

## October 24, 2012 Report: AOPA/Hurricane Paul

We are all safe and sound as well as really pumped up. What a Hoot! Week started out at AOPA in Palm Springs where we saw many of our members as well as had many new pilots sign up for membership.

Interest was heaviest in our new Airport guide as well as next year's Central America (CenAm) and Whales trip. Will have both trips up in about three weeks.

Our new airport guide, a complete rewrite, will be up in the store in about two weeks. If you need one sooner, call the office. Priced at \$39 dollars for members, Mexico is tabbed into three sections and in addition, has tabs for airports for each of the Central America Countries. Additional features include that it is now smaller, lighter, and is spiral bound with a cover that will open 360 degrees. Book will be updated by reviewing postings on the BBP website.



### That being said: Hurricane Paul





Hurricane Paul did not exist when we departed for Loreto on Sunday, October 14 and all on the "Explore Loreto" trip arrived mid-day other than one who emailed to indicate he would be a day late.

Entry was quick and simple as the BBP had arrived early and had the paper work all but done as people came in. After check-in, members went to the street where taxis were waiting to take all to the Hotel Mision to unpack, freshen up, do a little socializing, and then head down to the La Palapa for dinner.

Just several short blocks away, La Palapa is one of our favorite places to hang as well as eat. An open wall palapa with wood burning grills; this is where you can get some of the best meals in Loreto.

The following morning, breakfast was in a private dining room at the Mision where we talked about things to do, where to eat,

and a lot more. In addition, we presented a short slide show on this year's CenAm trip and had a drawing for CenAm 2013. Well, we had two drawings for the trip as the person who won was scheduled to be in Ireland when the trip is scheduled and indicated to draw again so, we had another winner. This time a person from Canada, who smiled, screamed "I have it", said the date was good, and was announced the winner.

Then it was time to discuss Hurricane Paul that I had scheduled for the next day. No one was over concerned and we all decided to stay, hunker down at the hotel if it got bad, and watch the storm go by.

All spread out for the day, some going scuba diving, some renting a car, some walking town, and some doing some pool time.



Social and dinner was open. Myself, after breakfast, taking care of some paperwork, and enjoying a Swedish Massage, went to bed early....

The following morning it was breakfast at the Mision where we all were watching the Malecon, the ocean and the sky as the weather started to move in. (Remember Hurricane Paul)

The next several days were a blur and cannot really be described as the Hurricane was the main event. However, sometime Tuesday as the wind and rain were coming in almost vertical from the ocean, I received a call from the DGAC at the airport who indicated that all pilots should come out the to the airport, move their aircraft from the south side of the ramp to the north side, to be sure that their aircraft was pointed into the wind, and to ensure that all tie downs were good. (the reason for moving the aircraft was that the DGAC anticipated that the Hurricane would take





off all the metal roofing from the fuel office as well as the several hangers on the south side of the ramp)

For the first time ever, I tied down the Commander and then we doubled tied some aircraft that had smaller rope. Again, everything kind of melted together however, after the soak job at the airport, we all went back to the hotel where I took a really hot shower, and then had to decide whether to

change into another set of wet clothes, damp clothes, or dry clothes.

Great dinner that night with the wind and rain crashing waves against the Malecon, watching some of the debate on TV (electricity was on and off) and then after a really great night of sleep, woke up to a calm sea, no wind or rain, and the sun was starting to show through. The Hurricane had passed by us changing to a severe Tropical Storm as it hit land, was gone, and for us, was over.

That morning, we went out to the airport and checked on the aircraft which were found to be fine. However, all had been pushed to the limit of their tie downs.

After breakfast and goodbye hugs, those that were going over to Alamos or were going further South said goodbye and departed and some, including ourselves, decided

to wait one more day for better weather before departing north.

Again that day was a blur with flooded streets, cleanup, and more however; the survivors (us who were still there) all got together for dinner at Domingo's, one of the best steak and fish houses in Loreto. We had a great dinner, good night sleep, and in the morning, headed back to the states with most getting home around noon on Thursday.



What a hoot. Rain, wind, floods, fun, laughter, new friends, and.... the eye of the Hurricane passing us about 30 miles west.

Only on a Baja Bush Pilots trip, we will have a hard time beating this experience.

*Sorry about the lack of people and aircraft photos. There was so much going on (fun and wet) that there was not time for a lot of photos. However, there were about 16 people on the trip who came from all over the western US as well as one couple in a Corvallis 400 all the way from Toronto, Canada.*

*And it is no surprise that as all on the trip enjoy adventure and challenges, all had a great time and are still talking about riding out Hurricane Paul with the Baja Bush Pilots*