

Wauna Food Buying Co-op and
Emergency Preparedness Group
News Letter – 14 Nov 2008

WELCOME TO THE COOP FOR TWO NEW FAMILIES

Hi,

I am so excited to have come across your page you had up in 2007 about honey. I am a newbie preparer of the past year and an amateur beekeeper.

Would love to know more about your group, I buy in bulk by myself and would love to have some purchase power with a group. I shop at Emergency Essentials, Cash and Carry, Costco, Walton Feed, Honeyville and USA Emergency.

Would love to know more about your group, I am in Belfair, WA. Single mom with 3 year old and an avid preparer. I also have another dear friend in Belfair who is also an avid preparer and we talk to each other about preparedness, but it is a unique mindset and so it is not very often we can have indepth conversations about our ideas without sounding extreme to non-prepares... though in light of the rapidly changing economy maybe more people will be seeing the light before it is too late.

Peace & Blessings, and would love to know more about your group and finding some like minded people to share some purchase power with.

Reina

~~~~~  
Who is your coordinator, how do I join? is your info on the web site up to date?

thanks

JASON & MARIA

~~~~~  
11/14/08

Reina, Jason and Maria,

Sorry to be so long in answering you. I don't look at that email WaunaEP@yahoo.com email very often, just when I send out news letters. A better place to contact me is MakingSuccessWork@yahoo.com. I look at that email every

day.

To join our Wauna EP coop all you have to do is to let us know you want to join. Anyone and everyone is welcome. I hope that it is OK if I send a copy of this email out to all of the other members of our group as a news letter so they can get to know you better and will have your email address. I am sure some of them will want to email you and welcome you to our group. We all enjoy communicating with each other and sharing ideas. I know you will really like the members of our group once you meet them... they are a fun group of friends. And I hope that when you have some information that you think would be of interest to the group you will send it along to me so I can put it in a news letter to all the group members.

If it is OK I will also put you on our news letter mailing list and you can consider yourselves members of our group. If you ever want to be off the mailing list, just send me an email and I will remove you.

Our coop group is mainly made up of people who live on the Peninsula or that general area. Mostly South of Hwy 16 down the Peninsula and west into Belfair. But you don't have to live right in the immediate area to join us. ***The more people we can help get prepared now, the less we will have to help when there is a disaster*** (that is our group motto). The group is not associated with any organization. We are just a group of friends who have tried to organize a food buying and emergency preparedness group. We are also associated with 2 other EP groups. One from Gig Harbor area and one from the Wollochet area. We share information with them too. They have groups of their own and we often join the 3 groups together for buying power.

Our group has not been very active recently because everyone is just too busy to do much just yet. However I am sure that will always be the case for all of us. None of us really ever have time to do things like this that are not pressing. So for now I am the one who sort took charge and tried to get it going and keep it organized when several friends expressed interest in buying bulk.

I created the web page and started the news letter. But it is really hard for me to do because I live in Wauna and work in Everett. I am only home on the weekends so I have so little time that I can't do much. There are about 30 members in our group. All of the members seem very happy to get information every time I send it. I am hoping sooner or later that someone else who has more time will take over and head it up and just let the rest of us help with the leg work. That is my goal.... But for now we will just keep doing what we can to keep it going.

The two other groups I mentioned above are both more active than us. Loa Anderson (Wollochet area - loapualani@comcast.net) and Catherine Farr (Gig Harbor area - cathrynfarr@comcast.net) are the leaders of those groups. Loa buys from Emergency Essentials almost every month. Catherine orders 3 or 4 times a year. Our Wauna EP group mostly just buys with them right now. If you want to get in on the purchases, email them and ask to get on their email list. (I will forward this to them too so they will be expecting your email). They both have a mailing list.

I am very encouraged that everyone in our group is interested in learning how to be prepared and they all seem to be very thankful when I do send them information. All of them are wanting to get prepared and I can understand how we are all just too busy to do it until we get around to it. Me too. But if we don't do what we can a

little bit at a time now, we will surly be sorry later when it is too late and we are in the middle of a disaster of our own. It wont always be in Texas.

