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Dates to Remember

Apr 15	Himalayan SciEd Tuesday
Apr 25	Cycling Japan Potluck
Apr 29	Trip Leaders Meeting
May 3	May Bulletin Deadline
May 7	Board Meeting

2008 Summer Trips Schedule Available

See Bulletin insert. Online viewers: access on Obsidian website.

Trip Leaders Meeting

At the Lodge April 29
See Page 15

Camp Hamilton Summer Camp 2008 Sign up now!

Don't miss this opportunity to visit a great place. See Pages 11 & 15

Obsidian Biking:

**How I Got Started ...
And Why You Should Too!**

By Sharon Ritchie



Sharon, ready to go. Photo by Stewart Hoeg

Editor's note: Sharon has participated in more than 300 outings, has led over 100 Obsidian trips and was Obsidian Board President in 1992. For additional features on biking see Pages 4 & 5.

AFTER 18 YEARS of weekly hikes/cross country skiing with the Obsidians I was turning 67 and thinking about "expanding my horizons". My good friend Sylvia Harvey had just started road biking because this was a favorite past time of her partner Mike BeBout. She would tell me of 25, 35, and 50-mile rides. I was in awe. I thought, "Gee, if she can do it, maybe I can too!" So I drug out my very old mountain bike, hosed off the cobwebs, climbed on and rode on the Willamette River Bike Path, then the McKenzie View route and finally the Fox Hollow hills. Gayle (Berge) Newsom said, "You are ready to ride with us". "Us" being a group called Spoke Folks who had been riding together for well over 20 years. Many of these people are Obsidians. Well, I learned. I won't bore you with all the things I did wrong, and how often they had to wait for me, but what I will tell you is how I fell in love with road biking. You probably know this, as you don't see me hiking on the trails much anymore. Several years ago I started leading rides for the Obsidians. I like to start out early in the year with the easier, flatter rides, hoping that I can get some of you to hose off your bikes and join me.

Please think about joining me on the Orchard Point ride on Saturday, April 12. I can promise you a ride on the bike path to the West Eugene Wetlands, back country roads complete with buffalo, horses, lambs and lunch at Fern Ridge Lake.

Got Your Attention Yet?

THERE ARE 25 BIKE TRIPS so far on the just released 2008 Summer Trips Schedule. See the schedule insert in this Bulletin or download one from our website. Then just sign up and get going.

President's Message:

Where Are We Going?

By Brian Hamilton

THE OBSIDIANS ARE NOT accepting new members. We will no longer publicize our activities nor will we set up a booth at the Eugene Celebration. Our goal is to reduce the club to a manageable level of 250 members. At an expected attrition rate of 50 per year, we should reach our goal in six years. Surprised? Do you like that scenario? If not, how about this one: *The Obsidians are actively seeking new members, hoping to reach the goal of 1,500 by 2010. In addition to getting the word out in local media, we will expand our publicity efforts nationally in order to draw from the largest possible audience.* What do you think of that one? My guess is that most club members wouldn't want to pursue either goal.

Although neither of these options was tossed out for discussion at the March 5th planning meeting facilitated by Marshall Kandell, the 15 members who attended were asked what we thought would be the maximum optimum size of the club from choices of 500, 600, 700, or "unlimited". We did not arrive at a clear consensus, but almost half of us chose "unlimited" for the maximum club size. It seems that most of us agreed that the club's maximum size should not be arbitrarily set at a specific number. Historically, the size of the club has been related to the size of our local community. In fact, it appears that the proportion of the local citizenry who are Obsidians is very similar to the proportion of Salem residents who belong to the Chemeketans and to Portlanders who belong to the Mazamas.

How about the average age of the Obsidians? Are we getting too old? When

asked what age demographic we should be aiming for, almost half felt that we should focus more on recruiting younger members, but almost as many thought that no change in recruiting method was needed

Marshall also asked what we thought was the most important part of the club from a list of 21 topics under the headings of Trips, Environment/Technology, Social, Club Business, and Supporting Infrastructure. Each of us selected Trips as the most important. Summer Camp and Potlucks came in second and third. It is evident that our desire to participate in outdoor activities, from hikes and climbs to snow trips and bus trips, is the driving force behind all other facets of the club. The club business and supporting infrastructure are just means to make contacts, figure out the logistics and organize our activities.

Finally, we assessed our current activities and voted on what should receive more or less focus. Most of us felt that we spend just about the right amount of time and energy on our current activities. The few exceptions where more focus was wanted were primarily extended trips, conservation, expansion of our web site functions (which could include online trip registration), and more participation in chairing committees.

