

Inside This Issue

Late Breaking News	1
New Members	2
Potlucks	3
Board Notes	12
Trip Reports	13-20
Upcoming Events	20-23
Calendar into September	23
Classifieds	23

Features by Members

Camp Deetour	1, 4-7
Himalayan Adventure	8-11
Conservation Corner	10
Climb School Experience	19
By-Ways-by Bus Update	21
Barb's Trip Sampler	22

Dates to Remember

Sept 6	Board Meeting
Sept 8,9, 10	Eugene Celebration
Sept 22	Thailand Potluck
Oct 1	Lodge Open House
Oct 13	Annual Meeting
Oct 18	Board Meeting

Detailed trip schedules at:
www.observians.org or Register-Guard – Sports – Tuesday

Summer Schedule

There is no potluck, board meeting or Bulletin in August. It's all back to a normal schedule in September.

Camp Deetour Like Small Family Gatherings

By Janet Jacobsen

A LAST MINUTE CANCELLATION allowed John and me to attend *both* summer camp sessions. Which session did we like best? That is a tough call, but I would like to make a few observations.

We couldn't have asked for better weather for the 10 days of camp. The mountains were clear every day in spite of early morning marine clouds during the second session. Trip reports resounded with one rave review after another. Hurricane Hill,

(Continued on page 4)



*Photo By Bob Mason
Chris Gordon leads the Geoduck Song at Camp Deetour campfire .*

LATE BREAKING NEWS:

Member Offers \$5,000 Matching Challenge

IF THE CLUB CAN RAISE \$5,000 in donations by the end of the year in its efforts to replenish endowment funds used to pay lodge construction costs, a couple of generous and anonymous Obsidians have offered to match up to that amount with a gift of their own. This is an opportunity that the club membership should not miss out on. You can double the value of your donation, so mail your checks without delay to:

Obsidian Matching Donation

P.O. Box 51424, Eugene, OR 97405.

Simply specify that the your donation be used to repay the Endowment Fund loan for construction and all donations will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$5,000.

Lodge Open House Sunday, Oct. 1st

A GALA OPEN HOUSE will be held on Sunday, October 1st, from 1:00 until 4:00 p.m. to celebrate the renovation and expansion of the Obsidian Lodge. Watch for details in the September Bulletin or, even better, get involved in helping to make it a real party. You can do so by contacting Janet Jacobsen at 343-8030 or by email at bjjacobsen@aol.com.

Welcome!

New Members

BROWN, PAUL (Active)

2161 Madison St., Eugene, OR 97405
687-9073 tenzing12001@yahoo.com

FLOYD, JIM (Active)

3349 Bentley Ave., Eugene, OR 97405
654-0087 jmkmfloyd@comcast.net

FLOYD, KATHLEEN (Active)

3349 Bentley Ave., Eugene, OR 97405
654-0087 jmkmfloyd@comcast.net

WAHL, GAIL (Active)

2466 Augusta, Eugene, OR 97420
343-3294 gailwahl@msn.com

Reinstated Members

YOUNG, JOHN (Active)

1710 Cameo Dr, Eugene, OR 97405
485-5992 johnyoung@mail.com

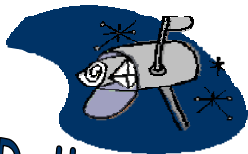
Changes

STRAHON, GUY

522 Sweetwater Lane, Eugene, OR 97404

NELSON, DOUGLAS

fullnelson3o5@gmail.com



Bulletin Mail Box

Poison Oak Remedy

MANY YEARS AGO, I discovered homeopathic medicine. I believe the founder, Dr. Hanemann, was a genius and his discoveries were impressive. Over the years that followed, I've tried many remedies, but the one that was most successful was the one for poison oak. The rash doesn't disappear, but the itching stops about 12-15 hours after the medicine begins. Best product for me was the liquid form by "NATRA-BIO" for poison oak/poison ivy. The KIVA is probably the best place to find it. Good luck,

-- Jack Lindstrom

COMING SEPTEMBER:

What's Wat in Thailand?

LANA LINDSTROM AND **RICHARD HUGHES** will share slides of their six-week trip exploring Thailand at the September 22nd potluck in the Obsidian Lodge. "From inspiring temples to breathtaking natural beauty to fabulous food, Thailand has it all. Traveling around this tropical country is comfortable, easy and an exceptional good value."

Mark your calendars now and watch for more information in the September Bulletin..

Come Join the Fun!

OUR ENTERTAINING monthly potlucks are coordinated by a group of Obsidian members, and we'd love for you to join us. No experience necessary, just an interest in helping out at least a few times a year.

You can pick from a variety of tasks; such as recruiting presenters, coordinating the lodge set-up, overseeing the audio-visuals, writing publicity and reports for the Bulletin, organizing the buffet, etc. This is a great way to learn more about the club, get to know lots of members and contribute to one of our most important and enjoyable activities.

Contact Kathy Hoeg at 484-6196 or kathyhoeg@aol.com.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of July 1

Active Member	492
Associate Member	32
Honorary Member	3
Junior Member	18
Life Member	21
Total Members	566

OBSIDIANS, INC

P.O. Box 322
Eugene, OR 97440
Website: www.obsidians.org

Board of Directors

President - Wayne Deeter
Vice President - John Pegg
Secretary - Laurie Funkhouser
Treasurer - Sheila Ward
Marianne Camp Jim Duncan
Brian Hamilton Stewart Hoeg
Anne Dhu McLucas Sandra Larsen

Board meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month, except August, at the Obsidian Lodge.

Committee Chairpersons

By-Ways By Bus Liz Reanier
Climbs Doug Nelson
Concessions Laurie Funkhouser
Conservation..... Judy Newman
Entertainment Kathy Hoeg
Extended Trips Lana Lindstrom
Finance Stewart Hoeg
Lodge Building..... Rob Castleberry
Lodge Grounds Max Brown
Librarian/Historian Lenore McManigal
Membership..... Sharon Ritchie
Online Wayne Deeter
Publications Marshall Kandell
Publicity Marianne Camp
Safety..... John Pegg
Science & Education John Jacobsen
Summer Camp Jim Duncan
Summer Trips Margaret Prentice
Trail Maintenance..... Peter Asai
Winter Trips Bill Johnson
Youth..... Andy Jobanek

The OBSIDIAN *Bulletin*

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bulletin@obsidians.org

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The Obsidian Bulletin
P.O. Box 51424, Eugene, OR 97405

Deadline

for September Bulletin
Saturday, September 2, 2006

Editorial Team

Marshall Kandell, Barb Revere,
Janet and John Jacobsen

Assembly/Mailing Team

For June Bulletin

Yuan Hopkins, Ray Jensen, John and Lenore McManigal, Bill Prentice, Tom Revere, Ardys Ringsdorf and Crew Chief Barb Revere.

PCT Tale, New Lodge Draw Full House

(Editor's Note: The June potluck drew a full house of about 120 Obsidians and guests to our newly renovated lodge, with diners overflowing into the new Scherer Meeting Room and even the upstairs board room. In appreciation for his leadership and hard work on the construction project, John Jacobsen received a lot of praise, a framed photo of the lodge and an all expense paid trip to the coast for himself and wife Janet.)

By Chris Cunningham

THE CLEAN-SHAVEN Rob Rathmann who presented at June's potluck bore little resemblance to the Rob Rathmann we saw in an engaging slide show about the Pacific Crest Trail. The latter was long-locked, bearded and an often bedraggled young man. As anyone loaded down with a backpack on a 2,658-mile, 146-day foot journey would be.

With self-deprecating humor, Rathmann told a colorful tale of his transformation from a computer analyst who worked in a cubicle into a stalwart hiker. Vicariously, we joined him on an often spectacular, sometimes perilous, journey on the PCT from the Mexico-California border to British Columbia.

Rathmann described the physical trail and shared his psychological journey. Friends and colleagues asked him about leaving a secure job and trekking from Mexico to Canada. But the 30-something "wanted to do more than live vicariously through others' experiences."

THE TRAIL WASN'T ALL GLORY. "It's easy to romanticize such an adventure," Rathmann says. "The silence can be deafening," he says. "On a clear night, you could read by starlight.... (However) the trail is not all wildflowers and vistas." In fact, Rathmann advises anyone who might be contemplating the trek, "If you don't like pain, don't hike the PCT." He emphasized his point with graphic slides of feet with blackened toenails and oozing

blisters; and a bloody knee, caused by rocks so sharp they "shave the skin off of you."

Although "the trails were incredibly well-marked," Rathmann soon learned that the best of planning doesn't necessarily get a hiker from one scenic campsite to the next: "You camp anywhere — even near an outhouse."

MOTHER NATURE was even less predictable last year, dispensing "a ton of snow in the Sierras, no snow in the Cascades and a wet Southern California." Bottom line: Be prepared for any-

thing. And expect to be amazed "by the kindness of strangers... people leaving random gifts in the woods," such as a man who collects snow water for PCT hikers; and the couple who invites these travelers into their home to enjoy a warm meal, stay overnight and use their washing machine -- at no cost. Rathmann's notion that hiking the PCT would remove him from society vanished as he made numerous, good friends along the way.

Yes, he'd do it all over again ... "in a heartbeat."

FUN, FOOD & BASEBALL!



1ST Annual Obsidian Trip To an Ems Game

JOIN FELLOW OBSIDIANS in an outing at historic Civic Stadium for a pre-game barbecue followed by a baseball game between the Eugene Emeralds and the Vancouver Canadians

Date: Thursday, August 24

Time: Barbecue begins at 6 p.m. (check in 5:45) and ends at 7. Game starts at 7:05.

Location: Civic Stadium First Base Picnic Area. This area offers a large 3-tiered wooden deck and a grassy area under a 30 x 60 ft. tent. **NOTE:** Enter via the gate on Willamette Street, *not* the main gate.

Included: Game ticket, food and beverages. The barbecue includes hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, coleslaw, watermelon, soft drinks and beer. After the barbecue you can remain in the picnic area or move to the grandstands to watch the game. During the 5th inning, the Obsidians will receive special recognition.

Price: \$16 per person (includes \$1 trip fee for members or nonmembers). No charge for children under 5.

Sign-Up: Add your name to the sign-up sheet at the YMCA *and* send your payment ASAP to: Stewart Hoeg, 3882 Ashford Drive, Eugene, 97405. Payment must be received by August 1st to attend.

Questions: Contact trip leaders Jim Duncan (343-8079), Stewart Hoeg (484-6196) or Ed Lichtenstein (683-0688).

Family Gatherings

in her washcloth while taking a shower. She said it was impossible to get the slime out of the cloth, but it did wonders for her complexion.

Marsha Barr kept us updated daily on the status of her lost keys. On the last day of camp, duplicate keys arrived from Eugene via Fed Ex. I know it was frustrating for Marsha, but she kept her sense of humor and kept us entertained.

In his trip report of the bicycle trip to Port Angeles, Bob Mason suggested that God must not of intended for men to ride bicycles.

The Ramblewood lodge provided the floor for Gloria Gunderson and Ivan Vandenberg to perform Norwegian and other dances. Dressed in their colorful costumes, their swift moving feet and smiles were a joy to watch.

Peter Rodda organized a raft trip down the Elwa River. Gene Thaxton, who suffered a stroke six years ago, was able to join the group. What a gift for his 80th birthday, which he celebrated at camp. Since Gene led the last Obsidian climb of Mt. Olympus in the 1970s, we honored him with historic trip reports of the Olympic Mountains. Royal Murdock portrayed one the explorers on the 1891 six-month Seattle Press Expedition that crossed the Olympic Mountains. His melodramatic approach to the numerous mishaps kept

us blinking our eyes in disbelief.

Chris Minarich, our New York thespian, gave a sneaky report of how the New York Explorers Club secretly made a run for the first ascent of Mount Olympus, but unfortunately climbed the wrong peak (Middle Peak). George Jeffcott and others, representing Seattle Mountaineers, smugly recounted how they successfully made the first ascent in May of 1907 when they climbed the highest peak (West Peak).

Gene's wife, Bea Fontana, shared that Gene was a terrific storyteller before his stroke and loved to tell about the amusing incidents on that Mount Olympus climb. Bea then recounted several of those embellished stories. It gave us pause to think about the challenges one faces.

While eating lunch at the top of Hurricane Hill, I watched Marilyn Murdock tenderly escorted to the top by her two sons, Mark and Peter. A few minutes later, Glenn and Sue Gordon walked together to the top. Family connections I felt privileged to watch.

