



PERMACULTURE CREDIT UNION NEWSLETTER

ESTABLISHED MAY 18, 2000

JULY 2007

Living In An “Earthship”

By Tom Wimber

Our house is called an “Earthship” perhaps because it rests lightly on the earth extracting nothing from it nor putting anything into it. The concept is to build with materials that are pollutants or discarded products (such as tires and aluminum cans) and other elements available in nature. The concept was initially conceived by a Taos, NM architect, Michael Reynolds. My wife, Judy, worked with his crew for several months to learn the process, develop her own ideas for our own house and then teach me the techniques.

The outer walls are constructed of discarded automobile tires filled with whatever material comes out of the building site. They are packed in place with this material, dirt, and rocks, using a sledge hammer so they are filled with about three wheelbarrow loads and end up weighing about 250 pounds. These walls then become a solar battery, absorbing sun in the days and warming the house in cold weather and at night. The house is oriented 160 degrees to take full advantage of the sun at this latitude. Even when it’s zero outdoors, the interior temperature has never been less than 60 degrees with no internal heat source.

Interior walls and planters are constructed of aluminum soda and beer cans, laid in rows within a cement matrix. This method of wall building

recycles cans, allows free form construction, saves materials, is easy to do and is easy to finish with adobe (New Mexico soil/ mud), so it looks attractive and conceals the cans. The same applies to the exterior tires when covered.



Our water source is from rain and snow off the roof and occasionally hauled from a private well. It is stored in 1,500 gallon underground tanks to keep it cool and not objectionably visual. Our electricity is produced by the sun striking photovoltaic panels that produce direct current. This is then changed to regular city type current that powers all things “normal” folks have such as computers, microwaves, hair dryers, etc. We are “off the grid,”

meaning we are five miles from the nearest commercial electrical source. If it breaks we have to fix it, but then we don’t have to send a check to anyone each month or be susceptible to brown outs or downed power lines.

We separate black water (toilet) and grey water (kitchen, bath/shower), using the grey for outside plantings and the black into a septic/leach field. We use propane for a small bathroom heater, the kitchen stove and refrigerator, and have a seldom used fireplace stove in the living room. We have all the comforts and amenities as others, besides living on 160 acres with the nearest neighbor two miles away and views of mountains, deserts and sunsets to soothe the spirit and calm the soul. It feels nice to know we are helping in a small way to keep this land healthy and free from too much human impact. And, yes, the snow is gone, the ground is bare, the deep mud has dried, and the spring flowers should be super with this moisture.

(Tom’s article was written prior to spring.)

Your New Board of Directors for 2007-2008 are:

Chair – Hugh Roberts

Vice Chair – John J. McAndrew

Secretary – Brendan Miller

Treasurer – Barbara Mueller

Director – Wesley Roe

Director – Nora Haskins

Director – Arina Pittman

Members Become Directors

The PCU held its election for members of the Board of Directors again this spring. Thanks to all of you who voted, and those who expressed an interest in serving our membership by serving on the Board. We received 261 ballots – an almost 30% voter turnout, which is huge in comparison with the turnout at most credit unions.

Board members Barbara Mueller, Nora Haskins, John McAndrew, and Hugh Roberts were not up for re-election, and all will continue to serve on the board.

Nora Haskins is vacating her position as Chair of the Board. We are all grateful for her years of service, and happy that she will continue as a director.

Hugh Roberts has been chosen as Board Chair, and John McAndrew as Vice-Chair. Barbara Mueller will continue to serve as our Treasurer.

Arina Pittman was appointed to fulfill the term left vacant by the resignation of director Jake Ingram. Arina was, most recently, Managing Director of EcoVersity. She has expressed an interest in working on the Marketing and Communications Committee, as well as helping us to implement some long-intended changes to our web site.

Wesley Roe was elected to a new term on the Board. Wesley just represented the PCU at the Permaculture Convergence and Conference in Brazil, and will continue to be our contact with members and the wider Permaculture community in California.

Brendan Miller was elected by the membership to his first term on the board, and has accepted the position of Board Secretary. Brendan is a project manager for a developer in Santa Fe using green building parameters.

We have had two board meetings since the elections, have reviewed our strategic directives, and are moving ahead with plans for growing our membership, services, and vision in accordance with sustainable Permaculture values.

