



MNRPCV News

*Minnesota Returned Peace Corps Volunteers
Serving RPCVs and the Community*

2002-2003 MNRPCV Board

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651-334-1457

Mission Statement

To serve Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and the community by providing service to others and fostering appreciation of cultural diversity.

Spring 2003

The Corner Board

by Maureen Smith

HELPING ONE CORNER OF THE WORLD

by Maureen M. Smith (Cameroon, 1987-1989)

Only the rich plant flowers, my friend Albertine says. Looking around at her arid fields, I see what she means. She has less than a quarter acre to grow enough food—millet, beans and peanuts—to feed herself and her three children for a year.

Last summer, I went back to help her plant those crops, hoping once again to make a difference for the friend who still calls me her “sister.” I envisioned another monsoon like that I remembered of 1988, the year I left. But the rains seemed to have forgotten Doukoula, pouring down only once or twice during an entire month, leaving the seedlings only knee-high, like malnourished children.

“It’s still dry, as you left it,” Albertine wrote in a letter last fall. “All the ponds are empty.”

This Sahelian landscape of Northern Cameroon grows drier each year, with less rain, and more famine. The erratic weather, caused in large part by greenhouse gases emitted from the “developed” world, has brought unprecedented famine to Africa this year, according to the United Nations. About 30 million Africans face starvation.

When I garden in my shady yard, where vegetables won’t grow, I think of Albertine. I wonder if she’s right about the rich planting flowers. I have perennials that have multiplied over the years, seeds of annuals I’ve collected, plants given to me by friends and neighbors. I grow no staple foods, only a few tomatoes.

Why does this matter? It matters because we live in a society where we often have too much, more than we need, more than the rest of the world. Every year my garden thickens with more flowers than I have room for. Every year Albertine’s fields grow drier and produce less food. Every year as I have bounty on my kitchen table, she and her children go for days without eating.

What can we do about it? We can continue to support good causes, like the charities to which MNRPCV donates grant money and volunteer time each year. This year, we’ve awarded \$2,500 to nonprofit agencies that work locally and internationally to combat poverty, hunger, homelessness. We’ve logged many hours, as well. (See p. 7, Grant Recipients)

But our dues are not enough to continue providing such support. The MNRPCV is not yet financially self-sustaining. We are looking for ways to raise funds — ethnic potlucks, car washes, garage sales. We’re open to your ideas.

We’ll hold our first ever MNRPCV PLANT AND PERENNIAL SALE on Sat. and Sun. May 17-18 to raise funds exclusively for MNRPCV grants. We need donations of plants, time, pots, plastic containers, and we need your purchases.

So come, make your yard beautiful with blooms, and make the world a little better and more bountiful.

WHAT: MNRPCV FUNDRAISER PLANT and PERENNIAL SALE

WHEN: Sat. May 17, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. May 18, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

WHERE: 1135 Monroe St. NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413

CONTACT: Maureen Smith, at mmswriter@hotmail.com

NEEDED: labeled perennials, plants and seedlings, empty pots and plastic containers, working hands. Drop off anytime.





Peace Corps News Update

Compiled from <http://PeaceCorpsOnline.org>

By Kriste Ericsson, Paraguay 88-89

PCV MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP — A memorial fund at Gettysburg College in Phillipsburg, PA, was established in early April for Dee Hess, a late Kenya PCV who died in 1983 from rabies after being bitten by a pet puppy. The Dee Hess Memorial Scholarship will be a \$1,000 award given each year to a student who is studying with the college's Center for Public Service. The program sends students overseas to experience other cultures. To donate contact Jennifer Straub at 717-337-6489.

PEACE CORPS LEGISLATION — The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations in early April approved legislation authored by Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT) to expand Peace Corps and affirm its status as an independent, nonpartisan agency. The Amendment calls for the Peace Corps to develop a strategy for special volunteer recruitment and placement, especially countries with substantial Muslim populations. The measure will now be considered by the full Senate as part of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004.

