

## Recently Around the Rio

May 19, 2017 by Jody Aston, Editor and Publisher

There was a lot of activity in Rio Dulce last week! There were birthday celebrations, Mother's Day meals, and community get-togethers. The Rio Dulce Chisme also heard from Rodger Hanks, who, after living on the rio for many years, says he is settling into his new life in "Lalaland" (USA) but misses all of us here. We miss him, too, and wish the best. He says he has an RV on a ten-acre piece of property, has chickens and is enjoying his garden. From the looks of it, he should have enough produce to make friends with a lot of neighbors! Sadly, we also want to report that a local young man died, after the dinghy in which he and his brother were attempting to reach the shore, was hit by lightning, in front of the Catamaran Restaurant. According to the national newspaper, the Prensa Libre, his name was Erick Aroldo Chuc Ical, and he was 17 years old. He fell into the river after the lightning strike, and drowned. His brother, 19, was seriously injured, but survived, after being rescued and taken to the hospital by the Rio Dulce Volunteer Firefighters (Bomberos Voluntarios). An English translation of the Prensa Libre article states that "Rescuers said the wounded man reported that the storm was sudden when they were in the vicinity of the river and that, at the moment they sought refuge, was struck by the lightning that caused the boat to sink in a matter of seconds." The Rio Dulce boating community extends condolences to family and friends. This sad incident serves as a reminder to all of us to stay alert and attempt to avoid being on the water during electrical storms. Click "Read More" for more photographs below.

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