



Western Montana RPCV News

JUNE 2016

VOLUME 25 #2

Upcoming Events:

SATURDAY, JULY 16. 3:00 PM.

Potluck on the Jocko. Call 360-9938 for directions

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 6:00 PM.

Potluck at 445 Livingston.

**JUNE 9,10,11
2017 Goat Chase**



Goat Chase 2016

From the President

Dennis C. Bangs (Ecuador 70-72)

I normally start out my report with a thank you to the people who hosted the previous potlucks, but this issue I want to say a special thank you to the people who volunteered to make the 25th Annual Goat Chase Retreat such a phenomenal success. Steve Torcoletti (Jamaica 84-86) volunteered the year before to put together a special committee for the event and recruited Gerry Blackman (Uzbekistan 04-05), Tish Herries (Sierra Leone 64-66) and Shannon Parsons (Ecuador 95-97).

They spent a lot of time during the year putting together invitations and getting the word out which helped to bring together one of the biggest groups we have ever seen. The special events they created for the weekend gave the gathering a very festive atmosphere. They had an organized check in which included special name tags and pick up of the Goat Chase T-shirts and sweat shirts. On Saturday they had arranged for a pontoon boat to take people to Wild horse Island. Almost 40 people were able to make the trip. The committee asked everyone to bring some artifacts from their country of service, which resulted in an amazing display of objects from around the world. Then the weekend was topped off Saturday evening with the performance of "Cocinando" a Latin jazz band from Kalispell which kept us dancing all night. The great part about "Cocinando" is that one of our members Angel Rosario (Ecuador 85-86) is one of the main members of the group.

Hats off to the committee and all of their work. I would like to give them credit for the good weather as well, but that might be too much. But we didn't get rained on and the sun shone most of the weekend. Like always the food at the potlucks was as incredible as ever.

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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 its 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:

**Gail Pohlman from Missoula who served in South Africa.
Tim Spangler from Superior who was in the Philippines.
Kerry Zahn from Missoula who was in Mauritania.
Teresa Litchfield from Kalispell who was in Cameroon.**



View from the top of Wild horse Island, Photo, courtesy of Tony Hoyt

From the President, continued.

On behalf of myself and Mary Younger (Cameroon 74-76) I wanted to say a special thank you to the group as whole who presented each of us with a Peace Corps blanket for the long years of work we have put in to help the group maintain its strength. *The picture below.*

I also wanted to thank everyone who participated in the International Food Fair and Cultural Event at the University of Montana in March. This is always a great opportunity for us to get the word out about our group, while helping the Peace Corps Recruiter on campus promote the Peace Corps.

And finally I want to thank Lynne and Otto Koester (Ethiopia 68-70) for once again hosting the NOM party in April, which has now been changed to the 'Send off Party', which was a great event for us to meet some of the volunteers who are just getting ready to take off on their journey.



A special presentation, photo courtesy of Mark Crowley

Goat Chase Cookbook

Once again It was noticed how many amazing international dishes showed up at the Goat Chase meals. That lead to the suggestion, again, that we create a cookbook based on the Goat Chase meals and international potlucks that we have regularly. I think it is a great idea, but we need a follow up from all of the people who created those amazing dishes as well as someone who will take the responsibility to compile the recipes in a cookbook format. If it is done well it could be another fundraiser for our group. So I am putting out a request for people to respond by sending in the recipes, but more importantly looking for someone who wants to take the responsibility of putting it all together in a cookbook format. I will also send out an email with the same requests. Maybe we can actually do it this time. *The editor.*



For those of you who have not joined NPCA or are unfamiliar with what they do, I am including part of a page I copied from their website <peacecorpsconnect.org> and am encouraging you to check it out. They have changed their membership format as well, which may appeal to more people. The editor

Connect with the Peace Corps community today.

