

# The Waypoint

AMERICORPS CAPE COD



Volume 10, Issue 1 | December 2008

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**W**elcome to AmeriCorps Cape Cod Year 10! We as Members are so excited to be a part of this great organization, especially as 2009 marks ten successful years of AmeriCorps service on the Cape.

Whether you are a staff member, service partner, family member, or ACC alumnus, we would like to thank you for your support of AmeriCorps Cape Cod and its current Corps members. You are a large part of the reason that we are able to spend these eleven months living and serving within the Cape Cod community.

Inside these pages is a small taste of how much we have learned about Cape Cod and its environment, the importance of service, and the joys and challenges of living with thirteen other people. These first three months have flown by, but have already offered to us so many life-changing experiences.

We hope you enjoy this first edition of The Waypoint from Year 10!

Cheers,  
*The Editors*

*Amanda Baranowski (Bourne), Maria Downs (Bourne), and Korinda Walls (Bourne)*



“YOU’RE NOT FROM AROUND HERE, ARE YOU?”

### Bourne House

Amanda B., Milford, MI  
Ashleigh, Georgetown, TX  
Christin, Knoxville, TN  
Davis, Rochester, NY  
Harry, Westborough, MA  
Jaclyn, Corning, NY  
Jenny, Greece, NY  
Korinda, Fort Wayne, IN  
Maria, Sioux Falls, SD  
Megan, Billings, MT  
Meredith, Ithaca, NY  
Nichole, St. Joseph, MI  
Nicole, Rochester, NY  
Phil, Grand Rapids, MI

### Wellfleet House

Abbey, Sheboygan, WI  
Alex, Durham, NC  
Amie, Minocqua, WI  
Amanda H., Marion, VA  
Brian, Mashpee, MA  
Crystal, Woodstock, GA  
Erin, San Francisco, CA  
Greg, Concord, NH  
Jessica, Somers, CT  
Lisa, Rochester, MN  
Meg, Charlotte, NC  
Monica, Tucson, AZ  
Samantha, Aurora, OH  
Tim, Andover, MA

Map by Korinda Walls (Bourne)

*“I will bring Americans together to strengthen our communities...  
I am an AmeriCorps member and I will get things done.”*

# OysterFest Recycles; AmeriCorps Oysterfests

by Erin Der-McLeod (Wellfleet)

There were no Julia Stiles sightings or warm sunny days, but the streets of Wellfleet were still jam packed for OysterFest 2008. On a normal fall weekend, when all the summer tourists have gone, you'd be lucky to see a couple people roaming Main Street. But, during this two-day event known as OysterFest, Main Street transforms to a vibrant walkway with thousands of people meandering through tents of vendors selling arts, crafts, and of course oysters.

With people traveling across towns, over the bridge, and through state lines for this annual Outer Cape event, AmeriCorps Cape Cod members proved to be no different. From Friday night's kick-off Disco Dance at the Lighthouse Restaurant to the events' clean-up on late Sunday afternoon, members were present in full force.

Virtually every Wellfleet house member and some Bournians made the trek up to navigate their way through the crowds of people, and experience all that OysterFest had to offer. T-shirts were purchased, fried dough was eaten, and dancing buddies (colorful locals) were found during blue grass performances. House Supervisor Amanda Howe and Year 9 alum, sported waders while helping service partner Ethan Estey shuck at his oyster booth. The Wellfleet house even had the men's and women's first place finishers in the locals division of the 5K Shuck and Run road race.



*Abbey, Sam, and Bruce (a colorful local) huddle to keep warm at OysterFest.*

It was not all fun and games though. After all, this is AmeriCorps, and what would an event be without service? True to form, at the end of this long weekend, amidst the fog and brisk fall air, AmeriCorps members were there to help with Oysterfests' recycling program. For the first time in the event's history, bins were set up next to trash cans for plastic cups, bottles and aluminum cans to be recycled. Unique to Oysterfest, there were even buckets for empty shells, which would later be placed in Wellfleet Harbor for reuse.