At the beginning of the planning session, Marshall stressed that the Obsidians is very successful organization but that it's good to take stock of where we've been and where we're headed. This discussion of how large the club should be has taken place several times in the Obsidians' past history, but did anything change on those occasions? As one committee chair who couldn't make it to the meeting wrote, "I think the club is doing fine and don't see any reason to change." So where does this leave us? Well, a short-term committee was formed at the end of the planning session for the specific purpose of delving further into these and other issues such as defining the roles of the Publicity and Youth Committees. Perhaps we are overdue for some organizational house-keeping. Your input is important, so let us know what you think. Contact me, Marshall, or send a note to the editor.

OBSIDIANS, INC

P.O. Box 322, Eugene, OR 97440

Website: www.obsidians.org

Board of Directors

President - Brian Hamilton
Vice President - Jim Duncan
Secretary - Laurie Funkhouser
Treasurer - Stewart Hoeg
Wayne Deeter Marshall Kandell
Anne Dhu McLucas Jim Pierce
Barb Revere

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

Committee Chairpersons

Byways-By-Bus..... Liz Reanier
Climbs..... Larry Huff
Concessions..... Kathleen Floyd
Conservation..... Juli McGlinsky
Entertainment..... Laurie Funkhouser
Extended Trips..... Jim Duncan
Finance..... Stewart Hoeg
Lodge Building..... Brian Hamilton
Lodge Grounds..... John Jacobsen
Librarian/Historian..... Lenore McManigal
Membership..... Julie Dorland
Online..... Wayne Deeter
Publications.....
Publicity..... Ann Dhu McLucas
Safety..... Doug Nelson
Science & Education..... Joella Ewing
Summer Camp..... John Jacobsen
Summer Trips..... Barb Revere
Trail Maintenance..... Peter Green
Winter Trips..... Jim Pierce
Youth..... Scott Hovis

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Deadline

for May 2008 Bulletin

Saturday, May 3, 2008

Assembly/Mailing Team

For March Bulletin

Assembly & Mail Manager..... Lou Maenz
Call Manager..... Vera Woolley
Assembly Team ... Marc Hansen, Yuan Hopkins, Vi Johnson, Lenore & John McManigal

Editorial Team

Writing & Editorial Staff..... Jean Coberly, Janet & John Jacobsen, Barb Revere, Beth Roy
Copy Editors..... Jean Coberly & Beth Roy
Graphics, Design & Desktop Publishing
..... Stewart Hoeg & John Jacobsen

Welcome!

New Members

CLAYCOMB, C. KEITH (Associate)
3326 SW 13th Avenue
Portland, OR 97239
503-228-6978 claycomb@easystreet.net

Reinstated Members

LISI, ROY (Active)
P.O. Box 1061, Eugene 97440
521-7263 roylisi@yahoo.com

Writers, Painters, Campers...

NEW STURDY CONTROL FENCES have been installed near the top of **Spencer Butte** to encourage hikers to stay on the trail and to prevent erosion on well-worn short cuts. The Southeast Neighbors obtained a neighborhood matching grant to install the control fences. Tom Halferty, the project manager, did a great job getting the project organized. Tom said, "A couple of Obsidians were very much involved."

A newly published book, *Not Quite What I Was Planning: Six-Word Memoirs by Writers Famous and Obscure* by Larry Smith and Rachel Fershleiser might have a few insights on **how to write a short trip report**. Here is one for Amazon Headwaters hike: Roaring water, bursting trilliums, disquieting chainsaw. Just for fun, send me your six-word trip report at bulletin@obsidians.org. I will compile them for publication in the Bulletin. *Note: A six-word memoir of a trip is not a substitute for an official trip report!*

Wayne Deeter recently scouted the Brice Creek and Upper Trestle Creek trails for fallen trees and other trail maintenance issues. He reported his findings to the Forest Service staff for clearing. Wayne has been volunteering for the Cottage Grove Ranger District on these and other trails for the last seven years.

The Mozart Players dedicated their concert March 15 and 16th at Soreng Theater to Obsidian member, **Theodora "Dody" Leppmann**. She was an avid supporter of the Players since its founding in 1983. Her obituary is in the February *Bulletin*.

