

A Jungle Bridge

*Comments, Thoughts, and Pictures
From Costa Rica*



Wednesday, August 22, 2007

© 2007 Barry A. Stevens



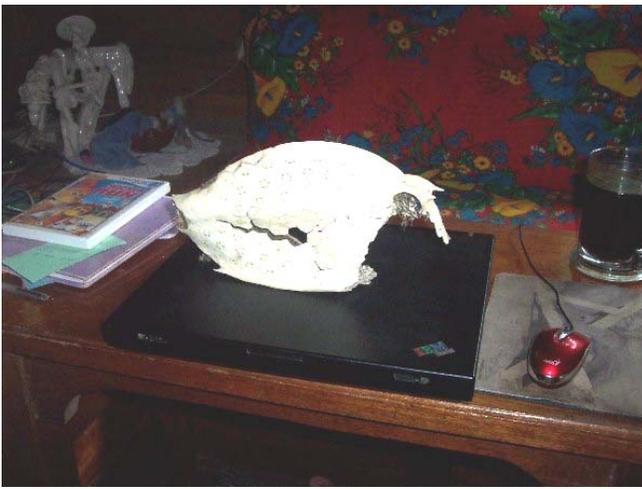
*We recently were asked to make a banner saying "Thank You, Texas"
Having done that, we thought we'd expand on the theme, and say "Thank You"
to ALL the folks who have supported The Bridge with donations of clothes, school supplies, and money.
In this shot, Nanci has her arms around Alejandro and his mother Maria, with Carmelita and Abelio
completing the back row. Willi, Maria, Irene, Catie, and Sandara are in front, reading books from
The Spanish Encyclopedia set donated by the employees of Swiss Travel.
The banner they're holding says "Thank You" in English, Spanish, and Bribri.*

RECENT NEWS

A heartfelt "Thank You". Barry and Nanci have a "fish story" to share. Espy has a "moving experience", under the watchful eye of Miguel, La Mechanico Milagro. We have guests at The Bridge, and they get to meet "The Ants". In the "Blog Log", we're all agog at some of the things that people are saying about us. *Gulp* Volunteers continue to help us get things done!

FISH STORY

We've been doing a lot of walking lately. While waiting for the Revision Technica on Espy Too, we have discovered (read "Barry" has discovered) it's actually possible to walk from here, through Puerto Viejo, to Cocles. (As unlikely as that sounds, that's not the fish story.) Part of the walk is along the black sand beach – Playa Negra – near our home Last Sunday, Nanci spotted an unusual white boney thing lying in the sand. The photo is below.



This was fascinating.

This thing had horns front AND rear, eye sockets, what appeared to be a spinal column inside, and an exterior bony casing, made of hexagonal bone-lets.

Had we discovered the fossil of an extinct fish, newly liberated from some undersea grotto?

The mystery drew us in.

We showed local fisherman the bones and asked if they knew the fish – they said “no”. Everyone we asked – same answer. We were ON to something! A REAL FIND!

Then I decided to search the internet for fish that would roughly fit this description. How hard could it be... horns, front and rear...

Hmmmpfh. Ladies and gentlemen, meet...

Acanthostracion polygonis which, roughly translated, means “Honeycomb Cowfish”, who grows up to 20” long and lives at depths approaching 240 feet.

Of course, when asking around, we had discounted the answer we got from one of the town’s “characters”... who, while waving a beer bottle, said “cowfish”



Photo by C. Platt from TFH February 2003, “Boxfish Ostracion”

GOOD BYE, ESPY ***A Moving Tale***

Things have progressed slowly here. Step by step, transportation challenges are met. Earlier in the month, Miguel – La Mecanico Milagro – finally had time to tow Espy away.



Roy and Mauricio, extreme left, are watching as Miguel and his muchacho bolt Espy to the rear of the truck for a ride to Miguel’s place.

Apparently, there are still parts on Espy that can go to a good home, before sending the scraps to the boneyard.

Thanks, Espy!

In this view with you looking at Espy, Espy Too is right behind you, ready to go to Limón with Miguel to get Revision straightened out, resulting in legal registration! Time and money are the determining factors.

In the meantime, we are learning more about the bus schedules than we ever thought we'd know, only occasionally resorting to taxis when there's lots of stuff to carry.

THE ANTS ARE COMING! ***Pest Control In the Jungle***

Every so often, we get thousands of visitors. Not "thousands" in the colloquial sense – literally, thousands of visitors. This is just the beginning of a visit this week from the "Jungle Pest Control Crew". One of the visitors who was on the porch as the caravan arrived asked if she should get the bug spray.



"No", I replied. "When these guys show up", we just let them come on in.