Hovering like hawks in bright green recycling team shirts, AmeriCorps members stood next to the bins with watchful eyes, ensuring that people put recyclables in their proper containers. It was not a glamorous assignment, especially when one was elbow deep rummaging through the garbage to retrieve a stray bottle. Nevertheless, during the couple hours of service, it was easy to see how much potential waste was saved by recycling at this high volume event.

With help from AmeriCorps members, a senior environmentalists group, and Nauset High School students, organizers seemed extremely pleased by the success of this new recycling program. When October rolls around next year and Oysterfest again takes over downtown Wellfleet, I'm sure recycling will return as will AmeriCorps Cape Cod members old and new.



*Tim sprints through the final stretch of the Shuck and Run road race.*

For OysterFest info, check out [wellfleetoysterfest.org](http://wellfleetoysterfest.org)

# 24 Hours

by Nichole Long (Bourne)

The first twenty-four hours on the Cape seemed like I was in a novel. Everything placed mindfully with purpose, like the pyramids. Relocating from rural Michigan where my neighbors own 300 acres, Cape Cod felt like visiting the inside of a storybook. It was stimulating; every ten feet something was there to mesmerize my mind. The beauty of the old houses, the way stores were cared for with preserved wooden signs hanging in front - all not to not disturb the historic heritage and breath-taking views along side streets and the sea dunes. The only thing missing was the cell phone tower disguised as a native pitch pine. With plentiful beaches on Cape Cod, it was not hard to find a place to watch the tide come in. I remember resting along Route 28 to walk by the water, stopping



to notice little crabs. I found it very amusing and hilarious that one crab, when picked up, would hide from me. I must have stared at that crab for 20 minutes having a laugh on its behalf while we played hide and seek together. When it was time to relish in fine Cape din-

ning, I found it difficult to make a decision. I was overwhelmed with all the small local "Mom & Pop" shops. An authentic lemongrass soup with a side of cucumber tofu more than satisfied my appetite. Any cuisine imaginable could be found here. Thai, Indian, Italian, Greek, or plain Nor'easter was here on this Atlantic hook of land. This was truly the little place only portrayed in script. With every passing parcel, I observed my new homeland. Sun, sand, seals, and harbors full of sailboats.....could one possibly anticipate anything more?

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## Oh, the Places Rabies Baiting Will Take You

by Meg Letts (Wellfleet)

Have you ever wondered where all the back roads lead to? As members of AmeriCorps Cape Cod, the best way to get around the Cape is to take Route 6. There are no crazy interstates or turnpikes here - just one main highway. Simple. However, there is always that urge to turn off trusty Route 6 and explore that little known road - just to see where it leads. Little did I know that burning temptation would soon be fulfilled through rabies baiting.

Rabies Bait. It vaccinates, smells like fish, sticks to the car for weeks, and gives you an excuse to go off-roading. So before I get ahead of myself I should explain what rabies baiting is. Think of something the size of a ketchup packet filled with vaccine and covered in fishmeal. The fishmeal attracts raccoons who eat the bait, digest the vaccine and, ta-da!, the raccoon is protected against rabies. The bait is thrown out of a moving vehicle onto the side of the road, at least three feet or so past the shoulder.

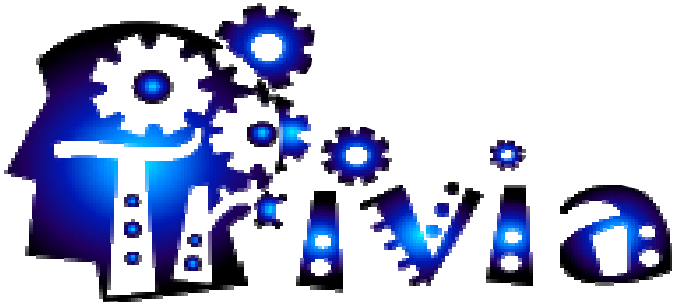
Of course, we stay out of yards, parks, or any area that receives heavy foot traffic. One person navigates the map, while the other bravely inserts his or her hand

into a bag of fishmeal-covered bait and tosses the bait out of the car window. Fishmeal flies all over the car, just so that you have a reminder of your good service for weeks on end.

