's Gringo Postres offers over 1000 books in 5 languages. However, only 46 bookstores in Costa Rica advertise books in English, mostly travel guides, Latin American studies, textbooks, religious and reference books, so the advantages of going digital are overwhelming. Forrester Research projects that approximately 11 million Americans will own at least one digital reading device by the end of 2010, and the Association of American Publishers reports that U.S. e-book sales jumped 183% in the first half of this year compared to 2009. I'm proud to say that I personally contributed to several of those statistics

Popularity breeds competition. Sony E-Reader, Cool-ER, Pan-Digital's Novel, Bookeen Cybook Opus, the Kindle and Nook boast different sizes, prices and features. Some are more suited to professionals who keep a reference library while others are geared to armchair readers who prefer changing selections. Some require you to buy books from their sponsors: Amazon's Kindle, and Barnes & Noble's Nook; while others like Sony allow you to read for free. Many websites offer reviews of various models; get a good comparison at: <http://www.ebook-reader-advisor.com/best-ebook-reader.html> and then check Amazon's Used and New or E-Bay for bargains. I found a flip-top case with an easel stand for hands-free reading while doing mindless household chores. Do I need an Intervention?

By accessing books in the public domain such as Google's 3,000 book library, free online book sites, and public library downloads, you may never need to buy another book. Paperback novels in Costa Rica's Internacional Bookstores cost \$10 or more. With eReader prices dropping below \$150, the money you save on 15 books can give you a lifetime of free reading.

Until 2000, libraries functioned about the same as they did in the 4th millennium BC – simple repositories of information which had to be visited in person. Now, public libraries in Canada, Europe, the UK, and U.S. offer 24/7 online downloads of books (text or audio), videos and music. With your library card and a personal pin code you can place books on hold, stack up a wish list and download them whenever you want. E-book files automatically expire at the end of the loan period, but you can choose to keep each book for one, two or three weeks to suit your reading style.

For \$8.95 per year, you can join The World Public Library, an international collection shelving more than 750,000 PDF eBooks in over 100 languages. Its primary focus is providing materials to libraries around the globe, but individual members can access all 125 of the eBook and eDocument collections. Check it out at: <http://worldlibrary.net>.

Happy eReading in any language: Lectura Feliz, Viel Spaß Beim Lesen, Lecture Heureux!

The Atenas Bridge Club will open soon!

We are holding an interest meeting at Kay's Gringo Postres on November 17th @ 10:00 am. Can't make it? E-mail us at letsplaybridge@riverchasebridge.com. Learn more about us? Go to <http://www.riverchasebridge.com> and poke around.



We will have on-going lessons for beginners and experienced players as well as regular weekly duplicate bridge games.

Playing bridge has been proven to be good "brain food" (it's good for us) and is an excellent way to meet other adults in a social environment.

The club (no membership fee) will be available to anyone who is interested in playing or learning bridge and will be affiliated with the both American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) and World Bridge Federation (WBF).



We look forward to meeting you on the 17th or hearing from you.

Linda and John Randall

It's Not All Good



by Fred Macdonald

We love the Costa Rican people. We love the weather, the scenery, the variety of activities, the modern services, the proximity to the United States. So much is so good for us retirees.

But it's not all good. Sometimes the inflexibility of the Costa Rican bureaucracy can drive you crazy. Last week was one of those times.

In April a 70 year old woman friend from California, who has lived in Atenas over five years, passed out while driving her car downtown. Her uncontrolled car crashed into a pickup truck. The truck driver was not hurt, but unfortunately the woman sustained a back injury and is paralyzed. She is now living in a nursing home in Alajuela.

An accident report was filed with the police. The woman's insurance paid most of the damage to the truck, and her family paid the balance. However, in order for the owner of the truck not to have an increase in his insurance, the woman was required to appear in court to state that the accident was all her fault. If she did not do this, a lien would be placed on her car, making it difficult for her to sell.

Okay. That's reasonable if the person is able to appear in court. But what if they are confined to a bed in a hospital or nursing home? Surely a lawyer could bring the document to the nursing home to have the woman sign it there.

No. The court was adamant. The woman had to come.