"Man, despite his artistic pretentions, his sophistication and many accomplishments, owes the fact of his existence to a six-inch layer of topsoil and the fact that it rains."

– Anonymous

Susan Coulter Retires

Susan Coulter, long time board member, has retired after serving five years as a director. Susan served as board chair for two of those years and as secretary for two years. She brought enthusiasm and wisdom to her various duties as a director. Most often she would be one of the first to volunteer for a task. It might be writing something for the newsletter, researching various subjects of interest to the board, or contributing monetarily, if needed.

We would like to thank Susan for her commitment to the Permaculture Credit Union these past five years. We will miss her ready smile and the common sense that she brought to every task.

PERMACULTURE CREDIT UNION

"Making the difference in the lives of people who care about the earth."

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip: _____

I am enclosing a check payable to Permaculture America Latina for:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 Other \$ _____

For tax-deductible contributions, please make checks payable to:

PAL (Memo to Read: c/o PCU Funds)
P.O. Box 29300
Santa Fe, NM 87592-9300

Notice to Members

About Changes to our Share Certificate Program

At our June 14, 2007 Permaculture Credit Union Board Meeting, we discussed some changes to our Share Certificate Program. The changes are as follows:

- 1) We are discontinuing the minimum balance requirement to open a share certificate account.
- 2) We are shortening our early withdrawal penalty for our 12-month share certificate from 90 days to 30 days.

We feel that a low balance share certificate is a great teaching tool for the child or grandchild of a member to learn about putting money aside for the future in a time deposit instrument. Next, we also wanted to allow someone who was just starting to get a savings pattern to establish a share certificate account without having to worry about a minimum balance such as \$500 or \$1000. And we shortened our early withdrawal penalty because we feel it is more fair for the duration of time required for the share certificate.

While we are not yet offering new money share certificates, we have taken these steps to help shape our future policies when we do offer them again, and they are effective immediately for current share certificate holders.

FACT ACT NOTICE:

This notice applies to all members who borrow funds from the Permaculture Credit Union. **NEGATIVE INFORMATION NOTICE:** We may report information about your loan and deposit accounts to credit bureaus. Late payments, missed payments, or other defaults on your account may be reflected in your credit report.

New Member Services Hours

For your convenience, we have extended our Santa Fe office hours for member services as follows:

Mon–Wed 10:00 – 5:00

Thurs and Fri 10:00 – 5:30

Loan requests are taken during normal business hours or by appointment for member convenience.

VISUALIZE PCU!

We would like to create a permanent visual display for the PCU table at conferences and festivals that includes photos of our members and their sustainable projects that have been funded with PCU loans. If you would like to be a part of the display, please send large color photographs (e.g. - 4"X 6" or 5"X8") to our mailing address or e-mail digital photos to us at eileen@pcuonline.org. And please give us a short quote to put next to the photo. Thanks!

KEEP US UPDATED

Returned statements cost us money. Please give us a call as soon as you have a change of address or phone number. Also let us know if you are going to be "temporarily away" so we can hold your mail or send it to an alternate address. Thank you!

PRINCIPLED PEOPLE

What defines us as a credit union is not where we work or live, but the principles we hold in common. Tell us a story or give us an example of how you have implemented the principles of Permaculture in your decisions and your plans. We will print some of your stories in subsequent newsletters. Photos are welcome. Send everything to eileen@pcuonline.org. Subject to read: Attention Newsletter Editor.

FINANCIALS: (All numbers Year-to-Date totals)	April '07	May '07	June '07	Financial Goals for 2nd Quarter 2007
Loans	\$2,574,195	\$2,544,369	\$2,630,609	\$2,894,178
Total Assets	\$3,129,293	\$3,079,507	\$3,221,420	\$2,930,860
Retained Earnings	\$ 144,009	\$ 137,097	\$ 135,190	\$ 100,740
Capital Ratio (Retained Earnings Assets)	4.60%	4.45%	4.20%	3.42% (Required) 3.56% (Goal)
Membership	900	907	907	914
Total Income (Loans, Investments, Fees & Donations)	\$ 118,111	\$ 135,362	\$ 152,384	\$ 115,091
Total Expenses (Operation & Dividend Expenses)	\$ 72,502	\$ 96,664	\$ 115,593	\$ 111,307
Net Income or Loss	\$ 45,610	\$ 38,698	\$ 36,791	\$ 3,784



PERMACULTURE CREDIT UNION

MISSION STATEMENT

The Permaculture Credit Union pools the financial resources of people who believe in the ethics of Permaculture—care of the earth, care of people, and reinvestment of surplus for the betterment of both. We apply those resources to earth-friendly and socially responsible loans and investments.

