July Meeting - July 8th at 7:00 p.m.
Atwood Community Center, 2425 Atwood Avenue
(behind Deb Stapleton's house)

Inside this issue

Upcoming Events p. 1
Mensaje de la Presidenta p. 1
Officers and Contacts p. 2
Don Sauer, At Large... p. 2-3
Treasurer's Report p. 4
Requests for Funding p. 4-5
Where does the $ Go...? p. 5
Minutes p. 6
News from the Summer Campout p. 7
Canoe Trip Details p. 7
"Sancho Sez " p. 8
Membership Information p. 8
Coming up... p. 10

Mensaje de la Presidenta
By: Deb Stapleton, President

"I always wanted to be some kind of writer or newspaper reporter. But after college...I did other things.”
- Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis

Happy Summer! With this, her maiden-voyage at the helm of World Roots, Isabel Molina-Jefferson dares to go where Jackie O. never got to! Enjoy!

Thanks to Mike Boehm for his presentation at the June meeting of the ongoing Viet Nam Peace Parks Project, (funded in part by the RPCVs of Wis-Madison), as well as of a revolving loan fund he’s helped to establish. You’ll see a request for funding for a second loan fund elsewhere in the newsletter. While there is no presentation scheduled for the July meeting (and PLEASE note the date and location change for that), send suggestions for subsequent presentations to me.

NPCA has requested to dip into our slide library to find that perfect shot to grace the cover of the new RPCV Directory. I think they should have no problem finding one! It turns out I will be attending the San Diego Conference after all, so the next newsletter will have some updates on goings on in Peace Corps and NPCA.

JULY 4th! As I mentioned last month, David Wakeley and Leslie Sherman are heading to Rhode Island next month. Come to a despedida (going-away party) to ask them why and to wish them well! The party’s at my house (2406 Sommers Ave, 244-8609), starting at 4:00-ish (which allows the patriots to make it to the Monona Fireworks). Anyone have a volleyball net I can borrow?

Have a fun month! Deb Stapleton
Don Sauer, At Large... continues from May 17, 1997

The other main effort in which we are engaged to improve the overall agricultural situation is the installation of Hydraulic Works. Throughout the two decades of war the irrigation system on which Afghan agriculture is largely based has been damaged, destroyed or fallen into disrepair. This means that the amount of land available for agriculture is less, that it is difficult to use the water available efficiently and that disputes arise among people whose families have traditionally come to expect certain levels of water for their crops.

Traditionally, the users of the systems provided the labor to maintain and expand them. Now many of those who would have done this work are not available because they have lost limbs, been killed or have fled the fighting and become refugees. DHSA tries to play a catalytic role in rehabilitating the irrigation systems by providing money and technical expertise to introduce improvements in the system that reduce the maintenance necessary and expand the systems.

The results seem encouraging to me although they are as yet on a fairly small scale. Our engineers work with the local people to determine where the weak points and bottle necks of the system are. Then they design solutions which improve efficiency, reduce conflicts and reduce the maintenance necessary to keep the systems functioning. Besides providing their input in the design phase, the local people also provide labor and local materials necessary to actually construct the works. Thus, the local people have a stake in all phases of the operations from design to ongoing maintenance and sustainability is enhanced. This is our approach in this work and I was very encouraged by the apparent success it enjoys.

Of course, nothing comes easily. The political situation of the country and the ongoing Civil War hampers many of our efforts, sometimes very substantially. About three weeks after I returned to Peshawar, the Taliban security forces in Kabul raided our offices and arrested everybody who happened to be in the office that day. Everything has come to a halt since because we now have no
vehicles, no radios and no staff. If I had made my trip a little later, I would have been swept into a Taliban jail along with everyone else and you would probably have been reading about me as a part of a minor international incident.