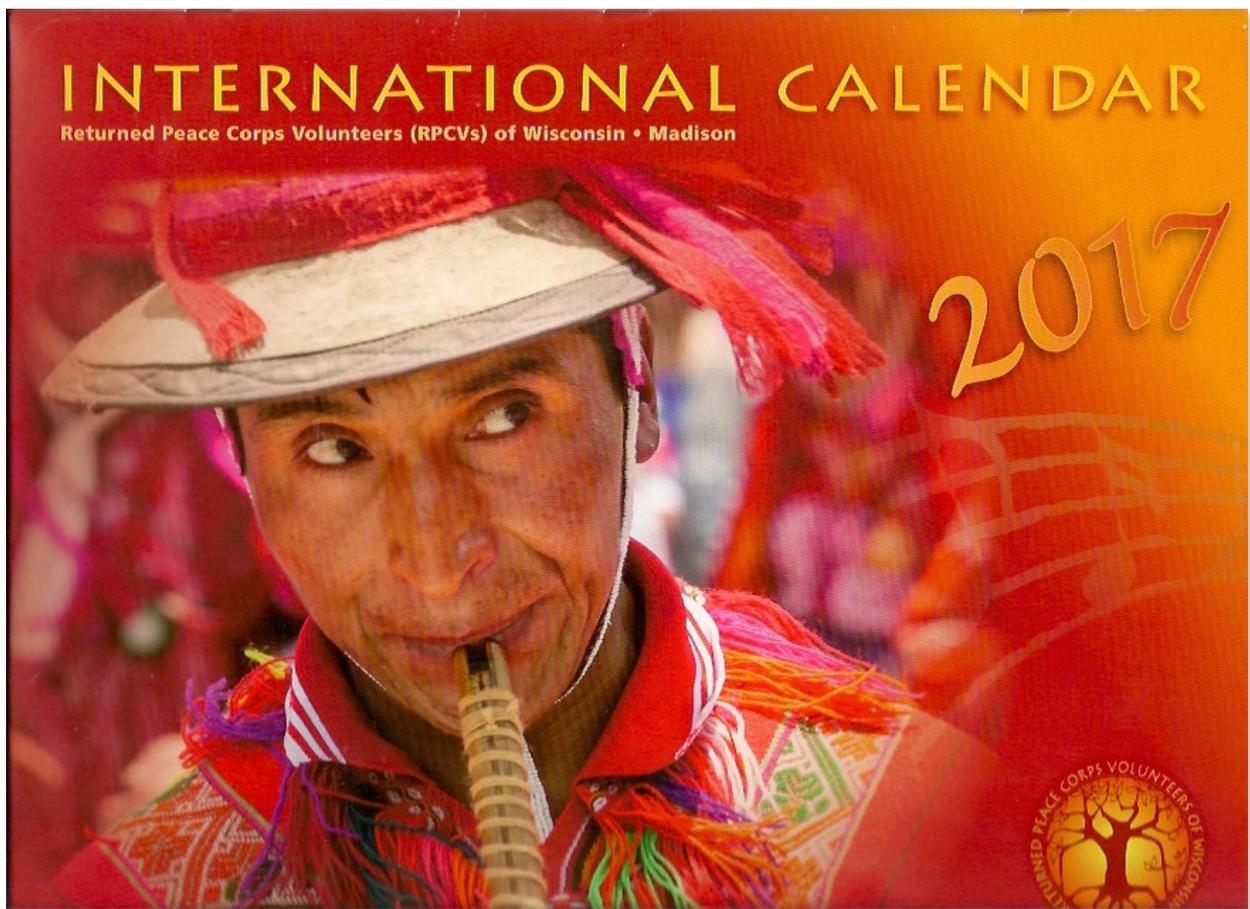
The NPCA has over 145 affiliate groups across the country. Create your free member profile and find your local affiliate group.

Our Mission: Become a Mission Partner:

The NPCA is a mission-driven organization that champions the Peace Corps community in its efforts to continue making a global impact. We rely on the generosity and commitment of our Mission Partners to achieve this impact. Mission Partners — community members who invest in the NPCA through the Peace Corps Community Fund — are at the core of our work. The Peace Corps Community Fund provides the NPCA with the resources to carry out central elements of our mission, including:

- providing additional support for Peace Corps Volunteers in the field
- offering services and resources to RPCVs to help them thrive
- mobilizing the community in response to humanitarian emergencies
- lobbying for funding that will increase the number of Volunteers in the field to 10,000
- bringing our community's collective knowledge and expertise to bear on the formulation of U.S. policy toward the countries Peace Corps serves

Make our mission your mission.
Become a Mission Partner today.



The International Calendar Project began in 1987 as a way to share Peace Corps experiences with home communities and to raise money for grassroots projects in the countries where we served or in which we live. The Calendar pictures are windows into our memories and introduce you to the people who welcomed us so warmly into their communities. Nearly every day lists important festivals, birthdays, and holidays from around the world. Since 1961 more than 200,000 Americans have spent time serving in communities overseas. The International Calendar is designed as a teaching aid, introducing varied life styles, terrain, foods, occupations, and crafts from around the world. The Calendar always features countries in which the Peace Corps is currently active or has been hosted in the past.

The Western MT Returned Peace Corps Volunteer group is proud to be a part of this partnership and has supported humanitarian efforts in Montana as well as in other countries. If you have a project you would like considered for a donation, please contact us at www.wmrpcv.com.

Cost is \$12 per calendar plus \$3 shipping and handling. Please complete the order form below and send it with your check payable to “**Western MT RPCVs**” to:

2017 International Calendar Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ email _____

Please send me _____ calendar(s) @ \$15 each (shipping included)

Enclosed is my check total for \$_____.



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**