For a school project Alexa Stalsberg of Portland got in touch with the Obsidians for information about her great-grand parents, **Cliff and Hazel Stalsberg**, early and long time Obsidian members. Hazel climbed the Three Sisters the summer of 1930 and became the 4th Princess. Cliff was one of the



Alexa with her grandfather Chuck Stalsberg, who is holding one of Cliff and Hazel's matching ski togs.

party of three Obsidians who were the first to climb all Three Sisters in one day. Cliff and Hazel married in June 1931 and attended summer camp in August. It was referred to as the Honeymoon Camp for the Stalsbergs. He was President of the Obsidians in 1934 and 1942. There was plenty to send to Alexa. Lenore McManigal, club historian, sent copies of their trip logs. Alexa and her grandfather, Chuck Stalsberg, drove down from Portland to take pictures of the lodge and share their photos and memories. Chuck showed off the matching wool outfits that Hazel and Cliff wore for Obsidian ski outings. I was able to find a photo of Cliff and Hazel wearing those itchy outfits. Alexa promised that she would send her story for us to publish in a future *Bulletin*.

Larry Brinks of Eugene called me to ask about the locations of the earliest summer camps. He hopes to write an article about **Cy Fulton**, a well-known local painter in the 1930's and 40's. Our club has one of Cy's oil paintings of the old Lewis cabin. It's near the fireplace in the entryway. Larry be-

O B I T U A R Y

Norma Jones

1926-2008

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE was held at the Mt. Pisgah Arboretum on March 29th for Norma Jones. Norma was an Obsidian member from 1989-2001. She did 10 hikes including going to Clear Lake three times. She also helped with the monthly pot-lucks and the Father's Day pancake breakfast.

Norma will be greatly missed by everyone who knew her. We will miss her encouraging words, her honesty and love; she made everyone feel special. She enjoyed, to the fullest, life's simple pleasures of sunrises, flowers, good food and good friends.

Norma was a long-time volunteer at Mt. Pisgah and she also donated lots of hours for Womenspace over the years. Her circle of friends included foreign students at the U of O who either lived with her or who got to know her through them.

Norma is survived by her son Kent, her daughter Bari Clemons and son-in-law David, the shining diamonds of her life – granddaughters Andrea and Brynn, and her sister Patricia and brother-in-law Ron Miller.

The family suggests that you send remembrances to Womenspace. PO Box 50125, Eugene 97405, or to the Norma Jones fund at Selco Credit Union for a tree planting memorial at Mt. Pisgah.

lieves that Cy met his future wife, Mary, at the 1930 summer camp. While Mary hiked, Cy would paint. When Cy died in 1949 the Obsidians helped his wife organize an exhibition of 100 his paintings at the Veterans Memorial Building. Larry would like to find Cy's painting of Obsidians climbing on Collier Glacier.

The **Cascadia Wildlands** hosts an art exhibition titled Wildlands Wildlife, Wild Beauty opening at DIVA April 1-30. "This exhibit weaves art, ecology, activism, and wilderness experience into

(Continued on page 10)

Biking Essentials! Or Not...

By Sharon Ritchie & Stewart Hoeg

1. **Helmets** - Helmets are somewhat uncomfortable, goofy looking and cause "helmet hair", so naturally they are the single most essential item (except a bike!) for safe and successful biking. Broken bones and cuts heal fairly well, but blows to the head don't. Enough said. Also, helmets wear out. If you land on yours it should be replaced and even if you don't it should be replaced every five years.



2. **Padded spandex shorts** - No they aren't required, but trust us, your body will love you for taking the chance of looking ridiculous in them and will punish you severely if you don't. There is good news for those who want pockets or don't want their fellow bikers to get jealous of their awesome physiques. You can buy padded bike underwear that can be worn with regular shorts or slacks. Or you can buy padded mountain bike shorts that look like regular shorts but have the padded underwear inside.

3. **Changing tires** - Everyone should carry at least one spare tube and a bike



pump. However, this is an area where riding with a group can come in very handy. Knowledge about changing a tire may not be necessary. Just work VERY SLOWLY and several people in the group, out of desperation, will jump in to help you. Be sure to sincerely thank them, as you may need to use this trick some other time. Also, chances are good that at least someone will have a spare tube and a pump.

You can buy tires that are highly resistant to flats. One thing you can count on---when you do get a flat (and you will) it almost certainly will be on your rear wheel, which is MUCH harder to change. That's yet another reason for riding in a group.

4. **Rearview mirrors** - There are many different options for mirrors: ones for glasses, for helmets and for handlebars. We know people that swear by each of these options. Everyone who rides on the road should have some kind of mirror. Being able to see cars coming up behind you can be a lifesaver. Turning to look behind you is not a good option.

When you turn, there is a tendency to turn your bike, lose some control of your bike, and you no longer know what is going on in front of you. Most importantly, with a mirror you can constantly monitor activity behind you with minimal effort.

