

## **EXPERT RV BODY & PAINT WORK CAN BE YOURS...**

### **JUST OVER THE MEXICAN BORDER IN ROCKY POINT! (5-Stars!)**

In June-2020, I took the advice of another RV owner and traveled from Texas to Rocky Point, Mexico to have get some RV body & paint work done. That trek was over 1,000 miles, but I planned so it was en-route to my final summer destination in Montana; and I so thankful to everyone who helped me know what to do and where to go for my RV needs!

And in addition to receiving body and paint work, I also got my RV coach washed & waxed, my carpets cleaned, and I worked with a qualified RV mechanic to perform several RV system repairs. This include repairs to hot water heater and air conditioner. We even flushed my Cummins ISC-350 coolant and fixed an awning motor issue. (Every RV has these quirks!)

I can tell you I saved at least \$8,000, but you probably will not believe me. I can tell you there were no issues crossing the USA-Mexican border, but you probably will not believe me. I can tell you I shopped for food at Sam's Club in Puerto Penasco and picked up 4-6V-GC2-Golf Cart batteries for \$59 each, but you probably will not believe me. ...And if you like premium Tequila at 40% off, well that's a side bonus of making this trip!

All this can be found in Puerto Penasco, MX just 1.5 hours from the Lukeville, AZ boarder entry point! **And more specifically, all these RV repairs can be found right where you camp...** at a 250+ beachside RV Park called "The Reef" at Rocky Point.

Here's there website for The Reef were you will stay for \$26/night (10% off for the month) and then you contract independently with qualified RV repair persons who have been working with RV owners for over 10 years and whom you can trust.

**The Reef RV Park At Rocky Point:** <https://www.thereefrvpark.com/>

...And if you can't make a reservation there, you can contact the Playa Bonita RV Park, which is closer to town: <http://www.rockypointreview.com/ad11324.html> (and maybe more desirable).

Rocky Point is the beachside community of Puerto Penasco, MX and there you find modern condos and new condos under construction. And if you are afraid of getting lost... don't be. To find The Reef, just head to the farthest condo tower as you approach the town (ON YOUR RIGHT) and you will see signs to point in the direction of The Reef.

**Carlos Hernandez and his helper Pablo will save you a ton of money of body and paint work and you will be very satisfied with their work!** They are both very experienced with RV body and paint and only use high quality materials. However, the best materials from Sherwin Williams still need the best body prep and skills and this is where Carlos and Pablo shine!

Note: I have worked with at least 10 different body and paint shops in my life time (on cars, airplanes, RVs, and boats) and I can tell you these guys are "first rate body & paint people!"

Carlos and Pablo fixed my cargo doors and repainted the entire rear-half of my RV engine cap and they did a superb job with the sanding prep and clear coat. I am very satisfied and you will be too!

You may ask: How do they paint out in the open? Simple answer: Carlos and Pablo work with the elements (sun, shade off the RV, and the prevailing winds off the ocean) instead of against them. And because they have over 10+ years of RV body and paint experience, they know what they can do. Note: The RV parking stalls are actually built on crushed shells and gravel and there was no dirt and dust issues to speak of. Trust me... these guys know what they are doing! And they will provide all the paint and materials. You just have to provide the RV and book a \$26/nt RV site at The Reef and let them go to work. (See pictures attached below.)

### **RV MECHANIC ON SITE**

Oscar is a qualified RV system mechanic who can help you diagnose and fix everything RV related! He even has diesel engine experience and I helped him flushed my OAT engine coolant.

In those regards, I did not need to replace the hoses, but he could have if that was necessary. And if you need radiator hoses you can get Gates branded hoses at the local Auto Zone.

Oscar works on an hourly basis or daily. We spent 3 days together and I paid him \$650. (\$200/day + \$50 tip.) Oscar replaced my hot water thermostats, and it was his experience that led to replacing my two Basement AC Run Capacitors. He then picked these parts up locally and now my AC system starts faster and runs more efficiently (colder). We also replaced my engine air filter (I provided the Freightliner air filter) and we washed the bottom side of my engine.

Oscar doesn't mind working with owners, which is great for me, and sometimes two people come in handy when it comes to turning on system switches and helping out.

As a suggestion, if you know what type of work you want, then you should bring the parts with you. For example, I know I wanted to flush my radiator so I brought 6 gallons of Fleetguard OAT 50/50; and 2 gallons of OAT concentrate); and 10 gallons of distilled water is recommended for the final flush. I also brought this \$19 electric pump that made the process replenishing the new coolant easy and fast.

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B075S2P61J/ref=ppx\\_yo\\_dt\\_b\\_asin\\_title\\_o02\\_s01?ie=UTF8&psc=1](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B075S2P61J/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o02_s01?ie=UTF8&psc=1)

Note: OAT is biodegradable so don't get your panties in a wad. You can safely dispose of this stuff. However, if you have the green coolant type, then you should bring 10 gallons of empty containers to reclaim your old green coolant so you can dispose of it properly when you return to the USA. In closing, flushing your coolant with "Restore Plus" and then following that with 7 clean water flushes takes all day! It was more work than I thought, but I also did not spend \$600-\$700 at Cummins in labor. In fact, now that I have hired Oscar for \$200/day + tip... it's going to be hard to pay Freightliner \$125/hr in the future. And Oscar knows how to fix my RV systems vs. Freightliner who doesn't.

