



Newsletter – March 2008

By now many of you have probably already discovered that the bilingual version of the Wixarika web site has been launched. The event took place on January 15th of this year. We still have a minor bug to work out so the accents in the text for the e-cards display correctly. Also, we will need some minor additional funding to cover the cost of creating a duplicate interactive yarn painting in Spanish.

By nature, the Spanish side of the web site has a much more extensive news section on current events because so many articles are routinely published about the Huichol in the Mexican newspapers. Press items in English that are worth posting are rare, and more often than not relate to the commercial art scene.

By far the most noteworthy news this year has been the road blockade by the community of Tuapurie (Santa Catarina Cuexcomatlán) which began on the morning of February 11th and continues to this day. Juan had been in the sierras for a week prior the general assembly and at the request of the community authorities stayed to observe and participate in their meeting. The blockade began the morning after the close of the assembly, continues to this day, and is still headline news in Mexico today. Upon returning to California, Juan wrote a [report](#) on his trip which deals extensively with the issues leading up to the blockade and how the community was ultimately able to halt construction of the road. Juan's report also covers the history of road building in the sierras since 1975. You will find it posted in the News section under the sub heading "Newsletters" on the English side of the website, or you can follow the above link.

Also in the newsletter section of the website we have a new sub section for audio and video postings. Most importantly, we have posted the documentary "[Huichols and Pesticides](#)" produced by Patricia Díaz Romo and narrated by Peter Coyote (which we highly recommend watching), a talk given by Wade Davis "[Cultures at the Far End of the World](#)", a couple of years ago at the TED conference in Monterey, CA on disappearing languages, and the audio of a program aired on NPR radio on the toll peyote tourism is taking on the desert of Wirikuta: "[Mexico's Peyote Endangered by 'Drug Tourists'](#)". The audio also posts an accompanying text. Patricia's film opens in Windows Media Player but we will soon post a link for those who prefer to use QuickTime.

For those of you who read Spanish, you will find many articles of interest on the Spanish side of the web site, especially in the news section where we have published all of the various newspaper articles relating to the ongoing blockade. The most recent press reports will always be found in the left column of the News home page. There are two [YouTube](#) videos of the blockade posted in the section on "Informes".

Documents from the community of Tuapurie will soon be posted in the archives section dedicated to documents.

In the future, newsletters and reports will be posted in both English and Spanish although there may be a delay in posting the translations due to lack of personnel and the volume of documents in need of translation and review.

Last of all, donations are needed to purchase Adobe CS3 Web Premium which we can buy as a non-profit organization for just under \$600, and for the conversion of the interactive yarn painting into Spanish which will cost \$200. The software package will enable us to do much more with our images and greatly improve our ability to manage all aspects of the web site as well as create slide shows. Please help if you can by sending a check to: Wixarika Research Center, P.O. Box 9472, Berkeley, CA 94709-9472.

Now that we have taken over the daily management of the Wixarika web site there are new postings on a daily basis, particularly in Spanish, and we intend to issue a short newsletter more regularly to inform you of interesting new additions to content. We welcome you to submit articles for review that you find of interest for possible posting and welcome your comments and suggestions.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Negrín, Associate Director
Wixarika Research Center
www.wixarika.org