



# Cabo 2004: The Pirates Return

Texas Beta Chapter  
**Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity**

## Trip Manual

Hoist the Pirate Flag my Maties there is adventure ahead

Welcome to the 5<sup>th</sup> Texas Beta expedition to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. With \_\_\_ brothers and their guests it will be an exciting trip. As the banner at El Squid Roe proclaims "Ain't no Party like a Phy Psi" Party.

This manual provides information concerning the trip and is a resource for navigation and activity suggestions. Please bring the manual with you to Mexico. I've loaded these pages with helpful information that will help you in preparing for what will be an incredible adventure.

This is your adventure so you are free to choose what interests you. Golf, fishing, and other sight seeing activities are loosely organized so that people can better coordinate transportation but for those of our party who like to wander the day or night you are free to do so.

Our host Jerry Nelson (UCLA, 48') will welcome us to his home and he and his wife Florence will hopefully be joining us during that time. Brother Nelson adds significantly to our party and his hospitality is renowned.

This will be a time of renewing old friendships and making new ones. Brothers from every decade will be joining in the adventure. It will be unforgettable.

Welcome to Cabo,  
Cliff Watt and David Norman

# Cabo 2004 A Pirate's Guide for Fun



In any pirate expedition there are issues of provisions and activities. The following information provides an overview of places and activities you will find as well as what items you might want to bring.

## Transportation

You will be arriving at the airport in San Jose Cabo which is 22 kilometers northeast of Jerry's home and Cabo San Lucas. This is a simple airport and you will walk down a ramp onto the tarmac and into the terminal. On the airplane you will likely be given a declaration and guest visa customs form you will hand in as you enter the building. Have your passport or birth certificate ready as you enter the terminal. Clearing the entry station you will enter a large baggage area. There you will pick up your luggage and move through customs. Moving through customs consists of going through an inspection station where you will initially push a button on a stop light assembly. If green you simply walk through, if red then you will be subjected to a brief inspection. The vast majority of signals are green. Don't wear your favorite turban as this could slow you up.

Once you clear customs you will move through a second large room where various vendors for time-shares, fishing, taxi cabs, will be standing and annoying you. **Walk to the left** and enter the general air terminal. We will have either a staff member or other brother stationed there with a sign that reads "Texas Beta Cabo 2004". If you arrive and no one is there to meet you then either call the house (40110, if problem but 114 in front of that and try again) or take a cab to Casa Bravo at mile marker 18, look for the adobe walled compound on the ocean side flying either the Texas Tech or Phi Psi flag.

From there you will be transported to Jerry's home via a transport service that Jerry has a contract with. It is approximately 22 miles to his home. You will first pass through San Jose Cabo on your way to the Nelson estate and will notice the contrast between the desert and the sea, the fine hotels and the dusty small homes. The estate is located about halfway between San Jose Cabo and Cabo San Lucas.

Transportation will chiefly consist of the fleet of Suburbans and a van kept on the estate's grounds. There is also chartered bus service that can be used. Although our party numbers are lower this year we will need to be mindful at management of the vehicle use so that no one is left behind over the course of our time there. If you want more freedom you can rent a vehicle at the airport and keep it within the protected estate. Past members of our group has done this in the past but I don't know the specifics. If you find yourself without transportation in Cabo there are usually taxis available. Taxi service is available from Cabo back to the estate for usually around \$20.