Throughout the service we turn up some good sing-along music, adventure through unexplored territory (at least for us), and share many good laughs. Each of us has our own entertaining stories from baiting gone wrong or interesting encounters with locals and curious walkers.

The baiting leads us onto roads I never knew existed. It takes you into the heart of the Cape Cod community, where the locals have secluded themselves from the tourists and seasonal traffic of Route 6. Houses of various sizes, all showing their character, are scattered through the woods surrounding the bay. Residential areas here are considered densely settled. Very true statement. They are not far apart from each other, but are still nestled in their own serene property. That is part of the beauty of the Cape Cod lifestyle. Around here you never have to go far to find a peaceful, quiet place.

Sadly, this was our first and last time to rabies bait, but at least the "perimeters are secure."



## A Bourne House Obsession

by Christin Marshall (*Bourne*)

1. In the book, *The Catcher in the Rye*, what is the name of Holden Caulfield's little sister?
2. Which two companies partnered to create the Smart Car?
3. Name 2 countries that border Bosnia.
4. In what year was the Cape Cod Canal completed by the Army Corps of Engineers?
5. In Mandarin, what product's name is translated as "delicious happiness?"
6. The Dow Jones Industrial Average is an average of how many stocks?
7. In the movie, *Just Friends*, why is the airplane forced to land in Trenton?
8. What color outlines the title and logo on the video jacket of *Jurassic Park*?
9. In what year was AmeriCorps founded?
10. From what local area did the whalers depart in the fictional story *Moby Dick*?
  - a. Martha's Vineyard
  - b. Nantucket
  - c. Hyannis
  - d. Falmouth

ANSWERS on page 9

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## Opening Day

by Tim Dugan (*Wellfleet*)

On Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008, all of the AmeriCorps Cape Cod members and staff headed to Boston to attend the Massachusetts Service Alliance Annual Opening Day. It was a gathering of the entire twelve-hundred AmeriCorps members who make up seventy-three Volunteer Groups in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The morning ceremony was hosted by Dawn Hasbrouck of WBZ-TV and held at the Reggie Lewis Athletic Center in Roxbury. One of the highlights was a keynote speech from Cheryl Cumings PhD, founder of Our Space Our Place, Inc., a nonprofit which that provides an after school and career exploration program to blind youth ages 6 through 18. Later, a representative from each group introduced their

service. Each speech was accompanied with cheers from their respective core partners (Yeah Maria!). The ceremony concluded with Governor Deval Patrick, who has advocated for increased service involvement and government funding for years, conducting the AmeriCorps Pledge.

For the afternoon portion of the day, Corps members attended a tour of the Massachusetts State House. Most notable were the historical House desks and Senate chairs, the "Sacred Cod" which hangs in the House, and the "Holy Mackerel" in the Senate. We ended with a lecture from Senator O'Leary's Chief of Staff on the legislative timeline of a bill into a law. Although it was disheartening to learn that the average bill takes seven years to complete the legislative process, it was empowering to hear that in Massachusetts, citizens can propose bills at any time.

Opening Day gave Corps members a glimpse into Massachusetts' other service groups, introduced us to the leaders of the Massachusetts Service Alliance and other political leaders who support and fund our programs, and gave us an opportunity to step outside of our service and Cape Cod to witness and better understand the center of Massachusetts Service.



*The Sacred Cod of the MA State House*



by Davis Brush (Bourne)



## A Venture to the Vineyard

by Abbey Woods (Wellfleet)

As much as I enjoy committing myself to a year of service around the Cape, I always look forward to a free weekend where I can explore my new surroundings. Luckily, with 25 other people, it's easy to find an adventurous companion so that you are never alone in your endeavors. This is how an excursion to Martha's Vineyard began.