So in order to sell her no longer needed car, the woman had to pay for an ambulance to carry her from Alajuela to the courthouse in Atenas.



Then she had to be wheeled into an office in the back of the court to lie there while a clerk typed her statement into a computer.

Pura Vida !

BOOK REVIEW



by Ron Bell

The Sparrow and the Hawk: Costa Rica and the United States during the Rise of Jose Figueres

by Kyle Longley. Tuscaloosa and
London: The University of Alabama.
1997. 239 pp.

The Sparrow is Costa Rica, the Hawk the United States. In nature, the sparrow that doesn't learn evasion tactics very early in life becomes a snack. Not only are wild beasts red in tooth and claw; among humans there has always been a plethora of predators.

Third Worlders, their ruling elites especially, live with this bloody reality every day. Castro chose to defy the hawk and for over sixty years Cubans have been paying a terrible price.

Noriega thought he could outwit the hawk, but was kidnapped and is still imprisoned while about a thousand poor Panamanians paid for his hubris with their lives.

This fascinating volume reveals how Costa Ricans at a critical juncture in their history created tactics to evade the clutches of the *yanqui* hawk.

Anyone who has thought about the historical relationship of Costa Rica and the United States must have asked themselves, How did the Costa Ricans escape the depredations of its fierce, gigantic neighbor to the north? Why didn't the U.S. coerce and ravage these people militarily, economically, and diplomatically, as it did Mexico, Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Panama, and Cuba?

Kyle Longley in *The Sparrow and the Hawk* poses this much overlooked question and, as one admiring reviewer put it, "offers an adroit presentation of [the] confrontation and accommodation that marked the metropole-oriented policies of Jose Figueres." Other Costa Rican leaders danced this deadly dance, but none as adroitly as Figueres, who led Costa Rica's last coup and later became president with U.S. help.

Imagine the ex-president of a tiny Central American country challenging America's hysterical anticommunists with "If you talk human dignity to Russia, why do you hesitate to talk human dignity to the Dominican Republic?" What daring! What a wily and wonderful way of calling attention to American hypocrisy! You have to admire the man.

Although he was the most successful evader, his predecessors taught him a few tricks. When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941, Costa Rica's ruling elites fell over themselves in the rush to declare war against the Axis Powers several hours before the American Congress did. Although they had less than 300 troops, the symbolism of the act was potent. "For many years afterward [presidents] Calderon and Picado proudly boasted that their nation had been first in the western hemisphere to act, a fact U.S. policymakers acknowledged."

In another successful bid to curry favor, Costa Ricans quickly fell in line with America's wishes rounding up all Japanese in the country "including those who had entered the country at the request of the government to develop a cotton industry. After limited deliberation they sent the Japanese to the United States for internment and auctioned off their possessions."

Although some German immigrants had been absorbed into the upper echelons of Costa Rican society, they too were sacrificed on the altar of hawk pleasing. "By the end of the war, the Calderon government had placed more than two hundred persons of German and Italian descent in internment camps in the United States."

Undemocratic though these betrayals were, Costa Rica's leaders saw the necessity of maintaining the impression that it was more

of a democracy than it really was. For this they had to ignore the great gap between the country's rulers and the impoverished ruled. Of course they were not called to heel since U.S. leaders maintained a similar gap. What was of paramount interest to America's leaders was social stability to support their Freedom to Invest in Costa Rica.

The U.S.'s white superiority mindset had to be countered if the Costa Ricans were not to be scorned in their dealings with the great racist hawk. Emphasizing the whiteness of their mixed racial heritage, they created the *leyenda blanca*, the myth of a society with little or no racial mixing. This they did while they continued to deny full citizen's rights to their own indigenous people and blacks. The U.S., a traditional supporter of dictators and other vile oppressors in many quarters of the world, did not even bat an eye at this discrepancy.

Pressure for militarization is once again being laid on Costa Rica, albeit not nearly to the extent of the 1980s when millions of U.S. dollars flowed in to undermine the country's pacifism. Forty-six warships with 7,000 marines are lurking off the coasts of Costa Rica.