## **Participants**

Our travel team is truly reflective of our fraternal chapter, with brothers from every decade of our time at Texas Tech. Our guest list is as follows:

Carnes, Grif ('01')	3132-4 <sup>th</sup> St. #301, Lubbock, TX 79415	806-687-3334	<a href="mailto:gcarnes3@aol.com">gcarnes3@aol.com</a>
Jones, David ('55)	3237 Hanover St. Dallas, TX 75225	214-363-3573	<a href="mailto:djones@texasinet.net">djones@texasinet.net</a>
Macchi, Ryan ('00)	3132-4 <sup>th</sup> St. #301, Lubbock, TX 79415	806-687-3334	<a href="mailto:Gumpler007@aol.com">Gumpler007@aol.com</a>
Morriss, Nick ('01)	4424 Jarvis, Lubbock, TX 79416	214-298-7912	<a href="mailto:ttmorriss82@hotmail.com">ttmorriss82@hotmail.com</a>
Murry, Brian (00')	4421-82 <sup>nd</sup> St. #249, Lubbock, TX 79424	806-698-6997	<a href="mailto:brianmurry3@hotmail.com">brianmurry3@hotmail.com</a>
Packard, John ('97)	5403-91 <sup>st</sup> St., Lubbock, TX 79424	979-236-5365	<a href="mailto:Jpackard78@yahoo.com">Jpackard78@yahoo.com</a>
Reidy, Michelle & Trevor	3415 N. County Rd 1660, Lubbock, TX 79416	806-778-9219	
Sessions, H.A. ('55)	4809-19 <sup>th</sup> St. #10 Lubbock, TX 79415	806-799-0653	<a href="mailto:hases@swbell.net">hases@swbell.net</a>
Watt, Cliff ('64')	4806-77 <sup>th</sup> St. Lubbock, TX 79424	806-797-3231	<a href="mailto:cliffbwatt@aol.com">cliffbwatt@aol.com</a>
<b>Our Host</b>			
Nelson, Jerry & Florence	8787 E. Pinnacle Peak Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85255		<a href="mailto:nelson8711@aol.com">nelson8711@aol.com</a>

## **Housing**

There are no bad rooms in the Nelson estate and a pool is never more than a step away. There are seven different units on the grounds and each is unique. I have attempted to group people according to their college era. A simple map is found on the next page.



**Casa Kiowa:** Located at just above beach level this unit features a blue tiled horizon pool and a large kitchen. Staying here are:



**Casa Pelicanos:** Above Casa Kiowa and directly across from the Turtle bar this unit features a large second floor living room with doors that slide completely open affording a wonderful ocean breeze.



**Casa Palapa:** Above Casa Pelicanos and directly across from the main building (Casa Florencia) this unit features an expansive blue-tiled slide pool and vaulted ceiling. Staying here are:

**Pool Apartments:** Across from Casa Palapa connected by the pool are four apartments. A large hot tub and the pool awaits. These are the overflow rooms as needed for undergraduates or other late arrivals:

- Apt #1:
- Apt #2:
- Apt #3:
- Apt #4: :



**Casa Florencia:** The main house of the estate. Here we will gather for meals, watch satellite television (900+ channels), or simply enjoy the warm sunlight on the large porch overlooking

the Turtle Bar and pool. Staying in rooms there are:

BR#1:

BR#2:

BR#3:

Pilot's Room:

**Captain's House:** Just below the Turtle pool this hide-away has an excellent ocean view. Staying here are:



**Prince's Home:** Located to the south of Casa Florencia this home features a horizon pool and exceptional view. Staying here are:

### **Our Host: Brother Jerry Nelson (UCLA, 1947)**



Jerry has been a general contractor with construction projects in Michigan, California, Arizona and Europe. He is president and founder of Pinnacle Peak Land Company and of Pinnacle Paradise, Inc. Through these entities and affiliates he has, since 1971, developed Pinnacle Peak Village, Pinnacle Peak Country Club and Shopping Plaza, Troon Village and Troon Golf & Country Club, Troon North and Troon North golf course. Current developments are proceeding in Scottsdale and Prescott, Arizona

and Cabo San Lucas, BCS, Mexico.