I am glad I was spared that. All of our staff except one has now been released but until we get him out we can’t even begin the process of picking up the pieces. It makes the prospects for our work, especially in the Kabul area, grim because it is hard to see how we can function as an organization if our staff is subject to arbitrary arrest whenever some loose cannon from the Taliban decides we are enemies of the state. We were accused of supporting Taliban’s enemies but from what I can tell this is completely untrue. While many people in our organization are frustrated with the Taliban’s arbitrary and seemingly goofy exercise of power there is no nostalgia for the return of the Rabbani and Masood regime who held Kabul until ousted by the Taliban last fall. That crowd was massively corrupt, inefficient and they were unable to maintain security even in Kabul. At least, for most of the people, there is now a much higher level of security for their persons and property in the Taliban controlled areas. Ironically, we have been able to work well with the Taliban authorities in several regions and we have not engaged in any programs in any of the areas now controlled by Rabbani and Masood. That wasn’t a political decision but a logistical decision. We do have some work near Mazar-i-Sharif which is currently held by Dostum, another enemy of Taliban, but again this is a logistical decision, not a political one. I am hoping to travel to that area in the next couple of weeks to help determine what exact projects we will be proposing to the EU when we submit our proposal later this year. So the work goes on but it is still an open question about whether or not DHSA can survive this direct assault on our ability to work.

And now the request. We have highly skilled Civil Engineers in our agency who design the Hydraulics Works projects. One of them, a very intelligent and committed young man who is already computer literate, is enrolled in a course to study Computer Aided Design (CAD). We have computers but no CAD programs. I would like to request that Ken Coffeen do some leg work for us in the States. He is employed by a Civil Engineering firm and has experience doing such work both in South America and Africa.

It occurred to me that his firm may have a CAD program lying around the office which has been supplanted by a more modern version. If that is so, perhaps such a program could be donated to DHSA, assuming we have computer capacity necessary to run it. Failing that, I would appreciate it if Ken could be our mentor on this kind of technology. I will be happy to communicate via email. If there is no program which can be donated, we would be interested in purchasing one, and in this area Ken would be invaluable, also. Once standards are established and a program selected, this might be an excellent opportunity for the RPCVs of Wisconsin to participate in the important work we are doing to rehabilitate the agricultural capacity of Afghanistan. RPCV/W might contribute all or part of the cost of purchase of such a program from Calendar proceeds. At this point, I have no idea how much a program would cost, but when thinking about this it should be kept in mind that we do not want, nor could we use efficiently the Cadillac model program. What we need is the Volkswagen Bug program. That’s my request. If Ken is unable to do this there are probably others in the group who could help us; I only mention him directly because I am aware of his background and his position.

On a personal note, I am tired of Peshawar. The only place in town to get a beer is the American Club where many of the expats in the aid racket congregate in a kind of hothouse environment. There are jealousies among agencies, distrust of each other and the whole thing seems to be an episode of Dallas sometimes. Peshawar is dirty, dusty, noisy and frustrating. And to top it all off I am frequently lonely. These things will not be unfamiliar to RPCVs. But there seems to be important work to do here, and I seem to be making some progress toward doing it. Of course, what we do today won’t bear much fruit for years to come and so it’s hard to tell just how well one is doing. But I’m trying. Send positive thoughts my way. If you want to contact me by email, use my office email address because I have my own mailbox: sauer@dhsa.psw.umar.com.pk

Be Well -- Don Sauer
Treasurer's Report
By: Rose Ann Scott, Treasurer
05/01/97 to 05/31/97

Calendar Bal Fwd 52,488.89
Calendar Sales + 56.75
Interest + 343.73
Phone + 127.50
Postage Giftaway - 70.40
Newsletter postage + 107.46

Calendar Balance 52,758.93

Group Bal Fwd 1,289.30
Newsletter Postage - 107.46

Group Balance 1,181.84

Global Education 2,096.20
Large Projects 20,414.00
Giftaway 10,000.00
Annual Projects 3,295.12
Freeze For Food 3,000.50