Last month the American ambassador declared, "The U.S. has always respected the sovereignty of Costa Rica," conveniently overlooking the fact that in the eighties top U.S. officials were expelled from Costa Rica and told not to try to return for gross disrespect of Costa Rica's sovereignty. To claim that the U.S. respects any Latin American or Caribbean nation's sovereignty is to say that hawks respect the sovereignty of sparrows.

Longley mentions in passing that "the United States had made some poor policy choices" in this part of the world, as though murderous

depredations were minor flaws. Moral outrage is conspicuously absent in these pages (as it is in most academic writing about oppression). Sometimes too he nods: “This admittedly unusual relationship [Costa Rica and the U.S.] is a rare case in which the United States and a smaller nation have developed and maintained essentially stable relations based on mutual respect and cooperation.”

The U.S.’s efforts to undermine the Costa Rican government in the Reagan and Bush eras can hardly be called respectful, and generations of Costa Rican leaders have had to expend great amounts of time and energy to keep U.S. expansionists at bay. Fortunately they have succeeded, and with their history of success perhaps they’ll be able to evade financial domination by the economic hit men of the World Bank, IMF, and other rapacious lending institutions.

One reviewer noted that *The Sparrow and the Hawk* “explores the means by which a peripheral country, Costa Rica, sought to resist the hegemonical authority of the U.S. It deserves widespread attention among scholars.” Even more, it deserves the attention of all ruling elites who wish to minimize intervention by the world’s only superpower hawk.

This useful study covers only the years when U.S. leaders were obsessed by communism. The main tactic against intervention--unswerving anticommunism--is of little value nowadays, but the twin bogies of terrorism and narcotic trafficking lend themselves as hawkish tools for intervention. Let us hope Costa Rica’s leaders are at this very moment hatching new and better tactics to outmaneuver efforts to destroy its pacifism.

Ron Bell is a psychological counselor practicing in Rio Grande, Atenas.

Finca Huetares

A family-fun and party resort in Atenas



newly opened
9 hole miniature golf
1500c per hr

Barrio Los Angeles
2446-4147 8315-4386
open 8am to 4pm, 7 days
atenasliving.net

2 pools

soccer field

hiking trails

private dinners (4 or more)

gazebos for parties

tennis court

snack bar

basketball court

restaurant



on Los Angeles road, 2 miles from oxcart statue



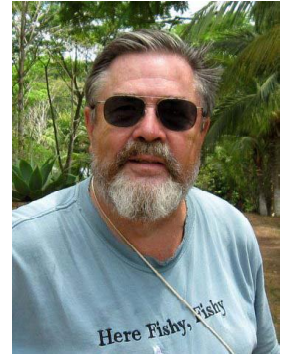
Tarpon Quest Twenty Ten

First Tarpon Catch and Release

50th Annual Fishing Tournament

Rio San Juan, Nicaragua

September 13, 14, 2010



by G. Martin Lively

The trip

I have described the trip from here to and from El Castillo, Nicaragua before, so I won't go into detail. You drive to Los Chiles, Costa Rica, take a boat from there to San Carlos, Nicaragua and from there another boat to El Castillo. It is a jungle view adventure worth the trip even if you do not fish, I have taken Jean and Terry there just for the scenery.

Roberto, Geoff & Dennis



San Carlos from the lake



Hotel Victoria

After you get off the boat at El Castillo walk to the street fronting it and turn left. At the end of the trail, and it really is a trail, no cars only carts, is the Hotel Victoria and the smiling faces of Julia, Nena and their crew. It is like coming home to your aunt's place in the country. You will be ushered to the rear deck restaurant and handed a bottle of ice cold Tonya beer, much needed after a long boat ride and the the more than warm walk to the hotel. Nothing fancy here, but it is spotless and air conditioned and \$35 a night single \$50 double with breakfast on the deck. Slow Internet is available in the lobby. (photos of the hotel and more of El Castillo are available at <http://picasaweb.google.com/gmlively>)

Fishing

TarponQuest Twenty Ten was the 50th year of this tournament on the San Juan River between El Castillo and the Solentiname Islands. In addition to the pre-historic tarpon, *megalops atlanticus*, the contest includes snook, machaca, guapote and roncador. This year the tributary rivers were muddy and the lesser fish were caught up near San Carlos, that is to say we near El Castillo caught NONE of them; and the shore lunch of just caught snook was a highlight of the last two trips.