That night at camp, Glenn announced that 60 years ago was the luckiest day of his life: the day he married Sue. Their daughter Chris sang, "You Are My Sunshine," a childhood favorite. There were a few tears at this point. I should mention that the Gor-



Photo by Scott Hovis

Wayne Deeter is congratulated by Bob Mason following Wayne's Presidents Tea. Wayne's throne to rear and some of the loot he was given surrounds him.

dons led singing each night before the campfire. Glenn and Chris even sang some duets and Chris took on the challenge of teaching us the fast paced Geoduck Song.

The last event was the President's Tea in honor of Wayne Deeter. So many people got into the spirit of his roast that it would take pages to describe what kept us laughing so hard. Sue and Glenn, who attended the 1963 summer camp, escorted Wayne to his throne. His Majesty held out a cup and demanded a cup of tea. Alas, we only had a well used tea bag to offer. The crown designed by John McManigal back in Eugene was a bicycle helmet with a spinning bicycle wheel on top. Melody Clarkson fashioned the slimy scepter, a kelp pod adorned with salmon berries. John Jacobsen continued a tradition when he placed around Wayne's neck the old elk droppings necklace made by Pat Dark for Gene Thaxton at the 1982 Ruby Mountains summer camp.

The most lyrical gift came from the Kayaking Women who turned into sultry sirens, trying to lure Wayne away from the throne with the theme song from Gilligan's Island and a bit of seductive body language. Wayne re-

(Continued on page 6)



Photo by John Jacobsen

Hiking along Dungeness Spit with the Olympic Mountains in background.

Camp Deetour Like Small Family Gatherings

(Continued from page 5)

ceived two beard guards to use while repelling on mountains to prevent the reoccurrence of an unfortunate incident he had with a carabineer. Larry Dunlap presented a multi-tasking walking stick with three buttons -- one for yes, one for no, one for maybe -- intended to replace 97% of trail conversation. I am not sure how Wayne got all his "precious" gifts and tributes home.

Jim Clarkson gave Lana Lindstrom an honorary degree in meteorology for scheduling a camp with such fantastic weather. How could things go any better than that? Read on!

Second Session

THE CAMP WAS FILLED with new tents and new campers ready to go. We were delighted to see so many children. Andrew and Madeline Blumm, Brennan and Madison Hackett, James and Lela Lichtenstein, Josh Emmons and Greer Brander-McCaffrey added so much energy and spontaneity. Learning from the first session, things seemed to go even more smoothly.

David Lichtenstein, Ed's son and a world-class juggler, performed one evening and kept us enthralled. On July 4th, we held a J.D. Bach Festival in honor of our leader, James Duncan, who missed the Bach Festival to keep this session running so smoothly. The venue was the lodge meeting room, with its "world renowned" acoustics and "well tuned" piano. The program:

Difficult Bach round taught, Roy Lisi

Bach on the Piano by Anne McLucas

"Ode to Joy," on the guitar, Andrew Blumm



Chow time. Photo by Bob Mason



Photo by Bob Mason

The Olympics from Hurricane Ridge with Hurricane Visitor Center in the foreground.

This was a favorite hiking area for Obsidians at Camp Deetour.

"Amazing Grace" sung by Brennan Hackett

"Summertime" sung by some campers, accompanied on guitar by Rick Ahrens, with a rousing ending by Patrice McCaffrey

Camp skit, "Bring Me My Papers" by the kids and directed by Becky Lipton.

After the concert, many of us strolled down to the dock to watch the fireworks. Back in our tent, John and I felt the fireworks were directly overhead. It was so special to celebrate the Fourth of July with so many friends.

ON THE LAST NIGHT in camp, special awards were presented to campers.

Some of the children spent several hours on the beach preparing a tray of sea food delights for the cooks. The children were so enthusiastic about their smelly, yet attractive tray of food. Only kids from Eugene would dream up names like sand stuffed sea shells, sushi and Thai salad.

I gave Josh an award for being the most enthusiastic about the fireworks. He in turn gave Scott and Mandy an award for the

best baked brownies (even though he only got one). Mandy and Scott dished out an award to Buzz Blumm for making the most improvement as *Responsible Dish Washer*. And, to think, on his first day on the job he didn't know what a tea towel was. Oscar and Grammy awards were bestowed on many of the Bach participants.

Bob Huntley gave Roy Lisi and Leila Snow an award for volunteering to find another trip when there were not enough kayaks. Brennan was so appreciative he gave Roy an award for encouraging him to sing a solo on Bach night. Charlie Van Deusen thankfully gave Roy and Leila an award for keeping the bathrooms clean (and it wasn't even their duty). Roy thanked the entire group for a camp that was so inclusive.

On the last day, campers had the *privilege* of taking everything down and loading the truck. It was up to the Duncans, Jacobsens and Bob Huntley to get the truck back to Eugene.

So whichever session you attended there were special moments and so much laughter. I applaud all who found a spectacular place to hike and then held two sessions so that 75 plus 67 people could enjoy a "small" family gathering.

Summer Camp Planning Chronology

By Lana Lindstrom, 2006 Summer Camp Leader

MAY 2005 -- The Summer Camp Committee (SCC) asked me if I would be willing to be the camp leader and I accepted, provided Jim Duncan would be assistant leader. There's a formal committee in place with good people; I was not alone.

AUGUST 2005 -- At the SCC meeting, we hashed over the pros and cons of the several sites which had been scouted. All would have been OK, but folks weren't wildly enthusiastic about any of them. Lots of interest in the Olympic Peninsula; but, in past years, we haven't been able to find a site. Maybe I'll give it another try.

SEPTEMBER 2005 -- After reviewing scouting notes from 2001 and burning up a Costco calling card, by Jove, I thought we could make it work by combining two adjacent sites at Sequim Bay State Park. Jim and I both did the math and if we raised the fees just a bit, we thought it would be feasible. Scouted the site; looks great. Lots of enthusiasm from SCC and other Obsidians. Yay! We were able to reserve both sites, but not the dates we wanted. Oh well, lots to do other than hiking.

FEBRUARY 2006 -- Still planning. *Responsible People (RP)* are lined up; twice the usual number are required since we're running two sessions. Edited the camp booklet. Created the sign-up sheet with the various housing options and priced them. Hired the cooks. Had about 150 people signed up by March 1. Definitely lots of interest in this camp!

MARCH 2006 -- I've counted and re-counted the number of available tent/RV spots at least 20 times. We knew slotting folks into various housing during two different sessions would be one of our biggest challenges and it was. Thank goodness for Sharon Ritchie!

MAY 2006 -- Seems like all I was doing was working at the lodge or on summer camp. Just a few folks decided to

cancel when the full payment was due. Reviewed the "RP" job descriptions, met with the buyers, edited the shopping lists, contacted vendors, etc., etc., etc.

JUNE 12, 2006 -- Several RPs, including my husband, have cancelled; but, fortunately, have been able to recruit others. Literally spent almost 10 hours today on summer camp, including talking to Jim on the phone three times and meeting with the cooks. Have "to do" lists all over the place. Was reminded by the cooks: "*It's all in the prep!*"

JUNE 19, 2006 -- The hordes will be arriving a week from today. What am I most nervous about? (1) Lots of folks appearing at camp right at noon to check in, particularly Session 1 while we're just starting to set-up; (2) Dishwashing will be very different this year and I don't have the flow figured out. Keep saying ...nothing terrible will happen.

JUNE 26, 2006 -- It's been a long day; but, overall, it went very well. Couldn't start setting up camp until almost noon, waiting for folks to check in. Assembling the tables, tarps and poles went very quickly; excellent, hard-working crew. Many thanks to Joyce Thomas, who "volunteered" to be a greeter, then organized the dishwashing crew and stayed late to wash the pots and pans; and to Melody Clarkson for being the best camp adjutant one could hope for.

JULY 1, 2006 -- The five days have gone by very quickly. Thanks to the RPs, I've been able to participate in activities every day: hiked Hurricane Hill and the Spit, biked to Port Angeles and kayaked in Sequim Bay. I had a blast! I wish I could stay for at least one day of the second session, but it didn't work out.

Being the 2006 Camp Leader has been a great experience! I'll take some of the credit for spending a lot of time preparing, but the bottom line is that everyone pitched in and helped...and the weather and the setting were fabulous! Would I do it again? Definitely...in a few years!



New friends made on Hurricane Ridge. Photos by Bob Mason

Several Obsidians were among a group of adventurous mountain climbers on a trip to Nepal this spring. Group members included Sue Sullivan, John Mowat, John Pegg and Deb Carver, representing both the Obsidians and Eugene Mountain Rescue; and Obsidians John and Lisa Manotti. They were joined by six more EMR members and four other climbers. The following is the second installment of a fascinating report on their experiences. Space limits the number of photos we can reproduce in the Bulletin, but watch for announcement of a “don’t miss” potluck presentation later in the year and you can see the full photo display at:

<http://www.obsidians.org/2006/articles/nepal-sullivan/>

Story and Photos by Sue Sullivan

FROM NAMCHE BAZAR, we had an *easy* day moving up to Khumjung, which is just over the ridge north of town; and, at 12,400 ft., about 1,100 feet higher than Namche. The trail traverses up past a monastery and through a small forested area.

Further up the hill, we rounded a ridge and were stopped in our tracks by our first really good look at Ama Dablam, which in my opinion is one of the most beautiful mountains in the world. I was first around the ridge, and stood back to enjoy the reactions as each person came around the corner and had his/her breath taken away by the view.

We spent our third and fourth nights at Khumjung, my favorite town on the trek. A little off the beaten track, less frequented by tourists and in one of the area’s prettiest settings. A bakery makes great apple pie and apple “struggle” (I



think they meant strudel!). We arrived during a festival for a local deity. The locals offered up prayers, burned juniper and hung prayer flags to ask for successful crops.

WE SPENT A “REST” DAY at Khumjung. That meant we stayed in the same place for two nights. It didn't mean we sat around by a pool drinking iced tea. We hiked up to the top of a ridge to the west of town that gave us our first good view of Mt. Everest. By this time, we were beginning to get to know and appreciate the Sherpas who accompanied our team. There were five who traveled with us. Their home base is in Khumjung.

There is a common misconception that “sherpa” is a job description. It is actually a culture of mountain people; all Sherpa people have a last name of Sherpa. They are Tibetan in origin and most still live in the mountain region near the Tibet border. They are Buddhists; most of the lowland Nepalis are Hindu. They are wonderful, warm, friendly people. Since they are so well acclimated to altitude, many of them become mountain guides for tourists. One of our Sherpas, Lakhpa, had been above 8,000 meters on Everest something like 16 times.

We left Khumjung and headed to Tengboche, which is about the same elevation but on the opposite side of the river...so we descended about 2,000 ft, to the river, crossed it, then switch-backed up a steep ridge to get there. Every day the cook crew would prepare lunch for us; a stop lasting up to two hours. The pace was leisurely. Since one needs to gain elevation gradually, our days were never all that arduous. On this day we had lunch near the river, in the



Khumjung with Ama Dablam behind.

Continues

backyard of a small home where the owners were working on putting in fuel for cooking and heating. In addition to firewood, they were drying yak dung on the shed behind the house. The process is simple: you make a flat pancake of yak dung and slap it on the side of the building to dry. When it is thoroughly dry, you peel it off and stack it inside the shed. It actually burns pretty well and dries to a nice light form, easy to store and transport. Before the trip was over, we had many occasions to settle in and warm ourselves by yak dung fires in wood stoves in various lodges. It's not as disgusting as it sounds.

TENGOBOCHE IS THE SITE of the most famous monastery in the region. When I was there in 1990, it had just burned down. It has been rebuilt and is famous for its view of Everest; a view not to be had since we were clouded in with a cold breeze. Then the snow started. One had to be careful not to get lost in the whiteout when walking around the area. However, we didn't have much trouble finding our way to the bakery next to our camp; and it was Michele's 39th birthday, so we celebrated with cake. We awoke the next morning to clear skies and a dusting of fresh snow, which melted quickly in the sun.

We had our first encounter with true yaks here. These guys almost look prehistoric -- stout, short and shaggy, with wide heads and humped shoulders. The lowland dzos look pretty small in comparison. Both the dzos and the yaks wear bells so the herders can keep tabs on their whereabouts. The musical sound of bells along the trail was a sound I never tired of hearing. In fact, many of our group later bought yak bells as souvenirs.

We started down the north side of the ridge and into the shade of a rhododendron forest. The snow hadn't yet melted in the shade and the trail was steep and slick. As we wove our way down the trail, I could hear bells behind me and assumed a yak train was coming. But something didn't sound right. Then came an urgent shout from Ching Noru: "Horses!" I looked up to see two riderless horses at full gallop coming down the ridge. The group scattered into the woods and the horses thundered past -- one with a saddle and bridle, the other unbridled and bareback. They stopped just below us, rearing and screaming.

July/August 2006

None of us was going to get involved in this argument. We worked our way around them cautiously.