BOTSWANA: PEACE CORPS RETURNS — Six years after withdrawing from Botswana, Peace Corps returned with a new crop of volunteers that will work on HIV/AIDS prevention. Local government minister Michael Tshipinare says the volunteers will help government programs to mobilize, co-ordinate, monitor, evaluate responses and support implementing HIV/AIDS programs. Peace Corps had earlier withdrawn from Botswana on the grounds that it was no longer a poor country.

MOROCCO AND CHINA: PEACE CORPS PROGRAMS SUSPENDED — In early April, Peace Corps Director Gaddi Vasquez announced the temporary suspension of the Peace Corps program in China because of growing concerns about the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). "The health and safety of Peace Corps volunteers is the highest priority of the Agency," said Director Vasquez. "We will continue to monitor developments and look forward to returning Peace Corps volunteers to China when conditions permit."

Due to safety issues during the war with Iraq, the PCVs in Morocco were evacuated in early April. However, Director Vasquez asserts that the Moroccan government has been extremely supportive of Peace Corps volunteers and programs during these difficult times. The Peace looks forward to returning volunteers to Morocco in the near future. Peace Corps staff will continue to operate the Peace Corps office in Morocco.

A DIGITAL DEVELOPING WORLD — The White House announced the Digital Freedom Initiative - a joint project between the Commerce Department, USAID, the Peace Corps, and private industry to promote economic growth by transferring the benefits of information and communication technology (ICT) to entrepreneurs and small businesses in the developing world. The program will be piloted in Senegal with 100 volunteers assisting small businesses and entrepreneurs in growing their businesses. If the project is successful, it will expand to 20 countries in the next five years.

Peace Corps Online is an independent news forum dedicated to the free exchange of ideas among Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and is not affiliated with the US Peace Corps or any other returned volunteer organization.

Treasurer's Report

February and March 2003

by Shannon Skally, Morocco 96-98

INCOME	
Calendar Sales	715.00
Interest Inc	2.17
<hr/>	
TOTAL INCOME	717.17
EXPENSES	
Dues and Subscriptions	-425.00
Investment	-3,000.00
Newsletter Postage	-166.50
Newsletter Printing	-516.17
PO Box Renewal	-45.40
Social and Community Service	-76.14
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TOTAL EXPENSES	-4,229.21
<hr/>	
OVERALL MONTHLY CASH FLOW	-3,512.04
BEGINNING BALANCE	14,427.88
ENDING BALANCE	10,915.84

How do you say Welcome! in your host country?

Whether it's *Willkommen, marhaba, huan ying, swagatum, vitajte, na atia, sannu da zuwa* or something else, we welcome you to submit it to us at www.mnrpcv.org and we'll add it to our list. Check it out!

Want to join MNRPCV? It's easy. Either fill in the form on Page 3 and mail it with your check to NPCA, or join online at www.rpcv.org. Be sure to check Minnesota as your choice for an affiliate group! (see p. 3)

Questions about the group, or about why you should join?

Contact our Membership Chair, Vicki Dilley
507-645-6379 or vdilley@iglide.net

MNRPCV Members are NPCA Members

Since we are an NPCA affiliate, our membership list is maintained by them. We request a current mailing list before each mailing, and MNRPCV News or Happenings is mailed to all members of record.

Please update your mailing address through NPCA.

As a member you should receive not only this quarterly MNRPCV Newsletter and periodic MNRPCV Happenings, but also the 3/1/61 newsletter from NPCA and the NPCA WorldView magazine. If you are a member but don't receive these, or if you would like to join, please contact our Membership Chair.



What Your MNRPCV Dues Do

By Vicki Dilley, MNRPCV membership chair

Fellow RPCV's:

Talofa! (hello in Tuvaluan, a Polynesian dialect)

Did you know that Minnesota Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (MNRPCV) members also include residents of other far reaching lands and states such as Wisconsin, Iowa, and both Dakotas? And did you know that your membership dues stretch even further around the globe? As the MNRPCV membership chair, I wanted to remind you that your dues provide support to charities that work both locally and worldwide.

