



Western Montana RPCV News

MARCH 2008

www.wmrpcv.com

VOLUME 17 NUMBER 1

Upcoming Events

MARCH POTLUCK
Saturday, March 22 at
6:00 p.m. at 1729 North
Ave. West

APRIL POTLUCK
NOM Party TBA
Watch the website

GOAT CHASE
RETREAT
June 13, 14 & 15



Noah Jackson on a river in Borneo

Noah Jackson's report from Borneo

Noah Jackson, who was a volunteer in the Philippines and a member of The Western Montana RPCVs for quite awhile is now working with indigenous people in the forests of Borneo. He just sent me his most recent newsletter. It has a lot of amazing pictures of the people and the animals that he is working with. If you would like to get on his e-mail list and receive his newsletters via e-mail you can e-mail me at <www.wmrpcv.com> and I will give you the contact information.

He is also looking for help with foundation grants and other types of support for his work. So check out his message and see if you have any ideas for him.

From the President

Dennis C. Bangs (Ecuador 70-72)

Springtime for the Western Montana RPCVs means Peace Corps Week, The International Food Fair and Cultural Festival and getting ready for the Goat Chase Retreat in June. But first I would like to thank Jim Burchfield (Guatemala 73-77) and Melissa Mackenzie (Costa Rica 81-84) for hosting the December potluck and Christmas party. Once again it was a very well attended and fun event. Also thanks to Julie Brown (Benin 91-93) for hosting the February potluck. She was a great hostess and we had a good turnout for that one too.

The March potluck will be at my place and the April potluck will be at Otto and Lynne Koester's (Ethiopia-Eritrea/Ghana 68-70/69-70). That one will also be the one where we invite the newly nominated volunteers to join us.

Thanks a lot to all of you who did classroom presentations for Peace Corps Week and helped out at the information table at the International Food Fair and Cultural Festival.

Like I mentioned earlier, the big event of the year is coming up in June. The registration form is on page 5 of the newsletter and will also be posted on the website which is <www.wmrpcv.com>. For any of you who haven't attended in the past you can read more details on the page with the registration, but be assured that it is an amazing time in a beautiful setting.

I have another thing to alert you to. If you would like to read a lot of interesting pieces about Peace Corps history and current politics and trends you should check out John Coyne's website and his blog. He is the founder of Peace Corps Writers and Readers and now has a regular blog which can be accessed through the website of the Peace Corps Readers and Writers. You can link to that site through our website or go directly to <peacecorpswriters.org> and click on the "John Coyne Babbles" link.

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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 Dennis Bangs 1729 North Ave. West, Missoula, MT 59801, <wmrpcv@yahoo.com>

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

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WMRPCV WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS.

Kat Barry and Jake Henderson from Missoula who were in Ecuador.
Paul Clark from Helena who was in Fiji.
Nancy Hannibal from Indiana who was in Kenya.
Scott Holle from Helena who was in Guatemala.
Katie Meier from Great Falls who was in Zambia.
Kenan Pomeroy from Billings who was in Jamaica.
Michelle Radosevich from Helena who was in Guatemala.

Sierra Leone Refugee All-Stars and Run Against Poverty

During the last week of February the Sierra Leone Refugee All-Stars performed in Missoula and many members of WMRPCVs got to see their amazing performance. In conjunction with this event and the problems in Sierra Leone, a Hellgate High School student is doing 300-mile incremental run to help out. Cy Gilbert also knows Heidi Halverson (Jamaica 84-86) and will be attending the potluck on the 22nd in Missoula to personally explain his project and his fundraising plans.

For those of you who can't attend the potluck but might be interested in supporting Cy in his efforts you can contact him at <www.cygilbert@gmail.com> or 406-531-8921. If you would like to see more information about the organization under which Cy is raising money you can check out the website of "Wherever the Need" at <www.wheretheverneed.org.uk>

The American Idealist

Earlier this year PBS aired a documentary about Sargent Shriver called the "American Idealist." It was an amazing biography of Sargent Shriver which had a lot of details about the development of the Peace Corps and Shriver's role in making it happen. Through a NPCA connection we have received a DVD of the program. If you would like to see it, let me know, either at the e-mail <www.wmrpcv@yahoo.com> or 549-1631. *Dennis.*

Letter from Nicaragua

The following is from a PCV in Nicaragua who attended the NOM potluck last year..
Hola mi familia y mis amigos,

I hope all is well in the states. Life here in Nicaragua is going by fast. It is hard to believe that I have been here for half a year. School has started here and I just finished teaching my first set of *charlas* this week. I teach topics about the environment in three multi-grade schools in my area. These classrooms have 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grade combined. I am also trying to work in supporting the 1st and 2nd grades with their literacy programs. It is amazing the contrast between American schools and here, and how simple things like crayons, colored pencils, BOOKS, and paper how everything that I took for granted in the US are rare here. In all of my schools there is only one or two textbooks per grade. All of this effects the rate at which the kids are learning and staying engaged in the classrooms, and that coupled with parents who need their kids to help out at home more than go to school, and not having parents that know how to read... all this snowballs for these little *chavalos*. I work with some wonderful teachers and some burnt out teachers (and I cant really blame them) about 8 in total. But the kids here are fantastic, and I admire them for coming to school at all and really respond to education when its presented in a participatory manner and not rote learning.

