

PUNTA CHIVATO, A STRANGE NAME FOR A FILLET KNIFE

I made a fillet knife for fishing trip to Baja California Mexico about 1988. This one was a 9 inch hidden tang with a desert ironwood handle. Desert ironwood is native to Baja and the Sonoran Desert so was appropriate for the time and destination. I had been and still to date (2017) travel to Baja when ever I get a chance since the first trip in 1969. That first trip was a dirt bike off road adventure that I will never forget but that is a different story.

A favorite destination is the area between Santa Rosalia and Mulege where the Highway 1 comes parallel to the Sea of Cortez. Just South of Santa Rosalia a turn off goes East to the coast to a hotel and campground called Punta Chivato. We camped and fished for a week there several times. I like to name my knives after favorite places I have fished or hunted so therefor the name became Punta Chivato. I used this name for years and still do.

About a year ago a friend who lives in South America and is fluent in Spanish asked me if I knew what Chivato meant. I said it is a name for a point of land and a hotel down in Baja. In fact it is on the map originally made by 3A auto association of Baja and I think it means a goat or sheep. He chuckled and said no, a Chivato is a betrayer, snitch or villain. I guess I should have investigated the source of the name long ago but now some 25 years later it is hard to make a change since I have been using it so long.

One explanation may be that there is a sand bar kind of like a false point just off shore near the boat launch and area we fish so perhaps in the past boats have been **betrayed** by the point and drifted into the shallow area and gone aground. In any case for those of you who have more than high school Spanish like me now know how this “unique” name came about.