In recent years, The MNRPCV has provided grants to nonprofit groups such as Books for Africa, Habitat for Humanity, the Kenya project from Friends of Kenya and Reference Libraries in Malawi, the East African Deaf Connection, Friends of Dolpa; Trees, Water and People in Honduras; the Sankhy School in Nepal. MNRPCV also supports local nonprofits such as Second Harvest, which works to combat hunger, and Jeremiah House, which assists teen mothers. (see p. 7)

Recently there has been some confusion about NPCA membership fees. You may designate one affiliate group at no extra fee. For example, you may choose the Minnesota group (MNRPCV). Or, many members choose a country of service group, which is understandable. But, for another \$15 you can add MNRPCV as your second affiliate group to help continue serving the world in many ways. As an MNRPCV member, you'll also receive many invitations to social and community events throughout Minnesota, the quarterly Newsletter and the Happenings publication.

If you have questions or are uncertain about your affiliate group status, please email me or call. I would love to help you further.

Vicki Dilley (*Tuvalu, 1980-1983*)

vdilley@iglide.net phone: (507) 645-6379 or (507) 271-3200

Fafetai! (thank you in Tuvaluan)

Geographic trivia note: Tuvalu, the fourth smallest country in the world, consists of about ten square miles of land spread over a string of eight islands in the southwest Pacific Ocean.

JOIN / RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Your annual NPCA dues include membership in one affiliate group of your choice [*we hope you choose MNRPCV*], subscription to Worldview magazine and to the Peace Corps alumni newsletter 3/1/61, opportunities to participate in Global Education, Advocacy, Peacebuilding and Emergency Response programs and scholarship programs, discounts on Peace Corps merchandise, travel and registration for national conferences and other special events. Find out more, or renew or join at www.rpcv.org.

2003 Membership Dues

- \$50 Individual 1-year membership
- \$135 Individual 3-year membership
- \$65 Family 1-year membership
- \$180 Family 3-year membership
- Added 1-year group fees (\$15 individual, \$22.50/couple)
- \$20 Postage for overseas members
- Donation \$ _____
- Total \$ _____

Name _____

Country _____

Years of service _____

Mail Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Affiliate group choice _____

Added affiliate group(s) at \$15/group _____

Please charge my credit card _____ Exp _____

Please mail to:

NPCA Membership

1900 L Street, NW Suite 205, Washington, DC 20036



Marooned Without Snow

By Cindy Jurgensen, Kiribati '80-'82

With too little snow to get many of us skiing on the annual MNRPCV ski trip, we had time for long hikes, nice talks, and thoughts for what to bring next year: towels, hand soap, and a fat dictionary for games. About 25 of us spent a communal weekend Feb. 21-23 at the Park Rapids resort called the Edgewood Lodge. The great big kitchen was perfect for cooking duties that teams performed at assigned times, and even better for eating great big meals.

We had a *prawn* along, did you know that? That's what Christi says it looks like on the X-rays, or ultrasounds, or whatever they use to see developing babies. Christi kept it in her stomach, nourished it and joked about it even on the long hike. She and Scott expect it to pop out this August. Hopefully we'll all get to play with the baby prawn next ski weekend!



Among other highlights: Dick wondered if we should all just charter a plane and fly up next year, seeing that the Lodge is quite near a small airport. Anyone interested?! Les thought he was pretty funny giving an AARP (American Association of Retired People) newsletter to Curt! Speaking of Les, he and



Lois made a mean batch of pancakes one morning and when hit up, shared the recipe with us for this newsletter.

Who was it that had the four-hour Hearts game going? Were they resting up after marathon hikes in the Itasca State Park woods? My, those trails never seemed to end! During the 3.5 hour adventure with 11 hikers (Elsa, Bernard, Cindy, Curt, Eric, Michael, Jack, Mark, Maureen, Scott and Christi), we trudged through crusty snow too hard to ski on. We felt so marooned we made up words to the Gilligan Island theme song. The words seemed, oh-so-appropriate to our shivery plight. The other

trekkers (Lois, Les, Lonnie, Catherine and Ven) at least had a mission — to visit the largest, oldest red pine forest in the state.