Same guides and deck hands as last year, but unfortunately two of the four were still drunk from the party last night kicking off the tournament, one was half drunk and the fourth was from up river. But the fishing is quite simple, troll a Rapala Shad Rap in fire tiger or white with red head around the river mouths of tributaries and hang on. The river moves swiftly and hooking a tarpon is like snagging a side of beef in that current. (I have a broken rod as proof.) When those smaller rivers are clear one can troll up and down them using a Rapala Far Rap or Big O in the same colors as the tarpon lures. Roberto had one strike, Dennis none, I fought a 120 pounder for 22 minutes before another boat came too close and caused my tarpon to jet downstream. My drag failed and SNAP.

El Castillo



Our boats at El Castillo dock



Geoff's fish

On day two Geoff hooked into another 120+ lb fish. It ran and jumped many times and the rod holder belt we brought along came in handy as Geoff worked the fish for over an hour. Hooked well in the upper jaw the fish managed to surface for a gulp of air and energy every fifteen minutes or so and forced us downriver and over the rapids. In the calmer water below the rapids the fight continued for another half hour until finally the leader came back onto the rod and Geoff brought it to the side of our boat. Published rules for catch and release had been changed and had we known the 'new rules' his fish would have qualified for catch and release when the leader touched the top tip. Next year we will file for catch and release status! Anyway, the guide was too anxious and botched the lip gaffing and the leader to lure knot gave way. It may have been a prize winner and we all sulked for some time.

Geoff's fish's first jump



...and over the rapids



120 lbs + almost to the boat



San Carlos Awards Ceremony and Fiesta

November 16 is Nicaraguan Independence Day and the week from the 12th to the 17th is a huge party at the dock in San Carlos. November 14 is the tournament awards ceremony and fisherman's dinner and we enjoyed mingling with the fisherman and hundreds of spectators and fiesteros.

Drive back, Ceci's

From San Carlos the day after the Fiesta we hired the Monte Cristo launch, twice the price and less than half the time and we could leave before the 2pm waterbus.



November 16 is Nicaraguan Independence Day and the week from the 12th to the 17th is a huge party at the dock in San Carlos. November 14 is the tournament awards ceremony and fisherman's dinner and we enjoyed mingling with the fisherman and hundreds of spectators and fiesteros.

Drive back, Ceci's

From San Carlos the day after the Fiesta we hired the Monte Christo launch, twice the price and less than half the time and we could leave before the 2pm waterbus.

Just before Zarcero is a favorite restaurant, Ceci's. If we drive that way going we stop for hot chocolate and chorreadas, this lunch stop called for Beef Stroganoff, Sauteed Pork Chops and Onions, Lomito Suizo, and Grilled Chicken with Mushrooms. I tried them all and can't wait to get back to any dish there.

<m><

PS Applications for "Tarpon Heaven Twenty Eleven" being taken at gmlively@gmail.com

LINEA VITAL DE CR



***PRIVATE ENGLISH-SPEAKING
MEDICAL SERVICES FOR
ATENAS COMMUNITY***

***Membership program
especially for: families
hotels and companies***

***2446-74-40 / 8381-95-95
operaciones@lineavitalcr.com***

***Office location: Atenas - 250 mts
east of coopeatenas***

YOUR HEALTH IN GOOD HANDS

CRWIFI Ltda.

Ray Akers (network engineer)

- Wireless High Speed Internet
- Commercial & Residential
- Network Design & Management
- Remote Location Provider
- VoIP - Local & International

Phone: 2446-5179

Authorized: SUTEL-TH-039

Cedula Juridica: 3-102-535120



*100% Money Back
Guarantee*

crwifi.com

Get Connected

info@crwifi.com

Which is the most easily recognizable company LOGO in Costa Rica?



Probably it's IMPERIAL

If you didn't find that perfect souvenir or gift while in Costa Rica, here is an easy way to purchase a great gift item without being in Costa Rica.

When you visit our website at;
<http://imperialbeerboutique.com/>
OFFICIAL USA LICENSEE,
just click on the merchandise button and then you
will see our 52 page electronic catalog.