5. **Bells** - No you don't need a bell...or a whistle or a horn. What you need is common courtesy. Alert people that you are approaching and tell them what you are planning, "passing on the left", "on your left" and "six more behind me", and so forth.

6. **Special shoes and clips** - You don't need either of these, but they do have benefits and pitfalls. Clip in shoes keep your feet on the pedals in

proper position and give you the additional benefit of using the upstroke as well as the down stroke in providing propulsion. However, a quick stop by an inexperienced rider can lead to a painful fall. Clipped in shoes have to be unclipped before you can put your feet down! Practicing somewhere soft and experience are the only solutions.

7. **Water bottles** or hydration packs are critical for keeping hydrated. You don't want to go on a long ride without plenty to drink.

8. **Velcro** is great stuff. You can use it to attach things to your bike and to keep things from getting caught in bike chains. If you aren't wearing form fitting long pants or have shoes with laces, use some Velcro to keep the pants legs and laces close to your feet and legs and out of your chains.



9. **Foul weather gear**— Definitely own a jacket that is water-resistant. Bad weather leads to bad roads. Most of us deal with it by waiting for better weather to ride, but unless you are a real fair weather rider, the occasional unplanned shower will catch you. If you become a hard-core rider, there are lots of things you can add to your bike and wardrobe for the elements. For our money, the best thing you can do is be very careful and drive your car to a local coffee shop where you can discuss upcoming rides in good weather with your fellow bikers!

Other Reasons for Biking

By Stewart Hoeg

I ALSO RIDE with the Obsidians and the Spoke Folks. The reasons we love to ride are many and varied.

Food is a favorite reason for riding. Riding for 30, 40 or 50 miles builds an appetite...and burns a lot of calories, so you don't have to feel guilty about eating a big lunch! Some particular food favorites include bacon, French fries, Thai wraps, and bread pudding (the guilty parties shall remain nameless). Anyway, almost all of the bike rides have as their centerpiece...lunch. In warmer weather this means one of the many parks in the area where we relax and eat our sandwiches, overlooking rivers and reservoirs, while we catch up on all the latest gossip. During cooler weather, we select a restaurant as our lunch destination. Some of our favorites include Our Daily Bread in Veneta, Sunrise Café in Pleasant Hill, Stage Stop Café in Cedar Flats, and the Cottage Inn in Cottage Grove.

We bike for **the companionship, the exercise and the scenery**. Both the Obsidians and the Spoke Folk are focused on the pleasures of the ride and not its speed. We get there when we get there. We do get plenty of exercise, though. One of the great things about biking is the exercise is low, if not no



Biker chow-down at Sunrise Cafe in Pleasant Hill. Photo by Stewart Hoeg.

impact—as long as you stay upright! On a bike you see a lot of beautiful back roads that you rarely visit in cars (nor do others, which makes biking them much more pleasant!) Also, moving at under 20 miles an hour—sometimes well under—you see things that you really don't get a chance to appreciate or even notice in a car. For example,

did you know that the south side of Deerhorn Road has several small waterfalls? Also, within easy riding distance are many wineries including Chateau Lorane, Sweet Cheeks, Hinman, Lavelle, Pfeiffer and King Estate.

WE ALSO LOVE OUR GEAR! Once you get hooked, most riders get obsessed with their bikes. It seems like every month someone has a new bike. Some of you are thinking, "Sure, guys and their toys." Trust me, the women are just as into their bikes as any of the guys.

Some of us are also into the **clothes**. What sport, other than golf, allows you to dress more colorfully than Country Fair attendees—and unlike golf—with good reason? The drivers we share the road with more easily see garish colors.

A final reason for biking is its **low carbon footprint**. You can visit points as diverse and distant as Alvadore, Brownsville, Coburg, Corvallis, Cottage Grove, Creswell, Crow, Loraine, Pleasant Hill and Veneta without using your car!



A stop along Camp Creek ride in June of 2006. Photo by Sharon Ritchie.

BOARD NOTES

April 2, 2008

By Laurie Funkhouser, Secretary

President Brian Hamilton called the meeting to order. The following members of the Board were present: Jim Duncan, Stewart Hoeg, Laurie Funkhouser, Marshall Kandell, Anne McLucas, Jim Pierce and Barb Revere. Other members present were Kathleen Floyd, Julie Dorland, Doug Nelson, Janet Jacobsen, John Jacobsen, Joella Ewing, Stephen Brander, Lenore McManigal, Scott Hovis, and Barb Bruns.