We were happy to have Terri Stander along on the trip, her first time back since 1982! (As you may remember, Terri and Charles Stander frequently host the annual Holiday Potluck in their St. Paul home.) Their family stayed in the "Stander Bunkhouse" with Walter and Minnie, their French bulldogs we dubbed as our weekend

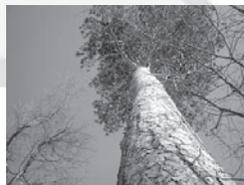
mascots. One of the dogs had the greatest t-shirt: "I Stink, Therefore I Am." Unfortunately, the Standers had to leave early Sunday because Charlie's mom was ill and in the hospital. Thankfully, she is greatly improved at this writing.

This year brought a few welcomed newbies: Kris, LuAnn, Catherine, Lonnie and Ven. Even they had no clue as to the purpose of the Lodge's mysterious glass-door cupboards, situated beyond reach of the stair and hermetically sealed shut. Maybe someone locked the snow fairy inside, hence the lack of snow. We may have to think up a new name for this outing as skiing just ain't happening!

On the political front, someone suggested that Norm Coleman be invited to speak at an MNRPCV event in the Cities in his role as newly appointed chair of the Foreign Relations Committee (which covers Peace Corps). Nice idea. And Mary Lou wrote a walloping letter that many of us signed against the hand gun bill.

The update is that current bills in the house and senate could pass if people who oppose the liberalization of hand gun laws keep silent. To figure out how to be heard, check out this web site: twincitiesmillionmommarch.org or call 612-207-8177.

P.S. I forgot to mention that Bernard, "The Coconut," was again our cocoa chef, cappuccino slave and beer brewer. We will keep him. And he coined a new word: "squeever," which means squirrel-beaver-kids who go whacking away at dead trees in the woods. Has something to do with the long hike in Itasca, but don't ask me what!





The Recipe Corner

Mean Pancake Mix

contributed by Lois Braun, Lesotho, 87-90

Mix dry parts ahead in these proportions and then store until use:

- 2 cups whole wheat flour
- 1 cup old-fashioned oatmeal
- 1 cup cornmeal
- 4 tsp baking powder
- 2 Tbs brown sugar
- 2 tsp salt
- whole buckwheat groats to taste (1/2 to 1 cup)

Pancake Batter

To make batter for six 6-inch pancakes, blend well:

- 1 cup mix
- (1/4 cup wheat germ, optional)
- 1 Tbs oil
- 1 egg
- 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 cups milk or buttermilk
- Or (1 Tbs lemon juice to fresh milk will substitute for buttermilk.)

May also add to taste: bran, sesame seeds, sunflower seeds, pecans, raisins, fruit (i.e. blueberries), frozen OJ (reduce milk if adding fruit or fruit juice.)

Slather with butter, syrup and fresh fruit (raspberries, sliced kiwis, strawberries, and banana).





Community Service Events

by Jared Erdmann, Honduras 99-01

— Thurs. May 15, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. — Help make dinner for the Jeremiah Program moms, at 1510 Laurel Ave., Suite 100, Minneapolis, 55403. For further information about the program, see www.jeremiahprogram.org. To volunteer, contact Jared (612) 824-6732 or jared_erdmann@hotmail.com.

— Sat. and Sun. May 17 and 18, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. — Come buy or help sell plants and perennials to raise money for MNRPCV grant funds. Donations of plants and preparation time welcome. Address: 1135 Monroe St. NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413. For further info, contact Maureen at (612) 378-7072 or mmswriter@hotmail.com

— Mon. June 16 to Fri. June 20 — Get your work clothes on for our annual Habitat for Humanity project in the Twin Cities. Volunteers are needed to help work, and to bring lunch for the whole group. Location to be announced. To volunteer, contact Jared (612) 824-6732 or jared_erdmann@hotmail.com

— Sat., Aug. 2, 9 a.m. — Come help sort and ship books for Books for Africa, at 253 East 4th Street, Saint Paul, MN. Contact Jared for details.

MNRPCV Toastmasters

meet the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month.

More info on www.mnrpcv.org/Events.html, or contact

Richard Earle 952-929-6943,
Steve Coury 612-870-1091, or
Dan Grundtner 651-487-3068.

Speakers Bureau Update

Did you know speaking to any formal group – at a school, library, church or other public place – earns MNRPCV funds? Much of the funds are used to provide grants to charitable organizations.

