

JANUARY 2010 VOLUME 19 NUMBER 1

Upcoming Events

SUNDAY, APRIL 25, POTLUCK & NOM PARTY, 6:00 PM 84 Brookside, Missoula

SATURDAY, MAY 22 Potluck, 6:00 PM at 236 Dixon, Missoula



On Wildhorse Island last year!!!

From the President

Dennis C. Bangs (Ecuador 70-72)

Happy spring everyone!! It is now time to take stock of what we have accomplished this last year and get ready to celebrate our group's activities once again on the shores of Flathead Lake. The registration form is on page 5. We can't guarantee the great weather we had last year and the outing to Wildhorse Island may or may not happen, but we always have a great time and hope that everyone can join us this year. We are being asked to let the camp know how many people we expect before we show up this year, so the sooner you get your registration sent in, the better.

Thanks to numerous generous hosts we continued having monthly potlucks this winter. In January many people showed up at my place. In February Joe Elliot (Kenya 71-73) and Nancy Volle hosted an enthusiastic potluck. In March Julie Brown (Benin 91-93) hosted a welcome to spring potluck.

Alan and Jennifer Wintersteen (Kenya) hosted a Helena area RPCVs potluck on Saturday March 20. A great turnout of about 25 local folks from age 4 to over 80! Matriarch Jeanne Younger (Honduras 86-88) helped spread the word through her yearly calendar sales in the area to RPCVs. Lots of good food was on hand and a list was developed of RPCVs attending and other friends who couldn't make it. Another Helena area potluck is being planned for the summer some time after the Goat Chase, which several folks mentioned they will try to attend.

Many people also participated in the International Food Fair and Cultural Festival at the U of M in March. They helped out at the Peace Corps information table by sharing stories of their experiences with interested prospective volunteers. Also the first week of March saw RPCVs heading out into the public school system for Peace Corps Week. Thanks to all of you for your efforts and hopefully we will see you at the upcoming potlucks and especially the Goat Chase Retreat in June.

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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, kmrpcv@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.

Mike and Debbie Lee from Helena who were in Liberia. Phillip Mahle from Thompson Falls who was in Sierra Leone. Pat and Sharon Sweeney from Huson who were in Lesotho.



Peace Corps Week a Success!

Thanks to the 13 members of our group who volunteered to speak during the week of March 1 - 7, a great many young people learned of our Peace Corps experiences. Many thanks to all of those who took the time and made the effort to carry out the third goal of sharing Peace Corps with those at home. Our RPCVs spoke in ten public schools, one private school and at the University. We don't yet have a full count of how many students heard our stories, but many times teachers combined classes, which made it easier

for the speakers. There were enough volunteer speakers so that most only had to visit no more than two schools. I for example, spoke to four classes at once at Willard School, and when visiting Rattlesnake Elementary, spoke to a first grade and then a second and third combined. The enthusiasm, gratitude and interest shown by students and teachers alike, make Peace Corps Week a truly rewarding experience. Kudos to all! Tish Herries (Sierra Leone 64-66).

The following is from the Montana Kaimin.

UM No. 10 for Peace Corps members again

by Carmen George | February 19, 2010 | Montana Kaimin

In a village without electricity on the side of a 13,000-foot mountain, University of Montana graduate student Amy Quandt served as a Peace Corps volunteer for more than two years, working on projects like constructing a local hospital and promoting environmental education.

The 27-year-old returned last July from Barjomot, Tanzania, a rural village in Africa with about 3,000 residents. UM graduates and students like Quandt have helped rank UM as No. 10 in the nation for medium-sized universities (those with enrollments between 5,001 and 15,000) that produce the most Peace Corps volunteers. This is the second-straight year UM was ranked 10th, with 29 undergraduate alumni serving in the Peace Corps this year and 30 last year.

Quandt, a graduate student in resource conservation, said she hopes those numbers increase. Quandt, also UM's Peace Corps campus representative, said that while her official work title in Tanzania was "environmental education and sustainable agriculture," she had the freedom to work on a wide variety of projects. She helped with family planning education, teaching about subjects like contraception, HIV and AIDS. She also raised between \$6,000 and \$7,000 to help fund the construction of a local hospital. She gained experience with grant writing, project and budget management and working independently and within the context of another culture, she said.

Melanie Forthun, public affairs specialist for the Peace Corps' Northwest region, said UM has produced some high-caliber graduates who are globally minded and interested in service on a national level. Many of these graduates have gone on to be fantastic Peace Corps volunteers, Forthun said.

With 29 UM alumni serving in the Peace Corps, the University has produced more than half of the 52 Peace Corps volunteers from Montana this year. Since its founding in 1961, 743 UM graduates have joined, Forthun said.