If you or someone you know enjoys premium, handmade cigars, please try our exclusive line made in Costa Rica. The web site is under construction but will be ready soon; <http://cigarsofcostarica.com/>. In the meantime, contact us through the Imperial Beer Boutique site.

HUMOR PAGE

A man walks out to the street and catches a taxi just going by. He gets into the taxi, and the cabbie says, 'Perfect timing. You're just like Frank.'

Passenger: 'Who?'

Cabbie: 'Frank Feldman.. He's a guy who did everything right all the time. Like my coming along when you needed a cab, things happened like that to Frank Feldman every single time.'

Passenger: 'There are always a few clouds over everybody.'

Cabbie: 'Not Frank Feldman. He was a terrific athlete. He could have won the Grand-Slam at tennis. He could golf with the pros.. He sang like an opera baritone and danced like a Broadway star and you should have heard him play the piano. He was an amazing guy.'

Passenger: Sounds like he was something really special.

Cabbie: 'There's more. He had a memory like a computer. He remembered everybody's birthday. He knew all about wine, which foods to order and which fork to eat them with. He could fix anything. Not like me. I change a fuse, and the whole street blacks out.

But Frank Feldman, he could do everything right.

Passenger: 'Wow, some guy then.'

Cabbie: 'He always knew the quickest way to go in traffic and avoid traffic jams. Not like me, I always seem to get stuck in them. But Frank, he never made a mistake, and he really knew how to treat a woman and make her feel good. He would never answer her back even if she was in the wrong; and his clothing was always immaculate, shoes highly polished too. He was the perfect man! He never made a mistake. No one could ever measure up to Frank Feldman.'

Passenger: 'An amazing fellow. How did you meet him?'

Cabbie: "Well, I never actually met Frank. He died and I married his wife."

A Mining Lesson



by Marietta Arce

Like millions of viewers, my attention was spellbound on October 13th by the televised coverage of the rescue of the 33 men who had been trapped in the copper and gold mine in the San Jose Mine near Copiapo, Chile. These 33 men had been confined in the depth of the mine for over two months. Conditions in the mine under ordinary circumstances taxed the happiness index of the sturdiest man; these were no ordinary circumstances.

At first, I was totally absorbed by the details of the different plans that had been under analysis before 'Plan B' was finally chosen as the right one for this complicated rescue. I was impressed with the Chilean government's decision to resolve the crisis immediately, delaying the accountability and corrective preventive measures that must now follow.

I felt admiration for the NASA team that designed the capsule, even more so for the Chilean Navy's ability to follow these complicated blueprints

and build the "Fénix" in record time and with now-proven competence.

As each miner safely completed his ascent, I was overcome with emotion. I shed a happy tear when the 7-year-old son of the first miner ran to embrace his father, a moment of tenderness that surely touched everyone present and one that I will never forget.

New York's Channel 47 provided the large Latin American community with uninterrupted live transmission and I confess that I did very little else that day but watch the progress. As they day wore on, I became increasingly involved when hearing about the lives of these 33 men and their families.

It was not surprising to learn that one miner's wife was overwhelmed by the presence of the reporters that had assembled in the last weeks. She felt that the miners and their families were of no consequence, 'humble' people for whom the busy and modern world had no time to spare.

Her thoughts were confirmed by many of the other families who had now formed a strong community as a result of sharing a life-defining event. All the families agreed that they would not leave with their loved one until each and every one of the miners had been safely rescued. This attitude defines the meaning of solidarity.

The most compelling story for me was the one of the miner who had written a letter to his daughter telling her that he loved her. Apparently, he had never said or written these words to her assuming, as many parents do, that she intuitively knew how he felt. This story has significance for me because I was brought up in a household where these words were never spoken to me by my own mother, the first and most important and profound influence in my life.

I would sometimes tease my mother and try to get her to say these precious little words but she could never do it, preferring instead to answer something like "you know I do". I know she felt a vulnerability that she could not cope with and even though she recommended therapy for all who could afford it, she did not ever seek it herself, believing it would open up a Pandora's box filled with the things she feared.