During the 2002/2003 academic year, MNRPCV members gave at least 18 talks about Peace Corps at schools, libraries and colleges. Rhoda Brooks and Vicki Dilly each gave three talks. Others included Ruth Alliband, Sally Barringer, Patrick Carney, Jack Conrad, Dianne Darr, Terry Gardner, Sarah Garret, Patrick O’Leary, Gayle Odette, Doris Rubenstein, John Shirk, Thomas Sibley, and LeeAnn Wolf.

If you’ve given any kind of talk within the past year, please notify Pat O’Leary, the MNRPCV Speaker’s Bureau Chair, at (651) 292-9455 or trudyandpat@netzero.com.

Upcoming Social Events

Social Chair Urbae Jiwa (Morocco 94-96) says, “Thanks to everyone for coming out and contributing slides and delicious food to the annual slide show! It was a great success!”

— Sunday, June 1— Enjoy the 30th annual Grand Old Day Festival in St. Paul, then stop by the open house at the home of Elsa Frettem and Bernard Gonzalez, 669 Summit Avenue. For Grand Old Day info, check www.grandave.com/events.html. For directions to Elsa and Bernard’s, check www.gonzalez.com.

The list of upcoming social events is short this time, but you just missed: a happy hour at the Conga Latin Bistro, a metro dinner at Everest on Grand, the Cinco de Mayo parade and festival, and a farewell sendoff for new Peace Corps volunteers.

To keep up-to-date on events between newsletters, join our email list. Just send an email to mnrpcvEmailList-subscribe@yahoogroups.com, or go to our website at www.mnrpcv.org/ContactUs.html and follow the links to join.

And remember, it’s easy to host an event. Just choose an event and tell Urbae (urb13@rocketmail.com or 651-698-0734).

Web site redesign is temporarily on hold while Elsa and Bernard sell their condos. If you want to help with the redesign, contact elsa@gonzalez.com (PS: Wanna buy a condo? tell elsa@gonzalez.com!)

NPCA Annual General Meeting and Presidents Forum in Portland, OR (August 1-3, 2003)

A schedule, registration form and hotel information for NPCA’s Annual General Meeting, Presidents Forum, and August 1-3 weekend of events in Portland, Oregon, is now available on our website at <http://www.rpcv.org/pages/sitepage.cfm?id=680>. The reunion is open to all RPCVs, former and current Peace Corps Staff, family and friends! You do not have to be an NPCA member or associated with the Peace Corps to attend.

The Columbia River Peace Corps Association is working hard to make this a stimulating and fun-filled reunion and encourages you to turn your visit into a full vacation! Activities surrounding the meetings include workshops, an international bazaar, a career fair, and a visit to the Celebrations Exhibit presented by the Committee for a Museum of the Peace Corps Experience. During the week, go to the coast or the mountains or even down to Ashland for the Shakespeare Festival where you can enjoy a selection of Shakespeare plays (and where Deedie (Belize/Staff) and David Runkel have opened a bed and breakfast - 800-643-4434). The following weekend, travel to Silver Creek Falls State Park, where the Eugene group has reserved two group campsites for the annual NW Regional RPCV campout. Please visit <http://www.rpcv.org/pages/sitepage.cfm?id=705> for more information.



Peace Corps Experience Museum

You may have brought back a trunk full of souvenirs you collected as a Peace Corps volunteer. Imagine a treasure trove of such artifacts—from pottery and paintings to costumes and cookware—gathered from around the world.

A Museum of the Peace Corps Experience to share relics and reminiscence of living in another culture is the vision of a group of returned volunteers in Oregon. In 1999, they formed the nonprofit Committee for a Museum of the Peace Corps Experience (CMPCE). They've organized two such exhibits in the Portland area. In the future, they want a real museum and traveling exhibits around the country.

The museum will house art, artifacts, photographs and will reflect lifestyles from the countries where Peace Corps serves. In addition, the museum will mount traveling exhibits, working with returned volunteer groups nationwide. The exhibits will center around farming, cooking, and dining customs, formal and informal education systems, economic challenges and opportunities, interpersonal interaction, community decision-making, the roles of women and children, ceremonies and leisure activities.