Treasurer's Report: Stewart Hoeg requested and received Board approval for payment of the bills.

NEW BUSINESS

Payment of property and liability Insurance: Barbara Bruns reviewed the renewal policy quotes for 5/1/08 which overall is a decrease: Total of \$1,586.00 (from \$1,850.00). Motion to pay the insurance was APPROVED by the Board.

Membership Survey: Ed Lichtenstein, via John Jacobsen, need for survey of the membership and adding language to the By Laws for conducting regular surveys. Stewart Hoeg presented a MOTION to conduct the membership survey and that an Ad Hoc Committee be assembled to propose the contents of the survey. The motion PASSED.

Letter to support request for acquisition of Ridgeline Trail Property: The Club has received a request to provide a letter of support for a grant application for the acquisition of Ridgeline Trail Property at the east fork of the Amazon headwaters. MOTION was APPROVED by the Board to provide a letter of support for the grant application.

Nominating Committee: The following attendees volunteered to be on the committee: Barb Revere, Jim Pierce, Laurie Funkhouser, Kathleen Floyd, Janet Jacobsen and Sharon Ritchie (who has expressed an interest). The Committee needs to be formed by April and present nominees at the July Board meeting.

Restriction Consideration: John Jacobsen chair of the Summer Camp Committee sought to have a Restriction Committee convened. The Board APPROVED the

MOTION for a committee consisting of Sharon Ritchie, John Jacobsen, Stewart Hoeg, Laurie Funkhouser, Barb Revere, Doug Nelson and Wayne Deeter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Summer Trips (Barb Revere): Currently 153 trips (with 74 leaders) have been scheduled. Two trip reports have been received with 12 members and 1 non-member for total fees of \$17.00. The Leaders Meeting will focus on trip safety with a panel presentation.

Winter Trips (Jim Pierce): Forty-two trips have been completed this season – 14 hikes and 25 x-country ski or snow shoe trips with a total of 314 participants (257 members and 57 non-members) and fees of \$503.00. Eleven trips have been canceled and 5 rescheduled.

Climbs (Larry Huff): The Annual spring climb school is ready to go on April 10th at 6:30 p.m. with secured dates, location, volunteers, and, most importantly, students. The climb schedule is up. The committee is still working out details to host Map and Compass, Crevasse rescue class and participate in a first aid refresher.

Trail Maintenance (Peter Green): The Spencer Butte trail maintenance project continues to attract volunteers and the Parks and Open Spaces expresses their "Thanks" to the Club for all the work.

By-Ways-By-Bus (Liz Reanier): Lenore McManigal reported that the first bus trip took place on March 27th with Mary Ellen West leading the "Newly Discovered Cottage Grove."

Summer Camp (John Jacobsen): Plans continue to move forward for Camp Hamilton. Registration has started with 43 signed up for the first week and 39 for the second week.

Conservation (Juli McGlinsky): Stephen Brander did attend the last Conservation meeting and shared one topic of discussion which was addressing conservation in transporting to/from Club activities.

Entertainment (Laurie Funkhouser): Camp Hamilton presentation by John Jacobsen had a gathering of 78 individuals with \$72.00 collected. The next program is "The Joy of Cycling Japan" by Ruthy Kangan on April 25th. Also, the

committee is attempting to update the badge names. Please send names of individuals who need a badge!

Science and Education (Joella Ewing): Eight persons attended the March SciEd on the BLM Western Oregon Plan Revision and \$8 was collected. The next program - April 15th is "Exploring the Himalayan Arc" by owner Bruce Klepinger of IBX, Inc., a trekking guide service.

Membership (Julie Dorland): Current membership is 549. A new member applicant was APPROVED by the Board. Two members were reinstated.

Concessions (Kathleen Floyd): A total of \$30.00 was received as revenue for the month. No expenses.

Online (Wayne Deeter): A milestone of 100,000 visitors to the website was reached on March 16th; the count began in June 2000.

Library/Historian (Lenore McManigal): All on-line reports have been recorded.

Lodge Building (Brian Hamilton): Brian is looking into the cost of relocating the existing motion detector or installing an additional detector closer to the corner. The Spring Lodge Cleanup will take place in mid- to late-May.

Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): The committee met on March 27th to spruce up the grounds before the potluck. Thanks to Pat Adams, Brenda Kame'enui, Gary Kirk, Darlene Mancuso, Dave Predeek, Doug Nelson and John Pegg.

