

## September 2011 Belize Newsletter

*Dear Friends of Grand Baymen,*

August is a transition month on our Isla Bonita of Ambergris Caye. It typically starts out with a bang, with the popular, well attended Costa Maya Festival in early August. But after that everything seems to slow down. Many businesses close for remodeling, including some of our favorite restaurants. This is the month when most expats, and many Belizeans, leave the island. They head out for an extended vacation during the hottest, slowest time of the year.

For those of us who live here fulltime, many of us welcome the slow season. It's a time when we can catch our breath and enjoy a peaceful island. The weather this year has been moderate, even for August. The Caribbean Sea has been both warm and calm since August. And to date we have not had much rain, or serious storms. So it's a perfect time to enjoy snorkeling, swimming, diving, or boating in the sea. We fulltime residents appreciate having the island to ourselves during this season...

Here's the short review of August's activities and new information about the island and Belize. The links to the month's blog entries are included. Scroll down and click on links for topics of interest to you...

**The Costa Maya Festival** is one of the most popular annual events held on Ambergris Caye. The entire island was energized during this four day weekend. Most hotels and resorts were fully booked. The entertainment was lively and well attended. You'll find two posts that describe this event. One post describes the events, especially the colorful Costa Maya Beauty Pageant. The second post explains how one lucky expat met Miss Nicaragua and the other Latin beauty contestants...

**Baymen Garden Building A Update.** We are pleased to report that in early August the first floor of Building A was completed. This was a major milestone in the construction schedule. So far the construction has been moving at a fast clip... In the two blog entries, you'll find pictures and details that explain the progress in August. (I have since posted another construction update that will be included in the September newsletter.)

**Hemispheres/Caye International Bank Financial Conference.** Grand Baymen/Exotic Caye Beach Resort supported Caye International Bank and Hemispheres during their recent Financial Conference. The conference was held in early August. Most attendees stayed at [Grand Baymen's Beach resort \(Exotic Caye Beach Resort\)](#). The speakers provided an update on the controversial HIRE Act, as well as other financial presentations that provided guidance to attendees interested in overseas investing. Many North Americans are worried about protecting their assets and retirement funds these days. So it isn't surprising that this conference was well received. One blog entry summarizes the conference.

**Tourism Updates.** One of the August posts reviews Belize's positive second quarter tourism statistics. Another post explains how Belize made it to the #1 spot on Google this summer. The third post reviews the main reasons to consider investing or retiring in Belize.

**Meeting Interesting People on Ambergris Caye.** You'll find a few posts about places where one can meet interesting people who either live on the island, or are visiting. Mike Cobb explains how he met Miss Nicaragua, and the other Costa Maya beauty queens on his way home after the Hemispheres conference. We also introduce you to a Baymen Garden owner who can't wait to move to Ambergris Caye. And I tell a story of an interesting person I met in a surprising location...

**September - a Month of Belizean Celebrations.** There are two major holidays in September, both related to events that led to Belize's independence. And September is a good time to reflect back on the trends that have occurred during the first half of the year. The next monthly newsletter will touch on these, and other, topics.

I hope that you have enjoyed your summer and are ready to transition into the fall. If you are already dreaming of your next mini-vacation, don't forget that our next Chill Weekend is in early December. If you are interested in joining us and learning more about living and investing in Belize and Ambergris Caye, [click here for info on our upcoming Chill Weekends...](#)

Below is a bulleted list of August's Grand Baymen blog topics, with links. As always, forward any comments or questions to me via my e-mail address below, or through the blog.

Best regards,

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### ***Baymen Garden - Building A Progress***

Now that building A is well underway, we're updating the progress in a blog post whenever we reach a construction milestone, such as completing a floor. Here are the links for this month's blog posts that describe the latest construction progress. Pictures are included with each blog.

- [Baymen Garden Building A - First Floor Completed!](#)
- [This Owner Can't Wait to Move to Ambergris Caye](#)

### ***Recent Summer Events on Ambergris Caye***

Here are the links for blog posts for recent conferences, social events and festivals that were held on Ambergris Caye. Each blog entry includes several pictures, to give you a feeling for the event.

- [Ambergris Caye's 2011 Costa Maya Festival a Success](#)
- [Ambergris Caye Financial Conference Updates HIRE Act](#)

### ***Ambergris Caye/ Grand Baymen Tourism Info, Ratings and Travel Tips***

Some of the links we include connect to blog posts that describe awards given to Ambergris Caye, Belize, or our Grand Baymen Belize resort (Exotic Caye Beach Resort). This month you'll mainly find posts on tourism trends, and information on Belize in this section.

- [Belize Tourism Growth Again Breaks Records](#)
- [Why Consider Belize to Invest, Live or Retire?](#)
- [Family Jewels Landed Belize in #1Google Spot](#)

### ***Meeting Interesting People on Ambergris Caye***

Even though this is a small island, many interesting people live here, or spend regular time here. I have met many interesting people on this island, sometimes in the most unexpected places. Here are two examples...

- [Meeting Miss Nicaragua on Return Flight from Belize](#)
- [Meeting Interesting People on Ambergris Caye](#)