My mother has Alzheimer's disease. She is cared for entirely by my father and she lives in an internal world where nothing can harm her now. I am grateful because I know that she had a very hard life, beginning in her first year of life. At least she seems to be in a happy place surrounded by love on every front.

When I realized that my mother was losing her memory, I took a walk with her and we sat on a bench outside my house. I looked in her eyes and I told her that I needed to hear just once from her lips that she loved me. She stubbornly replied as before, "you know that I do". I said, "Mom, just say 'I love you'"... and she parroted "I love you." A part of me intuitively felt that by that point my mother was simply following instructions, but a greater part of me believes that she no longer felt the inhibition and vulnerability that had previously been present.

I have been taught great lessons by these 33 miners, not the least of which is that we always have a choice about the attitude with which we confront our challenges. Even greater than that is realizing that the people who are important to us have to know it while they are with us, in the present, not at some time in the future which may or may not come for us.

I am at this very moment in the company of my three children, something that is happening less frequently as they grow and life as we know it ends in favor of a new 'usual'. I am taking this wonderful opportunity to tell them individually and collectively that I love them. It is something that I am more than willing to acknowledge and articulate, something that is important they hear from me.

TECH TALK

by Gordon Klatt

Media Player Update

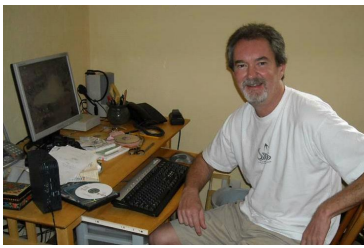
I've been looking for an inexpensive way to play video files on my old analog TV. After some research I settled on a media player made by ASUS, the O!Play HDP-R1. I ordered it from Amazon.com, along with a 160 Gb. USB hard drive, and had it shipped to my Jet Box address in Miami. It arrived in Alajuela a few days later. Setting it up was simple. I copied some video files that I had downloaded to the USB drive. I used the supplied audio/video cable to connect to my TV. Using the remote control, it's easy to navigate through the menus and find what you're looking for. The video playback quality is excellent, as good as the picture from our satellite dish. I'm also using the O!Play as an mp3 player, and there it falls a little short. You cannot play songs from a playlist, like you can with most players. You can play individual songs or songs by directory. Or you can randomly play all the music files on the hard drive. I decided I didn't want to copy all music files from my computer, so I needed a way to select and copy just the songs I wanted. Using Windows Media Player, I created a playlist of the songs I wanted to copy to the O!Play. But I was disappointed when I couldn't copy the playlist of songs to another drive, I'd have to burn them to CD first. Or I could copy them one by one. I didn't like either of these options, and I knew there had to be a way, so I did a Google search and found a freeware utility that can read a playlist and copy all the contained files to an mp3 player, memory stick, or hard drive. It's called Amok Playlist Copy, and it works with Windows Media Player, Winamp, and iTunes. Pretty slick!

http://www.amok.am/en/freeware/amok_playlist_copy/

BitTorrent

As you know, there is a lot of content on the internet available for download. Much of this content is downloaded by using a protocol called BitTorrent. You need client software in order to download torrents, I use BitTorrent 7.1. (Limewire is another torrent client you may have heard of.) To learn more about this protocol, and to download BitTorrent 7.1, click here.

<http://www.bittorrent.com/>



There are many web sites where you can search for content. Here's one.

<http://isohunt.com/>

Digital Cameras & GPS

GPS tagging is a feature you're going to be seeing more of in digital cameras. In addition to time and date, the geographical coordinates of where a photo is taken can now be stored in the photo's EXIF data. These coordinates can then be placed on a map using a photo editor or viewer like Picasa, which plots location data on Google Maps. Nikon introduced GPS tagging a couple of years ago, and Sony, Samsung, and Panasonic have recently entered the market. If you want to add GPS tagging to your camera, ATP makes a device that will record your exact location and add this information to your photos. Activate the PhotoFinder



Pro while you're taking pictures with your digital camera. After you finish taking pictures, simply insert your SD, Memory Stick or MMC memory card into the PhotoFinder's built-in card slot and the GPS data will be synchronized and added to all pictures on the card. Even more convenient is the fact that this is all performed "on the go" without a PC. Suggested list price is \$99.