ACCOUNTS TOTALS 92,746.59**

ACCOUNT BALANCES
Checking 6,245.52
Market Yield 4.83 86,501.07

ACCOUNTS TOTALS 92,746.59**

REVENEMENT LOAN FUND FOR PHO KHANH VILLAGE, VIET NAM

Community Sponsor: Mike Boehm RPCV
Sponsor: Deb Stapleton, Jim Good

Request: Mike Boehm was instrumental in establishing the My Lai Revolving Loan Fund now available to assist the women of the village of My Lai in Viet Nam in developing economic independence. He has begun establishing a second loan fund in the fishing village of Pho Khanh. The goal is to raise $5000.00; approximately $2000.00 has been raised, and Mike requests $2000.00 from the RPCVs of Madison. The My Lai project has demonstrated fiscal strength and has made a huge difference in the basic standard of living for some of the poorest of the female-headed households in the community. Women receiving this funding have begun home-based businesses such as cassava production and fisheries. The Pho Khanh project will be administered by the Quang Ngai Women's Union which now successfully oversees the My Lai fund. Mike has worked with this union for over four years and finds them to be competent, trustworthy, and committed to improving the lives of local women and their families. He is prepared to give us regular progress reports on the project, as well as the Peace Park projects, the Madison-Bac Giang Sister City project, and ART pen pals (some of which was funded by us in the past) and will be at the July meeting to respond to further questions, or can be reached at 244-9505.

REQUEST FOR FUNDING #1

REVENEMENT LOAN FUND FOR PHO KHANH VILLAGE, VIET NAM

Community Sponsor: Mike Boehm RPCV
Sponsor: Deb Stapleton, Jim Good

Request: Mike Boehm was instrumental in establishing the My Lai Revolving Loan Fund now available to assist the women of the village of My Lai in Viet Nam in developing economic independence. He has begun establishing a second loan fund in the fishing village of Pho Khanh. The goal is to raise $5000.00; approximately $2000.00 has been raised, and Mike requests $2000.00 from the RPCVs of Madison. The My Lai project has demonstrated fiscal strength and has made a huge difference in the basic standard of living for some of the poorest of the female-headed households in the community. Women receiving this funding have begun home-based businesses such as cassava production and fisheries. The Pho Khanh project will be administered by the Quang Ngai Women's Union which now successfully oversees the My Lai fund. Mike has worked with this union for over four years and finds them to be competent, trustworthy, and committed to improving the lives of local women and their families. He is prepared to give us regular progress reports on the project, as well as the Peace Park projects, the Madison-Bac Giang Sister City project, and ART pen pals (some of which was funded by us in the past) and will be at the July meeting to respond to further questions, or can be reached at 244-9505.

APPLICATION FOR FUNDING #2

Application Date April 24, 1997
Amount Requested $800.00
RPCV-WI/Mad Sponsor Ralph Otte
Project Title PCV Book Aid
Telephone (408) 736-1477

Project Description: Volunteers in West Africa and Lithuania have been appealing for TEFL and other textbooks during the past year. Members of Friends of Peace Corps gather these free, but shipping costs hundreds of dollars, even via pouch. This project ships books overseas to PCVs who express a desperate need for resources.

REQUEST FOR FUNDING #3

23 June 97
Donation Proposal: Madison Youth Hostel Background:

Madison doesn't have a Youth Hostel (there are only 4 in Wisconsin), and sure needs one. I used Hostels in Europe, and really appreciated them. They were cheap (otherwise I'd have camped out), but I especially appreciated the many countries represented among the night's guests. A bunch of volunteers have started a Hostel. They're starting small, renting out rooms in a frat house for the summer only. They've done fund-raisers and gotten other organizations to make donations. Visitors so far include: international travelers, visitors from
Madison's various sister cities, and foreign and American students traveling through the US. Rates are about $13/night. Any profits are set aside for the eventual year-round hostel. Most of the workers are volunteers, but there are modestly-paid staffers present when the hostel is open. The Madison Summer Hostel is affiliated with the national hostel organization. Specific Proposal: Our donation would be used for operating expenses: rent, insurance, staff.

Funds Requested: Equal Share ($500)

Applicant/Contact: Stuart Kipnis. 257-8880.

Progress Reports: Buck will get these.