AFTER DESCENDING from Tengboche and crossing the

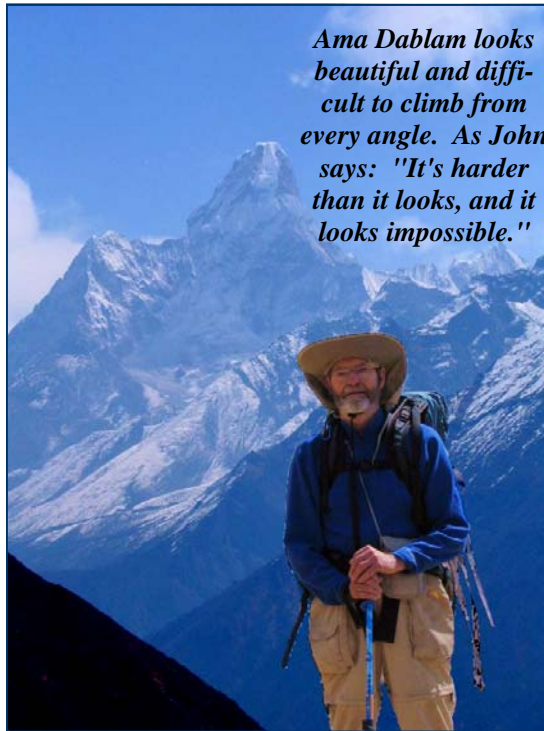
river, we headed up the valley toward Dingboche. We made it above timberline and were to see no vegetation higher than a bush for about two weeks. As we picked up elevation, we could look back and see Tengboche perched on top of the ridge behind us. Ahead was the ridge between Lhotse and Nuptse, with Everest peeking above, a stream of clouds and snow blowing off the summit.

We're now up to April 3. We have three more weeks in the mountains...

We spent another "rest" day at Dingboche. Still no swimming pool or iced tea... nor electricity for that matter, although for 200 rupees (about \$3) you can get a hot shower (consisting of a kettle of water

heated over a yak dung fire and poured into a bucket with a hose and spigot on the roof of a little tin shack in the yak pasture outside a lodge. You provide your own towel and soap; prepared to dry off fast because it's chilly at 14,000 feet.

As usual, there wasn't much rest on this rest day. We hiked up the ridge north of camp to a high point over 16,000



Ama Dablam looks beautiful and difficult to climb from every angle. As John says: "It's harder than it looks, and it looks impossible."



Looking down on Dingboche

(Continued on page 11)

Optimistic Midsummer Musings

The following personal opinion column has been reprinted with permission from the July issue of "The Quail," the Lane County Audubon Society's newsletter. Obsidian Pat Bitner is the society's conservation chair.

By Pat Bitner

I FEEL (SOMEWHAT) OPTIMISTIC regarding our society's survival prospects over the next 50 years or so. Within the past few months, you can't have missed the growing emphasis on alternate sources of energy in the media. Apparently, with the hike in gas prices, the American focus of attention has turned to the reality of our desperate need to develop alternate forms of energy -- and, minor solutions as they are at this point, biodiesel, ethanol, wind energy, hydrogen fuel, ocean wave power, etc., are becoming viable sources. None are the answer, but apparently at least some Americans are willing to consider an alternate to fossil or coal sources.

That can't be anything but good; we have to crawl before we can walk. I think you will agree that these recent news reports are also "feel good" stories after a long, long, cold winter which seemed to yield nothing but bad news for environmentalists.

A Big Breakthrough, Indeed!

On June 7th, the Sierra Club and the United Steelworkers formed a "Blue/Green Alliance." Their vision includes the creation of new jobs by promoting smart energy solutions to global warming, reducing the risks from toxic chemicals in the workplace and community and building a responsible

trade policy for America. (*Sierra Club Currents, June 13, 2006*)

Here in Eugene! "A Village Green"

Local builder Jeff Wilson-Charles is "pioneering a green colony on the high profile south bank of the Willamette River, next to the Ferry Street Bridge". His \$2.6 million five-apartment complex is "to be as green as possible in the design and materials they use." Some features: Floors will be warmed by a circulating water system drawing from 300 feet below ground; toilets will flush using rainwater; timber will come from hazard and windfalls trees. (*Register-Guard, June 13, 2006*) (*Editor's note: 2G Construction, contractor for our lodge addition and renovation, is also the contractor on this project.*)

Bush Does It Right, At Last

Pres. Bush designated a marine sanctuary of 1,400 miles of the Pacific from uninhabited islands of the Hawaiian chain to Midway Atoll as a national monument, establishing the largest protected marine reserve in the world. It is a nearly 100-mile wide oceanic area containing more than 7,000 marine species; one-quarter of which are found nowhere else.

Of especial interest to bird lovers, it includes a rookery for 14 million seabirds, as well as the last refuge for the Hawaiian monk seal and the green sea turtle. The Laysan albatross nests on Eastern Island -- part of the sanctuary plan. Midway Island has been a popular destination for bird watchers for some time.

Any good news is cause for rejoicing, isn't it? Have a good, warm summer; see you in September.

Driving Tips to Reduce Fuel Consumption and Gas Costs

By Juli McGlinsky

WITH SUMMER IN THE AIR, many outdoor enthusiasts begin living with one eye on the weather forecast and one foot out the door. However, this season, anticipating the rise of gas prices may be as critical to planning a trip as knowledge of changing barometric pressure. Three plus dollars per gallon makes hopping into an Obsidian carpool doubly rewarding. Additionally, it is a good time to remember tips for saving gas through thoughtful driving choices recommended by Consumer Reports, The Business Weekly and other conservation minded advisors.

- Avoid lead-footed starts and stops

whenever possible. Gentle acceleration and deceleration can increase gas mileage by as much as 12%.

- Drive slowly. At more than 55 mph, fuel economy begins to decrease exponentially as speed increases. A passenger car that gets 30 miles to a gallon of gas at 55 mph gets 10% less mileage -- or 27 miles per gallon at 65 mph. Driving at 75 mph rather than 65 mph increases gasoline consumption by 25%. Slowing down will add time to your drive, but, depending on your fuel rating, can save you \$5 to \$10 for every hour you drive. Just make sure you have good company!

- Using cruise control will also stretch

a few more miles per tank full.

- Shut off your car when you run into the convenience store or stop to pick up a friend. Restarting uses less gas and is wiser than idling at zero miles per gallon, even for quick stops.

- Turn off the A/C. Using a vehicle's air conditioner on warm days can cut your gas efficiency by more than 20%. In our moderate climate we can often get away with rolling down the windows or using your car's flow-through ventilation system to regulate temperature. Using "nature's A/C" also will reduce your engine temperature and prevent overheating. However, when

(Continued on page 11)

Climbing the Himalayas

(Continued from page 9)

feet -- a record elevation day for many members of our group -- to get acclimated. Everyone was doing pretty well and looking forward to the challenges ahead. As we hiked up the ridge, we got our first good look at Island Peak. At 20,400', roughly the same elevation as Alaska's Mt. McKinley, it is dwarfed by the surrounding peaks. It was given its name by Eric Shipton because of its location in the middle of the valley. Our climbing route is not visible from this side, but the whole setting is inspiring.

On April 4th, we moved from Dingboche up to the little town of Chukung on our way to Island Peak base camp. It's a stretch to call Chukung a town, really, since it consists of about six lodges and a couple of yak pastures. It's at about 15,500 feet. From Chukung, Ama Dablam

dominated the view to the south. Ama Dablam looks beautiful and difficult to climb from every angle. As John says: "It's harder than it looks, and it looks impossible."

THE OTHER NOTABLE THING about Chukung was the outhouse just outside our camp area. The typical Nepal outhouse has a hole in the floor that you crouch over. There is no seat involved. This particular one was full to capacity. Some creative individual had piled up rocks around the hole in the floor in order to make it possible to continue to use it. Luckily there was another loo a bit of a walk away -- and it was well worth the extra walk. John took a series of shots of outhouses of various qualities, but I think I'll skip the picture of this particularly disgusting one. You get the idea, anyway.

On April 5th, we moved up to Island Peak base camp. It was a crisp, clear morning at 16,400 ft. and it was like taking

a walk among giants, with Lhotse hovering above us, still 12,000 feet higher; Buruntse with huge ice cliffs; and the great Nuptse wall with its yellow bands of sedimentary rock from some ancient ocean floor. The trail climbed gently but steadily until we reached a long flat moraine at the base of the peak. Clouds began to build in the early afternoon as they did



Island Peak high camp.

most days; much of the conversation of the day was about weather patterns, climbing time and our strategy for the attempt on Island Peak. We helped set up base camp, broke out the bags of hardware, ropes, food and tents; and began sorting out what we would need for the climb.

THE ISLAND PEAK base campsite was not spacious. A narrow flat area between the mountain and the glacier is strewn with rocks and there were three other fairly large groups already at the location. On April 6th, we moved up to the Island Peak high camp at about 18,000 feet. It took us

less time than we anticipated, even though we were carrying loads (tents, stoves, food, climbing gear, etc.) for the first time in the trip. The route up from high camp didn't look all that tough, but it sure looked rubby -- up a gulley, then onto a ridge up to the glacier.

We melted snow to fill water bottles, made soup, repacked, rested, cooked dinner and prepared for an early start for the summit.

(Read about the ascent of Island Peak and the preparation for the even higher Pumori in the September Bulletin)

Members of the Nepal climbing trip were: Sue Sullivan, John Mowat, John Pegg, Deb Carver, John & Lisa Manotti, John Leavens, Scott Robbins, Tim & Michele McCall, Brian Roddy, Carrie Ward, David Knoll, Clay & Donna Szollosi and Adam Ward.

Reduce Fuel Consumption

(Continued from page 10)

driving on highways, roll your windows up and rely on your car's ventilation. Open windows at high speeds create wind drag and reduces your mileage.

- Finally, make sure your car is tuned up and running well and that your tires

are properly inflated.

By following recommended driving guidelines, outings are more accessible and less costly. Additionally, thoughtful driving saves wear and tear on your car, saving even more money in the long run. Drivers can also monitor gas prices and locate nearby pumps with

the lowest cost at the following website: <http://autos.msn.com/everyday/gasstations.aspx?zip=&src=Netx>

So, whether your goal is to decrease your fossil fuel consumption, reduce your emissions, make a political statement, or come home with a little more money in your pocket and fuel in the tank for the next trip, remembering these guidelines will likely increase enjoyment of your trip.

BOARD NOTES

July 12, 2006

Board: Pres. Wayne Deeter, VP John Pegg, Treasurer Sheila Ward, Jim Duncan, Sandra Larsen, Brian Hamilton, Marianne Camp, Stewart Hoeg and Anne Dhu McLucas. Members present: Doug Nelson, Barb Revere, Sharon Ritchie, Kathy Hoeg, John Jacobsen, Rob Castleberry, Jim Pierce, Marshall Kandell, Lenore McManigal, Max Brown, Margaret Prentice and Laurie Funkhouser (secretary). June minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report -- Board approved payments: EWEB (July \$72.68); Publications (postmaster \$115, Insta-Print 534.25); Construction (Reynolds Electric \$1,225, 2G \$393.36, FEI Testing & Inspection \$77.50, Jim Duncan \$29.45; Lenore McManigal (lodge) \$16.30; Margaret Prentice (summer trips) \$15.60; Doug Nelson (climbs) \$11.62; Sharon Ritchie (membership) \$39; Sheila Ward (administration) \$56.78; Marianne Camp (publicity) \$55; Judy Newman (concessions) \$24.15. In addition, a CD with US Bank will mature this month and Sheila will reinvest the funds in a 6-month CD with Umpqua.

Old Business

Construction (John Jacobsen): Barring unforeseen bills, final cost of lodge construction will be \$174,289.64, plus approximately \$35,000 in volunteer labor. Revenue covering costs: \$7,500 preliminary funds from board; \$71,000 primary funding/contingency; \$50,000 fund raising goal; \$18,751 received over goal; and \$6,319 funds with 2006 member renewal for a total of \$153,570. Difference of \$20,719 being borrowed from the endowment fund. Following factors contributed to the additional \$45,789 cost/expense: (1) Unanticipated costs related to the climbing wall to meet current code; (2) Delay in construction (permits/weather) resulting in increased material costs due to impact of Hurricane Katrina; and (3) Design costs were more than original estimate.

Lodge Open House: Kathy Hoeg contacted Jan Jacobsen, who is willing to lead the committee with full support from publicity, construction, concessions, etc. Sandra Larsen agreed to contact members to be on the committee, Marianne Camp will contact the Register-Guard, etc. October 1, 2006 has been set and plans

will move forward.