Other exhibits may illustrate Peace Corps' institutional history and how it relates to U.S. and world social and political history. The museum will document stories of volunteer life and descriptions of current Peace Corps projects. Organizers hope to have video and audio clips, diary and book excerpts by returned volunteers. The museum may also house a library and meeting rooms for researchers, returned volunteers, and prospective recruits.

CMPCE is looking for help from anyone interested. So far they've enlisted the support of two Oregon congressmen, and many RPCVs from the Portland, Oregon area. Donations are tax deductible and go directly to program planning and development. The organization consists entirely of volunteers and no paid staff.

Please send contributions to: CMPCE, P.O. Box 14861, Portland, OR 97293

For further information, see: www.peacecorpsmuseum.org

Our Mission:

To inspire connection with the world by sharing the Peace Corps experience of living among diverse cultures.



MNRPCV Grant Recipients

The MNRPCV board voted in late April to provide a total of \$2,500 to the following non-profit organizations:

- 1) Habitat for Humanity will receive \$1,000.
- 2) Global Deaf Connection, 2901 38th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN, USA 55406 (teacher training for deaf students in Kenya, Kevin Long, MNRPCV) will receive \$250.
- 3) A project organized by PCV Rel Davis in Bulgaria will receive \$150 to update a mountain lodge facility to be used for conducting youth nature camps.
- 4) Books Georgia, a project organized by a soon-to-be PCV, will receive \$250 for English textbooks.
- 5) Books for Africa will receive \$200.
- 6) Friends of Dolpa will receive \$500 for a Nepal school project. MNRPCV is in the fourth year of a five-year grant commitment for this effort.
- 7) The Cottonwood Foundation (www.cottonwoodfdn.org) will receive \$150.

Looking for a grant? You can find complete grant guidelines on our website at www.mnrpcv.org/grantProposal.html

Did You Ever Use a Food Grinder?

Here's a request from a group of students who are preparing a user's manual for a large, hand-operated food grinder. If you have any experience or interest in food grinders, please take their survey at <http://web.stcloudstate.edu/djhanson/survey.html> Feel free to forward this to anyone who might be interested.

Any questions, contact:

Diane J. Hanson

American Indian Center

720 Fourth Ave S

St. Cloud, MN 56301-4498

320.654.5449

aic@StCloudState.edu

Docent Wanted: Will Train

Title: MN Museum of American Art docent

Description: Minnesota Museum of American Art.

Become a volunteer docent at the Minnesota Museum of American Art. Receive art history instruction. Educate your community. 4 month training period, September through December, meeting on Wednesday evenings. 1 yr commitment giving tours after training.

To apply call Tami at 651-292-4395 or email tmiller@mmaa.org.



Annual Meeting in August - Board Members Wanted!

Nominations and election of Board members for 2003-2004.

Calling Minnesota Returned Peace Corps Volunteers to serve on the board!

If you now live in Minnesota, served in the Peace Corps in the past and are a member of MNRPCV, you are eligible to serve on the board. Are you a volunteer who has the urge to be more involved with what MNRPCV is doing in Minnesota? Are you a financial wizard? Great at organizing events? Then we need your talents to serve on the board.

Each year at the annual meeting, elections are held for the board. The time commitment is only a couple of hours each month. The positions on the board are:

President - serves as the CEO for the business affairs of the organization (this position is usually filled by a board member who has been on the board for a year or more. **Vice President** - fills in for president with other responsibilities as needed or requested.

Treasurer - CFO for the funds and securities of MNRPCV. **Secretary** - keeps the minutes of the meeting. **Communications** - newsletter, web site and e-mail list (listserv).

Community Service - community services events. **Speaker's Bureau** - coordinates the requests from groups who ask for RPCVs to speak. **Social Chair** - coordinates social events. **Membership** - welcomes new members to the organization.

At Large - help where they are needed.

For more information or to volunteer to run for the board, call Mary Adams at 612-521-0649 or e-mail at madams@ccfcu.org.

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MNRPCV
P.O. Box 6413
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Remember to use the
MNRPCV Classified Ads and Forum on
www.mnrpcv.org/TalkToUs.html