Brother Nelson has funded the creation and startup of numerous companies, including Simulnet, Video Electronics, Ticketmaster, Antenna Technology Corporation and Technology Control Services. He was appointed by Governor Bruce Babbitt to the Urban Lands Advisory Commission and, in 1997, was inducted into Scottsdale's "History Maker Hall of Fame." Brother Nelson has been an Endowment Fund Trustee since 1989. At the 2000 Grand Arch Council, Phi Kappa Psi recognized Jerry's outstanding achievement as a volunteer and philanthropist with a National Leadership

Award. Jerry and his wife Florence call Scottsdale home. They have three sons, Nick, Tom and J.P. (California Epsilon 94')

### **Meals and Beverages, House Provisions**

We will be served breakfast each morning in Casa Florencia. Although there will not be a specific time for breakfast it would be expected that we would eat between 8 and 10 a.m. For those up early for activities (golf, fishing, etc...) we will make arrangements as necessary.

Lunch is available as requested and we will have sandwich material in each house. If your house runs out of something let either Cliff or David know. Snacks will also be provided for in each home. You will find that meals tend to be simple (but tasty) affairs and you should feel free to browse the kitchen if you are hungry.

Dinners will usually be on your own in Cabo with a wide variety of fine eateries available. Most nights we will travel as one group heading into Cabo with the vehicles returning at different times through the evening hours.

Each home will be supplied with beer, milk, bottled water, and soft drinks. The Turtle bar features a broad assortment of liquor as well as soft drinks and beer. Each home will also usually have a complete kitchen and set of linens and towels. The bathrooms have a variety of personal care products (toothpaste, razors, etc...) in the event that you need them. Each bedroom has it's own AC although the small remote controls can disappear. Electricity has never seemed a problem and the water supplied to the estate is filtered in an on-site processing plant.



Dining in Cabo can range from inexpensive to moderately priced. Even those higher priced establishments make up for it with ample servings and delicious morsels. Seafood and chicken dishes tend to be better than beef entrees (I think that we Texans might be a bit spoiled but that is my opinion). Later in this manual are listings of the various places in Cabo where you can tickle your taste buds. I've prepared guides for those who are first timers in Cabo to give you some direction as to the "must-see" places.

## **Money and Expenses**



Both dollars and pesos can be used for most transactions, check with the vendor if booking ahead. The conversion rate changes daily but runs around 9 to 10 pesos on the dollar. Dollars can be converted at the bank as one enters Cabo or at any one of many establishments which line the main street. Joel has also been kind in the past to exchange currency for guests when he goes into town for supplies.

Your registration fee of \$120 per person (undergraduates are exempt) will serve as a general operating fund for expenses such as provisions for your housing unit, tips to the general staff (you may want to tip those staff who are personally taking care of your house a small amount more) the dinner and awards for Friday night, various trip memorabilia, with the remainder going to fund the "100 Bricks/100 Brothers" capital building campaign.

Having been down there seven times now I would estimate that you can have a very enjoyable day and night for around \$75. Credit cards can be used (even in the small outdoor markets) but again, check with the vendor.

## **Security and Safety**

Although I have never felt in danger while walking the main streets of Cabo you should remember to be aware of your surroundings. In order to enter Mexico you will need either your passport or a notarized copy of your birth certificate. Your driver's license would also be useful as a photo ID.

If you drive one of Jerry's vehicles please exercise the utmost care and caution. Most of the vehicles have security alarms and access to the estate is controlled by a keypad entry box. Check with Cliff or David for the code if you plan on being out in the late evening. There are night watchmen who roam the estate at night. The policy on the vehicles is that you are free to drive them as you wish but please check with Cliff or David so they can coordinate with the staff for other use such as airport transportation, etc... Fuel for the vehicles will be provided but please let Cliff or David know as you run low. Gas is available at the single Petro station as you enter Cabo and the tanks can hold up to \$70 dollars so everyone needs to pitch in if you need to fill up before returning to the estate (where you will be reimbursed by Cliff or David). If you are just going down the road a short distance to one of the nearby beaches please take one of the older vehicles so that the ones' with AC are available for the longer trips.