"They scout around, track down the other insects in the house, and take them away.

"So we just wish them well!"

We put our feet up on chairs, and the conversation continued, while the Battle of the Bugs raged around us. The ants were through with their task in about an hour.

BLOG LOG

We've been blessed with visitors and by the blogs they've written when they went home.



Here's Sally, with Morgan, Ryan, and Jacob

"Obras, No Palabras" Spanish for "Works, Not Words". This is an embarrassingly wonderful article written by Sally O'Boyle, who recently visited here with her two boys and a friend of theirs. See the article in her blog – **A Broad In Costa Rica** – by visiting <http://www.abroadincostarica.com/2007/08/obras-no-palabr.html>



Dawn Pruitt, with Daniela

El Puente – A Volunteer's View

Dawn Pruitt visited here to volunteer at the Community Kitchen. She "fell immediately in love with Daniela". Oh, those eyes. Daniela is a Bribri girl, granddaughter of Elvira. Dawn's great blog writeup of her visit to The Bridge can be seen by visiting http://blogs.bootsnall.com/DawnP/?page_id=26

(Who ARE these people they're writing about?)

VOLUNTEER CORNER

We are grateful for the volunteers who come here to help, especially on those busy days. Here, the veggie chopping goes on with the able assistance of a few volunteers...



Here, Volunteers Laura Scharmer, and Shawn and Sabrina Heise make short work of yucca root, onions, carrots, and more, supervised by Maria and assisted by Mayra, one of the Bribri moms in the work-for-food program.

Laura Scharmer came to us through **Tropical Adventures**, a great volunteer program run by Scott Pralinsky, and has been a real help here for the month of August. Laura is a student at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. See more about Tropical Adventures by visiting www.tropicaladventures.com We'll miss you, Laura! Thanks!

YOU CAN HELP US!

Send this email to two people you know!

They can sign up with us directly!

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

We continue to be grateful for the cash donations received. To augment the donation cash flow, we continue to sell Nanci's greeting cards – in galleries and restaurants in this area, as well as church bookstores in the USA. Barry has begun working on business coaching projects, using his experience to provide supplemental income. Any cash earned is automatically donated to support The Bridge.

The debt incurred to construct the outside restrooms has been reduced, to about \$900 from \$1,200. We're planning to complete the Revision Technica for Espy Too, which could require about \$300-\$400 in inspection fees and repair costs. And the normal Food and School expenses, and operational costs.

Onward!

NOW's a GREAT time to contribute.

Go to the website donation page by [clicking here](#), where you can use a credit card.
Or, mail a check made out to "El Puente" with **Member #29409704** in the memo field, to
USE Credit Union, 8697 La Mesa Boulevard, La Mesa, CA 91941
Remember – deductions are tax-deductible (Info available on request)

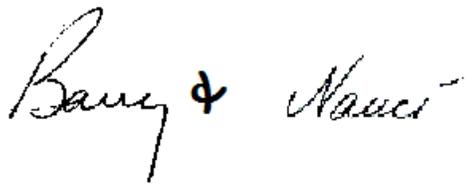
Do it NOW! You'll be glad you did!

Thank you for your support!

Well,

...djmiache

Enjoy!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry & Nanci". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

IF YOU HAVE TROUBLE SEEING THE PICTURES

...go to www.elpuente-thebridge.org/weekly and download the file with the date of this issue.

Go to The Bridge Website by [CLICKING HERE](#)

Go to The Bridge Online Store by [CLICKING HERE](#)

Download a Powerpoint presentation and a brochure by [CLICKING HERE](#)

Go to the newsletter archive by [CLICKING HERE](#)

Here's some Video clips showing activities at The Bridge:

[Nanci and Alejandro working together to serve lunch on the porch](#)

[Daniel, Barry, and Alejandro setting up for the movie](#)

[Watching the movie: this day, "Winnie The Pooh" in Spanish](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Barry's Email: barrystevens@earthlink.net

Our toll-free number from the US is 1-866-462-7585

Filename: 070822 4 PDF.doc
Directory: C:\Documents and Settings\Barry\Desktop\This
Edition\070831 Aug 23 email
Template: C:\Documents and Settings\Barry\Application
Data\Microsoft\Templates\Normal.dot
Title:
Subject:
Author: Barry Stevens
Keywords:
Comments:
Creation Date: 9/8/2007 2:15 PM
Change Number: 3
Last Saved On: 9/8/2007 2:20 PM
Last Saved By: Barry Stevens
Total Editing Time: 5 Minutes
Last Printed On: 9/8/2007 2:21 PM
As of Last Complete Printing
Number of Pages: 5
Number of Words: 1,176 (approx.)
Number of Characters: 6,708 (approx.)