Safety (Doug Nelson): The First Aid program has been scheduled for May 14th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Long-Range Planning (Marshall Kandell): One of the ideas which was discussed at the meeting of the Committee was an Orientation for new members. After discussing a variety of ways to inform new members of the committees available in the Club, it was decided that the committee should continue with Kathleen Floyd as a new committee member to present the Board with proposals of informing members (new and old) of the committees within the Club.

TRIP REPORTS & OTHER ACTIVITIES



Ski Trips

Fawn Lake

March 1, 2008

Leader & Photo: Brian Hamilton

7 miles, 900 ft. (Moderate)

A FRESH DUMPING of 7-plus inches of snow over the previous 12 hours made this trip much more fun than it might have been, but it was still icy under about 1 inch of snow among the thicker stands of timber. We started out from Crescent Lake Sno-Park at 10:15 and our group included some strong skiers who made good time until we lost the trail about a half mile east of Fawn Lake. Deep snow covered the blazes on the trees and there was no sign of any tracks left by other skiers. At that point, we used a compass to get a heading generally a few degrees north of due west. Unfortunately, we veered too far south and climbed some steep slopes, ending up high above the south end of the lake. We worked our way toward the north end of the lake to have lunch at 12:30. We enjoyed sunny, but frigid, weather all morning, then snow began falling for our trip back down after a half-hour break. The return trip was challenging as we tried to avoid the steeper sections of our ascent. Once we reconnected with our tracks from the morning, we had a quick glide down and we were back at the Sno-Park, loaded up, and ready to go by 3:00. Along for the adventurous outing were Obsidians Glen Svendsen, Chrissy Anderson, Laurie Funkhouser, and Sue Wolling, guests Scott Svendsen, Dave Jensen, and John Hartman, and leader Brian Hamilton.

Lils Lake

March 20, 2008

Leader: Wayne Deeter

12 miles, 1,400 ft. (Difficult)

ON A WET FIRST DAY OF SPRING I met Chrissy Anderson in Cottage Grove. We drove to Eugene where we met the rest of the group: John Pegg, Dick Hildreth, Dave Jensen and Charlie Van Deusen. The wreck that was reported on the



Scott & Glen venturing out on Fawn Lake. Lakeview Mt. in the background.

ODOT website was long gone by the time we passed its location, so we were skiing shortly after 10 a.m. With the sun out, some chose to apply sunscreen. The gate on Abernethy road was completely buried, and the snow stake showed eight feet—an excellent snow year, with the promise of many more fine days of spring skiing to come. Only a few inches of new snow covered the trail, so trail breaking was not too much of a chore. We discovered that route-finding on the PCT south of Pengra Pass was surprisingly difficult. It looks much different with this much snow! And not everyone is pleased with the large tree wells along the trail. We passed Midnight Lake without stopping after deciding to have a one o'clockish lunch at Arrowhead Lake. From here (Midnight Lake) we “cheated” and used a GPS to follow the trail—or at least not wander too terribly far from it. Sometimes we knew we were on the trail, other times things didn't look too familiar. Occasional snow showers punctuated the day. After lunch we proceeded on towards Hidden Lake. Dick had an unfortunate encounter with a tree and acquired a few unwanted scratches to his face. After John effected repairs (thanks!), they rejoined the group at Hidden. All were for pushing on to Lils, so we did. By 2 p.m. we were grouped to-

gether on the shore (?) of Lils Lake. Views were limited by fog/clouds, but we thought we could see “Myran” (the slightly taller but unnamed peak to the SE of Mt. Yoran). As it was getting late and a snow flurry blew in, we made our stay at Lils short. Back at Hidden Lake we met John Mowat and Sue Sullivan who had followed (more or less) our tracks that far. The downhill tested the skills of all, and we returned via Bechtel way as the tree wells along the PCT to Pengra were “scary” (and probably hungry too.) All in all it was a fine way to spend the first day of spring out of the wet of the valley. The group included leader Wayne Deeter and members Chrissy Anderson, Dick Hildreth, Dave Jensen, John Pegg and Charlie Van Deusen.



Hikes

Sweet Creek

March 2, 2008

Leader & Photo: Jim Pierce

3 miles, 200 ft. (Easy)

THE WEATHER GODS WERE WITH US on Sunday as we basked in their



Sweet Creek

beauty. Thirteen hardy hikers met at three meeting points on our way toward Mapleton. The water in Sweet Creek was medium, perfect for the multitude of waterfalls. We found five kinds of ferns and were treated to several trillium blooms. It was a quiet lunch as each person soaked up the mesmerizing scene of bright light playing on cascading waterfalls. We were back at the cars just after noon, so we ventured along the Pacific at Heceta Beach... and found several WHOLE sand dollars and other wave-washed treasures. We even had time for pie at Alpha-Bit on the drive home. Enjoying the water and sun were nonmembers Karen Beasley, Jamie Gorbet, Lamonte Smith, and Aysel Tutkun, along with members Jennifer Baer, Walt Dolliver, Steve Gunn, Yuan Hopkins, Charlene Pierce, Bonnie Richman, Barbara Sutherland, Kaushik Vaidyanathan and Leader Jim Pierce.