New Business

Matching Donation: John Jacobsen announced that an anonymous member is willing to match up to \$5,000 in donations (toward repaying the endowment fund loan) made before the end of the year. An ad hoc committee (Stewart Hoeg, John Jacobsen, Barb Revere and Ed Lichtenstein) will work on informing members in order to take full advantage of the generous offer and will keep track of receipts.

Committee Reports

Summer Trips (Margaret Prentice): 29 trip reports, covering 168 members and 40 nonmembers for revenues of \$328; with 10 outstanding trip reports. 26 trips have been canceled during the year and 28 trips have been rescheduled, but others continue to be added.

Winter Trips (Bill Johnson/Jim Pierce): Jim Pierce will be the new chair.

Climbs (Doug Nelson): All leader packets have been delivered. Since the last board meeting, four climbs and a climbing class took place. Two climb reports and the class report have been completed. One climb was halted due to an injury (sprained knee) and an incident report has been filed. 19 participants (10 members, 9 nonmembers) for fees of \$78.

Summer Outing (Jim Duncan): The 2006 Summer Camp at Sequim Bay State Park, under the leadership of Lana Lindstrom, was a huge success. The camp offered a variety of activities --hiking, kayaking, rafting, whale watching, bicycling, etc. Approximately 140 people attended camp, spread over two sessions, resulting in more intimate and pleasant camps. Lana's hard work and leadership addressed several unknowns: earlier date, urban setting, high rental fee, food adjustments, etc. Due to conservative budgeting it appears the camp will be in the black and able to transfer approximately \$1,400 to the general fund, capital expenses for summer camp fund and material costs for upgrades to the new storage room. The committee will start work for the 2007 camp in August with the location announced at a later date. John Jacobsen will be the leader for the 2007 camp. Before then, the committee hopes to upgrade the summer camp kitchen and

possibly a water filtration system.

Publications (Marshall Kandell): June Bulletin costs -- \$650.13 (postage \$115.88, plus printing \$534.25).

Entertainment (Kathy Hoeg): June potluck -- 100 dined and about 120 attended the presentation with total fees collected of \$117! Scheduled potlucks: Lana Lindstrom & Richard Hughes (Thailand trip), Sept.; Photographer David Stone, October; Sue Sullivan (Nepal trip), Nov.; and Bill Sullivan (January).

Science & Education (John Jacobsen): Beginning in October the committee will meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. The October presentation will be by Obsidian Pema Chhophyel featuring Bhutan.

Membership (Sharon Ritchie): Four applications for membership and one reinstatement were approved. Total members to date: 566 (492 active, 32 associate, 3 honorary, 18 junior and 21 life).

Publicity (Marianne Camp): Registration for a Eugene Celebration booth (Sept. 8-10) has been submitted and she is looking for volunteers to man and set-up the booth. In addition, Mike Stahlberg of the Register-Guard s interviewed several Obsidians members regarding the use of hiking poles.

Concessions (Laurie Funkhouser): There were sales of \$322 at June potluck and the summer camps.

Online (Wayne Deeter): A summer camp report page is in the works (send Wayne your pictures) as well as a compilation of Sue Sullivan's serial emails on her Nepal trip (including photos).

Finance (Stewart Hoeg): Obsidian Eugene Emerald Baseball Night will be Thursday, Aug. 24. Sign-up sheet is on the board at the YMCA (see page 3).

Library/Historian (Lenore McManigal): Lenore has recorded summer camp participants and is working on logging the individual activities.

Lodge Building (Rob Castleberry): A work party for September to prepare the lodge for the open house will be organized; and there will be a meeting to generate a list of responsibilities, duties, and continued maintenance for the upkeep of the renovated lodge.

Lodge Grounds (Max Brown): "Thank you" for the crew who cleaned the grounds in June!



Hikes

Siltcoos River & Carter Lake Dunes

April 7, 2006

Leader: Sheila Ward
5 miles, 150 ft. ("A")

THESE ARE TWO pleasant short hikes that take in great views of the coastal estuary, beach and miles of dunes. Under sunny skies we started our first hike along the Siltcoos River going through some forest and onto a sand track to the beach. Here, you can be serenaded by bird songs. As usual, we saw many seals enjoying the current coming out of the river mouth. Lunch was at picnic tables near the river where we saw several hummingbirds. Next, it was a mile drive to Carter Lake Dunes. Because of high standing water at this time of year we could not get to the beach; but, instead, walked and climbed through, up and down the big dunes, from the top of which great ocean views can be seen. Although we saw human and animal footprints, we had the trails to ourselves. Hikers included members Joan Abel, Max Brown, Margot Fetz, Tom Gould, Sherwood Jefferies, Sue Meyers, Ruth Romoser and Sheila Ward.

Brice Creek

April 29, 2006

Leader: Joanne Ledet
8 miles, 800 ft. ("B")

ON AN ABSOLUTELY PERFECT spring day, 14 hikers set out for Brice Creek east of Cottage Grove (where we picked up a hiker). As we were doing a shuttle, one car was left at the take-out point and three were left at the Upper Trestle Creek Falls parking area. The first part of the hike is the steepest, but we were rewarded for our efforts with a lovely view of Upper Trestle Creek Falls. Fortunately, we did not get wet as we walked behind the thundering waterfall. We stopped for a lunch break beside the

creek on a rock outcropping. Some took a short side trip to another waterfall; others stayed behind to enjoy the sunshine and rushing water. After lunch, we set off down the trail, enjoying calypso orchids, fawn lilies and the last of the trilliums. My sense of distance proved to be off on a couple of occasions; fortunately, the hikers were very forgiving and we all made it – tired, but having enjoyed a good hike on a gorgeous day. Members: Tom Adamcyk, Dan Bates, Judy Clemmons, Julie Dorland, Margot Fetz, Paul Flashenberg, Yuan Hopkins, Joanne Ledet, John Lee, Ed Lichtenstein, Becky Lipton and Helmut Plant; nonmembers Christy Fisher, Herb Merker and Robby Shelton.

Silver Falls State Park

May 13, 2006

Leader: Scott Hovis
8 miles, 600 ft. ("B")

THIS CLASSIC LOOP with its 10 waterfalls is always a favorite. I'd avoid weekends during the summer because there are sure to be large crowds. Don't forget they require a special \$3 park fee. We were lucky to hit their annual wildflower show at the lodge. There must have been 100 different flowers on display. As popular a park as it is you'd think it would be marked on I-5, but isn't. Heading north, take Salem exit #253 and make your first right. From there the signage is good. Excellent maps are free at the lodge. Members: Jane Allen, Julie Dorland, Jim Fritz, Maggie Gontrum, Scott Hovis, Sherwood Jefferies, Mary Peel and Barb Schomaker; nonmember Margene Kethcart.

N Middle Fork, Willamette

May 16, 2006

Leader: Walt Dolliver
6 miles, 400 ft. ("B")

AFTER A PERIOD of typical Eugene spring weather, we had a break; the sun came out. We explored a year-old Forest Service trail, the North Middle Fork of the Willamette. What we found was just as it was described in Sullivan's book: several miles of beautiful, old growth Douglas fir and a difficult stream crossing. No one got wet except the leader.

After the crossing we came upon another rare sight, a large, untouched grove of western red cedar, some 11 feet in diameter. Members: Walt Dolliver, Julie Dorland, Debra Higbee, Sherwood Jefferies, Barbara Morgan and Mary Peel; nonmembers Chuck Eysers and Debbie Hibbard.

Dog Mountain

June 3, 2006

Leader: Buzz Blumm
7 miles, 2,900 ft. ("C")

ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL DAY on Dog Mountain, just eight miles west of Stevenson, WA, overlooking the Columbia River. We started at 9:30 a.m., with ages ranging from 6 to 66. Our paces were vastly different; however, everyone made the top and spent an hour enjoying the view and plentiful wildflowers. Our group included nonmembers Keri Sadler (of Portland) and the Jones family (Richard, Diana and children Ryan, Tyler and six-year-old Meagan). Obsidians were Nola Nelson, Jim Clarkson, Ken Frazer, Peter & Kitson Graham, Claudia Arias, Gail Wahl and my family (Cecile, Andrew and Maddie).

Tire Mountain

June 3, 2006

Leader: Sandra Larsen
8 miles, 800 ft. ("B")
Photo by Zella Andreski



WE LEFT EUGENE under a threat of rain, but Mother Nature smiled on us and gave us cool, ideal temperatures for hiking without a drop of rain. This is a good low elevation hike with a variety of sights: old growth forest, wild flowers (although not the show one gets at Iron Mountain/Cone Peak) and, when it is clear, a vista of Diamond Peak and two of the Three Sisters. We only saw the base of those peaks, but we could see Hills Creek Res-

ervoir. We had lunch at the viewless top of Tire Mountain. Since it was National Trails Day, some bicycle groups were working on the trail. The only downside to the whole trip was some *deep* ruts on paved Road 19. These should be repaired by now as crews had been working on them. Members Zella Andreski, Daniele Delaby, Julie Dorland, Debra Higbee, Yuan Hopkins, Sandra Larsen, Mary Peel, Sheila Ward and Rod Wood were joined by nonmembers Keith Christensen, Debbie Hibbard and Gail Wahl.

McKenzieRiver: Carmen to Tamolitch

June 4, 2006

Leader: Barb Revere
7 miles, 300 ft. ("B")

STARTING AT THE Carmen Reservoir, we headed "downriver" along the dry channel where the mighty McKenzie runs underground. Our route hugged the north edge of a swampy valley; then, squeezed from both sides by mossy rocks and ferny undergrowth, the trail wound through tall firs and occasional stands of alder. A massive rock face loomed to the south. Four sturdy log-and-rail bridges spanning the dry river gave evidence that the river reappears in periods of high water. We encountered many fine old firs and cedars--some three to four feet in diameter. There were many blow-downs in the understory, but only a single log crossed the well-maintained trail. A few spots were beaten into a quagmire by recent rains and mountain bikes...and we encountered several of this two-wheeled species, all friendly and mud covered. The weather threatened all day, but some of us managed to hike without raingear -- though a single rain-shower did cut short our lunch on the rocky pool overlook. Members Sherwood Jefferies, Barb Revere and Nancy Whitfield were joined by nonmembers Jean Numo Lapeyre, Diana Pace and MaryAnn Walter.

North Bank Deer Preserve

June 4, 2006

Leader: Chris Stockdale
8 miles, 1,200 ft. ("B")

THIS WAS A HIKE that nearly wasn't. With no calls or sign-ups by Saturday afternoon, I was already making other plans when a call came in. As the weather forecast was a bit "iffy," we agreed to confer early the next day. At that time things didn't look too gloomy, so I met nonmember Mark Anthony in

Cottage Grove for the drive to the preserve. Although we got rained on a few times, it barely lasted long enough for us to put our rain jackets on before having to remove them again. Thanks to this spring's rains, the vegetation was lush -- especially the widespread displays of poison oak! I would not recommend this area for anybody susceptible to the stuff. After the trail emerged from the trees, we followed it up to the ridge. In places it was hard to see the trail as the grass was so long, but you can't get lost in these open hills. We sat and enjoyed lunch with a good view over the North Umpqua Valley; and could see rain clouds in the distance, but they avoided us. I was happy to see the wonderful old madrone that had been disfigured by people carving initials and dates on it was actually healing itself. I just hope nobody else tries to immortalize themselves on its magnificent skin. On the road out of the preserve we were accompanied (with a fence between them and us) by a herd of young bullocks that was having a great time galloping around and having mock battles with each other.

Alpine Trail

June 5, 2006

Leader: Paul Flashenberg
8 miles, 1,000 ft. ("B")

MOTHER NATURE smiled on us as the clouds disappeared about 20 miles east of Eugene. Temperatures were ideal, a sharp contrast to the warm weather of a few weeks ago when I previewed the hike. The trail was overgrown in spots, but generally in good condition. There were many kinds of wildflowers along the way. We had great views of Diamond Peak early on and then lunch with views of Buckhead Mountain. The trailhead is less than an hour's drive from Eugene, all on paved roads, making it easily accessible. Members Paul Flashenberg, Anne Hollander, Sherwood Jefferies, Nola Nelson and Ruth Romoser; nonmember Mary Ann Walter.

Mt. Pisgah Arboretum

June 6, 2006

Leader: Marc Hansen
3 miles, 225 ft. ("A")

IN A SOFT WARM spring rain we began alongside flowing Canyon Creek, then took the verdant Zigzag Trail on a brief upgrade and crossed a meadow plateau and down the south Boundary Trail to Quarry Road, continuing to the quarry and into the 200-acre flood plain, then

back along the Coast Fork to our cars. The hike was highlighted by the verdancy of the foliage and the high spirits and interest of the group: members Marc Hansen, Margaret Prentice and Barb Revere; and nonmember Peter Newman.