It all started at the Bourne Scallop Festival, where, after serving, we watched a performance by a local band called Entrain. They were an eight piece band with a lot of drums and horns that made you get up and dance. As soon as the lead singer opened his mouth and let down his hair, I was hooked. I found out that the band would soon be playing in Martha's Vineyard, and I thought it would be a great opportunity to see Entrain again and visit the Vineyard, as I had never been there. Our adventure began on a Friday afternoon after a long day of service. Meg, Brian,

Alex, Jaclyn, Jenny, Amanda, and I stuffed tents and sleeping bags into our backpacks, hoping that we would still be able to balance on our bikes.

With six people, things were bound to be forgotten – like the early sunset on a fall day in Massachusetts. It was pitch black by the time we stepped off the ferry. Meg had a headlamp and Alex had a small flashlight to help lead our way. Fortunately, we all made it safely to the campground, where I purchased another headlamp to help aid us in setting up camp. The tents went up without a problem and we were ready to dance!

We called a cab to take us to the concert venue, as any more biking could have jeopardized our lives. A man in a huge van picked us up and asked us if we liked hip-hop, to which we all enthusiastically responded, "No!" This didn't matter to the driver, and we spent the ride watching a live Snoop Dogg DVD

positioned up on the front dashboard. We gave him a great show, as we knew all the words to this music we previously were so adamantly against. I don't think the driver appreciated it, as he charged \$37...for driving us five miles!

After being robbed blind, we still had some money left to get into the show, and it was well worth it. The venue had a huge dance floor, and we got the whole place moving! Our efforts were acknowledged with a shout-out from the lead singer before the last song, which we decided should become our "AmeriCorps Anthem." None of us can really remember the song, but we know that one line goes, "I must be doing something right... because I'm dancing in the light!"

We really must have been doing something right, because a guy at the show offered us all a ride home in his van in lieu of another costly cab ride. We made it back safely to the campsite, looking forward to a good night's rest. Unfortunately, another thing we forgot about was the dropping temperature. I woke up snuggled up against Alex's sleeping bag and being spooned by Meg. We spent the next day exploring Vineyard Haven and Oak Bluffs on our bikes, stopping by the Gingerbread Neighborhood and riding the oldest carousel in the United States – complete with brass rings!

We made it back to the mainland, exhausted from lugging our belongings on our backs while biking and tired from the cold, sleepless night. The adventure had been a success and we all vowed that we would revisit Martha's Vineyard once daylight savings returns, bringing with it warmer weather and more hours of daylight.

# From the Midwest to the East Coast

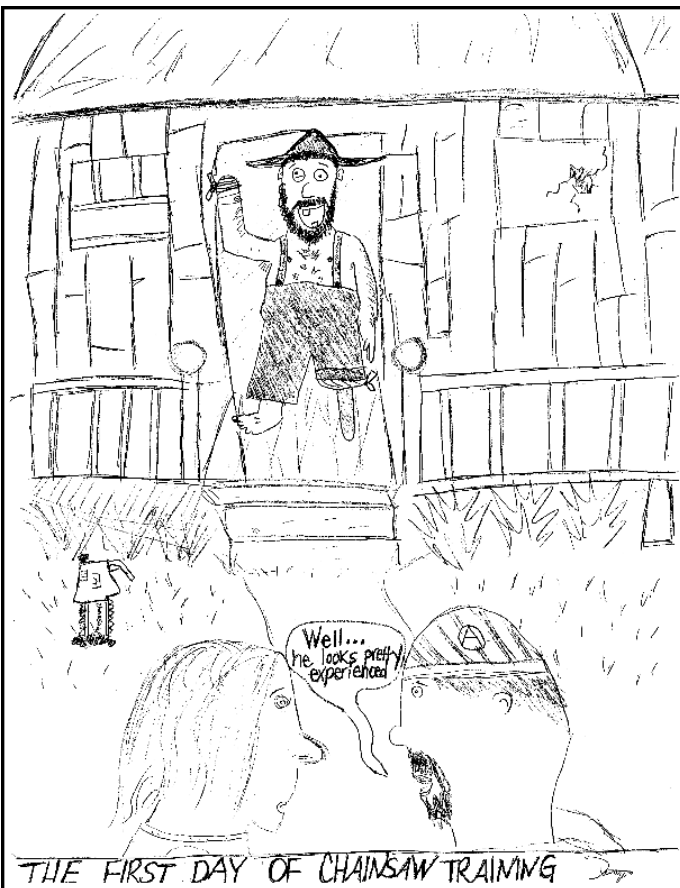
Interview by Lisa Buchs (Wellfleet)