New Carissa (finally)

March 9, 2008

Leader & Photo: Jim Pierce

4 miles, 50 ft. (Easy)

THIS WAS THE LAST TIME that we would be able to see the *New Carissa* shipwreck. The State of Oregon, in its infinite wisdom, is spending \$16 million this summer to remove the evidence of their stupidity from nine years ago. The area is soon to be closed off for the "salvage" operations to begin. Spurred by this and the added attraction of the recently uncovered wooden shipwreck, the *Olson*, there were thirty on the signup sheet. A variety of emergencies and switching to daylight savings time on the day of the

hike lowered the group to only 21 hikers. We caravanned to the North Bend Sand Spit and started hiking about noon. The leader had a God-assistant handling weather, so there was no rain; in fact the sun came out enough to create a few sunburns. The trailroad was shared with parades of pickups and ATVs on their way to see

the *Olson*. The first mile was across the spit to the ocean, where we observed many birds nesting in the ponds scattered throughout the low barrier dunes. When we reached the beach, the rusting remains of the *New Carissa* seemed an arm's length away, but the arm's length was actually a mile down the beach. Except for the truck traffic, it was a marvelous beach. The group spread out based on sand-hiking ability and how many treasures were found. During lunch we admired the waves splashing over the huge hulk. Then half the group hiked the extra two miles (each way) down the beach to see the wooden shipwreck, the *Olson*, which ran aground in 1944 and had been buried in the dunes until this winter. This party

had quite a workout in the soft sand and dodging the waves at the high tide. The entire group gathered at the north end of the beach walk and headed inland. Enjoying the outing were nonmembers Lois Anderson, Diane Kurz, Mike Rhodes, Ashley Ross, and David White, along with members Barbara Beard, Paul Beard, Dave Becker, Daniele Delaby, Walt Dolliver, Margot Fetz, Richard Heinzkill, Dick Hildreth, Pat Hutchins, Marshall Kandell, Nola Nelson, Charlene Pierce, Barb Revere, Kaushik Vaidyanathan, Elle Weaver, and Leader Jim Pierce.

Alton Baker Bike Trail

March 16, 2008

Leader: Ruth Romoser

5 miles, 100 ft. (Easy)

THREE HIKERS, Obsidian leader Ruth Romoser, member Walt Dolliver, and nonmember Susan Defoe enjoyed a simple, easy stroll on the Alton Baker Bike Trail. It was a beautiful Sunday afternoon as we watched ducks and geese and the river, said "hello" to people we knew, and looked for the osprey nest above Skinner Butte. We walked on one side of the Willamette River, observed the Rose Garden, then we crossed on the Greenway Bike Bridge near Valley River Center and walked back to our cars which were in the park. It was a great day for an easy walk!



New Carissa

SW Hills of Eugene

March 16, 2008

Leader: Joanne Ledet

4 miles, 400 ft. (Easy)

THE WEATHERMAN COOPERATED and we had a lovely, dry day for our hike through the hills of SW Eugene. We met at the Churchill Plaza and started hiking along Warren St., cutting into the woods for a steep climb along a paved path. When we got to the top of the path we walked along a city street for a short distance until we noticed a raccoon peering around a fence, curious about our intentions. We passed him by as we heard the sound of a wild turkey and soon spotted a tom and three hens feeding in a clearing. The tom had spread his tail feathers in an attempt to attract the hens, but they were unimpressed. We continued on the street, spotting a lone deer grazing in a yard. We started downhill on another paved path, following along a small creek full of water from recent rains. We eventually got to Brittany St. and walked along until we got to McCornack School, cutting through the playground and along another small path until we got back to our cars. The hikers who enjoyed a 4-mile walk were members Wayne Cleall, Julie Dorland, Joanne Ledet, Barbara Morgan, Beth Roy and nonmembers Patricia Chambers and Jon Tesdell.