Tomorrow I will be traveling to one of my schools to show my students how to make compost. In doing this hopeful they will be able to take their knowledge home and maybe influence their parents a little bit. The planting season here starts when the first hard rains start to fall in may. The compost that we will be making will be used for the tree nurseries that we will be starting in each school. Life here has been busy...learning how to carry buckets of water on my head has been a pretty time consuming endeavor, (the town's solar powered well broke...has been broken for a month and a half...but

(Continued on page 4)

Western Montana Returned Peace Corps Volunteers 2007 Financial Report

Submitted by Mary J. Younger, Treasurer (Cameroon 1974-76)

BALANCE: Year End 2006

\$2,704.57

INCOME:

2007 Retreat Registration	\$2,200.00
Int'l Calendar Sales:	
2007 Calendars	30.00
2008 Calendars	3,964.05
Bozeman Group Fundraiser	210.00
NPCA Dues Rebates	142.50
Western MT RPCV Dues	813.00
<u>NPCA Member Dues</u>	<u>455.00</u>

2007 INCOME

\$7,814.55

TOTAL INCOME

\$10,519.12

EXPENSES:

Donations	\$2,815.00
Goat Chase Retreat:	
Facility	1,634.00
Food	284.63
2008 Calendar Fundraiser:	
Calendars	1,600.00
Postage	181.67
Newsletter:	
Printing	231.40
Postage	194.40
WMRPCV Website	77.67
NPCA Individual Dues	455.00
NPCA Affiliation Dues	25.00
NPCA Virtual Community	250.00
Office Supplies & General Postage	117.60
<u>Miscellaneous. Supplies</u>	<u>67.56</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES

-\$7,933.93

WMRPCV Membership Profile

2-7-08

NPCA: 36 (30 regular + 6 Free)

Western MT RPCV only: 50

TOTAL: 86 Members

Missoula area: 38

Helena area: 10

Bozeman/Billings area: 11

Western MT: 17

Great Falls area: 5

Out-of-State 4

Out-of-Country 1

2007 Donations - \$2,815.00

International -- \$1,300.00

Benin: Beekeeping Project (Peace Corps Partnership)

Nairobi, Kenya: Hope's Promise Orphanage

Guatemala: Marta Chavez Education Fund

Niger: Girls' School Fund

Women's Global Education Project

Heifer Project

Montana --1,515.00

Habitat for Humanity

Garden City Harvest (Missoula)

Montana Food Bank Network

Missoula Food Bank

Helena Food Share

Flathead Food Bank (Kalispell)

Gallatin Valley Food Bank (Bozeman)

Poverello Center (Missoula Homeless

Shelter & Food Kitchen)

Various Youth Programs

(Continued from page 2)

should be fixed...soon) but my neighbors get a kick out of it, because I usually am soaked by the end of it. My *pueblo* is currently in the midst of an electricity project. Light is coming here for the first time ever, and people are definitely excited and it will be interesting to observe the changes that will come with it. Hopefully not televisions with really bad *telenovelas* or soap operas, people here love them and I have had to sit through a couple to be polite.

I am starting to feel more and more at home here and am thankful for the useful feeling that has come from working from 8-12 in the morning at my school. I worry about adapting too much to the slow pace of life here and then facing the challenge of the 9-5 in the states! My favorite food is *chiva*, or goatmeat cooked over a fire, with a fresh hot tortilla, and a bit of lemon juice squeezed over it. It is the most tender, juiciest meat I have ever tasted. But I definitely miss home, especially when my mom describes her birthday dinner to me, red spaghetti and cheesecake!

I am currently working on a little garden in my backyard, my *abuela* and I are going to have a healthy garden competition here in may. The papaya, watermelon, everything melon season is here, and people here are incredibly generous with their food, and whenever I go for a visit even if it is just a quick chat I always leave with some fruit or gift to take home. I just hope I can start showing that same generosity. Being here has made me realize that I have a lot to learn about being generous and giving. The people here have that virtue down to an art.

The hot months of March and April are coming, and my Spanish is coming along. Understanding and listening is getting easier and easier, its the speaking part that I don't have down quite yet. Life here is very different...the other day a man was carrying a live pig on his horse on the way to be slaughtered, I met a woman one morning on a walk to one of my schools who was wearing and had made the American flag into a dress...she has plans to do the same with the Nicaraguan flag, and today on the bus ride to *boaco* a man was wearing a Thunderbolts T shirt from Great Falls, MT! I embarrassed him with my excitement and by asking him if I could take his picture.

