



Western Montana RPCV News

June 2009

VOLUME 18 NUMBER 2

Upcoming Events

JULY POTLUCK
Saturday, July 25
3:00 pm at Tony and Michelle's in the Jocko Valley. Call 726-3384 for directions.

AUGUST POTLUCK
Saturday, August 15,
6:00 pm at the home of Heidi and Steve. 1710 Lenore Ct. in Missoula.

JUNE 11, 112 & 13!!!!
2010!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Goat Chase Retreat
Flathead Lake!!!!



Goat Chase Retreat attendees 2009

From the President

Dennis C. Bangs, (Ecuador 70-72)

Once again we were treated to great weather for the annual meeting and 'Goat Chase Retreat' on the shore of Flathead this June. For more details read the article on the following page.

In addition to the Goat Chase, we had a pretty busy spring. Otto and Lynne Koester (Ethiopia-Eritrea/Ghana 68-70/69-70) once again hosted a great potluck in April for the newly nominated volunteers from this area. Not only did we have a good turnout of nominees, but the recruiter from the Seattle Peace Corps office, Eli Waite, came out and joined in on the celebration and fun. In May Tish Herries (Sierra Leone 64-66) and her husband Dave hosted a potluck at their new home on the bank of the Clark Fork River. We had a good turnout for that event as well.

In upcoming news, the summer is upon us which means a couple more potlucks, but not a lot of other activity, but you all should be aware that the calendars from the Wisconsin group have arrived and are available. We will be bringing some to the next few potlucks, but you can also order them from the form on page 4.

On the national level, the NPCA is gearing up for the 50th anniversary celebration of the founding of the Peace Corps. Events are being planned for the end of next year and leading into the big events of 2011. I have volunteered to be the contact person for our group and will pass on any details as I learn them. Have a good summer.

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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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A group of intrepid 'mountain climbers' atop 'Wildhorse Island'

Goat Chase Retreat 2009

The weather in western Montana treated the revelers on the shores of Flathead Lake the second weekend of June to a great time this year. The sun shone Friday night, almost all day Saturday and even on Sunday morning. Once again the Methodist Camp provided a perfect place for the annual gathering and celebration of our Western Montana RPCVs. Camaraderie, fun and good food highlighted the weekend.

Along with the gorgeous weather a couple of special events treated the people who attended. Thanks to the efforts of Steve Torcoletti (Jamaica 84-86) and Jim Burchfield (Guatemala 73-77) more than 20 campers were able to take a short boat ride over to Wildhorse Island and take a hike to the top of the island which offers a glorious view of the lake and the surrounding areas. Thanks also to Lisa and Dann Swallow, friends of Jim and Steve and owners of the boat.

The other treat and kind of surprising event was the bonfire sing along led by Russ Parsons (Ecuador 95-97). With his guitar, comprehensive song book and engaging singing voice he led the group of enthusiastic revelers well into the night around the great bonfire. We also enjoyed a wonderful international feast, thanks to the efforts of everyone. After dinner and along with the bonfire, local Missoula DJ artist, Dylan Valley presented an evening of danceable and favorite music for all to enjoy.

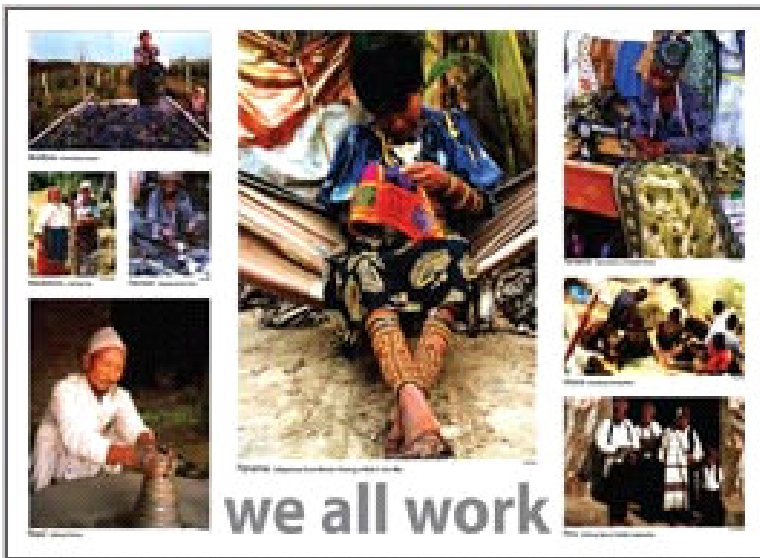
We even conducted a little business. By acclimation, the existing officers of the group were reconfirmed. During the meeting we also discussed ways to get more younger RPCVs involved in the group and to keep them involved. To help along those lines all of you can invite one or two new people to the next gatherings.