OFFICE LOCATION

4250 Cerrillos Rd., 2nd Floor,
Santa Fe, NM 87507

MAILING ADDRESS

PO Box 29300,
Santa Fe, NM 87592-9300
Toll Free: 1-866-954-3479
Phone: (505) 954-3479
Fax: (505) 424-1624

Web Site: WWW.PCUONLINE.ORG
Email: PERMA@PCUONLINE.ORG

OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Wednesday 10:00am – 5:00pm
Thursday–Friday 10:00am – 5:30pm

LOAN REQUEST

During normal business hours
Or by appointment for member
convenience.

MANAGEMENT & STAFF

Donald J. Sarich, President/CEO
Eileen Banashek, Bookkeeper
Willina M. Martinez,
Member Services Representative
Matthew Carrasco-Trujillo,
Loan Processor

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hugh Roberts – Chair
John J. McAndrew – Vice Chair
Brendan Miller – Secretary
Barbara Mueller – Treasurer
Wesley Roe – Director
Nora Haskins – Director
Arina Pittman – Director

SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE

Carolyn Agard – Chair
Joseph Ellis – Member
Elizabeth Martin – Member
Phil Vergamini – Member



2007

Holiday Closings

Labor Day
Monday, September 3

Columbus Day
Monday, October 8

Veteran's Day
Monday, November 12

Thanksgiving
Thursday, November 22
Friday, November 23

USA PATRIOT ACT ANNUAL NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Member Identification Requirements

In accordance with Section 326 of the USA Patriot Act, applicants for new accounts are requested to provide current picture identification that verifies identity including name, address and other identifying information.

In some cases, identification will be requested for current members if original documentation was not obtained with the opening of the account. In all cases, protection of our members' identity and confidentiality is our pledge to you. We support all efforts to protect and maintain the security of our members and our country. This notice is being published as required by law.

PRIVACY POLICY

We do not disclose any nonpublic information about our members and former members to anyone except as permitted by law.

WHAT IS PERMACULTURE?

We all have pondered the meaning of Permaculture, whether we are new to the concept or teach others what it means. We've been printing selected definitions in our newsletters to give you food for thought. So tell us how you define Permaculture. As space permits in upcoming newsletters, we will print - and ponder - your responses. Please be succinct.

Send your thoughts to eileen@pcuonline.org. Subject to read Attention Newsletter Editor.

"Permaculture is the art of combining ancient tried and true wisdom and practices of our ancestors with the technology and insights of the modern world. You can't improve on the wheel but you can find a thousand new ways to use it."

— Eileen Banashek, a member of the PCU staff, uses three rain barrels to water her garden and rides her bike to work. She is also a member of the Pedal Queens, a Santa Fe women's bicycling club.

MEMBER SERVICES

We are currently financing up to \$100,000.00 in loans per household. All rates are subject to change without notice.

NEW & USED VEHICLE LOANS

MORTGAGE LOANS

(Land & Home Equity)

BICYCLE LOAN DISCOUNT

SIGNATURE LOANS

SHARE & CERTIFICATE SECURED
LOANS

CREDIT CARDS

STUDENT LOANS

SUSTAINABILITY DISCOUNTS

We provide sustainability discounts for projects that are earth-friendly. The usual discount is .75% off our current loan rates. Call our office staff for details.

DIRECT DEPOSIT

Have funds directly deposited into the PCU from your paycheck or other financial institution. Pay your bills by having funds directly transferred from your PCU account. Pay your PCU credit card with ease online.

MEMBER ALERT

DO NOT RESPOND to email scams that ask you for your account number, credit card number, and personal identification numbers. Email messages that ask for this type of information are fraudulent, and should be reported immediately.

This includes seemingly real notification from VISA Security and NCUA (National Credit Union Administration) requesting you to go to a website and log in. We will never contact you and ask for this information.