Well, I miss you all and think about home often, and love receiving your letters.

amor y paz

Analea Hronek

Western Montana Returned Peace Corps Volunteers
Fifteenth Annual
GOAT CHASE RETREAT
JUNE 13 -15

This year's Goat Chase Retreat will try to match the amazing turnout and great time that we had last year. We will once again be coming together to celebrate the camaraderie and good work of our group. It will again be held on the shore of scenic Flathead Lake at the United Methodist Camp. The camp is located on the west shore of the lake, just north of Rollins, Montana. Detailed directions and an agenda will be sent upon receipt of the completed registration forms.

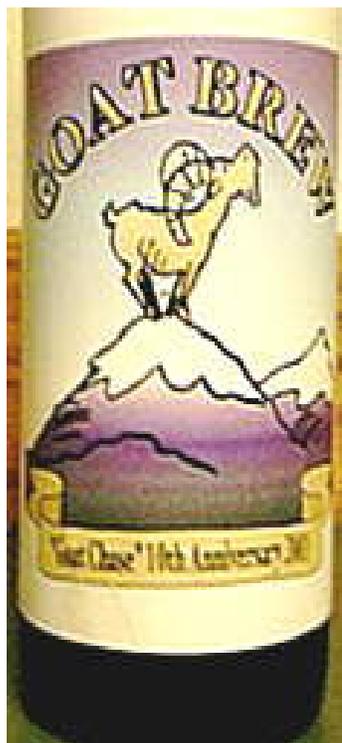
Rustic cabins, a variety of recreational facilities, and a lakeside bonfire site make a wonderful setting for reconnecting with old friends and making new ones. Everyone must provide their own bedding and no alcohol or pets are allowed on the grounds. There are cooking facilities in the cabins and a large lounge and communal kitchen for the grand international potluck on Saturday night. Friday night's spaghetti dinner and Saturday and Sunday's breakfasts are included in the registration fee. Saturday's lunch is on your own. Saturday night we share an extravaganza of food prepared by each of us in all of the many individual kitchens. We also encourage people to dress in typical dress of the countries in which they served, to add an even more international flair to the evening.

Receipt of registration will be confirmed in writing. The registration fee of \$45 includes the use of the many recreational facilities the camp has, from canoes to volleyball and ping pong. It also includes use of the conference center where we meet and have our meals. For those of you with families you will note on the registration form a detailed breakdown of fees for the separate age groups.

This year local Missoula artist, Dylan Valley, will be bringing his passion and energy for music to Goat Chase. Dylan, whose performing name is "Enzymes", produces his own music and is a versatile DJ in the Missoula area. He will be providing a variety of sounds from his own collection of music including electronic, reggae, African drum beats and everything in between. Dylan welcomes people to make requests or bring their favorite tunes (both CD's and ipods can be played). You can expect a professional sound system, turntables and a plethora of music from around the world, and of course, a whole lot of Peace Corps fun :)

Please register by May 30. If you have any questions you can contact one of the following people.

Dennis Bangs (Ecuador 70-72)	549-1631	<i>wmrpcv@yahoo.com</i>
Mary Younger (Cameroon 74-76)	251-2292	<i>mmjyounger@aol.com</i>
Tony Hoyt (Liberia 68-69, Guatemala 74-75)	726-3600	<i>mhoyt@blackfoot.net</i>
Dave McGoldrick (Zaire 86-88)	586-2344	<i>david_mcg@bresnan.net</i>



Name: _____	
Address: _____	Zip _____
Phone: _____	Email: _____
Peace Corps country and years of service _____	
Peace Corps job title _____	
Number Attending: _____	Adults x \$45.00 _____
_____	Children between 7 & 14 x \$25.00 _____
_____	Children between 4 & 6 x \$10.00 _____
_____	Children under 4 free _____
Total Registration Fees _____	
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL (CHECK YOUR LABEL!!!)	
WMRPCV only (\$15.00 single, \$22.50 household)	_____
National Peace Corps Association (\$50.00 single)	_____
WMRPCV Student/Low Income (\$7.50)	_____
TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____	
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE WESTERN MONTANA RPCVs	
and send to: Mary Younger, 100 Erika Court, Missoula, MT 59803	



Western Montana RPCV News

1729 North Avenue West
Missoula, MT 59801

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**Don't forget
To check your
EXP date**



JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN WMRPCV OR NPCA

Name: _____

Address: _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ E-mail _____

Peace Corps country and years of service _____

Peace Corps job title _____

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL (CHECK YOUR LABEL!!!)

WMRPCV only (\$15.00) _____

National Peace Corps Association, includes WMRPCV (\$50.00) _____

WMRPCV Student/Low Income (\$7.50) _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

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