Funding detail: Make check payable to "Madison Summer Hostel." c/o Stuart Kipnis. 257-8880. (I'll get his mailing address.)

Member Sponsors: Buck Trawicky. 241-2392

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where does the $ Go...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>By: Sheila Przemicki</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hunger Knows no Season

Though warm sun and watermelon-filled days are upon us, not everyone has the benefit of going home to a refrigerator complete with their favorite summer treats. The RPCV’s have recognized that, and continue to give to various organizations involved with food stock for those without.

In April, 1996, one of the many $400 donations we approved went to the Hunger Prevention Council (HPC) of Dane County. Sponsored by Helene Pesche, the project was described in her words to provide "access for all people to quality, affordable, nutritious, and culturally acceptable food at all times through non-emergency food channels."

The council consists of a number of participants: CAC (Joe Mathers); the Food Bank; Churches; School Lunch personnel; WIC (Women, Infants and Children, Dane County and City of Madison); Dane County Home Economists; Wisconsin Nutrition Project; elderly representatives and Helene, representative of Day Care children.

In June, 1996, we received the following note from Pat Ludeman, Family Nutrition Educator at the Dane County Extension Office:

"On behalf of the Hunger Prevention Council of Dane County, I would like to thank you for your generous donation. We will certainly put the money to good use. The Council has recently completed an assessment of community services relating to food security. The assessment includes an introductory mapping of resources as well as the development of a resource guidebook. The guidebook contains information about local resources with pertinent details about eligibility requirements and specific guidelines for each program.

"Your donation will be used as seed money to cover the initial printing costs of the guidebook. The council will, in turn, request a donation from those interested in obtaining a copy of the guidebook. This will allow the Council to finance other projects.

"The Council is interested in having representation and input from people living on a limited income as we address issues related to food security. Child care and transportation are typical barriers that affect that happening. Your donation will assist HPC in providing support in those areas. We will be happy to keep you informed of our progress. We would like to invite any of your members to join us on the Council. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the UW-Extension Dane County Office (Dane County Expo Grounds). Please contact me with any questions regarding the Council at (608) 266-4438. Again, thank you for your support."
Minutes from the General Meeting of 6/4/97
By: Buck Trawicky, Secretary

We met at Union South. 22 were present. We introduced ourselves. Vietnam: Mike Boehm was present to present current information on development programs we have supported in Vietnam, particularly in My Lai. The My Lai Women's Loan Fund, to which we made a substantial donation last year, continues to do very good work, with their funds out in small loans, and very high repayment rates. (Mike showed slides of various loan recipients.) Mike has also gotten grade school classrooms there and here to exchange drawings, so a direct connection is being forged. Mike is currently working on helping people in a small fishing village, Pho Khanh, to set up their own loan fund.

Tillers International: Pat Crowley, one of our 4 Original Founders, had come from Michigan to present her $500 donation proposal for Tillers International (see the May Newsletter for details). Our $5000 will be a challenge grant to lure in other donations, for a total of $14,000; our donation is dependent on the balance being raised. Regarding her MOTION, we voted AYE (with 1 NO vote). (We encourage Tillers International to raise the rest of the $14,000 by the end of 1997, to make our Treasurer's life easier.)

Cambodian Buddhist Society: Earl Bricker discussed his donation proposal (see the May Newsletter). As per his MOTION, we unanimously voted AYE to donate $2400 to The Asian Club, to help them provide food and other things in their after-school program (food costs $1/kid/week).

Our President to the National RPCV Conference: We want to be represented at the National Conference in San Diego, and we want someone there to sell calendars. But San Diego is very distant, and no one was planning on going, except perhaps Deb Stapleton, our diligent President, but she had already blown her travel budget representing us at the White House.