Willamette River

June 6, 2006

Leader: Margot Fetz
4 miles, 0 ft. ("A")

ONE SIGN-UP; one cancellation; one hiker (the leader). Waxwing, herons, vultures on tree. Pleasant.

Battle Ax

June 6, 2006

Leader: Bob Huntley
7 miles, 1,780 ft. ("B")

ALL OF US RODE in Sherwood's big pickup. Although the hike had been advertised as 10 miles, we shortened it because the road had been improved, letting us drive in instead of walking in. Last winter's substantial snowfall meant that the only flowers in bloom were trillium and glacier lilies. There was still a little snow on the trail. Good weather allowed an excellent view from the 5,558' summit. Members: Bob Huntley, Daphne James and Sherwood Jefferies; nonmembers Susanne Algara, Gail Wahl and Kathy Wilkowski.

Alton Baker Bike Trail

June 7, 2006

Leader: Ruth Romoser
5 miles, 500 ft. ("A")

THE HIKE ALONG the river was really fun! Obsidian Walt Dolliver joined me going downriver along the bike trail behind Valley River Center. We crossed Owosso Bridge and proceeded upriver, climbing up Skinner Butte (finding an osprey nest). Crossing over the DeFazio footbridge, we returned to our starting point. At a brisk pace, this walk takes about two and one half hours. It was a perfect evening for a walk. It was fun to have a strong walking companion and we shared good stories.

Cook's Ridge

June 10, 2006

Leader: Peter Graham
6 miles, 1,000 ft. ("B")

NINE HIKERS ENJOYED a classic coastal hike. After laboring up the spine of Cook's Ridge we descended through successive forests of western hemlock and Sitka spruce. In between these beautiful

remnants were glimpses of Gwynn Creek and a smattering of wildflowers. We particularly enjoyed the boundless enthusiasm of our guest hiker from Russia, for whom every turn was a potential photo op. Members: Les & Marian Brod, Paul Flashenberg, Bob Freed, Kitson & Peter Graham, Joanne Ledet and Chris Stockdale; nonmember, Nadia Bicalova.

Kentucky Falls
June 10, 2006
Leader: Julie Dorland
4 miles, 800 ft. ("A")
Photo by Barb Revere



A Trip Haiku

*Springtime rain forest
 Newts, columbine and iris
 Ahh! Kentucky Falls*

A COMPANIONABLE group of fellow hikers –Jim Fritz, Marshall Kandell, Christine Knudsen, Bob Moffitt and Margaret Prentice, Obsidians all -- joined me for a wonderful hike to Kentucky Falls. Weather was good, wildlife sort of abundant (if you're in the mood for snails, slugs, newts and beetles). Flowers included columbine, monkey flower, rhodies, iris, fading bleeding heart and one wild rose. Trail was good, and falls were splendidly full of cascading water.

Patterson Mt.
Lone Wolf Shelter
June 11, 2006
Leader: Mary Hamilton
5 miles, 600 ft. ("A")
Photo by Mary Hamilton



Break at Lone Wolf Shelter

AT THE TRAILHEAD, our group was greeted by mosquitoes. The weather was beautiful (warm and sunny with mostly clear skies) which made the shady hike comfortable. We began in a young forest of Douglas fir and western hemlock, hiked through dense old growth and took a brief break at Lone Wolf Shelter. We continued through the forest with glimpses of Lookout Point Reservoir, passed a grassy meadow and reached the rocky viewpoint for a leisurely lunch break. The view included the Three Sisters, Hardesty Mountain and Mt. June. The trail had recently been maintained. On our hike out, we stopped in the meadow to take a closer look and enjoy the wildflowers. Still in bloom were trillium, fairy bells, woodland violets, oxalis, star Solomon's seal, iris chrysophylla, phlox, valerian, delphinium, western meadowrue and stonecrop. Just beginning to bloom were lupine, rhododendron and red currant. Also seen were vanilla leaf, kinnikinnick and bear grass. We were fortunate to have among the following several knowledgeable hikers who were helpful in identifying the wildflowers and trees: members Julie Dorland, Margot Fetz, Bob Freed, Brian and Mary Hamilton, Yuan Hopkins, Sherwood Jefferies, Margaret Prentice, Barb Revere and nonmember Chuck Eyers.

Gwynn Creek
June 13, 2006
Leaders: Cork & Carolyn Higgins
8 miles, 1,100 ft. ("B")
Photo by Barb Revere



Gwynn Creek Red Racer.

HIGH OVERCAST, no wind, cool temperatures and great companions: a perfect day for hiking at the coast. Parking on Cummins Creek Road, we hiked along the coast trail to Devil's Churn, then back past Cape Perpetua visitor center, up Cooks Ridge (massive Sitka spruce), down Gwynn Creek drainage (massive Douglas fir) and back to the car. Thank-

fully for the rest of us, Barb Revere was along to identify most of the beautiful plants strutting their stuff: butter cups, foxglove, candy flower, monkey flower and Indian paint brush. Obsidian hikers were Carolyn Higgins and Cork Higgins, Sherwood Jefferies and Barb Revere

Washburne & China Creek Loops
June 14, 2006
Leader: Marshall Kandell
5 miles, 500 ft. ("A")
Photo by Zelia Andreski



THE RAIN GODS showered upon us on our drive to the coast and then paused long enough for us to get in our entire hike in dry comfort. Wet sand and fresh ocean air made the stroll along the beach an invigorating joy and a minus tide revealed previously unseen tide pools for our exploration. Determined to find the less traveled route up the Hobbit Trail (missed on two previous hikes), I ventured past a discouraging barrier of branches and led my game companions up a short, but challenging, overgrown path (consider adding a machete to the 10 essentials). Although a new sign at the top points to the beach trail, there is nothing to indicate any reason not to take the alternate route.

Across the highway, the Valley Trail welcomes hikers into a forest environment and invites quiet reflection (and snack time) at wildlife ponds. Not only did we not see any major wildlife, but much of the pond vegetation, usually verdant and tall, had turned brown and crumpled, revealing new sprouts planning their comeback. This was just the first time on this hike we could have used a naturalist to explain what was happening. At China Creek Meadow where we stopped for lunch -- a site which last year was equally divided between purple foxglove and a hillside of bright yellow daisy-like flowers -- we found that tall grasses (native? invasive?) had crowded

out almost all the foxglove. The yellow flowers on the hillside, subdued under an overcast sky, awoke when the sun broke through and literally brightened and glowed before our eyes.

China Creek Loop (seldom included on hikes that include the lighthouse option) climbs through beautiful forest terrain before returning to the Valley Trail, which continues above the gurgling creek through an amazing weather twisted rhododendron jungle to the campground. Instead of returning to our cars at this point, everyone agreed to continue the hike through the campground, down the beach trail and back along the surf to our starting point (anything short of this does not add up to the advertised five miles).

Although Sherwood Jefferies, Margaret Prentice and I had done this hike before, it was a first for Zella Andreski and Christine Knudsen. Zella and her camera also got their first looks at the huge leaves of skunk cabbage and, on the way home, the *Darlingtonia* cobra lilies. From start to finish, our surf and turf experience was a total pleasure.

**Siltcoos River
Carter Lake Dunes**
June 15, 2006
Leader: Sheila Ward
6 miles, 200 ft. ("B")
Photo by Barb Revere



THIS TRIP STARTS OUT along the riverbank and winds up in the coastal trees. There are several excellent views of the estuary from the higher trail. We were privileged to be able to watch a heron swallow a large fish and fly off. At the beach we observed two groups of sea lions and their babies lounging at the surf line while seven brown pelicans flew overhead. During our lunch stop back at a picnic table near the river we wished we had a bird expert with us to tell us what bird had the distinctive call we were hearing. On the walk through, over and up the Carter Lake Dunes we saw lots of animal tracks. Those we could identify

included racoon, deer (both adult and babies) and, to top it off, what appeared to be very fresh bear prints. (Barb Revere took photos to prove the sighting). There were many other small footprints we made wild guesses about. With the winter movement of the dunes and the extensive growth of small plants, shrubs and trees, this landscape is ever changing and I can only speculate how long the sand will be visible. Hikers included members Max Brown, Maggie Gontrum, Sherwood Jefferies, Barb Revere and Sheila Ward.

Tire Mountain
June 17, 2006
Leader: Allan Coons
8 miles, 800 ft. ("B")

SIX OF US PILED INTO the van and set off for Hwy, 58, Aufderheide National Scenic Byway and Forest Service roads to the Alpine trailhead. The weather was cool and overcast, although clearing was promised for later. Mountain bicycles and rain had made grooves in the wet earth, with puddles and mushy mud in places. The trail passes through old growth forest and numerous meadows. The flowers and vegetation varied according to the orientation. We had lunch at the former lookout site at 4,329 feet elevation. Finally, the sun began to break through and by 1 p.m. it was almost clear. Diamond Peak and the Three Sisters were visible when the vegetation permitted. We saw bleeding hearts, yellow wood violets, candyflowers, larkspur, pink plectritis, yellow monkey flowers, camus, thimbleberry, parrot beak, penstemon, wild ginger, foam flower, Oregon grape, sorrel, vanilla leaf, dwarf dogwood (thimbleberry), ocean spray, trillium, false Solomon's seal, columbine, coral-root orchid, stonecrop, yarrow, bluefield gilia, phacelia, cat's ear lily (or tulip), fool's onion (hyacinth), deltoid balsamroot, twinflower, beargrass, Bradshaw's lomatium, blue-eyed Mary and more. We were a week or two late for some blossoms and a week or two early for others, although I have never seen a better display on this hike. Hikers were members Jane Allen, Linda Christensen and Allan Coons; and nonmembers Fran Cope and Robby Sheldon.

Sweet Creek Falls
June 17, 2006
Leader: Chris Cunningham
3.3 miles, 350 ft. ("A")

WE SAVORED MISTY Sweet Creek Trail

on this mild perfect-for-hiking June day. Waterfalls were cascading over enormous boulders. Wildflowers -- tiger lilies, bleeding heart and a variety of figwort -- lined the trail. The creek was still too full for us to hop over it. After we finished the 3.3 mile hike (according to a member's pedometer), half of the group decided to drive up to the next trailhead and do another short leg. On this trip were members: Chris Cunningham, Julie Dorland, Delores Higbee, Sherwood Jefferies, Christine Knudsen and Pete Peterson; nonmembers Marjorie Jackson, Betty & Ken Metzler and Pat Soussan.

Opal Creek
June 20, 2006
Leader: Julie Dorland
7 miles, 300 ft. ("B")

IN MY OPINION, Opal Creek is the epitome of the best in Oregon hiking. It has amazingly beautiful water (all different shades of green, as you might expect), a bridge over a 60-foot gorge, the remnants of Merten Mill, waterfalls, an old growth grove, the old "town" of Jawbone Flats (now an old-growth study center) and, of course, Opal Pool. The weather was perfect, the trail easily traveled. We saw just one butterfly, but it was the size of a small bird. Members: Julie Dorland, Jim Fritz, Carolyn & Cork Higgins, Carol Houde, Sherwood Jefferies, Bob Moffitt, Barbara Norregaard, Barb Revere and Christine Watts; nonmembers Chuck Eyers and Velma Goldsmith.

Bohemia Mountain
June 21, 2006
Leader: Wayne Deeter
3 miles, 800 ft. ("A")
Photo by Zella Andreski



Fairview Peak from Bohemia Mountain

I RISKED SCHEDULING this Lodewick classic even earlier this year than last due to the early date of summer camp. The heat wave of early May must have accelerated the snowmelt -- there were only a

few snow banks left roadside on the way up to the saddle. The weather on this first day of summer was quite nice for hiking -- not too warm, not too cool. Mosquitoes were plentiful, especially at the pullout for Bohemia City, but not yet too aggressive. The showy Washington lilies were not yet in bloom, but we had plenty of trillium and yellow fawn lilies to make up for it. Two chose not to traverse around the tricky, persistent snow field below the summit of Bohemia Mountain, but were able to enjoy much the same view the rest of us had when we drove to the top of Fairview Peak -- peaks from Mt. McLoughlin in the south to Mt. Hood (maybe, or was that just a cloud?) in the north. We finished this relaxed amble with drinks, snacks and/or desserts at the Cottage Restaurant back in Cottage Grove. Thanks to Margot Fetz for meeting the group in Eugene. Members: Zella Andreski, Gayle Berge, Tom Berkey, Barb Bruns, Wayne Deeter, Margot Fetz, Sherwood Jefferies, Marshall Kandell, Norma Lockyear and Jessica Westin; nonmember Chisako Sakai.

