



Western Montana RPCV News

DECEMBER 2011

VOLUME 20 NUMBER 4

Upcoming Events

SATURDAY, DEC. 17
Christmas Party and
Potluck at Jim and
Melissa's, 525 Fairview
6 PM

SATURDAY, JAN. 21
January potluck at
Dennis's. 1729 North
Ave. 6 PM

JUNE 8, 9 & 10!!!!
2012!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Goat
Chase Retreat Flathead
Lake!!!!



WMRPCVs in the U of M Homecoming Parade

From the President

Dennis C. Bangs (Ecuador 70-72)

This fall found the WMRPCVs continuing to meet regularly and taking part in the U of M homecoming parade once more. We didn't win a trophy like last year but we had a good turnout and nice weather for a positive and enthusiastic presence in front of the Missoula community.

We also had a couple of very fun and productive potlucks. Thanks to Shannon and Russ Parsons (Ecuador 95-97) for hosting the September gathering, where among other things we met Dana Foster the new Peace Corps Representative on campus who just came back from El Salvador and welcomed back Jean Matthews and Russ Lawrence from Hamilton who just returned from Peru.

Thanks to Mary Younger (Cameroon 74-76) we had another fun Halloween party/potluck in October. We also decided to start a Facebook page which is now up and running and looking for comments and submissions on how to get the most out of it.

Finally, the amazing Christmas party/potluck is once again going to be hosted by Jim and Melissa on the December 17. Hope to see you then.

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The WMRPCV Newsletter is published quarterly by and for the non-profit Western Montana Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. All dues paying members receive a copy and are encouraged to participate in it's creation by sending comments, articles or other submissions to:

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All newly returned volunteers will receive two free copies before they are requested to join.

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The Western Montana RPCVs welcome the following new members: Jean Matthews and Russ Lawrence from Hamilton who were in Peru. Stacy Russell from Peoria, Arizona who is serving in South Africa and had served in Mali in the 90s. Daniel Hinkle from Kalispell who is currently serving in El Salvador.

A couple of pictures from the Halloween gathering



Brytten with a ghostly scrumptious dessert



Jeannie with a jack-o-lantern bread

Christmas Party/Potluck

Don't forget about the annual gathering at the house of Jim Burchfield (Guatemala 73-77) and Melissa MacKenzie (Costa Rica 81-84). It will be on Saturday December 17 at 6 PM. Their address is 525 Fairview Ave. If you need directions you can check out the map on the website <www.wmrpcv.com> on the 'Calendar of Events' page.

In addition to sharing tasty and unique food like always we also have a 'White Elephant Gift Exchange'. If anyone needs more detailed information about how the gift exchange works they can contact Dennis at <wmrpcv@yahoo.com>





Celebrating 50 years of Peace Corps by honoring the Sims family connection in the Philippines.

Don Sims and friend in the Philippines

In honor of the 50 year anniversary of Peace Corps, the Peace Corps office in Manila recognized the efforts of the Sims family. Bruce and Bunny Sims served in the country from 1973-77. Their son Don, served in Bulgaria from 2004-06 and has joined the Peace Corps in the Philippines for a short-term project. Don is completing his 6 month Peace Corps Response assignment doing disaster preparedness planning in the Philippines and has just taken a second 6 month position doing the same thing on Samar Island.

The attached picture shows a poster made for a Peace Corps 50th anniversary showing Bruce and Bunny in 1974 and Don this year.

FACEBOOK for WMRPCV



Inspired by conversations at the potluck in October we have started a facebook page for the Western Montana RPCVs. One of the reasons for starting it was to give our members an opportunity to share pictures and other bits of information with the group. We have had a few people post some pictures and we have links to NPCA, Peace Corps and a few other RPCV groups. We would like more input on how to get the best out of it, so don't hesitate to log on and make a comment or suggestion.

Fundraiser follow-up.

For those of you who missed this on the website I thought I would include the following story because Jean and Russ have since returned to the area and have attended one of our gatherings and purchased a bunch of calendars for next year's projects.

Warming Wawas project ***Chivay, Peru***

Jean Matthews, PCV - Chivay Arequipa, Peru

Warming Wawas

(*”Wawa” means baby in Quechua, and “Warmi” means woman.)

Life in the Peruvian highlands is tough. Many families make a meager living on cultivated fields carved onto the mountainside by their pre-Incan ancestors, or by herding llamas and alpacas. In spite of the bitter cold at 12,000 feet above sea level, no one has heat in their homes. According to the professionals at the Health Posts in Chivay and the region of Caylloma, Arequipa, approximately 160 babies are born here each year into families of extreme poverty, where just staying warm is a significant and life-threatening challenge.