(1) Dean Mahn's MOTION: Dean had proposed, in the May Newsletter, that we establish a policy of paying for our President to represent us at annual NPCA meetings; we would pay up to $500 for registration, lodging, and food. Not travel. We felt this motion to be too restrictive, and voted NAY.
(2) We then considered a second MOTION on the same matter, presented by Earl Bricker: Our group would pay up to $500 for our President to represent us, and to sell calendars, at this year's National RPCV Conference in San Diego. The money can be used for registration, lodging, food, or travel. This motion applies only to this year's conference. In 1999 we'll consider the matter afresh. The $500 would come from the Calendar budget. We voted AYE on this second motion.

Habitat For Humanity: We'll do it sometime in November; Deb S. will arrange.

August Potluck Meeting: Sophia Zermuehlem will host it [Yay!], on Friday, Aug. 1, with food at 6:00. BYOP: Bring plates (Sophia shudders at the wastefulness of paper plates).

Bayview Community Center: Deb S. reports that Bayview is very open to serving as a place for us to work with Asian kids, or doing anything else we want. And, if we want to gradually get our toes in the water, we could help with their Ethnic Fest this summer.

That was all. --Buck Trawicky.
News from the Summer Campout
By: Terry Stark

How did we get so lucky! Friday and Saturday both were sunny, warm, dry. Combine that picture-perfect weather with an enjoyable summer camping trip to beautiful White Mound County Park, Sauk County, and it lead to a memorable experience.

Perhaps it was because of an overdose of sunshine and warm air, but after a hike around the lake with Sheila Przesmicki and Erik Jefferson Molina, I was much too tired to hike the longer horse trail around the park. Consequently, the bird-watching planned never did materialize. Oh well, maybe next year I will stalk the pileated woodpecker.

Some recognition is in order. Thanks to everybody for bringing the delicious pot luck dishes. My stomach is particularly grateful to Sharon Lewandowski, who prepared a big Andean grain dish called, "Quinoa and Black Bean Salad." After that hike around the lake, it really hit the spot!

The most professional camper award goes to Ken and Sharon. They even laid down a rug in front of their tent, and impressed many of us with their shiny new Coleman stove. The all-around Good Sport award was earned by little Kilo, toddler son of Gerry and Linda Ashmore, who wholeheartedly embraced the camping experience despite a couple of uncomfortably fresh stitches under his lip, results of a toddler tumble just the day before. What a trooper!

Thanks to Buck for remembering two strong trash bags, one for recyclables, the other for garbage, and for temporarily confusing some of us as to which was which. Ha-ha! The most stalwart group representative award certainly goes to Alan Weiner, who laid claim on our camping site by Friday night already, thereby avoiding a possibly nasty confrontation with the raccoons by the rest of us on Saturday night. The Loudest Campers award goes to the Hashers, but it was all in good fun. Thanks to Marc Brand, Hank and Ben, for inviting them. Do they ever slow down?

The Canoe trip - Now July 19 & 20
By: Henry Nehls-Lowe

Where will the river guide us? What insight shall it reveal?

Once again we will embrace the Wisconsin River for two days as we float the peaceful and scenic stretch from Spring Green to Gotham. We will meet on Saturday morning, July 19th, at 10:00 am, at Bob's Riverside Canoe Rental, one mile west of Spring Green on Kennedy Road. Call (608) 588-2826 to reserve a canoe (includes paddles and personal flotation devices).

Everyone is welcome, but the itinerary is for the young at heart. Our activities will be serious leisure, with many unscheduled stops for swimming, smacking, exploring, fishing, splashing, lemonade, cloud watching, wading, pranks, noshing, beach games, minnow chasing, yummy treats, day dreaming, and, of course eating. On Saturday evening we will camp on a sandbar, where we will have a potluck, a roaring fire, and be illuminated by the full moon.

Important items to bring include: food & snacks, ice & beverages (no glass), cooler, tent, sleeping bag, a waterproof bag, sun screen, bug repellent, hat, sunglasses, rain gear, towel, and swim suit. On Sunday the river will carry us from our luxurious campsite down to Gotham, where we will arrive by mid-afternoon.

