



# Western Montana RPCV News

MARCH 2016

VOLUME 25 #1

## Upcoming Events:

**SAT. MARCH 19,**  
**Potluck at Joe and Nancy's, 3918 Lincoln Rd., 6 PM**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 20,**  
**International Food and Cultural Festival, 12-5 at U of M**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 6 PM, Send off party/potluck, 84 Brookside, Missoula**

**JUNE 10, 11& 12**  
**2016 GOAT CHASE**  
**The 25th Annual**

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*Part of the WMRPCV contingent at the March 1 rally for international understanding and inclusion*

## From the President:

*Dennis C. Bangs (Ecuador 70-72)*

This winter has seen very well attended potlucks and quite a bit of activity on campus as well as community involvement. Thanks to Jim Burchfield (Guatemala 73-77) and Melissa MacKenzie (Costa Rica 81-84) for hosting another amazing Christmas potluck in December and thanks to Russ and Shannon Parsons (Ecuador 95-97) for hosting the January Potluck. Also, thanks to Teresa Sobieszczyk (Thailand 86-88) and Brytten Steed (Ecuador 90-92) on their presentation at the potluck that I hosted in February

The upcoming events include the 'Send off' party (which used to be called the NOM Party) in April and the 25th Annual Goat Chase in June. There is a special registration form included in this newsletter for the Retreat. Please put the date on your calendar and sign up as soon as you can, and let anyone you know who hasn't attended for a while to know as well.

Thanks to all of the people who did school presentations during Peace Corps Week, and to Peter and the RPCVs that helped out on the campus presentations.

Also on the first of March, the WMRPCV was included in a large group of local organizations to stage a walk and rally for inclusion and understanding of welcoming of refugees to Montana. The above picture shows the great sign Jim Burchfield made and some of the WMRPCV members. More than 10 members of the WMRPCVs joined the nearly 700 other community members demonstrating against hate and for inclusion.

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 its creation by sending comments, articles or other submissions to:

Dennis Bangs 1729 North Ave. West, Missoula, MT 59801,

[<wmrpcv@yahoo.com>](mailto:wmrpcv@yahoo.com)

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

**OFFICERS:**

President/ Newsletter Editor:  
Dennis Bangs 549-1631  
[wmrpcv@yahoo.com](mailto:wmrpcv@yahoo.com)

Treasurer: Mary Younger  
251-2292  
[mmjyounger@aol.com](mailto:mmjyounger@aol.com)

Missoula Area Rep:  
Tony Hoyt 726-3384  
[humbird2@blackfoot.net](mailto:humbird2@blackfoot.net)

Helena Area Rep:  
Julie Dietrich Kelly  
(406) 444-1344  
[jdnmk@yahoo.com](mailto:jdnmk@yahoo.com)

Emissary Contact Bunny  
Sims 728-4316  
[bbsims2@yahoo.com](mailto:bbsims2@yahoo.com)

Campus Representative  
243-2839  
[peacecorps@umontana.edu](mailto:peacecorps@umontana.edu)

**WMRPCV Welcomes the following new members:**

Ashlee Dinger from Ohio, who was in Senegal.  
Sally Kintner who was in Ethiopia.  
Donna Sorensen from Great Falls who was in Kenya.  
Debra Taylor-Cragg from Missoula who was in Armenia.

*Following are some of the projects that our annual fundraising campaign supported. If you want to see more or see the annual Financial report, go to the Website at <[www.wmrpcv.com](http://www.wmrpcv.com)>*

**International:**

**Ethiopia: The Atse Fasil Elementary School Disability Classroom**

Teaching materials, school uniforms, and other miscellaneous supplies.



**Solar Cookers International**

Solar cookers donated to two volunteers in Costa Rica and one in Botswana who joined the Peace Corps through the University of MT in Missoula.

**One Health Nicaragua**

**Peace Corps Partnership Project** – a program to educate and promote the connection of the three spheres of health (human, animal, and environment) through an educational presentation series designed to improve the understanding of women, ages 20 and older.



**Missoula Medical Aid: Honduras**

Missoula Medical Aid works with rural and impoverished communities in Honduras as they seek to improve health and access to health care.



**Women's Global Education Project**

Women's Global Education Project believes education for girls—especially for those in the remote, rural areas of the world—is one of the most effective ways to fight global poverty.



*The following letter and picture come from one of the PCVs that our donated solar cookers went to.*

Hi Barbara,

I just wanted to send you a quick message that I used my solar cooker here in Costa Rica! My first experiment was to make some garlic roasted potatoes! It took about five hours, and they turned out to be perfectly soft, and of course delicious! It was fun trying out the cooker for the first time. After a use under my belt, I'm excited to use the solar cooker with some kids for some future projects! Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness and for sending the solar cookers to all of us! What a great way to cook with nothing but pure sunshine.

Hope you are doing well.

Thanks again,

Emily Lorek

PCV Costa Rica



**Goat Chase 25  
June 10-12, 2016**

*Submitted by Steve Torcoletti (Jamaica 84-86)*

Greetings to all former Peace Corps Volunteers, friends and family. It is our hope that all of you will be able to attend this year's 25th anniversary of the Goat Chase Retreat. The organizing committee is excited about what we have planned. Goat Chase provides all of us an opportunity to make new and to renew old friendships and to have a fun time at the beautiful Flathead Lake Methodist Camp.

Highlights of activities planned for this year include a Community Service Project on Friday afternoon. This will be a great family activity allowing us to give back to the Methodist Camp that has been so good to us through the years. On Friday night, Jim Burchfield will once again lead us in the popular Peace Corps Story Slam, around the campfire. These stories are sometimes funny, sometimes scary and always informative and interesting. Saturday there will be an opportunity to take a boat ride to Wild Horse Island. This beautiful state park has great hiking, scenery and wildlife viewing including big horn sheep and actual wild horses.

