



BIG ARM ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2008

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**THIS NEWSLETTER IS BECOMING A REAL COMMUNITY PAPER
A BIG THANK YOU TO THE NEIGHBORS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED**

Luella & Arnie Gomke's Trip to Belize: by Luella

We arrived in Belize to unseasonably hot and humid weather, we spent the first night in Belize City and drove out on Tuesday to our work site. We would be remodeling a church at Benque Viejo del Carmen, Cayo, Belize, about 2 miles from the border of Guatemala. Our team consisted of 20 volunteers from Montana, Wyoming, California and North Dakota. Our job was to put a metal roof on the church and install a new ceiling, scrape paint off the walls, prime and repaint the interior, install lighting and ceiling fans, install new doors/jams and enlarge the stage area. The parsonage needed cupboards for the kitchen, shelving in the closets and some finish work in the bathrooms. The area was beautiful, lush and green, with dogs running loose everywhere. The homes were small, concrete block with metal roofs and chickens in every yard, no glass windows but steel bars over every opening. The people were very friendly and helpful, most of the children and a few of the adults spoke English. Some of the church members came on their free time and helped us with the work, on their election day the schools were closed and we had many young people come and help with scragging paint. The cement for the stage was mixed by hand right on the slab without any kind of containment. We ate a lot of rice and

refried beans served on a tortilla, fry bread was a real treat. Meals and liquids were all served at room temperature, except for morning coffee. We stayed at school dormitory's about 2 miles from the work site. The road to the dorms was narrow, rutted, and full of rocks. Our dorms were "open air", no windows or screens, spiders, mosquitoes, gecko, cockroach and tarantula were challenges. Showers were cold water only and spilled into the sewer without traps.

Much of the local laundry was done in the river which ran right through the village, it was then hung over the fences to dry and was a constant presence day and night, few people had clothes lines. People walked or biked everywhere, few had cars and most of those were old and in bad repair. Gas was \$9.75 in Belize where the exchange rate was 2 to 1 American and was \$34.99 in Guatemala where the exchange rate was 7 to 1. This trip again made us appreciate our home and the conveniences we have here in America.

Out & About by Paul Maurer..... For those of you that have not noticed the thriving metropolis of Big Arm is starting to look more like an urban city. How so you might ask, well approximately three months ago there was only one street sign in Big Arm proper. It was the 5th street sign which is in front of the post office. After having far too many people tell Karen and me that they could not find our home after providing elaborate directions I decided to ask the County Commissioners if they would place street signs in Big Arm? They responded with there is no money available, but if I would get a sign they would provide the steel post and I could place it. Needless to say I purchased the new 7th street sign from Sign Pro for about \$12, picked up the post and had my five year old grand daughter Lindsay help me put it up. What a landmark, a 7th street sign by the old Sailing Wolf Tavern. Should anyone else like to do the same I would be willing to help place the new sign. Who knows what might happen if we get more street signs in Big Arm. We might get the next Super Wal-Mart, a strip mall or maybe a stadium so we can have a professional sports franchise.Paul.

SOUPS ON!! Betty, the talented soup maker and cook

employed at the MT Coffee Traders restaurant in Kalispell has agreed to share her knowledge. **Come for a lesson and lunch** Tuesday March 4th 11:00 am. Please register with either Joannie Jarrett 849-5532 or Kay Wearly 849-5099 by March 3rd pm. Fee \$10 to cover Betty's expenses and lunch. Class size is limited register soon!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 29, Friday 6:30pm POTLUCK with Pam Heglund's Iran Presentation: the land, architecture and its friendly people.

March 11, TUESDAY (not Wed). 10:30am COFFEE HOUR

This is an informal get together, everyone welcome!

March 28, Friday 6:30pm POTLUCK- to be announced

April 25, 7pm Presentation on Identifying & Controlling Noxious Weeds. Serving Coffee & Dessert

April 19 Sat. 9:00am Highway 93 Trash Pick up, Please help

June 28 Summer Festival is in the works, ideas & help welcome

We encourage all of you to share your news, relate stories about special people, create fun events or announce events, how about a book review or a favorite recipe. We are open to suggestions THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER, please call or email us with ideas!

We Thank Erin Sexton for her wonderful educational talk on the proposed mining at the headwaters of the Flathead River in Canada. On January 25th Erin showed, using photographs, charts and scientific data the enormity of the planned strip mining and methane gas drilling. She described the data collected at other mining sights and the effect on the watershed areas. The new mining, if allowed, has great potential to affect water that flows into our beautiful lake.

Thank you to BAA leaders who attend our monthly meetings, share their ideas and help organize events. We would love more residents to join this group, please call. This last meeting, among many other subjects, we discussed looking into a community planning group much as they have formed in Lakeside and Somers.

Treasurer's Report: Fund balance is \$3,351.41. Bills presented for stamps, copies, and web page service. Discussed replacing some of the weather damaged letters on the fire hall reader board.

Save Our School: Earle Schafer attended the Polson School District 23 Board Meetings and Ross Hoyt is doing more research into different options. A letter has been sent to Congressman Rehberg asking him to help. Deb Raunig has started the process to become a Preservation Community which will make us eligible for some good grants. We thank Mary Weidrich for her excellent article in the high school newspaper "Big Arm School house should remain with Community".

Events in Polson: Port Polson Players presents "Weekend Comedy" March 7 to 16. Call PPP 883-9212 for more information.

Good Wood Band will be playing at Raleigh's in March ?, if you enjoy blue-grass music with a twist we highly recommend this group. MT Old Time Fiddlers Jam Session Sun March 30, Idle Spur 2-6

Mah-jongg is being played by two different groups, one group is for those who know what they are doing and the other group is having fun trying to learn the game. New players are welcome.

Mind Teasers: Kangaroo words, include own synonym: ROTUND: OBSERVE: REVOLUTION: MARKET: FAÇADE: DELIBERATE: PANTALOONS: PRECIPITATON: SUPERVISOR: HOSTELRY
Jan Answers: Dead, Lit, Fiction, Save, Part, Tomb, Sated, Is, Lie, Apt