Each member of our expedition will be given a laminated business card detailing common phrases in English and Spanish which might come in handy. You would do well to carry it with you. You will find that many of the residents do not speak English although you can usually establish a basic communication using creative hand signals.

### **Telephone and Internet**

It is unlikely that your cell phone will work in Mexico but you can try. Jerry has a fax machine and full phone service at the estate. His number as dialed from U.S. is 011-52-624-144-0110. The fax number from the U.S. is the same except for 144-0130 replacing the last two sets. From within Mexico only the last seven digits are necessary (144-0110). Ask for Joel or Gabby if the person answering the phone doesn't speak English.

Jerry has a computer and high-speed Internet connection located on the second floor of the main house. Check with Jerry about how to connect and use the computer.

### **Activities**

*Swimming:* The estate features five pools and two hot tubs. Towels are provided. The beach in front of the estate is easily accessed but the current is quite swift and you should only enter the surf if you are a good ocean swimmer. Beach side showers are available to hose off the sand. One reaches the beach by either walking down the large walkway running down from the garage or else by the stairs located off the main turtle pool.

We will be going frequently to La Concha Beach Resort which is about 1 mile down the road as it is one of the best beaches we have found. There is a protected cove there where the water is buffered by a set of breakers. There you will find reasonable priced beach side meal and beverage service to sustain yourself over an afternoon.

Moving into the town of Cabo along the eastern harbor are a series of beaches where you can go para-sailing, jet ski, sail, or kayak. On the western side at the marina you can take a water taxi to Lover's Beach where you can snorkel or otherwise enter a softer current.



Playa El Médano



*Scuba and Snorkeling:* Only about 2 miles from the estate is an excellent snorkeling cove at Chileno Beach. There are also a variety of out-fitters which you can sign up with for extended dives along the coast. Check with Brian for how to make arrangements. The water can be cool but the sun will be hot so make sure that you apply liberal amounts of sunscreen. Jerry has some scuba and snorkeling equipment but you might want to bring your own if you want to be sure of the right fit.

*Fishing:* While you can rent large cruiser boats and go in search of the biggest game fish it is also possible to charter an inexpensive “Panga” which will take 2 to 3 people out for a four hour trip for only \$100 (you bring your own cooler and buy the bait). Check with Brian for arrangements. He caught a 7 foot marlin from a small Panga boat in 2000 as well as 15 Maui-Maui. For more than 2 people you should probably make arrangements with the larger boats which will run you around \$80 to \$125 a person. For that price you would do well to take a ice chest filled with your choice of beverages from the estate stock. Although I have not gone out from San Jose I understand that the fishing may be better from that port.



*Golf:* I’m not a golfer so I can only tell you that Jerry states that there is not a problem getting on whatever course you want during the time we are there. Check with Cliff or David on making arrangements. I understand green fees can be steep given the world-class quality of the courses (\$250 a round).

*Shopping:* Cabo is a wonderful outing where you can find good prices on silver jewelry, clothing, or other favorites. If Jerry’s wife Florence is with us it is a interesting experience to pal around with her for an afternoon’s shopping. Prices are usually debatable although in the nicer shops you pay the sticker. At the markets you should expect to bargain and it can be a spirited conversation.

Cabo has a small glass factory which turns out cobalt blue glassware and a variety of items. There are two good size open markets where bargaining is the name of the game. While you will be approached on the beach by vendors they are usually polite and will not pester you beyond the initial offer.

*Nightlife:* Our fraternity and host are well-known in Cabo and escorting Jerry on an evening out on the town can be most exciting. Drink prices are



reasonable and a bottle of beer usually runs around a \$2 although the price has been climbing as the vendors find that the US tourists don't mind. Rum and Tequila are inexpensive but anything made in the USA or otherwise imported is very expensive.



El Squid Roe has a strong relationship with Phi Psi and we have our own table there. If Jerry is with us we are treated like kings with endless rum and coke, Pacifico beer, and bottled water. The club is open till 4 a.m. or so but around 2 p.m. there is a shift from tourists to locals.