Metolius River

June 24, 2006

Leader: Anne Dhu McLucas
5 miles, 100 ft. ("A")

HAVING CANCELED the planned trip to Canyon Creek Meadows because of possible snow, two of us set out to visit the beautiful Metolius River. We were rewarded with a warm, but pleasant hike -- with all kinds of flowers and butterflies -- starting at the south trailhead and walking down to the fish hatchery. With two bum knees between us, we decided to stop there and head back, instead of taking the longer loop. On the way back we stopped for a short look at the source of the river, springing out of the ground. Obsidian Julie Dorland was my sole follower!

Deception Butte

June 25, 2006

Leader: Lynda Christiansen
8 miles, 2,500 ft. ("C")

THIS DIFFICULT HIKE should be done on a brisk, cool day, but we set out knowing Eugene would likely be seeing record high temperatures. Fortunately, almost all the hike is done under tree cover, blunting the worst of the heat. This trail is not easy to find and the sign, usually hidden in the trees behind the guard rail, was

missing Sunday. Parking is limited to a pullout along Highway 58, with a short walk back to the trail. Along the trail we encountered a bridge collapsed in the middle, but still usable -- and the new bridge rapidly nearing completion. There also are three downed trees, only one of which is a bit of a challenge to go over. There is a view of Oakridge and Diamond Peak a few feet from the summit. To our dismay, we returned to the SEHS parking lot to discover a hiker's car window smashed. The car had been parked beside the sidewalk in clear view of Patterson Street. We had read the article on car clouting at trailheads recently in the newsletter, but did not expect the problem in such a public place in daytime. Members: Claudia Arias, Paul Brown, Lynda Christensen, Ken Frazer, Mary Frazer, Debra Higbee and Daphne James; nonmembers Jim Backer and Debbie Hibbard .

Duffy Lake

June 25, 2006

Leader: Karla Rusow
7 miles, 800 ft. ("B")
Photo by Zella Andreski



Duffy Lake with 3 Fingred Jack

UPON ARRIVAL at the trailhead we were bombarded with swarms of mosquitoes. Once started, however, we had no problems with those pests. With Willamette Valley temperature in the 90s we felt happy to be on a tree covered trail to a cool lake. Many groups of backpackers, hikers and even horseback riders were exiting the area. At the river crossing each hiker did his/her own thing -- balancing on a log or wading across the water. Lunch was very pleasant with a strong breeze off the lake to cool us and keep off any mosquitoes. Sherwood found a vista on another part of the shore to admire Three Finger Jack. Then it was back to the hot valley for these Obsidians: Zella Andreski, Barbara Bruns, Bob Huntley, Sherwood Jefferies, Mary Peel,

Virginia Rice, Karla Rusow, Guy Strahon and Judy Terry.

Clear Lake

June 27, 2006

Leader: Margaret Prentice
5.5 miles 200 ft. ("A")

THE TEMPERATURE dropped a few degrees from the previous day's record high but was still beastly hot, especially when crossing the lava and in other areas exposed to the blazing sun. Clear Lake was, of course, as sparkingly lovely as ever. As we made our way around we saw a common merganser (her young on her back), a swan and a river otter. Butterflies were in great abundance. Among the wildflowers we identified were lupine, penstemon, tiger lilies, star flowers, queen's cup, coral root and bunchberry, which carpeted much of the understory. Our lunch spot had a view of the lake, the resort in the distance and the Sisters in the far distance. We refreshed ourselves again at the resort. By the time we returned to the cars the temperature was in the high 80's. At SEHS it was 95. Shermin had to drive back to Portland, having driven down for the day to hike with us. We hope to see her again. My thanks to Sherwood for providing the second car and to a very enjoyable group of hikers who shared the day with me. Members Margo Fetz, Paul Flashenberg, Sherwood Jefferies, Christine Knudsen, Margaret Prentice, Julia Richardson and Nola Shurtleff; and nonmembers Jennifer Barnes, Shermin Emre and Lynda Godell.

Browder Ridge

July 9, 2006

Leader: Brian Hamilton
8.4 miles, 2,100 ft. ("C")

THIS WOULD BE A "B" hike using Obsidian ratings, but Bill Sullivan rates it as "Difficult." Our group tended to agree with Sullivan's rating: There were plenty of sore muscles after we were through! We hit the trailhead at about 10:30 on a warm, mostly sunny day. Many flowers were blooming, with the really showy blooms appearing once we left the lower timbered section of trail and broke out into the hillside meadows. This was an off year for the bear grass; only a fraction were in bloom. There were plenty of other flowers however, including queen's cup, cat's ear lilies, cliff larkspur, tall bluebell, western columbine and tiger lily. We were unable to identify another

type of lily, about 2' high, but it may have been a Washington lily.

After two hours, we ventured off-trail toward the summit. Most of us stopped for a well-deserved rest about 10 minutes short of the summit, while two continued on. After lunch, the others made the final trek to the top. Over lunch we enjoyed the view of the Cascade spine from Mt. Hood to Diamond Peak. A two-hour descent brought us back to the cars. Hikers were non-members Meredith Fox and Kevin Foerstler; and members Claudia Arias, Glen Svendsen, Barb Revere, Rich Peevers and Mary and Brian Hamilton.

Mt. Pisgah Sunset/Moonrise July 10, 2006

**Leader: Royal Murdock
3 miles, 1,000 ft. ("A")**

SOMETIMES, the weather gods are considerate. After a morning of drizzle and an afternoon of heavy clouds, the sun broke through and burned away the overcast, leaving wispy clouds that glowed in the setting sun. We then waited in anticipation for the rising of the full moon, which appeared two minutes later than scheduled for 9:27 p.m. It was worth the wait. Descending in the dark were Obsidians LaRee Beckley, Barb Revere, Nancy Whitfield, Royal Murdock, John Agnew, Mary Hamilton and Michael Landes; and my granddaughter, Kate Davis (age 11).



Bike Trips

Norma's Willamette Valley Ride

**June 11, 2006
Leader: Sharon Ritchie
40 miles 0 ft. (Moderate)**

ANOTHER INCREDIBLE DAY for a bike ride! We started at the Brownsville exit off of I-5 and wound our way past beautiful fields of clover and a variety of tall grasses, winding through Shedd and Fayetteville. Norma showed us the house in Shedd where she grew up. We had lunch at Peoria County Park, then on to Tangent and back to the start. There were only three of us, but it was a perfect group. For one, Norma was with us. A little over 13 months after her accident, she is back biking again. I led this trip for her last year and I'm ready to

give it back! The three of us got a lot of biking and talking done today. A really, really nice day. Many thanks to members Joyce Sanders and Norma Lockyear for making it so special.

Hinman Vineyards June 17, 2006

**Leader: Larry Dunlap
46 miles, 400 ft. ("B")**

THEY SAY IT'S NOT the destination but the journey that's important. But when your destination is a winery, the saying may not be completely accurate. We took a sunny Saturday to venture out to Sylvan Ridge/Hinman Winery on a 46-mile bike jaunt that included the Fern Ridge Bike Path, Doane Hill, Briggs Hill, the Coyote Creek covered bridge and a number of wildflower decorated roadways in SW Eugene. Lunch at the vineyard was the high point, featuring complimentary tastes of the current vintages and good conversation among the four attending bikers. I think Darrell McBee, Peter Graham, potential member Art Satner and I all agree, it was a primo ride!



Climbs

Smith Rock State Park June 10-11, 2006

**Leader: Doug Nelson
Rating: 5.6-5.8**

IF I LEAD THIS TRIP many more years it may become a tradition! When the schedule came out I got a fair amount of interest in this annual outing; but, as the date approached, most of my "interested" would-be participants decided they couldn't make it and I was able to let the wait list and late callers come along. Smith Rock can be very busy, with long lines of climbers waiting for access to "moderate" routes, but graduation and finals weekend proved to be a fine one to spend at Smith. We were able to walk up to virtually any entry level climb in the most popular areas and have it open and waiting. Unheard of...and a real treat! And the weather was mostly sunny and warm.

We arrived early enough to get in a fine day of climbing on several bolted routes in the 5.6 to 5.8 range. Everyone

on the trip, from beginners to more experienced, did very well. I was grateful to Wayne for getting on the "sharp end of the rope" and helping me in setting top ropes for us all to enjoy. Two of our party could only stay one day, so we saw them off with huge plates of Mexican food at a restaurant in Redmond. Even after a day of climbing, some of us couldn't eat that much. Those who stayed enjoyed a peaceful evening at the primitive but scenic campground at Steelhead Falls on the Deschutes River.

Day two was a virtual replay of day one. The weather was ideal for rock climbing, the cliffs hosted a very limited number of climbers and, again, we were able to walk up to great climbs, both "classic" and almost unknown, and climb without a wait. I had a great time and believe all who joined me felt the same. If you have never visited Smith Rock State Park, I would encourage you to do so. The scenery is wonderful. Hiking and mountain biking trails go on for miles. Wildlife (especially birds) abounds. And it is always fun to watch those crazy people who feel compelled to test themselves on the steep rock faces. Members: Wayne Deeter, Chance Fitzpatrick, Larry Huff, Scott Hunt and Doug Nelson; and non-member Peter Green.

Crevasse Rescue Class June 24-26, 2006

**Leader: Wayne Deeter
2 miles, 800 ft.**

WITH ONLY SEVEN students, we were able to get by this year with a single day field session. On Thursday evening we met at the lodge and reviewed knots and glacier travel and practiced prusiking up a rope on the climbing wall. Most of us carpoled to Trillium Lake Friday night and stayed at the primitive campground. We gathered in the lot at Timberline on Saturday morning. On a nearby snowfield we reviewed snow anchors. Three instructors then roped up and simulated a crevasse rescue situation, including setting up a Z pulley system. We divided up into teams of three or four and practiced roped glacier travel, including setting up running belays. Meanwhile, Tim went ahead up the mountain searching for either a crevasse or a steep, overhung snow bank. He found a suitable snow bank less than a mile up the climbers' trail. While there's nothing quite like hanging around in a crevasse, an overhung snow bank

will do for practice when the real thing isn't available.

The students divided into groups of three and four. They ran through the scenario three times, each time with a different "victim." The "victims" (also on a safety belay) slid over the edge, their fall arrested by their rope team. The team then "rescued" them, hauling them out of the (simulated) crevasse using a Z pulley system. The most valuable thing learned was that you want to avoid falling into a crevasse in the first place! Students were Brian Watson, Sean Allensworth, Roy McCormick, Peter Green, Adam Gapinski, April Anderson and Scot Hunt. Instructors were Tim and Michele McCall and Don McLaughlin (all with Eugene Mountain Rescue) and Wayne Deeter.

South Sister

July 1, 2006

Leader: Brian Hamilton

12 miles, 4,900 ft. (Rating I-1)

A SEVERE THUNDERSTORM dropping nickel-sized hail had passed through on the west side of the Pacific Crest the day before and a slight chance of thunderstorms was forecasted for the day of the climb. The high clouds present when we started out soon cleared and we had a sunny sky and temperatures up to 85 degrees for most of the climb. The winter snow had almost all melted from the trailhead, but the trail was still buried by snow from about 6,000' and above until we reached the Lewis Glacier. Even with an overnight freezing level of 13,000' the snow was firm and we had very little

boot penetration. We started from the Devils Lake trailhead at 6:30 a.m. and reached the summit in six hours. We had the summit to ourselves for an hour and then headed down, trying to beat incoming clouds, completing the trip at 4:30 p.m.

About 25 other climbers/skiers were on the south side of the mountain that day and we saw several camps set up on the plateau above Moraine Lake. Several of the climbers going up the mountain as we were descending appeared to be ill prepared for the snow on the ground and the oncoming clouds. Our luck held out as a short rain shower began just minutes after we were in the car headed back to Eugene. Enjoying a strenuous, but pleasant climb without the typical summer crowds with me was Rich Peevers.

Obsidian Climb School: My Experience

By Zane Miller

RECENTLY, I ATTENDED the two required classes and outdoor sessions for the Obsidian Climb School. I came into the first class skeptical that I was going to learn anything because of my previous climbing experience. Within a few minutes, that view changed. I knew I was in for something new when I was baffled by the concept of a simple knot. Fortunately, the highly experienced staff was there to walk me through the process and I was soon tying knots with ease.

Three days later, I found myself standing at the base of the columns at Skinner's Butte with the same mindset as when I entered the class. This time it took longer than in the class to change my mind. It was not until about an hour into the class -- after we had practiced all the knots, gone over safety procedures and geared up -- that I found I was learning something new. I have almost one year of experience sport climbing, so the idea of ascending a wall to reach a destination beyond the top was foreign to me. I found myself having a great deal of fun ascending the fixed line during the class and being challenged by instructors who knew I had previous experience.

Last fall, I joined the Crux Rock Gym Junior Team. As time progressed, I became more interested and passionate about climbing. This spring, the competition season began -- that is when things became truly challenging. When climbing in a competition there are more things to focus on. You must carefully pick the routes you climb, you have a limited number of attempts and you cannot work partial sections of routes. There is also the pressure of being watched by family, friends and other competitors.