Each year, AmeriCorps Cape Cod is made up of members from across the United States. The team gains strength from our varied backgrounds and perspectives. This year's Corps is like any other – with a particularly strong representation from the Midwest. Amie Vos offers her perspective on moving from the Midwest to the East Coast.



- Q.** Where are you from?  
**A.** Minocqua, WI
- Q.** How long did it take you to get here?  
**A.** It took me 24 hours of driving.
- Q.** What was your first impression of the East Coast?  
**A.** I really liked it because I had never seen the ocean before.
- Q.** What is the biggest difference between the East Coast and the Midwest?  
**A.** The weather is so much warmer!
- Q.** What do you miss the most from the Midwest?  
**A.** I miss Wisconsin cheese and Milwaukee pickles.

- Q.** What is your favorite thing about the East Coast?  
**A.** I like being close to the ocean and being able to sit on the beach and watch the waves.
- Q.** What's your favorite shellfish?  
**A.** I like scallops – they have the prettiest shell.
- Q.** What's your favorite service project so far?  
**A.** I've really enjoyed shellfish propagation in the bay – or anything where I get to be outside and get dirty.
- Q.** What do you think of service on the Cape?  
**A.** I came to Cape Cod with the same stereotypes I think most people have. I've been impressed since I got here with the needs of this community and how we have the chance to make a real impact.



Cartoon by Brian Dinizio (Wellfleet)

## “A” is for AmeriCorps

*I'm Going On A Service Project And I'm Bringing...*

- |                               |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>A</b> meriCorps shirt      | <b>N</b> algene Bottle     |
| <b>B</b> oots (Waterproof)    | <b>O</b> range Rain Gear   |
| <b>C</b> hainsaw              | <b>P</b> rotective Helmet  |
| <b>D</b> unkin' Donuts Coffee | <b>Q</b> uahog Rake        |
| <b>E</b> ar Plugs             | <b>R</b> abies Bait        |
| <b>F</b> irst Aid Kit         | <b>S</b> afety Glasses     |
| <b>G</b> loves (Leather)      | <b>T</b> ecnu              |
| <b>H</b> andsaw               | <b>U</b> nderArmor         |
| <b>I</b> ngenuity             | <b>V</b> an!               |
| <b>J</b> olly-ness            | <b>W</b> aders             |
| <b>K</b> orinda               | <b>X</b> -Treme Dedication |
| <b>L</b> oppers               | <b>Y</b> ellow Hard Hat    |
| <b>M</b> ap of Cape Cod       | <b>Z</b> any Members       |

by Maria Downs (Bourne) and Amanda Baranowski (Bourne)



# CHECK YOUR KNOWLEDGE!

## AmeriCorps Edition

Match these little known facts with the Corps members they describe.