The International Dinner on Saturday evening is always the highlight of the weekend. We get to share favorite food dishes from our countries of service as well as wear traditional dress to help enhance the cultural experience. On Saturday night we are excited to announce we will have live music with Cocinando! We are so fortunate to have this 12 piece Latin Jazz Orchestra with us. Thanks to Angel Rosario, RPCV and band member, we were able to book this Kalispell based band. Cocinando is high energy and will all be able to dance the night away in style!

These are some of the weekend's highlights but the usual informal moments we all enjoy; coffee with a friend, sitting and reading a book by the lake, a canoe ride, playing folf with the kids, and many more activities will all be available. If you have never come to Goat Chase, this would be a great weekend to attend for the first time. For those of you who have not come for awhile, come back and enjoy the experience once again. The camp has had many upgrades to the facilities and I know you will be pleasantly surprised. Come join us, we'd love to see you!

More information to come on ordering Goat Chase T-shirts.



**Western Montana Returned Peace Corps Volunteers 25th Annual  
GOAT CHASE RETREAT  
JUNE 10-12**

This year's Goat Chase Retreat will celebrate the 25th annual retreat of the Peace Corps Volunteers of Western Montana. We will once again be coming together 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. **We are going to continue with the tradition of a mini-international potluck for the Friday night meal. Tony Hoyt 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 him at <[humbird2@blackfoot.net](mailto:humbird2@blackfoot.net)> or 360-9938.**

*In honor of the 25th Anniversary of the Goat Chase and thanks to Steve Torcoletti and a committee on the 25th a number of special events are on the agenda this year. During the day on Saturday a pontoon boat will be available to take people to Wild Horse Island. The fee of \$15 per person is additional to the weekend fee, but can be paid in advance to assure a place on the boat as the number of seats will be limited. Also a special T-Shirt honoring the 25th will be available for an extra charge. And finally for Saturday night's special entertainment, after the amazing international potluck the phenomenal "Cocinando" will be playing latin jazz music for our dancing and listening enjoyment. In addition to being an amazing group out of Kalispell, one of their members is also a member of our group. Angel Rosario (Ecuador 85-86) contributes an authentic latin flavor to the group*

*Goat Chase 25 Special Appeal: As organizers of Goat Chase we always try to keep the costs reasonable for those who attend. This year there are added expenses that will have to be met. If you are able to make an extra donation above and beyond the usual fees, or for those of you who can't attend and wish to contribute to Goat Chase, we would appreciate your donations. There is a line for 'Extra Donation' on the registration form below.*

*Thank you*

The registration fee of \$90 includes the cost of lodging, breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday, the band and the fee increase that the camp instituted this year and includes the use of the many recreational facilities the camp has, from canoes to volleyball and ping pong. It also includes use of the retreat center where we meet and have our meals. For those of you with families you will note on the registration form a separate fee for children.

**If you have any questions you can email them to <[wmrpcv@yahoo.com](mailto:wmrpcv@yahoo.com)>.**

## 2016 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 \$90.00	_____
_____ Children between 7 & 12 x \$40.00	_____
_____ Children 6 and under free	_____
_____ Boat ride x \$15.00	_____
_____ Extra Donation	_____
_____ Total Registration Fees	_____

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:

WMRPCV only \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

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



## NPCA Membership Recognition

Access to programs and services:	Basic Member		Mission Partner			
	FREE	Supporter \$50/person \$80/household	Sustainer \$100/person \$175/household	Leader \$250/person \$400/household	Shriver \$1,000/person \$1,750/household	Founder \$10,000
NPCA voting privileges	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NPCA board eligibility	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
E-newsletter	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mentoring program	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Graduate Scholarships	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jobs board	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
WorldView magazine		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Partner discounts		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Membership card			✓	✓	✓	✓
Member discounts			✓	✓	✓	✓
Traveler's insurance				✓	✓	✓
Peace Corps "swag"				✓	✓	✓
FoundersCard member					✓	✓
VIP events					✓	✓

- All NPCA members receive access to basic programs and services, including digital newsletters, transition assistance programs, member discounts, and our jobs board.
- NPCA members may elect to receive add-on benefits, such as access to the searchable directory and *WorldView* magazine, for a modest fee if it is not included in their chosen membership option.
- [Mission Partners](#) are recognized by level of gift—Supporter, Sustainer, Leader, Shriver Circle (Gold, Silver and Platinum), and Founders' Circle—with enhanced privileges.

<http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/membership/> to join online.

*The NPCA is changing their membership format and the above chart shows the basics of the levels of membership. Below is a suggestion from Mary Younger, WMRPCV secretary.*

### Suggestions for WMRPCVs:

Mission Partner Supporter (\$50/person and \$80/household) is the typical membership option Western MT RPCVs have selected in the past. Our local group still receives a \$15 membership rebate. I suggest this be the NPCA membership option that is put on the Newsletter Membership Form. Provide the online link for those who would like the free Basic Member option or any other membership other than the Supporter option. Include the above table for specific NPCA membership information.



# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

*For NPCA membership options go to <<http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/membership/>>*  
*Membership in the NPCA is complimentary for everyone in the Peace Corps community — serving Peace Corps Volunteers, Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, current Peace Corps staff, former Peace Corps staff, host country nationals and anyone who shares Peace Corps ideals, so long as we have accurate service and contact information for you.*

\_\_\_\_\_ WMRPCV only, \$15.00

\_\_\_\_\_ WMRPCV Student/Low Income \$7.50

\_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL ENCLOSED:**

**\*\*Membership dues expire in June of each year.\*\***

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