ENTERING THE SECOND climb school class I was filled with confidence that I was going to learn something new about snow and ice climbing. Though I have an extensive knowledge of rock-climbing, I have very little experience climbing on snow. The second part of the climb school focused mainly on setting protection, self-arresting and differ-

ent methods of moving with a rope to avoid crevasses. There was also a short rundown of the signs and symptoms of hypothermia and heat-exhaustion. After this class I was pumped-up to hit the hills and practice what I had learned.

Breathing heavily after ascending a short slope at "Mount" Hoodoo, I began to consider how difficult it would be to climb Mount Hood. This was the day I had been looking forward to. We began the day hiking to "base camp," a short hike on a fairly gradual slope that still managed to take the wind out of me. After a short moment to settle in, the instructors began to give the class a demonstration of different ways to set anchors using even the most obscure objects such as a jacket or water bottle. We also learned quick belay techniques. Then we split into small groups consisting of four or five people and began to practice belaying and constructing anchors. This format worked great because it gave us plenty of one-on-one contact with the instructors and allowed us to learn proper technique.

NEXT WAS THE BEST PART of the course -- the self-arrest. For those of you who are not aware of what a self-arrest is, it is when you fall and begin sliding down a slope of snow or ice and you use your ice-axe to quickly stop your movement. We hiked up toward the top of Hoodoo and began to have some more fun. Instructors were always on hand to give pointers and help us find the correct ways to arrest. The self-arrest is an amazing technique allowing a climber to slide down a slope at 30 miles per hour and stop.

All-in-all I found the climb school to be a good investment of my time. I have come out of the school feeling confident enough with the skills I learned to now join Obsidian climbs. The overall execution of the class and the assistance from the instructors is certainly enough for me to recommend the school to any interested members.

(Editor's Note: Zane Miller -- son of Obsidians Sam and Zola Miller -- is a junior member.)



Winter Trips

Ray Benson Snow Park

January 21, 2006

Leader: Sandra Larsen

X-Ski 6 miles (Advanced Beginner)

DID WE EVER HAVE SNOW! Great powder and lots of it! This was the first time I had led this ski trip for the club. We did the south loop trail to Brandenburg Shelter, starting under cloudy skies. Some of us got to break trail and get a workout, making us appreciate lunch. After some tough going atop the windy ridge, we made it to the shelter with Doug McCarty in the lead. Members: Anne Bonine, Stephen Brander, Sandra Larsen, Patrice McCaffrey, Doug McCarty, Carol Petty, Sharon Ritchie, Suzanne Steussy, Charlie Van Deusen and Nancy Whitfield; nonmembers Chris Christensen and Judy Reminger.

Abernathy Road

January 21, 2006

Leader: Bill Johnson

X-Ski 10 miles, 400 ft. (Adv. Intermed)

IT WAS OVERCAST at Gold Lake Snow Park, but not too cold. We broke trail to the shelter about two miles out and alternated trail breaking until a small lake around five miles out. After lunch at the lake, we returned to the trailhead. Members: John Hegg, Bill Johnson, Lana Lindstrom, Lyndell Wilken and Sue Wolling.

Marilyn Lakes

January 28, 2006

Leader: Scott Hovis

Snowshoe 4 miles, 100 ft. (Adv. Begin)

DON'T TELL ANYONE but we were one over the limit with 13 people. Snow was great (12+ inches in the past 24 hours). One of us got stuck in a hole on the south side of Upper Marilyn Lake and crossing the creek to lower Marilyn Lake was challenging. We made it, but getting over the snow bridge was hard. Gray jays met

us at the shelter. Hwy. 58 had packed snow; crossing it to the trailhead is dangerous. Members: Walt Dolliver, Yuan Hopkins, Scott Hovis, Sherwood Jefferies, Margaret Malsch and Barbara Schomaker; nonmembers Debbie Hibbard, Jennifer Difrancesco, Allen Ott, John Potinova, Barry Smith, Jan Stoecker and Jessica Westin.

Sand Mountain

March 18, 2006

Leader: Bill Johnson

X-Ski 10 miles, 400 ft. (Advanced)

PARTLY CLOUDY. And windy. We went down the south loop connector, then west across the road and into the trees. The snow had good hard places, but soft powder in other places. It wasn't the fastest trip with those conditions. We got almost to the bottom of the mountain, but there were lots of snowmobiles and the noise was bad, so we started back. The wind was getting strong and the snow conditions were getting poorer, so we were happy to get out of there. Members: Bob Burnett and Bill Johnson.

UPCOMING

Events at Mt. Pisgah

For information about and registration for the following events, call 747-1504. References to member and nonmember fees refer to Arboretum membership, not Obsidian membership.

WET FEET N' COOL TREATS!, Sat., July 29, 1-3 p.m. Explore the amazing aquatic world of the arboretum with nature guide Tom Bettman. Kids and families will hike the river and water garden trails and catch live critters in the river and pond, while learning the importance of the "little stuff" in nature. Cool off after the hike with homemade ice cream! Suggested donation: \$4 per child or \$7 per family. (MPA members: \$3/\$5) Please call ahead to sign up. Meet at visitor center, rain or shine.

BERRY WALK, Sat., Aug. 5, 10 a.m.-Noon. Join nature guide and herbalist Sue Sierralupé for a guided walk discussing collection, identification, and consumption of local plants that produce edible berries. We will harvest and tame Himalayan blackberries (*Rubus discolor*) and distribute delicious recipes! Bring collection containers, gloves, your favorite clippers and sturdy shoes. Suggested Donation: \$3 (MPA members free). Meet at visitor center.

August 20th Hike Scheduled Andrews Experimental Forest

THE OBSIDIANS will team up with Cascadia Wildlands Project (CWP) for a hike on Sunday, August 20, in the Andrews Experimental Forest. Also known as Lookout Creek, this 7-mile hike winds and climbs through one of the most gorgeous old growth forests in our area. Home to northern spotted owl, pileated woodpecker, osprey, black bear, bobcat, mountain lion, coyote, black-tailed deer and Roosevelt elk, the Andrews Experimental Forest is a world renowned center for research about the ecology and management of forests and streams.

We will be joined by CWP's Jeff Long, who will share his knowledge and insights about our unique ecological systems. Bring your curiosity and your questions about forests, watersheds, fire and anything else forest related. This promises to be a beautiful and interesting hike. Although there is a 1,400 foot elevation gain, this hike will be interspersed with stops, as we spend time noticing, observing and exchanging ideas.

This outing is sponsored by the Obsidian Conservation Committee and will be co-led by Jeff Long and committee member Julie McGlinsky.

-- Anne Hollander



Upcoming Byways-By-Bus Trips

Great Oregon Steam-Up

Saturday, August 5, 2006

Leader: John McManigal

Co-Leader: Ray Jensen

Cost \$29 (\$31 nonmembers)

Reservations and checks were due by July 21 to Lenore McManigal, 741 East 38th Ave., Eugene 97405; telephone 345-2036. If you're receiving this Bulletin after that date, you might still try giving Lenore a call to see if there are any late openings.

We will leave SHOPKO at 8 a.m. and drive directly to the Brooks turnoff, with perhaps a stop at the Santiam River rest stop. Since this is such a short drive, there will no coffee break. The Steam-Up is a big show featuring authentic vintage farm machinery in action and much more. There is a truck museum, Cat museum, log sawing, a miniature railroad you can ride on and a tractor pull. There is a grand review parade around the whole area. There are many places to buy food at reasonable prices, but you could bring your own food, too. Other activities open all day are a country store with flour milling, flea market, swap meet and a blacksmith shop. Return home by 5 p.m.

Oregon Zoo With Rick Ahrens

Tuesday, August 15, 2006

Leader: Rick Ahrens

Co-Leader: Liz Reanier

Cost: \$30 (\$32 nonmember)

Due July 20

Reservations and checks were due by July 20 to Janet Speelman, 1496 West 28th Ave., Eugene 97405; telephone 344-3019. If you're receiving this Bulletin after that date, you might still try giving Janet a call to see if there are any late openings.

Join us for a beautiful summer day at the zoo. On the way to Portland, Rick Ahrens, a former zookeeper, will give a talk on the history of zoos and be available to answer questions. Many like to

follow him around the zoo for all the additional information. If you have not been to the Oregon Zoo for a few years, there are several new exhibits. Don't miss the bird program at the amphitheater, with several of the flying raptors. Of course, you can go around on your own and if you tire, there are golf carts you can catch from one area to the next. There are food services around the park (your cost)

Southwest Oregon/Rogue River/Coast Redwoods

Mon-Wed, Sept. 11-13, 2006

Leaders: Barbara and Paul Beard, Ewart Baldwin

Cost: \$300(\$306 nonmembers). Due August 10 (\$25 non-refundable if cancellation occurs). *Reservations and checks to Liz Reanier, 853 Ascot Drive, Eugene 97401; telephone 687-1925.*

We will be traveling I-5 to Hwy. 42 to reach the Rogue River. Bring your sack lunch. After lunch, we will board the jet boat for an exciting ride up the Rogue, one of the last untouched rivers in the west. We will have dinner at the historic Lucas Lodge (dinner included), arriving back at Gold Beach by jet boat by dusk. Lodging will be in Gold Beach. **Day 2** -- We will have breakfast, provided at our motel, then board the bus for our trek south along the coast. Our first sighting of the redwoods will be on the Chetco River. We will tour Brookings Harbor, with lunch along the harbor. After lunch, we will travel into California arriving in the heart of the redwoods for a tour and gondola ride at the Trees of Mystery (Klamath). The gondola ride is over the redwoods with great views from atop the mountain. Lodging will be at The Trees of Mystery (dinner at your cost). **Day 3** -- After breakfast (included), we will board the bus for our trip north through the redwoods, coming into Oregon on

Hwy. 199, stopping at the historic Wolf Creek Inn for lunch (provided); then 1-5 to Eugene by 6:30 p.m.

Mt. Hood & Warm Springs Museum

Tuesday, October 3, 2006

Leaders: Don and Barbara Payne

Co-Leader: Liz Reanier

Cost: \$62 members (\$64 nonmembers). Due September 21.

Reservations and checks to Mary Lee Cheadle, 3225 Richard Ave., Eugene 97402; telephone 689-1085.

A spectacular scenic long day's ride to Mt. Hood via 1-5 to Salem (coffee break at Stayton City Park), viewpoint in Sandy (Jonerud's Vista), then on to Mt. Hood. You will be served a sit down lunch at Timberline (cost included). After a relaxing lunch, we will continue our loop on Hwy. 26 to Warm Springs and a stop at the museum (cost included). On our final leg of the trip home, we will stop at Crooked River Gorge, then through Terrebonne to Sisters and home by 7:30 p.m. A great farewell to summer.

Fall Color Trip

Tuesday, October 17, 2006

Leader: Bette Hack

Cost: \$42 (\$44 nonmembers) *Call Mary Lee Cheadle at 689-1085 for reservations and send checks to 3225 Richard Ave., Eugene 97402.*

There is still room on the Byways-By-Bus *Fall Color Trip* on October 17 which promises lots of color and fun exploring the covered bridges in Cottage Grove. Instead of lunch at King Estate, which does not serve on Tuesdays, the lunch stop will be at Stacy's Covered Bridge Restaurant in Cottage Grove. Located in the historic Bank of Cottage Grove Building (1906), it offers a "superb menu." Cost of the trip includes lunch.

Barb's July/August Trip Sampler

BARB REVERE has looked over upcoming trips and selected an attractive sampling for special mention. If you are leading a trip and would like us to know why you think it will offer something special, email us:

bulletin@obsidians.org.

Wed./Thurs., Aug. 2-3 – Golden Lake. On the eastern flank of Broken Top, Golden Lake is in the neighborhood of some of the most beautiful meadowlands in Oregon. This hike is often done as a difficult day hike (*see Schedule, Park Meadow-Golden Lake, led by Dan Christensen, Aug. 17*), but on this “C” backpack trip you will have time to relax and enjoy the magnificent scenery. Led by Jim Fritz.

Sun. Aug. 6 – Grizzly Peak. Your route winds along mossy Pamela Creek through an ancient forest, skirts Pamela Lake and then begins the arduous climb to the summit. The views from the top sweep from Hood to Broken Top, with Jefferson towering to the east. With 10 miles and 2,700 ft. to travel, we recommend good boots and conditioning. Rich Romm leads this permit only hike.

Fri./Sun., Aug. 11-13 – Elkhorn Crest. Join Bill Sullivan on this “C” backpack trip in the North Fork John Day Wilderness. Views in every direction, pioneer history and rugged geology will engage you throughout this beautiful country.

