



Western Montana RPCV News

March 2013

VOLUME 22 NUMBER 1

Upcoming Events

**APRIL 20, SAT.
Potluck at the Sims',
1645 Sunflower Dr.
6 PM**

**MAY 4, SATURDAY
NOM Party and
potluck at the
Koester's, 84
Brookside 6 PM**

**JUNE 14, 15 & 16!!!!
2013!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Goat
Chase Retreat
Flathead Lake!!!!**

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Dr. Tom Bulger and Russ Parsons, in the hat, helping a family in Honduras

President's Report

Dennis C. Bangs (Ecuador 70-72)

Winter and early spring have seen continued potlucks for the WMRPCV as well as Peace Corps Week and the International Cultural Festival and Food Fair at the University of Montana. Next up will be a potluck in April and the NOM Party/potluck in May after which we will all meet at the Goat Chase in June.

Thanks again to Jim Burchfield (Guatemala 73-77) and Melissa Mackenzie (Costa Rica 81-84) for hosting the well attended Christmas Party. Then in January Russ and Shannon Parsons (Ecuador 95-97) hosted another great winter potluck. February saw Jeannie and Chris Siegler (Sierra Leone 68-70) invite people to their place out of town for the February potluck and quite a few folks made the trip. Thanks to all you generous hosts.

Also thanks to Bunny Sims (Philippines 73-76) who organized the speakers for the Peace Corps Week celebrations. More than 15 volunteers spoke to over 500 students. Thanks also go out to all of the people who showed up to work at the Peace Corps information table at the International Cultural Festival and Food Fair near the end of March.

Finally, don't forget about the April potluck, the NOM Party and the Goat Chase Retreat in June.

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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<wmrpcv@yahoo.com>

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:

Donna Sorenson from Great Falls who was in Kenya.

WMRPCV supports Missoula Medical Aid.

Submitted by Russ Parsons (Ecuador 95-97)

In January 2013, with generous support from WMRPCV, I traveled to San Lorenzo, Honduras, with Missoula Medical Aid (MMA), a nonprofit group based in Missoula that has been working to promote health and wellbeing for the poor people of Honduras since Hurricane Mitch devastated that country in 1998. Using the Spanish language skills I acquired in the Peace Corps, I worked as an interpreter to a medical team, helping to ensure clear communication between doctors and patients and between the group and the communities they worked in.

Over a period of two weeks the Missoula Medical Aid team worked in ten different small communities in the southern part of the country. In each community we set up a day health clinic, serving hundreds of patients each day. MMA has a strong partnership with Save the Children, which works year round in Honduras. During the trip Save the Children provided transportation and other arrangements. This support is critical to the success that MMA has achieved working in these communities as they provide a continuity and consistency that would otherwise be difficult to have.

The day clinics were organized into several stations for basic exams. Community members came into the day clinics as family units and the medical team quickly and efficiently examined every family member and discussed their health concerns. A separate area was set aside for women's health. For the vast majority of the people the team worked with, this is the only basic health care that they get. Many of the health concerns that the team dealt with were chronic in nature and related to the poor living conditions, such as respiratory issues arising from wood fire cooking in poorly ventilated kitchens or parasites from untreated water.

The team dealt with a wide range of issues including first aid for injuries, small surgeries to remove skin cancers and even some mental health issues. The days were long but very rewarding.

In addition to the day clinics, MMA does some specialized medical aid; in this case, a urologist on the medical team worked in the hospital in the larger city carrying out surgeries. Missoula Medical Aid also provides communities with basic supplies such as aspirin, vitamins, eye drops and year-round fluoridation for children. MMA has a referral process with Save the Children to facilitate follow up visits with specialists in hospitals around the country for those who need it.

I greatly enjoyed working with Missoula Medical Aid and helping the people of Honduras. Although the work was different from my Peace Corps assignment as an agroforestry extensionist, the people were very similar to those I worked with in Ecuador. This trip highlights how both the skills acquired in the Peace Corps, and the willingness to help others so typical of PCV's continue to be useful and have a positive impact long after service.