## **EVERYTHING IN ONE SPOT!**

Never have I received so many RV services in one spot! It was so easy to drive across the border so don't worry about that. You do need a Passport, but you do NOT need a tourist visa unless you stay more than 90 days in Mexico.

It was easy to find The Reef RV Park. And it was easy to stay 1 week and vacation while other people worked on my RV.

Plus everyone either spoke English or we worked with an interpreter to communicate our needs. I also think everything worked out, because everyone knows how to work on RVs and with RV owners, because their core business is working on RVs for 10+ years... in this RV park and the 3-4 other RV parks in the neighborhood, up and down the 4-mile long beach.

And if you are wondering how I coordinated with Carlos to setup an appointment? All I did is install the "What's App" cell phone application and then I texted him and sent him pictures of my RV damage. (Easy!) Carlos' Mexican cell phone number is: (638)105-6894 so you can send Carlos a What's App join request; or you can email him at [carlos\\_nelson\\_yec@hotmail.es](mailto:carlos_nelson_yec@hotmail.es) and attach your RV pictures that way with your work order.

Note: Carlos understands English better than he speaks it, but he will have an interpreter available to review your work order and to be sure the quotation he provides you over the phone is the best "cash deal" you will ever get!

...And Carlos will not try to up-charge you later so don't worry about that. However, I did learn The Reef charges Carlos and Oscar 10%. So, in my opinion, you really should tip 15-20% if you are satisfied with the work you receive, and I'm sure you will be!

Other services: I paid \$80 to have my carpets cleaned, my vinyl couch and captain's chairs cleaned, and my tile floors cleaned. And they did a great job. Note: I have had my RV carpets cleaned in the USA before, but this time was the best. I think it's because the carpet cleaning machine they use is very good, but I also think everyone takes pride in their work and knows their future is dependent on referral business, which is why I am giving everyone I worked with 5-Star reviews, and why I am posting this referral. ...That and because they deserve it!

I paid Kiko \$200 to wash and wax my RV by hand, polish my chrome rims, and this price includes cleaning the roof and waxing it too!

Pictures follow...

## The Crew At Rocky Point



## Wrecked At The Reef Beach Restaurant and Sports Bar







## CARGO DOOR REAIR





## **FACTS ABOUT TRAVELLING ACROSS THE BOARD IN BOTH DIRECTIONS DURNING COVID-19**

- \* It's up to the Mexican boarder guards to let Americans visit their country and not the US-Customs.
- \* It's up to the city officials of Puerto Penasco to let you enter their town; and they will let you do this if you have a reservation to stay in an RV Park and you have a business appointment to have your RV serviced. (Just make a copy of your reservations for officials to review.)
- \* When returning the USA, customs officials have to accept US-Citizens back into the country! They cannot deny you entry, but you do need a USA-Passport. Ergo, when people say the board is closed, this refers to who the US-Customs office will permit into the country; and as explained, if you are an US-Citizen they have to let you back in!

Note: The Mexican officials were 3x more efficient and thorough vs. the American officials when it came to inspecting the RV and spraying it. ...And when you are retired and traveling in an RV (new or old) no one cares. As for the USA checkpoint: I came and left in 30 seconds. (Literally.) They did not care and did not want to search my RV.

And because Lukeville, AZ is a remote border crossing point, with no commerce on the Mexican side of the border to speak of... this is NOT Tijuana or Laredo. And the 1.5 hr drive from Lukeville to Puerto Penasco is a very good paved highway. Just do the speed limit.

\* We bought a 7-day Liability Only Mexican Insurance policy for our RV at a convenience store in Why, AZ just before crossing the boarder. It cost us \$80/week. And then we paid \$45/week to store our tow car in their secure storage lot. All very convenient. However, in retrospect, we wish we could have brought our tow car into Mexico so we can have lots of detailing work done to it too! (...But we couldn't because we left our hand gun in the tow car, in the USA, because guns are not allowed across the border.)

The only thing I did not do in Puerto Penasco I want to do was... go fishing. So maybe on my next visit to Rocky Point I will plan to do that.

So do yourself a favor and discover The Reef or Playa Bonita in Puerto Penasco/Rocky Point and make plans to visit Mexico when it's convenient for you; and I guarantee you will be glad you did!

...And if you are wondering about traveling during this Covid scare? ....DO IT! ...because no one is traveling across the border at the moment, probably because they think the USA border is closed; and in my opinion, you will be safer visiting The Reef than any campground or park in the USA! You can also call the Lukeville border crossing point and talk to a US-Customs official to ask any questions you may have. Their website and phone number can be found here:

<https://www.cbp.gov/contact/ports/lukeville>

All my best.

Mark