Please contact Henry Nehls-Lowe, at (608) 835-5976, if you desire to join the flotilla.
Food for thought.
The United States spends less than 1% of its annual budget on nonmilitary foreign affairs. Peace Corps is 1% of the foreign affairs budget. Sometimes a little money still goes a long way!

A recent poll by Princeton Research Associates found that 42% of us in this country of immigrants think "recent" immigration is bad for the country. What would the numbers have been when our ancestors arrived?

Excerpts from classified sections of newspapers.
--Illiterate? Write today for free help.
--Dog for sale: eats anything and is fond of children.
--Mixing bowl set designed to please a cook with round bottom for efficient beating.
--For sale: antique desk suitable for lady with thick legs and large drawers.
--Tired of cleaning yourself. Let me do it.
--We do not tear your clothing with machinery. We do it carefully by hand.
--Used Cars: Why go elsewhere to be cheated?
   Come here first.
--Wanted. Man to take care of cow that does not smoke or drink.

Since we're always trying to get new members, we'll send three copies of our Newsletter to anyone we think will be interested. After that, they have to join (or subscribe) to stay on the mailing list.

One exception to that rule is that contacts in other RPCV organizations can continue to receive our newsletter, as long as they send us a copy of theirs.
Couple tries to steer clear of coach

By KRIS BAXTER

Brush with greatness is what some call those chance encounters with celebrities, but Kevin and Deb Nies probably would have given up their opportunity to rub shoulders with Phoenix Suns head coach Danny Ainge.

The couple was driving on Highway 88 when, according to DPS, a truck driven by Mr. Ainge wandered over the center line. To avoid hitting the vehicle, Mrs. Nies swerved off the road and overturned her truck. Because the shoulder of the road is soft and sloped down, the high center of gravity forced the vehicle over.

"I didn't want to hit the car," she said. "It was a good choice, I think. There were six kids in the other truck."

A DPS officer said Mr. Ainge was tuning his radio when he accidentally crossed the yellow line. He was cited for driving left of center. DPS officer Jeff Jeter said that when Mr. Ainge saw the accident, he turned his vehicle around to lend assistance.

"He could have kept right on going and we would have never known it was him," Officer Jeter said.

Mrs. Nies crawled over the top of her husband and through the door to get out of the overturned vehicle. He followed her path. A passerby helped them jump down.

"It was pretty frightening," Mrs. Nies said. "I was most afraid when I asked my husband if he was OK. I was worried he wouldn't answer."

She looked at her Toyota Four-runner with grief, but added, "Trucks you can replace. People you can't."

No one was hurt. Both the Nies were wearing their seat belts and attribute that to their well-being.

Apache Sands flipped the vehicle over. Although their vehicle was damaged, the couple was able to drive away.
Coming Up...

**Next General Membership Meeting**
*will be on Tuesday, July 8th @ 7 p.m.*

Atwood Community Center, 2425 Atwood Ave., Madison.

**Monday, July 14th, Calendar Committee**
7pm at 2914 Oakridge, Madison.

The Canoe Trip is Rescheduled for July 19 & 20!!! Contact Henry Nehls-Lowe at (608) 835-5976 for more information.

National Peace Corps Association Conference in San Diego is Thursday, July 10 through Sunday, July 13.

---

From the Editor...

Thanks to all newsletter collaborators, without you there will be no newsletter! Sheila, Terry, Deb, Rose Ann, Don, Buck, Henry, Susan, Earl and Dean.

And for all of you who would like to contribute to your newsletter with articles or announcements, please send them to me via email at: imolina@inexpress.net or through the mail at PO Box 1012, Madison, WI 53701.

Next month's newsletter...we'll get it ready for mailing at my house! so... if any of you is interested in helping out...send me an email or call me for the exact day and time. We'll have wine, coffee, and hors d'oeuvres.

The deadline for the August newsletter is Friday, July 18th.

Isabel MJ

---

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Wisconsin -Madison
Isabel Molina-Jefferson, Editor
PO box 1012
Madison, Wisconsin 53701-1012

---

Rose Ann Scott
2714 Oakridge
Madison, WI 53704

Exp. Date: 1/98