Like always, the July gathering will be at Tony (Liberia/Guatemala 67-69/74-75) and Michelle Hoyt's place on the Jocko River. This year it will be held on Saturday the 25th at 3:00. It happens at 3:00 so we can take advantage of the river. The August potluck will once again be in the inviting back yard of Steve and Heidi's (Jamaica 84-86). That one is scheduled for the 15th. Hope you all can make it.

One final thing. A lot of people took pictures with their digital cameras during the Goat Chase and some have sent me copies for the purpose of putting together an album of memories on the website. I would like a few more submissions and will alert people via e-mail when I get them on the website. *The editor.*

WMRPCV WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS.

Jim Cook from Missoula who was in Ecuador



The Returned Volunteers of Wisconsin in Madison have launched a new project this year based on their International Calendar project over the years. They have taken pictures from the archives and created a series of posters. Tony Hoyt (Liberia/Guatemala 67-69/74-75) of our group has one of his pictures featured in the collection. Following is an excerpt from the Wisconsin group's website <www.rpcvmadison.org> which explains some of the details. Quite a few of our members have seen the posters and have been impressed.

We All Posters | Overview

Over the last decade, classroom teachers have asked us for poster-size versions of the photos from the RPCV International Calendar. Now we have a set of five posters ready for purchase! (By the year 2011, the 50th anniversary of Peace Corps, we plan to have created two more sets of five, for a total of 15 posters.) The first set illustrates basic common needs that people share across the globe - the needs for food, water, housing, work, and clothing.

The five different posters, 24" x 36", are packaged in a mailing tube and sell for \$30 per set, plus shipping. (See How to Order for detailed information and bulk rates.)

Here on our website, we offer free and downloadable Poster Teaching Resources, with additional information about each photo and country.

The WE ALL International Posters, like the calendar, are designed with the dual purposes of sharing what volunteers have learned with the people back home, as well as raising money for grassroots projects in the countries where we served. We think you'll find the posters not only a useful teaching tool, but also a beautiful addition to your libraries and offices.



The following appeared on the website for Peace Corps Writers <www.peacecorpsworldwide.org> For those of you not familiar with Derick, he and his wife were recruiters at the U of M in the mid 90's. I also discovered through a Google search that he is now teaching in the MFA program in Fairbanks, Alaska. We are glad to see he is doing well.

RPCV From Rwanda Wins Felix Pollak Prize in Poetry

In 1994 the worst episode of genocide since the Holocaust of the Second World War ravaged the Central African country of Rwanda. Derick Bursleson (Rwanda 1991-94) taught at the National University during the two years leading up to the genocide. The poems in this collection entitled Ejo were published in 2000 by the University of Wisconsin Press. The poems explore the cataclysm in a variety of forms and voices through the culture, myths, and customs Derick absorbed during this time. "Ejo," meaning "yesterday and tomorrow" in Kinyarwanda. .

In 2000, Derick won the University of Wisconsin Felix Pollak Prize in Poetry. This awarded is given annually to the best book-length manuscript of original poetry submitted in an open competition. The award is administered by the University of Wisconsin-Madison English department, and the winner is chosen by a nationally recognized poet.



**Western Montana Returned Peace Corps Volunteers
Help plant the seeds for peace 365 days a year...**

The funds raised from the sale of the International Calendars developed by the Madison, Wisconsin RPCV group are directly donated to a variety of local and International humanitarian endeavors. If you have a project you would like considered, please contact us at wmrpcv.com.

Cost is \$12 per calendar - shipping and handling included. Please complete the order form below and send it with your check payable to "WMRPCVs" to:

Mary Younger, WMRPCV treasurer
100 Erika Court
Missoula, MT 59803

2010 International Calendar Order

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ email _____

Please send me _____ calendar(s) @ \$12 each (shipping included)

Enclosed is my check for \$_____, payable to "WMRPCVs".



The following two stories are taken from the new NPCA website <www.peacecorpsconnect.org>. If you haven't checked it out yet it is worth the effort. Not only is it a website but is designed to be a type of social networking site for RPCVs as well.

An Historic Mark! \$450 Million for Peace Corps

Despite limited funds to work with, the House Appropriations Subcommittee for State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs today took a major step forward to provide the resources for a bigger, better and bolder Peace Corps. In its "mark up" of programs within the International Affairs budget for Fiscal Year 2010, the subcommittee agreed to recommend a \$450 Million appropriation for the Peace Corps. This decision was announced last night on MSNBC's Hardball with Chris Matthews by Subcommittee Chairwoman Nita Lowey.



On Saturday June 13, 2009 supporters of the Peace Corps—Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, those who have applied to serve in the Peace Corps and many who believe in the promise of Peace Corps—gathered at Freedom Plaza in Washington, DC to call on President Obama and Congress to provide the resources necessary to revitalize and build a bold new Peace Corps.



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 _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

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