1. Abbey Woods
  2. Alex Soper
  3. Amanda Baranowski
  4. Amanda Howe
  5. Amie Vos
  6. Ashleigh McCord
  7. Brian Dinizio
  8. Christin Marshall
  9. Crystal Morris
  10. Davis Brush
  11. Erin Der-McLeod
  12. Greg Rompala
  13. Harry Johnson
  14. Jaclyn Hochreiter
  15. Jenny Burkhardt
  16. Jessica Regan
  17. Korinda Walls
  18. Lisa Buchs
  19. Maria Downs
  20. Megan Horbin
  21. Meghan Letts
  22. Meredith Titterington
  23. Monica Farmer
  24. Nicole Frame
  25. Nichole Long
  26. Phil Weigert
  27. Samantha Miller
  28. Tim Dugan
- A. Black Belt in Kung Fu
  - B. Can water ski on one ski
  - C. Plays the violin
  - D. Collects ceramic animals
  - E. Has an addiction to Red Hots
  - F. Was the campus-wide poker champion in college
  - G. Is a super speedy texter
  - H. Was a competitive jump roper as a kid
  - I. Is a dual citizen – Canada and the US
  - J. Would only get in the bath as a child if wearing goggles
  - K. Starred in a fire safety commercial
  - L. Had a guinea pig that lived for 6 years that he or she took for walks on a leash
  - M. Was a rhythmic gymnast
  - N. Never wears the same colored socks
  - O. His or her family was featured on Good Morning America
  - P. Was the founding member of the "Nifty Fifty" club in second grade demonstrating the skill to name all fifty states and their capitals all by memorization.
  - Q. Played six sports in college
  - R. Was the high school homecoming nominee for the math club
  - S. Competed on speech and debate teams in high school and college
  - T. Had a childhood crush on MacGyver
  - U. Has a dog named Gracie
  - V. Has been surrounded by white faced monkeys
  - W. Separated his or her shoulder while sledding and hitting a tree
  - X. Highest Girl Scout cookie seller in 5<sup>th</sup> grade (1008 boxes!)
  - Y. Participated in 3 triathalons
  - Z. Likes to crack other people's toes
  - AA. Loves dill pickles with grilled cheese
  - BB. The only member not to give us a fact...tear.

ANSWERS on Page 9

By Ashleigh McCord (Bourne) and Maria Downs (Bourne)



# Maria's Favorite Dessert (That She Couldn't Find)

by Nicole Frame (Bourne)

One night I was in the mood for something sweet and decided to make peanut butter pie. Everyone but a couple people was at Trivia. In between commercial breaks of Grey's Anatomy, I whipped together the pie filling, poured it into the crust, and stuck it in the fridge. I then left the empty bowl on the coffee table until the trivia crowd came home to lick it clean (which they did). The following night no one had had any so I pulled it out and placed it on the kitchen table where Davis helped himself to a good size slice. He then told everyone not to tell Maria where the pie was because she would eat it all (peanut butter is one of her favorite foods).

The next day as I was leaving the house, I asked Maria if she had some pie yet and she said, "Pie, you made peanut butter pie!! Where is it?!" I told her it was in the fridge. Upon my return, she was *still* looking for the pie. I said, "Maria, it is the downstairs, left fridge in the bottom drawer." Off she went and finally after two days was happily eating some peanut butter pie. For weeks, I was blamed for not telling her where the pie was or that I had made pie UNTIL in a moment of weakness Davis admitted he was the one who told everyone not to tell Maria where the pie was. Moral of the story - Leave a peanut butter trail for Maria to follow. Enjoy!

