

**NENY RPCV Meeting Notes**  
**Tuesday March 06, 2007**

**Agenda items:**

- Food, Introductions
- Treasurer's report
- Re-up for National PC Association
- New member policy
- Local PC recruiter
- Update on absent members
- Update on publicity
- Summer picnics
- Next meeting & maps to meetings
- Presentation: John & Barbara in Morocco

**Food, Introductions:**

Thank you to the Flynns for sharing their home with 16 people, including the Thornhills back from the Southland.

**Treasurer's report:**

Thanks to the wise choices of our treasurer, our funds survived the latest stock market slump. Exactly none of our \$2359.05 had been invested in stocks, nor had we risked even a dollar on the Mega-Millions jackpot. We did, however, donate \$400 in household goods to refugee resettlement within the last year that we have to account for in our NPCA reaffiliation report. Where that'll fit into the paperwork, we don't know... but that's why we pay our President the big thanks.

**Re-up for National PC Association all safe and accounted for:**

Big thanks to Augusta for keeping us above board.

**New membership policy:**

As a proudly reaffiliated affiliate of NPCA, we are encouraged to pay dues.

*NPCA has a new membership policy.* The key changes are:

- There is no longer a discount for 2 RPCV's living in the same household, This is an equal opportunity policy irrespective of either RPCV's race, ethnicity, religion, creed, party affiliation, color of state, state of mind, sex, gender, sexual orientation or marital status.
- There is no longer a 3 year membership.
- Dues for NPCA are still \$50, \$15 of which is still sent to the local affiliate, of which we are officially affiliated.
- Dues to NPCA are payable here... <http://www.rpcv.org/pages/sitepage.cfm?id=7>

*RPCV-NENY has a new membership policy as well.* Key polices are:

- If you join NPCV by April 15<sup>th</sup>, you don't have to pay NENY, since it's included.
- If you don't join NPCA, you can join RPCV-NENY affiliate for \$15.
- NENY dues are payable by April 15<sup>th</sup>. John will bring forms to the next meeting.
- One NENY membership covers as many RPCV's that happen to be living in your household (offer not valid in Kansas).

Either way, RPCV-NENY gets \$15 per member. However, there are many reasons to join National, including *WorldView* magazine, lobbying strength, networking opportunities, members rates at NPCA meetings and events, discounts on car rentals, hotels in DC and courses at Princeton, and... you can even save a lot of money on your car insurance (see details on the NPCA web site above).

#### **Local PC recruiter:**

The PC recruiter covering our area is Amie Kabia, <AKabia@peacecorps.gov>. She will be in the Capital District from March 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, recruiting at Skidmore 3/26, Vassar 3/27, HVCC 3/28, Siena 3/29, and Schenectady CCC 3/30. She is happy to meet any members who will be in those places on those days. She will send brochures, posters and other material to us for our use at any appropriate events and is happy to cooperate with us in any other way she can.

#### **Update on members:**

The **Thornhills** saw **Terry Amrhein** in (New Orleans?). His FEMA Katrina-rebuild expertise has taken him to Baton Rouge, still focussing is on big projects... such as hospitals. The Thornhills will present their work in Biloxi at next month's meeting and we hope to hear of Terry's work when he returns soon.

**Steve Anderson** has not sent email recently, but his PC work in Mali was mentioned in a Times Union interview with the pastor of his church. Steve posts photos and stories from Mali here... [http://www.geocities.com/steve\\_intj/](http://www.geocities.com/steve_intj/)

**Dave Borton**, his solar home and his solar/electric bicycle were pictured in a few feet of snow on the front cover of the business section of the Times Union. He gave a demo of his bicycle to a crowded room at the East Greenbush Public Library during a panel discussion on transportation.

**Tracy Erney** and **Tim Cooke** are in NZ and have a web site out there somewhere. I'll link it to the web page when I find it.

#### **Update on publicity:**

Wendy posted our meetings on Craig's list and had 2 responses. One respondent, unfortunately, can't make Tuesday meetings. We will plan picnic meetings in the summer for our many members who can't make it to the Capital District mid-week.

#### **Summer picnics:**

The geographic region for our "local" RPCV affiliate extends from the Catskills to the Canadian border (map is here... <http://www.rpcv-neny.org/membership.htm>), and many of our members can't make it to mid-week meetings. We are therefore planning summer picnics on weekend days to include more of our members.

We are planning a June picnic at Peeble's Island at the confluence of the Hudson and the Mohawk Rivers, between North Troy and Cohoes. And Becca has offered her home in the Adirondacks for a 2<sup>nd</sup> picnic that would attract members further north. Dates and times: TBA

#### **Next meeting & maps to meetings:**

Will be April 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Thornhills'.

Harry & Joan will give their presentation on their Katrina relief work.

Since we meet at public homes, we've decided to no longer put maps to our meeting locations on the web site. Instead, I've included a link to [rpcvmoderator@yahoo.com](mailto:rpcvmoderator@yahoo.com) on the web site. Please keep maps to members' homes on your own computer so you don't have to request maps each time.

**Presentation: John & Barbara in Morocco:**

While John explained a photo of Barbara standing next to a water cellar, one of our members got locked in the water closet.

Oh... I have that wrong... Barbara was next to a water *seller*.

She and John met the water seller in Marrakech, Morocco, where Barbara attended the 29th Annual Conference of the Fulbright Alumni on Nov. 3-5, 2006. They extended their trip over hill, dale and sand dunes in search of the single set of tiles that have adorned all the country's grand architecture.

Apparently, when each new governing body took power in Morocco, they built their own structures, but took the tiles from the previous structures and moved them along the path of history. John & Barbara showed beautiful pictures of a current mosque, decorated with carved and colored tile at ground level, carved plaster on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> story levels and carved wood trimming the upper levels. But mosques from past lives don bare walls, even though they remain as places of worship or learning.

While tourism is 2<sup>nd</sup> only to phosphorous mining in the ranks of Moroccan national economy, only 2 mosques in the whole county are open to the public. Of course, John and Barbara visited both. In Casablanca, the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest mosque in the world required 10,000 craftsman and was paid for through the extraction of a month's salary from every household in the country. It continues to bring in the bucks at \$15 for 45 minute entrance, though Barbara & John could probably recap their admission fee by selling some of the wonderful pictures they took there.

Elsewhere, they toured the Qasbah/KasbahCasbah, literally "fort" and referring to the walled citadels of north African cities, of Fez and some other places I can't spell. They followed a path roughly like the one on the right that I found on the web... but they also visited Rabat (and Tangier?).



Along the way, they ventured into both modern BJ's-style wholesale markets and visited traditional street vender, one of them selling nothing but olives. They talked (in French) to traditional craftsman who showed them traditional ways of leather working, wood working, metal working and baking bread in community ovens.

Thanks to Barbara & John for the informative and entertaining presentation.