



Western Montana RPCV News

MARCH 2015

VOLUME 24 #1

Upcoming Events:

**APRIL 25,
SATURDAY, 6:00 PM
NOM PARTY
633 South 5th St. East**

**2015 GOAT CHASE
JUNE 12, 13 & 14
Flathead Lake!!!!**

**JULY POTLUCK ON
THE JOCKO!!!!!!!
TBA**



Shannon Parsons in Honduras, January, 2015

President's Message

Dennis C. Bangs (Ecuador 70-72)

As spring arrives in western Montana the WMRPCV group finds itself involved in numerous activities and preparing for the spring and summer activities, including the annual gathering at Flathead Lake, known as the Goat Chase Retreat.

First I would like to thank the hosts of the past potlucks. In December, Reggie and Scott Spaulding (Fiji 1993-96) stepped up and hosted the Christmas Potluck, which had a great turnout. Then in February Shannon and Russ Parsons (Ecuador 1995-97) hosted a potluck at their place on a Sunday evening, because it worked out good for them, and we had a great turnout as well. Shannon also shared with us the experience she had with the Missoula Medical Aid in Honduras in January.

Bunny Sims (Philippines 1973-76) has been coordinating speakers in the local schools all month for Peace Corps Week. A few presentations are yet to come so I can't report how many happened. Thanks Bunny. Also thanks to the people who volunteered at the Peace Corps information at the U of M International Food Fair and Cultural Festival on March 22.

Don't forget about the upcoming NOM potluck and the Goat Chase in June.

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Missoula's connection to Honduras

by YWCA Volunteer Shannon Parsons

Missoula Medical Aid (MMA) was started by a group of concerned health care professionals in Missoula who wanted to help Honduras when Hurricane Mitch hit in 1998. Back then, they connected with a non-profit called Save the Children and MMA has been going ever since. It is a unique organization in that its funding and volunteer base are in Missoula. In January, I was fortunate to accompany them to serve as a translator.

We went as a group of 15 including doctors, nurses, translators, and pharmacy helpers. Every day we would load up crates of medical supplies, pile into trucks, and head out to rural communities, stopping to pick up Honduran doctors and nurses to come with us. The communities we went to were pre-arranged by Save the Children. When we arrived, there would be over 100 people waiting for us. Many had walked for miles to get there.

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.

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243-2839
peacecorps@umontana.edu



Classroom interior; 1st teacher, University of Gondar student, 2nd teacher, & university faculty member

Help in Ethiopia:

At the end of January Lynne and Otto Koester (Ethiopia 1968-70) sent a request for financial support for a school they befriended along with their report on their activities in Ethiopia. Following is part of the description of the school from Lynn.

The Atse Fasil Elementary School in Azezzo is a short distance from Gondar City, but in a more rural area where the poverty seems to be even more rampant and visible. (Otto and I are both reminded of many scenes from our Peace Corps days in Debre Berhan and Sendafa.) The particular classroom of interest is one of only 2 in this area specifically for children with disabilities – in this case, blindness, deafness, intellectual disabilities (including autism) and milder learning disabilities. Children are in grades 1-3, but their ages tend to be much older than normally expected for these grades due to the fact that their families have held them back or even kept them hidden for fear of stigmatization and discrimination. Some of the children have lost parents due to HIV/AIDS and are now being cared for by grandparents. Students with intellectual disability can actually stay in this classroom for 4 years maximum, but if they're not making sufficient progress to then be moved up, they are forced to withdraw altogether. Once they advance into the regular classrooms, they will no longer have teachers with the special training that includes sign language and Braille, therefore much of their support will disappear. Nevertheless, if they have received a solid foundation in these early years and are deemed ready to be in an "inclusive" classroom, these students may at least be able to continue their schooling.

Through our calendar sales we were able to donate \$250 to their cause..

Western Montana Returned Peace Corps Volunteers
2014 Financial Report
Submitted by Mary J. Younger, Treasurer (Cameroon 1974-76)

BALANCE: Year End 2013 **\$2,405.35**

INCOME:

2014 Retreat Registration	\$3,210.00
Int'l Calendar Sales	
2014 Calendars	77.00
2015 Calendars	3,506.89
Western MT RPCV Dues	680.00
NPCA Member Dues	315.00
<u>NPCA Dues Rebates</u>	<u>90.00</u>

2014 INCOME **\$7,878.89**

TOTAL INCOME **\$10,284.24**

EXPENSES:

Donations	
International	\$1,195.43
Montana	1,100.00
Goat Chase Retreat	
Facility	2,342.00
Food	213.00
2015 Calendar Fundraiser	
Calendars	1,750.00
Postage	196.00
WMRPCV Website/Newsletter	331.84
NPCA Individual Dues	315.00
NPCA Affiliation Dues	40.00
Office/Potluck Supplies	126.69
Postage	97.86
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	<u>42.95</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES **-\$7,750.77**

BALANCE: YEAR END 2014 **\$2,533.47**

Western MT Returned Peace Corps Volunteers 2014 Donations

International:



Nicaragua Stove Project

Peace Corps Partnership - in response to an observed community need for clean more sustainable/healthier food preparation methods

A2Empowerment provides educational scholarships and support to girls and women in Cameroon so that they may increase their knowledge and empower themselves to lead healthier, more productive lives.

Cameroon, West Africa



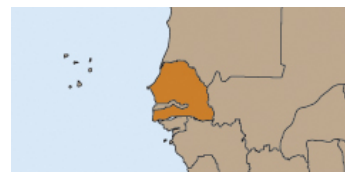
Maman Santé



Benin, West Africa



This Peace Corps Partnership Project will help raise awareness on how to prevent two prevalent health issues: malaria and diarrhea. The theatre club, working directly with the health center, will learn the best practices of preventing malaria and proper hand washing and present to local school children. The theatre club will also go into the community and perform for children not going to school.



Youth Entrepreneurship Training

Senegal, West Africa

Young men and women between the ages of 25 and 35 will be selected from each of 11 local neighborhoods to take part in this training. These 22 individuals will take intensive classes focusing on building and managing a successful business with ongoing support to create and grow their own businesses. This Peace Corps Partnership project will utilize components from locally dev

Ebola Response – YMCA Sierra Leone

...in partnership with
YMCA Missoula, MT



**Western Montana Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Nineteenth Annual
GOAT CHASE RETREAT
JUNE 12-14**

This year's Goat Chase Retreat will celebrate the dynamic returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Western Montana and the remarkable beauty of western Montana. We will once again be coming together to honor the camaraderie and good work of our group 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 of a mini-international potluck for the Friday night meal. Tony Hoyt is going to recruit people to cook an 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> or 360-9938.** 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. **Once again Dylan Valley will be playing music on Saturday night for dancing and celebrating. He has his own equipment and a lot of music, but if you have some special cds he would love to play them as well.**

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. 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>.

2015 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**