### **General Activity Schedule**

*Saturday: Arrival for majority of our group*  
*Sunday: Dinner in Cabo*  
*Monday: Walking around Cabo*  
*Dinner in Cabo*  
*Tuesday: Walking around San Jose*  
*La Concha Beach Club*  
*Dinner in Cabo*  
*Wednesday: Fishing*  
*Chileno Beach*  
*House Corp Meeting #1*  
*Dinner in Cabo*  
*Thursday: Golf*  
*Shopping in Cabo/Glass Factory*  
*Dinner in Cabo*  
*Friday: Blue Coast Beach*  
*House Corp Meeting #2*  
*Dinner in Cabo*  
*Saturday: Departure*

### **Participant Numbers by Day**

Saturday:  
Sunday:

Monday:  
Tuesday:  
Wednesday:  
Thursday:  
Friday:

## Specialized Suggestion Guides



### First Time to Cabo

Having had the opportunity to travel to Cabo seven times since the Spring of 1998 there are several “must-see or do” places or activities which you should seek out if this is your first time to visit. These include:

**\*Playa del Amor (“Lover’s Beach):** This was a great beach until the hurricane of 2002 which washed out all the sand. Still interesting trip in a glass bottom boat and we can hope that sand is returning so perhaps can get off boat and enjoy the water and beach. Drive to the end of the highway and park at the open air market. Go through the market and out to the dock. Cost about \$5 for a glass bottom boat ride around land’s end.

**\*Office Bar:** Located across the harbor from Lover’s Beach is this famous beach drinking and dining establishment. Finding the place and where to park can be tricky so buddy up with one of the seasoned veterans. The food is good and there is a lot to look at as the people walk by. You can make arrangements from here to go para-sailing or rent a ski-doo. Don’t attempt to drink more than two of their margaritas or you will not be clear what happened next.

**\*El Squid Roe:** This is our stompin’ ground and Jerry is an institution here. Our personal table is located just inside and to the left as you enter the bar. Even if Jerry is not with you it may be possible to get the bartender to throw out whoever is in the table when you walk in. They slide a steel plate over the table as the night heats up so you can stand and survey the crowd. Avoid the jelly shots or that blue stuff in the beaker that they are pouring into people’s mouths.

**\*Shrimp House:** Like Bubba Gump said “shrimp is the best” and this place proves it. Don’t even try to order something else. Just get it battered and fried and steamed. Throw in a couple of “bulldogs” (a lemonade like drink with an upside down Pacifico beer) and you’ll be in heaven. Great for lunch!

**\*Glass Factory:** Turning right at the first street light into Cabo you travel a mile or so and turn left down a sharp incline onto a gravel road. The sign is small so look for it. The glass factory is the only native industry (outside of concrete) to Cabo and the items vary according to who is the resident glass blower. The deep blue Cobalt glass can be quite beautiful. They will pack it for you and it is probably best to hand carry it on the plane back.

**\*Open Air Market:** There are two good open air markets in Cabo. The first is just down from the local supermarket which you will see just past El Squid Roe as you pass while

the other is located at the end of the main road on the far side of the harbor. Both will have similar items and the vendors are friendly. Haggling is the fun of this place as you never pay what is the listed price. Expect to find good deals on silver here although you can also find a good price from the vendors that walk the beaches. Don't get over eager to buy. There are lots of places and you should shop.

**\*La Choncha Beach Club:** This beach club is only about a mile from Jerry's estate. As you walk down the concreted path from the parking lot you enter a well maintained grounds area and then continue down to the beach. Simply stake out a place by the protected inlet area where you can swim and the waiter will bring an umbrella over and get your drink or meal orders. Prices are reasonable and the service is good. The rock barrier keeps the current down so it is comfortable to enter the surf.

