

SewHope Trip Report

Tim Kuhn – 2/28/19

1. Arrived in Petén through Atlanta and Guatemala City on January 22, 2019.
2. Check valves were added to the discharge lines of both water tanks so the pump pressure will not flood tanks as before. A float valve was added to the clinic water tank so it can be filled automatically without over-flowing.
3. The water filter was permanently connected to electric power and the water supply (instead of using an extension cord and hose). This will make the filter much more convenient to use so that it will be used more often. The filter, quartz glass tube and UV bulb were replaced.
4. The water filter at the church in San Francisco was also serviced.
5. Corrected electrical problems in Hostel caused by re-arrangement of wiring and circuit breakers when Guatemala workers tried to incorporate shower heaters in the hostel as well as outside wiring to the shed. Shower heaters were not installed due to their potential shock hazard. The power wiring to the shed is necessary to operate power tools, pumps and lights used at night. Shed wiring is poorly installed and has intermittent open circuits and short circuits. This interfered with power to the hostel, tripping circuit breakers in the Hostel electrical box. A separate circuit breaker box was installed on the outside back wall of the Hostel connected to the shed wiring. This will prevent interruptions of the hostel power and can be accessed from outside the building. I did not have enough time to find the electrical problems in the shed wiring, so the shed area remains dark at night. This will need to be fixed during a future trip or by someone in Guatemala familiar with electrical wiring. In the future, no one will be allowed to access the hostel electrical panel inside the building.
6. Installed wood panels and bug screen to keep birds and large bugs out of the shower building. Caulking should be added on a future trip.
7. A light was installed in the Clinic pila room.
8. A new sink was installed in Myra's room for use with the cytology work.
9. The rototiller was repaired with parts brought down from the states.
10. The internet transmitter/receiver (POE) was moved from the north end to the south end of the building to avoid trees. Another POE was installed at a neighbor's house 2100 feet to the northwest. The neighbor has internet service. The POEs are both on poles 28 feet in the air. We ran out of time before establishing an internet signal at the clinic. This work needs to be continued as soon as possible either during a future trip or by the clinic staff. Instructions (so far in English) have been written for this work.

A new private Claro internet cable was run down the main road for the feed company to the south. We requested that Claro run a cable to the clinic on these same new poles.

Investigated purchasing a satellite dish from VSat for direct internet service to the clinic. This equipment would cost \$2800 plus shipping and installation plus at least \$250 per month. This option is on hold until all internet options with Claro have been exhausted.

11. A pump was installed at the fish pond. Water from the pond can be pumped out and used for garden irrigation. Also, the pond must be pumped down periodically for cleaning and maintenance.
12. Replaced some leaky water valves and pipes in toilets, sinks and drains.
13. Participated in a Guatemalan board meeting at Ismael's house. Myra was approved as probationary director.
14. Material was obtained for ten new stoves. Elder supervised building of four stoves and bases with Hose and (helper). Many pictures were taken to document the process. Eleven planchas were taken to town for drilling of the four 3/8" holes. This drilling is too difficult for us with the tools and skill available at the clinic.
15. Took over (from Ismael) purchase of propane for the Hostel stove.
16. Took over (from Ismael) finding and purchasing project tools and parts from local stores.
17. Picked up and took back kids from the school program. Learned the Route.
18. Left Petén on February 22, 2019.

Future work and concerns:

1. We still don't have internet at the clinic. It is possible that Claro will soon be able to provide this directly.
2. Ismael took care of getting maintenance done on the vehicles. This is currently not being done. Any records Ismael kept should be found and regular maintenance should be performed the next time we go down.
3. The green truck needs a new power steering pump.
4. The red truck needs a power steering pump and inside door handles. It is possible (and did happen on this trip) that a person can enter the red truck without the key and not be able to get out.
5. Add lights to the bunk room.
6. Add a ceiling to the bunk room.