For more information regarding Missoula Medical Aid, go to their website at <<http://www.missoulamedicalaid.net>>.

Western Montana RPCVs Annual Reports :
On the following two pages you can find the annual reports compiled by Mary Younger, our treasurer. They include a report on the donations we have managed to make as well as the membership and financial reports.

Western MT Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

2012 Donations

International:

Moldova Kindergarten Project:

Republic of Moldova



Camela Swanson

Peace Corps Volunteer

Community and Organizational Development

Young Men's Leadership Workshop:



Macedonia Peace Corps Partnership Project



Montana:



Heifer International:

Bolivia -



Alpaca Project

Computer Training Center Cameroon Peace Corps Partnership Project



Missoula Medical Aid:

Honduras



Flathead Food Bank -

Kalispell

Garden City Harvest -

Missoula

Habitat For Humanity of

Missoula

Helena Food Share

Missoula Aging Services

Missoula Food Bank

Montana Food Bank

Network

Poverello Center – Missoula

Homeless Shelter



Western Montana Returned Peace Corps Volunteers
 2012 Financial Report
 Submitted by Mary J. Younger, Treasurer (Cameroon 1974-76)

BALANCE: Year End 2011 \$2,771.44

INCOME:

2012 Retreat Registration	\$2,370.00	
Int'l Calendar Sales		
2012 Calendars	33.00	
2013 Calendars	3,664.00	
Western MT RPCV Dues	675.00	
NPCA Member Dues	420.00	
NPCA Dues Rebates	30.00	
2012 INCOME		\$7,192.00
 TOTAL INCOME		 \$9,963.44

EXPENSES:

Donations		
International	\$1,100.00	
Montana	1,170.00	
Goat Chase Retreat		
Facility	1,785.00	
Food	198.68	
 2013 Calendar Fundraiser		
Calendars	1,600.00	
Postage	169.00	
WMRPCV Website/Newsletter	279.00	
NPCA Individual Dues	455.00	
NPCA Affiliation Dues	20.00	
Office/Potluck Supplies	126.60	
Postage	134.00	
U of MT Homecoming Parade	60.00	
Cook Memorial	50.00	
 TOTAL EXPENSES		 -\$7,147.28

BALANCE: YEAR END 2012 \$2,816.16

**WESTERN MT RPCV
 Membership Profile
 March 2013**

NPCA: 19 regular
11 free 1st time members
30 members

Western MT RPCV only: 41

TOTAL: 71 Members

Missoula Area: 34
Western MT: 17
Helena Area: 7
Great Falls Area: 5
Bozeman Area: 4
Out-of-State: 3
Out-of-Country: 1



Western Montana Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Eighteenth Annual
GOAT CHASE RETREAT
JUNE 14 –16

This year's Goat Chase Retreat will try to continue the great 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. Saturday and Sunday's breakfasts are included in the registration fee. Saturday's lunch is on your own. **This year we are going to continue with the tradition we started last year for the Friday night meal. Tony Hoyt is going to recruit people to cook another international potluck for Friday night. He needs volunteers who are willing to cook their dish and have it ready to serve for Friday night. If you want to present your meal on Friday, contact Tony at <humbird2@blackfoot.net>** 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 and this is when we will let everyone know about the Friday night meal.

The registration fee of \$75 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, and reflects an increase in fees that the camp has instituted. For those of you with families you will note on the registration form a detailed breakdown of fees for the separate age groups.

If you have any questions you can email them to <wmrpcv@yahoo.com>.

2013 Goat Chase Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Peace Corps country and years of service _____

Peace Corps job title _____

Number Attending:

_____ Adults, age 13 and above x \$75.00 _____

_____ Children between 5 & 12 x \$30.00 _____

_____ Children under 5 free _____

_____ Total Registration Fees _____

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:

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



Western Montana RPCV News

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**