**\*Sports Fishing:** Cabo is famous the world over for its Marlin and other big game fish. You don't have to spend a fortune to have a good time but you do have to get up early. Expect to spend \$80 to \$125 a person for a group of 3-4 and more (in some cases a load more) if you charter a bigger boat. Be prepared to leave the estate at 6 a.m. with your returning around 3 p.m. Take one of the estate's ice chests and fill with water, beer, soda, and fruit. Make some sandwiches if you want lunch as the boat will likely not have anything. On the way out of the harbor the captain will likely hit you up for another \$20 for bait fish pulled out by lover's beach. Then settle in and take a nap as the boat moves along the shoreline or out into the deeper waters. The captain will jump up and yell "marlin, marlin" and you spring into action. If you caught the fish of your lifetime be aware that the mounting costs can be high, and a major payment is required at the dock and it usually will need to be in cash. Expect to fork over \$500-\$600 if you want to take it home. If you caught other food fish please bring them back to the estate and we will use them at the Friday banquet.

### Off the Beaten Path for our Repeat Visitors

You really can't go wrong in looking for fun and interesting places or activities to do in Cabo. Here are some places that our group has found that are somewhat off the regular tourist path.

**\*Chileno Beach:** Located just about a mile from the Nelson home this beach is a favorite for snorkeling tours that come in on a large group boats. Watch for the diving symbol on the seaward side of the highway and be careful getting your vehicle across as the road can be rough. There is a short walk to the beach and facilities and food and drink are available (however an ice chest from the estate is a better idea). The current is not too swift and the snorkeling is good.

**Santa Maria Beach:** Located just a few miles from the estate this beach has a coarse pinkish sand consisting of granite so wear shoes as the walk from the parking lot is somewhat long. A quiet beach you can be greatly relaxed in the tropical breeze.

**Palmilla Beach:** Punta Palmilla is a landmark both for the luxurious Hotel Palmilla resort and the surrounding postcard perfect bay and striking beaches. Snorkeling and

diving equipment can be rented at the dive shop. Follow the signs to Hotel Palmilla at Km. 27. The entrance to the beach is just before Pepe's Restaurant. Be sure and bring along a cooler, umbrella and sunscreen.

**Blue Coast Beach:** At the east end of Palmilla Bay is the world famous surf beach called Costa Azul. The break, called Zippers, has been the site of many surf contests over the years. Exit the highway at Km. 28.5, right at the bridge, and proceed to the beach. There's a surf camp, rental cabanas, beach restaurant and convenience store. Swimming possible, watch for rocks and surfers.

**Trailer Park Restaurant :** OK so it is not anywhere near a trailer park but that is where it started out. As you enter the place you are struck by the elegance and calm mood that the high walls and courtyard conveys. Go in with another couple and get the giant meal platter, an exercise in unrestrained gluttony with almost unstopping seafood, chicken and steak items. Turn left by the McDonalds as you enter town and look to the left side of the street two blocks down. Prices are not excessive for the amounts you get and the drinks are also reasonable.

**Seafood Mama's:** Located inside the large lighthouse bordering the harbor you will find a good selection of what-else...seafood. You just can't go wrong with anything off this menu. After dinner walk down the pier toward town and stop for a drink at the Nowhere Bar.

**Latitude 22+:** As you drive into Cabo it is on the right a block before the second main light. Good hamburgers and looks like a bar that Hemingway would hang out at.

**La Candelaria:** Although I have not traveled there David Norman has and can comment about whether this is a place worth visiting. I know that it might be better to take a Suburban to this place as the ATV version is a long trip choking dust. Minimalistic living at its best this community features a local artist and is a statement about the necessities of modern living.

**Cabo Wabo:** Sammy Hager's club. A happening place when Sammy is there but otherwise a bit of a hit and miss type place. Sammy lives next door to the estate and you may see him flying kites with his daughter on the beach. The upstairs restaurant is good for lunch.

**Giggin' Marlin:** Another local bar that features on-going fun and games including hoisting you upside down and pouring strange liquids down your throat.