Same Weekend (Aug 11-13) -- Jefferson Park -- Another wonderful backpacking opportunity! This “C” hike led by Becky Lipton is into a beautiful area of the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness. Pristine lakes reflect rocky cathedral spires and snowcapped peaks in this lovely basin on the north shoulder of Mt. Jeff. The packing distance is seven miles with 1,800 ft. gain.

Sat., Aug. 12 – McKenzie Pass Geology. Erosion, glaciation, old and new lava flows, craters, cones and peaks: all will be discussed and explained as you ride and walk on this “classroom drive/hike” in the McKenzie Pass area. This is the third year Peter Rodda has

led this popular “A” trip.

Sat., Aug. 19 – Erma Bell/Williams Lakes. This 8.4-mile loop, led by Joan Ledet, rewards you with four swimmable lakes and a hidden waterfall within the Waldo Lake Wilderness. Listen (and watch) for the electronic chirp of picas if you take a break at Middle Erma Bell. These little rodents, looking like rabbits without the big ears, hide in the rock rubble, but come out when curiosity gets the better of them. The voracious Waldo mosquitoes should be gone in late August (on second thought, pack bug dope or wear long pants and sleeves).

Sun., Aug. 20 –Lillian Falls and Klovdahl Bay. You’ll take a little breather at twisting Lillian Falls, before beginning the final climb to Waldo Lake’s Klovdahl Bay. The trail travels dense verdant valleys as it snakes along Black Creek up to the lake. We picked blackberries last year and the lucky folks in the first car saw a black bear! Stewart Hoeg and Jim Duncan lead this rewarding “B” trip.

Same Day (Aug. 20) – Lookout Creek – Hike with leader Judy McGlinsky and conservationist Jeff Long of Cascadia Wildlands Project on this trip sponsored by the Conservation Committee. This “B” hike is 7 miles and 1,400 ft elevation gain.

Wed., Aug. 23 – Clear Lake-Carmen Lake. Leaders Shelly and Dave Call, plan to explore the petrified forest submerged in Clear Lake and visit a secret camp at Carmen Lake. Participants will need their own boats and PFDs.

Sat., Aug. 26 – Divide Lake/Mt. Yoran. Your destination is at the southwest base of Mt. Yoran in a glacier carved basin in the Diamond Peak Wilderness. The route follows a ridge offering many lovely views. This is prime time in huckleberry country, so bring a baggy, or munch as you go. Led by Larry Huff.

Same Day (Aug. 26) – Scott Mountain. A search through old trip reports indicates the mosquitoes should be gone by late August and you

can plan on a refreshing plunge into one of the lakes along the way. As for views: “You can see all...of Oregon from the top,” one leader wrote. This “C” hike of 10-miles and 1,200 ft. is led by Dave Predeek.

Sun., Sept. 3 – Oppie Dildock Pass . Destination is the NW flank of North Sister and Collier Glacier Overlook. The route winds through forests and meadows before breaking out into wide open lava fields, passing Four-in-One Cone and finally joining the PCT. At the pass the view is a stunning sweep to Mt. Jefferson. This harder “C” hike, led by Rich Romm, travels 14 miles and 2,000 ft. Good boots, plenty of water and good conditioning should go without saying.

Thu-Sat., Sept. 7-9– Diamond Lake Camp/Hike. Janet Jacobsen and Jane Hackett will lead this trip, camping and exploring the hiking trails of Diamond and Crater Lakes, including Tipso, Mt. Scott, and Garfield Peak. With all the opportunities for hiking in the area, you won’t come home disappointed. Up to 8-mile hikes and climbs up to 2,000 ft. each day.

Sat., Sept. 9 – Drift Creek. Hike with leader Becky Lipton in an ancient mixed forest of maple, hemlock, Sitka spruce and Douglas fir (tree diameters exceed six feet). This wilderness area offers a unique old growth experience in the Coast Range. Be forewarned: the canyon is steep and you hike down first, then uphill all the way out.

Sun., Sept. 10 – Marie/Rockpile Lakes. Bill Sullivan calls these lakes “two sweet little pools separated by a meandering alpine meadow.” The lakes are along the approach to Diamond Peak summit, about six miles from the trailhead with over 1,000 ft. elevation gain. Led by Scott Hovis.

Sat., Sept. 16 – Black Crater. The climb of 2,500 ft. is well compensated for by fabulous views of many high Cascade peaks: south to the Sisters, east to central Oregon and north to Mt. Hood. Scott Hovis leads this 7.5-mile hike.

Bulletin Classifieds

Help Wanted

THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE is in need of someone to take over the Chairperson's role from Sharon Ritchie. This important position is responsible for tracking and accounting for all our members. Would require a personal computer and basic computer skills.

Contact Sharon at: membership@obsidians.org

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE needs to find people who are willing to help out with the *Bulletin* production. The following opportunities are available:

- Marshall Kandell will be leaving the Publication Committee Chairman's position and we are looking for someone who will take on that responsibility. Marshall will still be involved in the Bulletin's production.
- We also need someone to backup, as well as help, John Jacobsen in his *Bulletin* layout work and ultimately take over that position. While some layout experience would be helpful it is not required since John would be willing to teach a motivated person the ropes. A personal computer with requisite software would be required.

No pay for these prestigious positions, but we're an equal opportunity employer! Contact the Publications Committee at: bulletin@obsidians.org

Obsidian Goodies



Cap, \$15



T-shirts

\$10 (no matter design or size)

Sweatshirt, \$15; mug or tumbler, \$10; whistle, \$3.

Contact: **Laurie 206-2303** or lafunkh@aol.com

Note: There is no charge for placement Obsidian Bulletin Classified ads; however, only members can place ads and preference will be given to ads that relate to the club's mission and our members' outdoor activity interests.

Leaders Requested To Post Trips Earlier

THE SUMMER TRIPS COMMITTEE has requested that leaders post their trip sign-up sheets at least nine days prior to the trips. This will make it more convenient for those who may only come into the YMCA or the south part of town once a week to sign-up.

Obsidian Calendar

July

28 Fri – **Opal Creek**, 7.1m 300' **B** J.Dorland (484-0280)
 29 Sat – **Chucksney MTn**, 10.3m 2000' **C** A.Coons (687-9741)
 29 Sat – **Larison Rock**, 7m 2300' **B** R.Wood (954-3406)
 29-30 Sat-Sun – **Mt. Adams**, Climb L.Huff (915-9071)
 29-30 Sat-Sun – **North Sister**, Climb J.Pegg (343-0909)
 29 Sat – **South Sister (youth)**, Climb, Jobanek (343-8547)
 29 Sat – **Cottage Grove**, Bike 42m **B** S.Ritchie (342-8435)

August

2-3 Wed-Thu – **Golden Lake**, Backpack 16m **C**, J.Fritz (345-0347)
 3-4 Thu-Fri – **South Sister**, Climb K.Saywer
 5 Sat – **Great Oregon Steam-up**, Bus.... L.McManigal (345-2036)
 5 Sat – **Vivian Lake**, 8m 1600' **B** J.Ledet (683-2603)
 6 Sun – **Grizzly Peak**, 10m 2700' **C** R.Romm (484-5214)
 6 Sun – **Lassen Peak**, Climb J.Pierce (344-1775)
 6 Sun – **Scott Mountain**, 10m 1200' **B** G.Baitinger (344-9345)
 9 Wed – **Patjens Lakes**, 6m 400' **B** S.Thomas (747-1623)
 10 Thu – **Mt. Pisgah**, 4m 1000' **A** M.Hansen (343-5114)
 11-13 Fri-Sun – **Elkhorn Cr**, Bkpk 21m **C** . B.Sullivan (683-6837)
 11-13 Fri-Sun – **Jefferson Pk**, Bkpk 7m **C**.... B.Lipton (736-7498)
 12 Sat – **McKenzie Pass Geology**, 3m **A**..... P.Rodda (343-3887)
 12-13 Sat-Sun – **Middle Sister**, Climb..... D.Snyder (688-0602)
 12 Sat – **Mt. McLoughlin**, Climb L.Huff (915-9071)
 12 Sat – **Three Fingered Jack**, Climb Jobanek (343-8547)
 13 Sun – **Rebel Rk Lkout**, 12.3m 3000' **C**, Funkhouser (206-2303)
 15 Tue – **Oregon Zoo**, Bus J.Speelman (344-3019)
 19 Sat – **Erma Bell/William Lk**, 8.4m 800' **B**.. J.Ledet (683-2603)
 19 Sat – **Mt. Thielsen (youth)**, Climb Jobanek (343-8547)
 19 Sat – **Mt. Washington**, Climb W.Deeter (942-0824)
 19 Sat – **Tahkenitch Dunes**, 6.5m **B** M.Camp (221-1866)
 20 Sun – **Lillian Falls/Klovdahl Bay**, 7.6m **B**.... Hoeg (484-6196)
 20 Sun – **Lookout Creek Tr**, 7m 1400' **B** J.McGlinsky (461-0408)
 20 Sun – **Sweet Creek Falls**, 2.2m 350' **A**..... A.Askew (687-1659)
 22 Tue – **Fuji Mountain**, 3m 950' **A**..... R.Murdock (345-8305)
 23 Wed – **Clear Lk/Carmen Lake**, Canoe/kayak, Call (954-7733)
 26 Sat – **Brice Creek**, 5.5m 600' **B** M.Welches (345-2056)
 26 Sat – **Divide Lk/Mt Yoran**, 8m 1200' **B**..... L.Huff (915-9071)
 26-27 Sat-Sun – **N Sister NW Ridge**, Climb Deeter (942-0824)
 26 Sat – **Richardson Park**, Bike 35m **B**..... S.Ritchie (342-8435)
 26 Sat – **Scott Mountain**, 10m 1200' **C**, D Predeek (345-5531)
 26 Sat – **Windy Lk/Cowhorn Mtn**, Bk/Hk **C** Hoyland (338-9881)
 27 Sun – **Hell Hole**, 3m 300' **B**, B.Huntley (687-1823)
 30 Wed – **Mt. June - Hardesty**, 8m 3000' **C**. W.Deeter (942-0824)
 31 Thu – **Park Mdw-Golden Lk**, 13m **C**.. Christensen (343-8941)
 31 Thu – **Rigdon Lakes**, 8m 200' **B**..... M.Prentice(687-5850)

September

1 Fri – **Little Brother**, 12m 3000' **C** D.Quirk (686-3027)
 3 Sun – **Hand Lake-Scott Lk**, 4.8m **A** . M.West (343-5492)
 3 Sun – **Opie Dilldock**, 14m 2000' **C** Romm (484-5214)
 4 Mon – **Eagles Rest**, 5m 1422' **B** M.Hansen (343-5114)
 5 Tue – **Cape Mtn**, 7.6m 1200' **B**.... Flashenberg (461-1977)
 7 Thu – **Maxwell Bt**, 9.6m 2500' **C**.... J.Clarkson (334-6883)
 7 Thu – **Tipso**, 6.2m 1784' **B** J.Hackett (984-0049)
 8 Fri – **Crater Lk** , 8m 2000' **B** Jacobsen (343-8030)
 9 Sat – **Collier Ahalapam** 12m 3000' **C** .. L.Huff (915-9071)
 9 Sat – **Drift Creek**, 8m 1400' **B** B.Lipton (736-7498)
 9 Sat – **Mt. Thielsen**, Climb B.Hoyland (338-9881)
 9 Sat – **Red Butte**, 11.8m 1800' **C**..... D.Hildreth (345-7520)
 9 Sat – **Rosary Lakes**, 7m 800' **B**..... J.Dorland (484-0280)
 9 Sat – **The Twins**, 6.6m 1600' **B**..... T.Woxell (485-7384)
 10 Sun – **Four-In-One** , 8.6m 1500' **B** C.Tucker (344-8371)
 10 Sun – **Jefferson Pk**, 10.2m **C**.... Funkhouser (206-2303)
 10 Sun – **Marie-Rockpile Lakes** S.Hovis (345-7788)
 10 Sun – **Mt. Scott**, 5m 1030' **B** J.Pierce (344-1775)
 10 Sun – **Tam McArthur**, 6m 1500' **B** Voas (767-0178)
 11-13 Mon-Wed – **SW Oregon Bus**, Reanier (687-1925)
 13 Wed – **Spencer Bt** 4m 1000' **A**..... L.Beckley (338-8520)
 14 Thu – **Rigdon Lk Lp**, 12m **C**..... Christensen (343-8941)
 15 Fri – **Vivian Lake**, 8m 1600' **B** D.Jeffcott (344-6447)



Gulls on Dungeness Spit, near Sequim, WA. Great hike taken by many at Camp Deetour. Photo by Barb Revere



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July/August 2006