(Continued on page 4)

Western Montana Returned Peace Corps Volunteers 2009 Financial Report

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

BALANCE: Year End 2008 \$2,158.03

INCOME:

 2009 Retreat Registration
 \$1,555.00

 Int'l Calendar Sales
 230.00

 2010 Calendars
 3,860.00

 Western MT RPCV Dues
 740.00

 NPCA Member Dues
 300.00

 NPCA Dues Rebates
 30.00

2009 INCOME \$6,715.00

TOTAL INCOME \$8,873.03

EXPENSES:

Donations

Miscellaneous Supplies

International \$1,125.00 Fiji Water Project Transfer 400.00 Montana 906.00 Goat Chase Retreat Facility 1,314.00 Food 194.04 Entertainment 400.00 2010 Calendar Fundraiser Calendars 1,600.00 Postage 120.14 WMRPCV Website 155.55 Newsletter Printing 28.20 Postage 34.80 NPCA Individual Dues 350.00 NPCA Affiliation Dues 20.00 Office Supplies & General Postage 90.99

TOTAL EXPENSES -\$6,812.78

BALANCE: YEAR END 2009 \$2,060.25

74.06

WESTERN MT RPCV

Membership Profile January 2010

NPCA: 15

Western MT RPCV only: 53

TOTAL: 68 Members

Missoula Area: 42
Western MT: 16
Helena Area: 3
Great Falls Area: 3
Bozeman Area 2
Out-of-State 2



(Continued from page 2)

"UM is the only (university) in Montana that placed in any of the rankings," Forthun said. "That's kind of a nice distinction."

Since John F. Kennedy founded the organization, more than 195,000 Americans have served in the Peace Corps. Of that number, almost 1,300 have been from Montana, Forthun said. Volunteers have been invited by 139 host countries to work on efforts such as AIDS education, environmental preservation and information technology.

The Peace Corps' Master's International program integrates a master's degree with overseas service in a variety of fields at more than 60 academic institutions nationwide. Forthun said UM's involvement with Master's International is a valuable aspect of the university. The School of Education offers an Intercultural Youth and Family Development degree, while the College of Forestry and Conservation offers International Conservation and Development, both of which are part of the Master's International program.

Steve Siebert, coordinator of the International Conservation and Development option, said students like Quandt have been able to develop projects related to their majors that are supported by the Peace Corps. Including Quandt, there are five UM students currently working to finish this degree option that have served, or are serving, in the Peace Corps. Students pursuing this degree option can choose to use Peace Corps service to fulfill their international work requirements to graduate.

Two students in the program are abroad working on their degrees through the Peace Corps, Siebert said. One is in Honduras working on a forest management study of frogs and amphibians in tropical mountains, and the other is in El Salvador working on forest conservation and community-based conservation.

Siebert said the students are well prepared academically and highly motivated, focusing their Peace Corps work in a way that allows them to produce their own research goals. That experience helps Peace Corps volunteers get jobs after they complete their service, he added.

Quandt said the Peace Corps has a rolling admissions process, but the whole application process takes about a year.

Western Montana Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Sixteenth Annual

GOAT CHASE RETREAT

JUNE 11 –13

This year's Goat Chase Retreat will try to beat the 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 form.

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 \$60 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. The fees have changed this year to reflect the changes in the charges the camp is implementing.

Once again this year, local Missoula DJ 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. He will be limiting his performance to Saturday night this year and because of the increase in the camp fees we are asking people to chip in an extra \$10 or so to pay him for his work.

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 wmrpcv@yahoo.com

Mary Younger (Cameroon 74-76) 251-2292 mmjyounger@aol.com

Tony Hoyt (Liberia 68-69, Guatemala 74-75) 726-3600 mhoyt@blackfoot.net1Dave McGoldrick (Zaire 86-88) 586-2344



Special Goat Chase 2010 Event

Join the Goat Chase Hula Dancers with your own custommade hula hoop! Ms. Sarah Nelson of Portland, Oregon will conduct an informal workshop on Saturday afternoon, June 12th, to help you create your own special hoop. Materials will be provided. Please let Mary Younger, mmjyounger@aol.com, know if you are interested to make sure we have enough supplies.

Name:	
Address:	Zip
Phone:	Email:
	years of service
Number Attending:	Adults, age 13 and above x \$60.00
	_Children between 5 & 12 x \$30.00
	Children under 5 free
	Total Registration Fees
WMRPCV only \$15.00	WAL (CHECK YOUR LABEL!!!) sociation, includes WMRPCV \$50.00 Income \$7.50
TOTAL ENCLOSED:_	
	ABLE TO THE WESTERN MONTANA RPCVs unger, 100 Erika Court, Missoula, MT 59803



1729 North Avenue West Missoula, MT 59801

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

JOIN	OR RENEW YOUR MEMBE	ERSHIP IN WMRPCV	OR NPCA
Name:			
Address:	City	Zip	
Phone:	E-mailE		
Peace Corps job title _			
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•	Association, includes WMRPCV	⁷ \$50.00	
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