As a Peace Corps volunteer working in Chivay, my project is to provide a warm knit hat and a polar-fleece blanket to each of these high-risk babies born in Chivay and the mountain communities above it. The hats are knitted with an alpaca/synthetic blend yarn by local artisans, and the fleece blankets are cut and finished with a bit of colorful traditional embroidery by local “bordadores.” The artisans receive a just wage for their work and the completed items will be distributed through the local health posts. Each set costs about \$6.50, and for that you are providing work for two artisans as well as a hat and blanket for a newborn in the Andean highlands.



Right now I am working with two different artisan associations and we are using the orders for baby hats and blankets as a real-world opportunity to reinforce business lessons about calculating cost of production, quality control, and working as a group to fill large orders. The non-profit charity, **Quechua Benefit**, has generously supported the project both financially and administratively. The artisans themselves also participated, along with local Peace Corps volunteers and others, in an entertaining and successful fundraiser for the project, which we called Pelotas y Polleras, or Soccer in Skirts — a tournament where all the players (men and women) wore the local traditional skirts (polleras).



“Yus pagará sunqi” (“God will repay your heart” in quechua

NPCA West Regional Board Member visits WMRPCV

In the middle of November Darryl Johnson, the NPCA representative for the West region based in Seattle, attended a national conference on China sponsored by the Mansfield Center at the University of Montana. He graciously created time out of his busy two-day schedule to meet with some representatives of the WMRPCV group.



He introduced himself to us and explained some of the operations and goals of the NPCA, but more than anything he wanted to get to know us and find out what we wanted from the NPCA that we weren't getting. Attending the gathering were Dennis Bangs (Ecuador 70-72), Chris Siegler (Sierra Leone 68-70), Lynne Koester (Ethiopia 68-70), Mirriam Morgan (Saipan, Mariana Islands 68-70) and Anne Hoblitt who along with her husband Patrick Linn are going to be starting their Peace Corps service in March.

Chris asked about how other groups like the Friends of Sierra Leone were working with NPCA and Dennis asked about the relationship between Peace Corps and the NPCA. We expressed our appreciation that some of our members come from the efforts of the NPCA being in contact with the volunteers as they finish their service.

We appreciated Darryl's visit and his efforts to reach out to our group. If you would like to see more of what the NPCA is doing, Check out the website <peacecorpsconnect.org>. We did invite him and wife to the attend the Goat Chase Retreat next summer.

Following is part of a biography of Darryl taken from the NPCA website.

Member-elected (current term ends 2014) – West Region

Thailand '63-'65

Darryl retired from the Foreign Service in early 2005 and shortly thereafter began teaching part-time at the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies at his alma mater, the University of Washington in Seattle. Darryl had a long and distinguished career as a Foreign Service Officer, culminating in his service as U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand, 2001-2004. He also served as acting Chief of Mission (Charge D'Affairs) at the US Embassy in the Philippines for several weeks in 2005.

His first Foreign Service assignment was to the U.S. Consulate General in Mumbai, India, followed by assignment to the Consulate General in Hong Kong (1969-73). His other overseas postings have included Moscow (1974-77), Beijing (1984-87) and Warsaw (1988-91). He served as the first U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Lithuania (1991-94), and later in Taipei as the Director of the American Institute in Taiwan (1996-99).

In Washington he held a variety of positions, including Yugoslav Desk Officer (1977-79), PRC Desk Officer (1979-81), Special Assistant to the Under Secretary for Political Affairs (1982-84), Deputy Coordinator for Assistance to the countries of the former Soviet Union (1994-96), Deputy Director of the Bosnian Task Force (1996), Political Adviser to the Chief of Naval Operations (1999-2000) and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, responsible for China and Mongolia.

He served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Thailand. Darryl received his BA from the University of Washington and also attended the University of Puget Sound, the University of Minnesota and Princeton University. He resides in Seattle, Washington.



1729 North Avenue West
Missoula, MT 59801

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN WMRPCV OR NPCA

Name: _____
Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____
Phone: _____ E-mail _____
Peace Corps country of service _____ Years _____
Peace Corps job title _____

*****Membership dues expire in June of each year unless you are an NPCA member through the Western MT RPCVs.*****

_____ WMRPCV only, \$15.00
_____ National Peace Corps Association, includes WMRPCV \$50.00
_____ WMRPCV Student/Low Income \$7.50
_____ Free membership to all serving Peace Corps Volunteers – This membership, good for service
_____ term plus one year after COS, can be activated online by PCVs in the field.
_____ First time free - Any RPCV who has never been a member before may join for one year for
_____ free.
_____ **TOTAL ENCLOSED:**

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE WESTERN MONTANA RPCVs and send to: Mary Younger, 100 Erika Court, Missoula, MT 59803