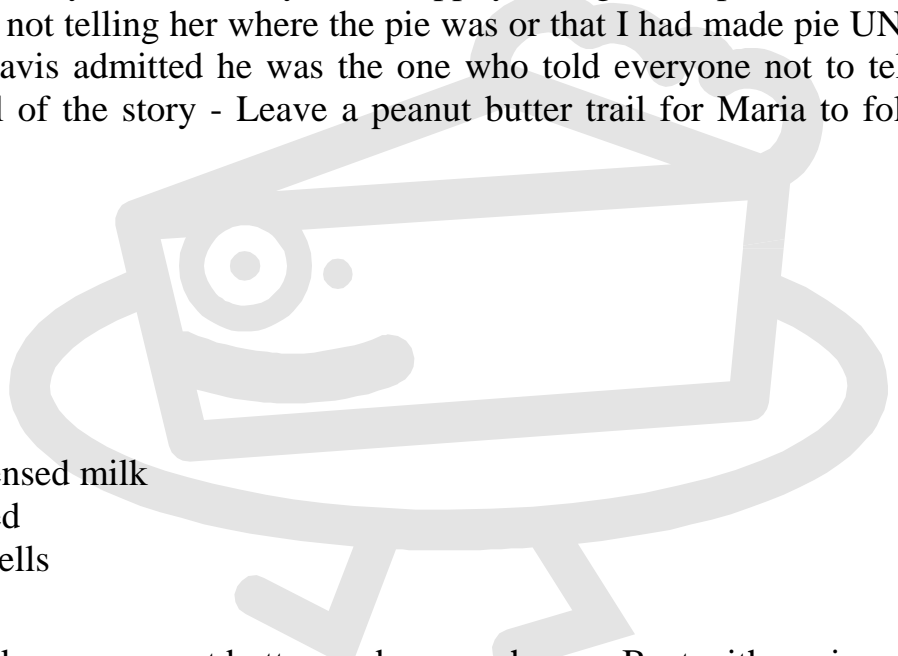
## Peanut Butter Pie

### Ingredients

1 cup powdered sugar  
1 cup creamy peanut butter  
8 ounce block cream cheese  
1 - 14 ounce can sweetened condensed milk  
12 ounces whipped topping thawed  
2 pre-made graham cracker pie shells

### Directions

In a large bowl combine powdered sugar, peanut butter, and cream cheese. Beat with a mixer on medium speed until smooth. Add milk and mix until combined. Fold in whipped topping. Divide between the two pie shells. Chill for eight hours or overnight. Enjoy!



**Trivia Answers:** 1. Phoebe. 2. Swatch and Mercedes. SMArt is a clever abbreviation for Swatch/Mercedes Art. 3. Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia. 4. 1914. 5. Coca-Cola. 6. 30. 7. The microwave catches on fire. 8. Yellow. 9. AmeriCorps was founded in 1994 when President Bill Clinton signed the National and Community Service and Trust act into law. 10. Nantucket.

**Check Your Knowledge ANSWERS!** 1:M, 2:BB, 3:H, 4:T, 5:W, 6:R, 7:F, 8: E, 9:AA, 10:B, 11:A, 12:Z, 13:C, 14:G, 15:L, 16:V, 17:X, 18:S, 19:K, 20:U, 21:N, 22:J, 23:O, 24:D, 25:P, 26:Y, 27:L, 28:Q

<http://www.rdoac.org/ameriCorps/>

**CHECK  
US OUT ONLINE!**

AmeriCorps has partnered with Housing Assistance Corporation (HAC) and received generous grant funds from the Massachusetts Service Alliance (MSA) and match funds from Barnstable County to help renovate HAC's Village at Catamount Transitional Shelter. We need your help. Paint! Spackle! Sew! Construct! For more information please e-mail us at [ameriCorpsCmilk09@gmail.com](mailto:ameriCorpsCmilk09@gmail.com), call us at (508)-375-6864, or check us out online.

*VOLUNTEER for Martin Luther King Day of Service  
on January 19, 2009*

AmeriCorps Cape Cod  
P.O. Box 427  
Barnstable, MA 02630



## Top Ten AmeriCorps Moments So Far...

*by Meredith Titterington (Bourne) and Jaclyn Hochreiter (Bourne)*

10. Our spontaneous athletic nature in any and all parking lots (football, Frisbee, etc.)
9. House Supervisors with superior baking abilities
8. The diverse accents in the play "Sammy the Scallop"
7. P.I. (Poison Ivy) : Bourne's PARANOIA and Wellfleet's PLAGUE
6. Alums that stick around! (Especially those who bring us treats!)
5. Proving Phil Burt's theory is wrong- you *can* get lost on Cape Cod.
4. The epic hand holding battle: 4 hours for 5 dollars
3. Year Ten: Testing the definition of vegetarianism
2. Certain members' spectacular ability to clear a room (and be proud of it)
1. No Touching.....More Touching!!!!