



Newcomers' News

Monterrey, Mexico

February 2004

President's Letter

Hello Newcomers,

Happy Valentine's to all Newcomers! A very warm welcome to all "new" Newcomers. Hold on tight, your stay here in Monterrey is going to be like a roller coaster ride. You might feel nauseous, but it sure is fun! I hope everyone has a wonderful Valentine's Day with your sweethearts. There are plenty of fun, romantic places to go and enjoy this special day. If you are new to the area just ask your fellow Newcomer. We all know of at least one great

location in Monterrey. For those of you traveling on this date, please drive safely!



Newcomer's President
Diane Ballou

Photo of the Month



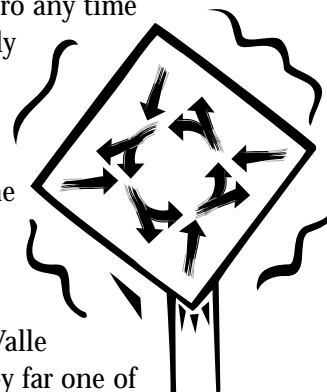
Chichén - Itzá

El Castillo Pyramid (Yucatan). This is the pyramid where the serpent appears on the stairs during the spring/fall equinox. Photo by: Nancy Niemczk

punch holes in me and keep me in your survival guide binder

Suicide Circle

IF YOU'VE lived in San Pedro any time at all you've most certainly had an opportunity to experience what I non-affectionately call the "traffic circle of death". Some refer to it as "suicide circle" and to others it is simply the crazy traffic circle at the intersection of Calzada Del Valle and Calzada San Pedro. It's by far one of the most dangerous traffic circles—I've seen dozens, maybe a hundred accidents and even witnessed a few occur in the little over 4 years I've been in San Pedro.



So what makes it so dangerous?

For starters, it's the only traffic circle I know of where the rotunda traffic must yield to oncoming traffic (technically, it is a stop sign, but the common practice is to yield.) These two 'stops' are marked by a stop sign on the outside of the traffic circle, just before the Calzada San Pedro (on both sides) and are not easily noticed by a novice to the intersection.

Secondly, it seems that a striking percentage of the drivers operate under the principal that it's

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Suicide Circle *Continued from page 1*

appropriate to make a right hand turn at any time, from any lane, even the inner most.

So, how do you avoid getting 'cut-off' or cutting someone else off without avoiding the intersection? You can significantly reduce the chances by following these simple guidelines:

- Position yourself in the appropriate lane before entering the circle using this rule of thumb? Enter the traffic circle from the left lane if you plan to travel or more in the circle (ie a left hand turn or a u-turn), the center lane if going only way around, and from the right hand lane if traveling only of the circle (ie a right hand turn).
- Exit the traffic circle only from the right hand lane by working your way over while in the circle. Keep in mind that most drivers travel of the circle, continuing straight though, exiting on the same road they entered. So, for example, if you're planning on taking a left turn (of the circle) you'll probably find that most people will exit just before you need to merge right, preparing to exit.
- Keep your car slightly abreast of the car to your left and AVOID their blind spot at all costs. Most people will not turn into you if they can clearly see you, and even though you might anger them, you probably won't get cut off. Expect that any car positioned ahead of your bumper will cut you off; just be prepared and yield to them because it will happen!

—Liz D'Arcy

Would you know what to do if you were in a car accident?

Here are some steps to follow if you experience an accident (courtesy of **Abaseguros**):

1. Report the accident as soon as possible to your insurance company. The phone number is inside your insurance policy.
2. Do not make any agreement of any type with the other party, your adjuster takes care of this.
3. In your telephone report you must mention the following:
 - Exact location of the accident
 - Make and type of the vehicle
 - Color and license plate number of the vehicle
 - Name of the driver
 - Policy number
 - Name of the insured



4. Once the adjuster arrives to the place of the accident, he will ask for the following documents:
 - Insurance policy
 - Driver's license

At the time of the accident the insurance agent will call the local authorities who **must always** be present. If the authorities do not come, the insurance company, the other driver and yourself can loose the car. And, if you are injured ask to be taken to a **Hospital** not a Clinic.

Attorney **Emily Card** has given the following important tips:

- If you get into a hit and run somewhere and you don't feel safe staying there, you can go home and call the agent who will come over.
- The hardest part of an accident is the time it takes to get your car repaired. Use the insurance body shop rather than the dealer.
- Check your insurance policies for towing information, most of the time your insurance will provide it, even when there is no accident.
- The insurance repair provisions are different if you are covering an American tourist car or a Mexican one, so people should try to read their policies.

Need a Baby sitter??

Kristen and Kirstie Bergeson ages 15 and 13 are available to watch children in the San Pedro area. If you need someone to watch your children, call 8378-1474.

Tip of the Month

FREE collect calls to the U.S.

Many service companies such as credit card, insurance, HMO and brokerage firms accept collect calls. Just dial **01 800-248-5583** and you get an English speaking operator. There is no charge for that call from any type of phone in Mexico.