Click here to learn more about it.

<http://www.atpinc.com/p2-4a.php?sn=00000257>

Windows 7 meets iPad

CTL Corp.'s 2goPad sold out the day it was introduced, and is currently on back order. It's easy to see why.

This 10.1" tablet PC has an Intel Atom N450 processor, 2 Gb. RAM, a 250 Gb. hard drive, VGA adapter, 802.11b/g/n wireless adapter, and a suggested list price of \$499. Windows 7 Home Premium is standard. It also includes a 1.3 megapixel web cam and microphone. It's ebook and Kindle for PC compatible. To learn more about it, visit the CTL web site.



<http://www.ctlcorp.com/v4/p-909-2gopad.aspx>

Question or comment? Send me an email at gklatt@live.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Su Espacio Christmas Angels

Every year Su Espacio (opposite the gas station) sets up a Christmas tree with angels containing the names of poor children in Atenas. Pick one of the angels and buy a gift for that child. Already there are 75 named angels on the tree.

Kay's Halloween Party

The traditional Halloween Party at Kay's Gringo Postres will begin at 8:00pm on Saturday, October 30. Costumes will be judged and prizes awarded. A DJ will provide dancing music. Admission is 5,000 colones per couple, or 3,000 colones single. BYOB. Snacks and set ups for sale, with free ice and coffee.

El Mirador Halloween Party

On Sunday, October 31, there will be a costume Halloween party at the El Mirador Restaurant on the main highway in Estanquillos de Atenas (on the way to the Pacific). Tickets are 2500 colones per person, with one third of the proceeds going to the Atenas Foundation for Helping Abandoned Animals.

Annual Festival of Dance

Saturday, November 6, 7:00 pm
Salon Parrochial at the church on the park

Show & Sell Arts and Crafts Exhibition

More than 55 Talented artists and crafts people offering:
paintings, ceramics, candles, unique clothing & footwear, blankets, wood carvings, soaps, books, home furnishings & decorations, jewelry, yextiles, spices, body treatments & fragrances, photographs, batiks, pet services, children's clothing, and more.

Sponsored by: Newcomers Club of Costa Rica

Date: Sunday October 24, 2010

Time: 10:00am-4:00pm

Location: Cariari Country Club , Cariari San Jose

Contact: Jamie Akin- President Newcomers Club; costaricaporo@yahoo.com

Fuzz Productions SA

We are a Bilingual Bi-cultural family with many years of experience. For this reason, we make no claim of knowing it all, or even much of it. We simply know where to look.

Those who claim to “have it figured” often find their contacts MIA or with other interests...weeks maybe, into the project.

A Latino Environment is always in a state of flux. The man who built your house yesterday may not be the man to build the next. Be sure to consult with people who know the difference.



Paul, Gaby and Andre

fuzzlong@gmail.com

2446-0543

8898-9398

**Property management
packages available**

- Landscaping and Property Maintenance
- House Cleaning
- Bill Payment
- Renter Screening
- Introductions between Renter and Owner Via Go Dutch Realty
- Contract Management
- Book Keeping and Accounting Services
- Project Supervisor for your Job or we'll Provide Architectural and Construction Services
- We can help you with Shipping and arranging for Legal Services with the Appropriate Lawyer for the Job

Atenas Today Advertising Rates and Policies

Atenas Today is sent out monthly to over 400 email addresses of people who live or vacation in the Atenas area. Display ads up to half a page in size cost \$50 per insertion; full page ads are \$100 per insertion. Ads in the Atenas Today Yellow Pages cost \$5 per month for one column by one inch, and \$10 per month for one column by two inches.

Advertisers should send the copy via email to fredmac222@yahoo.com, with pictures attached as separate files. We will compose the ad and send back a proof for approval. The deadline for material for that month's issue is the 15th of the month.

Payment can be made in any of the following ways:

- 1) deposit to BNCR account no. 100-02-021-600032-2 (Frederic Macdonald)
- 2) deposit to Paypal account of Fred Macdonald (fredmac222@yahoo.com)
- 3) cash in envelop in PO Box 292 (Fred Macdonald) in Atenas.

In all cases be sure to include your name and what the money is for.