Our Wauna EP group did a honey project a few months ago when all the bees started dying. And we did a project where we bought wool disaster blankets (I found them in a thrift store in Portland - 50 of them). I have 10 of them packed up in individual nylon water resistant bags ready for a disaster if we need them. We also did a 5 gal water barrel project. Found them at the hardware store in Bremerton for a couple dollars each. All of those were very successful. But again 2 or 3 of us had to organize it, and then every one else joined in once we found the stuff. That seems to work out pretty well. Everyone seems to be very willing to do what they can when we ask them for help. We had planned to do medical masks too when that Pandemic scar came around last year, but I just could not find any where we could buy the masks at a lower price no matter how many we purchased. I bought 5 or 6 boxes myself but every where I asked they told me that they can not keep them in stock so they are not willing to discount them EVER!!!! So we just asked everyone in the group to go to the local drug store themselves and just buy some **medical grade masks** on their own (not industrial paint masks).

What we need in our group now is someone who has the interest, wants to do it, and has time to be the leader. That would mostly include going out to find deals and then help us put it all together. I know every one in the group is willing to join in to help once the items are found, if someone just had the time to step out and take the lead to help us organize it.

The news letter I had going for a while seemed to have a really good response from the members. I tried to send out emergency info every week. But again because I have so little time home, I don't get them out very often any more. Mostly when people send me things that would be of interest to the whole group.

I built a smoker so all the coop members could use it but only 3 have tired it so far. I want to learn all I can about preserving meat and from what I can find on the Internet, dried meat seems to keep almost indefinitely. I love the smoker. I love smoked meat. I made Jerky but I can not tell you how long it will last because we ate all of it the first week..... it was so good... There are pictures of the jerky we made on the web page. (And yes you can borrow the smoker too if you want to try it). There are lots of other pictures of the smoker on the web page with instructions. It runs on Propane Gas. I smoked a turkey for Thanksgiving last year and woooooooh it was so good. (yes there is a picture of that on the web page too). It was a 25 pound turkey so it took 14 hours to smoke it. You have to get the meat up to 185 degrees inside to be done..... but it was worth the wait.

Some of us just bought Ham Radios too, so that in a disaster we can talk to each other and contact people outside the area of the disaster to tell them we are OK, but our group did not do that directly. That was in conjunction with another group who just let us join in with them. They were \$139 each (normally about \$300). They are hand held so you don't need that big 10 times normal size TV antenna in your back yard. Those of us who bought them have to take the class now to get a license to operate them. The class will be free, just takes a little time to do it. I have always wanted a Ham Radio. Now to get my kids in Texas, Utah and California to get one so we can call them when there is a disaster and they want to know if we are all right.

Three of us in the group have taken the Community Emergency Response Training

(CERT). Have you ever heard of that? I also took the Red Cross training and got certified. I don't know how many others in our group have also had that training. Guess we should find out so we know how to organize if we needed to. I have 2 or 3 back packs full of emergency rescue stuff in my house now just in case there was a disaster and I need to help rescue someone.

Another thing we did a few months ago was to make stretchers for emergency rescue. I had a bunch of scrap 1000 denier nylon fabric so Loa Anderson took it and made some portable stretchers for us.... There is a picture of it on the web page with my son laying on it. It is bright pink. (See we do get lots of things done eventually). She put 6 nylon handles on each one of them (made from some nylon bag shoulder straps I had). That way you can carry an injured person, but it folds up into a little bag for storage. I am not sure how many she made. I am not parting with mine. I can tell you that.

We are mostly all preparedness nuts. I assume the two of you are too. I have little else in my hobby list that I love doing more than EP and gardening. Did you see the pictures of my green house on the web page and the plans on how to make one? I also love talking to others about EP and helping them learn how to be prepared.

We will plan to stay in touch with you. Hope you will write back and tell us a little about yourselves too. Would you mind tell me how you found our web page. Is it in the search engines now?

More good things will come in our lives, because we will make them come -
WORKING TOGETHER!!!

Thanks for joining our group. We look forward to getting to know you better in the future.

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