

A History of Service

KINO BAY'S
CLUB DEPORTIVO

A Commitment to the Future

APRIL 2011

Executive Summary

In the 1960s and 1970s, individual sportsmen and families came in ever-increasing numbers to Kino Bay, Sonora, to enjoy the environment and the riches of the Sea of Cortez. In early 1977, a group of those frequent visitors to Kino Bay formed a Club — Club de Deportistas Bahia Kino, known as Club Deportivo — and established its unique search and rescue service — Rescue One.

Over the years, Rescue One has monitored over 17,000 sea, land, and air excursions and performed hundreds of rescues for both local and visiting boaters and outdoorspeople.

By 1981 the Club had grown sufficiently that the decision was made to build a facility. That building, sitting on land provided by the Sonoran and Mexican governments under various comodato agreements, has served as a social, educational, and community gathering place. The Club membership has grown and changed from a mostly fishing population to a population of expatriates from the United States, Canada, and other places around the world. Many members now own homes in Kino, with some retirees living here year round.

The Club building has been enlarged and expanded to include a large meeting space, kitchen, bar, library, and offices. The Club's activities include sporting events and games, fishing and golf tournaments, dinners and breakfasts, fund-raising events for local organizations, classes, and informational and social gatherings. The facilities are often used by community groups and governmental agencies for large gatherings. It serves as a collection site for emergency food and supplies and for recyclable goods.

The Club and its members are active in Kino, providing humanitarian and emergency services, employing local workers, hiring local contractors, frequenting local restaurants, and buying local products. The economic impact is great, and the presence of Club Deportivo and its member population contributes to the perception of Kino Bay as a highly attractive tourist and retirement destination.

After over 30 years of existence, Club Deportivo is now seeking to acquire the land it occupies and secure its home in Kino Bay on a permanent basis so that it can invest in expanding and improving the physical facility, diversify its membership, provide more attractive services to both the expatriate and the Mexican communities, continue its role as a service organization, and participate in the sustainable development of Kino Bay.

This document summarizes the history of Club Deportivo and lists many contributions and accomplishments over the years. It also outlines the goals of the Board of Directors and the Membership with regard to the future of the Club and clarifies what will be required to reach those goals.

Prepared by the Board of Directors and members of Club Deportivo. April 2011.

Officers

- Ron Wikel, President
- Erwin Perry, First Vice President
- Francine Bailey, Second Vice President
- Terri Overcast, Secretary
- Mary Jennings, Treasurer

Directors

- Pat Akins
- Anne DeFrance
- Rich Harris
- Sheila Kristjan
- Gayle Lenihan
- Karin Matthews

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Overview

Club de Deportistas Bahía Kino (Club Deportivo) was formed in 1977 to provide safety and rescue services to the increasing number of sportsmen and families enjoying the rich fishing waters and pristine beaches of the Sonoran coast near Hermosillo. Rescue One, the primary function of the club in those early days, was and continues to be a unique service in Mexico, providing monitoring, search, and rescue services to all local residents as well as to visiting sportspeople, on land and on sea.

Over the 34 years that Club Deportivo has existed as a chartered Mexican corporation, it has grown in size and scope. It is now an anchor organization in the community — a social gathering place, an invaluable resource and support system for visitors and local residents, a friend and supporter of the entire Kino population, and an attraction for hundreds of expatriates from the United States, Canada, and other places around the world. These visitors find their way to Kino and often decide to return or stay — sometimes for weeks, sometimes for months, and sometimes for years. Today, Club Deportivo provides an excellent example for other communities wishing to promote similar tourism and development. People come to Kino Bay for its beautiful location on the Sea of Cortez – what Jacques Cousteau called “the aquarium to the world” – but they stay because of its people. The local population is open and inviting, generously sharing their culture and their lives. Visitors who come to enjoy this tremendous resource – especially those who stay – are not ordinary tourists; they are curious and adventurous people who recognize the unique character and quality of Kino and deeply appreciate the opportunity to participate in life here in a meaningful way.

Club Deportivo has grown to encompass much more than its original purpose. Through a thoughtful long-range planning process carried out in 2007 and 2008, the members of Club Deportivo clearly expressed their desire and intention to remain in this community, and to improve and further develop the Club as a responsible sporting, social, and service organization.

The Board of Directors and the members of Club Deportivo believe that a strong and secure Club Deportivo will continue to play a very important role in promoting Bahía Kino as a first-class tourist destination in Mexico while maintaining a stability and quality of life that is often sacrificed in tourist towns. It is the desire of Club Deportivo to establish a permanent home through acquisition of the land on which it currently operates, in order to invest in a significant expansion of its facilities. This will better serve its membership, while it deepens involvement in the community. We plan to continue providing quality employment and service, and to attract and retain greater numbers of international visitors. We invite you to join in our efforts.

Board of Directors

Club de Deportistas Bahía Kino

May 2001

Introduction

In the 1960s and 1970s, abundant game fish in the Sea of Cortez and the pristine beaches of Bahía Kino — already known to Hermosillo residents — were powerful attractions for visitors from the north. Individual sportsmen and families came in ever-increasing numbers, staying for longer periods of time, and returning year after year.

The Founding of Club Deportivo and Rescue One

Need for Rescue Services and an Organization

In the early days, aside from the Port Captain, there were no government facilities in Kino to assist fishermen and no means of communication between boats or with families ashore except for citizen-band radios with limited, line-of-sight transmission. It was easy to get into trouble, and helping boats in trouble was a difficult and dangerous job. North American visitors and local residents acquired valuable experience in these waters and willingly provided rescue work, but felt the need for a support organization to provide more effective rescue facilities.

Our Founding Members

In early October of 1977, 23 people met to discuss the growing needs of Kino Bay and to share information about organizations operating elsewhere dedicated to helping sportsmen in general, and fostering boating safety. They organized a club dedicated to those purposes and elected the first officers: Eldon Heaston, president; Fausto Garcia, vice-president; Bob Jarratt, vice-president; Polly Boyles, secretary; and Roy Morwood, treasurer. On October 26, they met again to complete appointments to a Board of Directors and to discuss chartering the Club under Mexican laws. Each contributed 500 pesos (US\$22.50) to establish a working fund.

Bob Jarratt drew up by-laws, Tom Turner was named chairman of the rescue program soon to be named "Rescue One," and Eldon Heaston met with lawyers in Hermosillo to get the Club chartered.

Santiago Garcia de la Garza, a Club founder, member of the Department of Tourism and owner of the Posada del Mar, was enthusiastic about the concept of a sporting club. Being bilingual and familiar with Mexican laws and governmental agencies, Garcia de la Garza helped expedite the process of obtaining a charter.

On February 14, 1978, A. Scott Llewelyn, Tommie T. Turner, Fausto (sic) Garcia Martinez, Leroy Anderson Morwood, Oliver H. Keelor, Robert L. Jarratt, Eldon B. Heaston, Thomas James Crutchfield, and Boyles Polly (list taken direct from Charter) appeared before a public notary in Hermosillo and filed a charter and by-laws to form a corporation named "CLUB DE DEPORTISTAS BAHIA KINO."

First Board of Directors

- Tom Turner
- Tom Crutchfield
- Oliver Keelor
- Scott Llewelyn
- Alain Ferraris (Alternate)

Purpose

To promote sporting activities, encourage sea and land safety, teach conservation and ecology, develop recreation areas, aid tourists, and participate actively in non-political community affairs.