Ridgeline Trail

March 18, 2008

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

6 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

I VOLUNTEERED TO LEAD Barb Revere's Ridgeline Trail car shuttle hike when she developed a bad cold. The night before the hike I listened to the beating rain and wondered if the one person still signed up for the hike would show. Somehow his telephone message didn't reach me so the shuttle became a solo hike on the Amazon Headwaters and Ridgeline Trail. The pleasant bubbling of flowing water and the bursts of trillium more than compensated for the muddy trail. It was easy to see and hear why storm drainage is so important in the hills of Amazon Headwaters. I met two women (one was barefoot) who asked, "where are we?" Their car was at the Spencer Butte parking lot and somehow they were headed down to Fox Hollow. After I helped them find their way back to the intersection, I headed home. And thanks to Barb who got me out on a dreary day to be greeted by hundreds of trilliums.

SOLV Beach Clean-Up

March 29, 2008

Leader: Julie Dorland

2 miles, 0 ft. (Easy)

DESPITE SNOW ON THE GROUND in Eugene, and a weather report that was less than promising, five intrepid beachcombers traveled to Carl Washburne State Park to participate in SOLV's annual Oregon beach clean-up. We encountered snowy but not icy weather on the way over. The beach clean-up was quick: there was very little to be found (although Wayne did find a tire). After a little over an hour picking up litter on the beach, we traveled north to Yachats, where we enjoyed a very nice, well-deserved lunch at the Drift Inn Restaurant (crab quesadillas were a real treat). On the way back, we stopped at Heceta Head for a quick walk up to the lighthouse. Thanks to Beth Roy who drove (and recommended the Drift Inn) and to fellow beachcombers and members Walt Dolliver, Wayne Cleall, and nonmember Sally O'Donnell.



Trail Maintenance

Spencer Butte

March 29, 2008

Leader: Peter Green

Photos & Report: Janet Jacobsen

SNOW FLURRIES GREETED eight volunteers at the Fox Hollow parking lot. Matt McRae, the Eugene Parks and Open Space supervisor, provided coffee, fruit and pastries while he explained the project. At 9:15, we headed up the Ridgeline Trail in falling snow past freezing trilliums to what had to be the muddiest spot on the trail. Matt Bell and Dan Olmstead immediately headed back down with the motorized wheelbarrow for more logs. Peter Green and Jim Pierce maneuvered their motorized wheelbarrow in the other direction down to 52nd and Wil-

lamette for a load of gravel.

The rest of us needed to piece together a "Lincoln Log" framework to hold the gravel. Matt McRae, chainsaw operator, shaped the notches while we dug trenches in the mud to place the "dead man" logs perpendicular to the notches. The hard work was pounding the stakes to stabilize the logs. The sun came out and the snow quickly melted. An hour later, the power wheelbarrow guys returned with adventure stories about a tip-over that unfortunately caused them to reload the logs and re-shovel the gravel. Everyone pitched in to complete the framework. It was now ready for the Lane County Youth Services folks to bring up the rest of gravel in the following week. Lane County Youth Services has a contract with the city to spread gravel up the trail from 52nd and Wil-lamette. Trail runners and hikers who sloshed around us in the mud offered many thanks. Matt congratulated the group on a job well done. Smearred with mud, all of us concurred when one volunteer said, "We kicked butt!" Back at the parking lot at 12:45, I estimated that we had contributed 28 hours for this project.

Trail maintenance is usually the last Saturday of the month. Contact Peter Green at 510-1151 or peteg@nwframing.com for information about the next trail maintenance on Saturday, April 26th. Email is the easiest way for Peter to keep volunteers informed about the meeting place and description of the work. Participants: Rick Ahrens, Matt Bell, Max Green (Peter's brother, high school senior), Peter Green (leader), chair of committee, Janet Jacobsen, Myriah Marid, Jim Pierce, and Dan Olmstead



Jim & Peter building trail at Spencer Butte



BLM's Western Oregon Plan Threatens Old Growth, Fish, Water, Habitat, Recreation

(Editor's Note: This review was prepared by SciEd chair Joella Ewing with notes from Jay Lininger's SciEd Tuesday talk and additional information he provided from "A Citizen's Guide to the Western Oregon Plan Revisions.")

WHERE CAN YOU FIND world class fishing, thousands of acres of roadless lands, and unique habitats that occur nowhere else on the planet? You can find them on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands in Oregon. Our public lands in Oregon contribute hundreds of millions of dollars to local economies every year through tourism and recreation, and they provide countless dollars in ecosystem services such as water filtration, air purification and climate regulation. They make Oregon a great place to live, work, visit, recreate and raise a family.

However, Jay Lininger, Executive Director of Cascadia Wildlands Project and speaker at the March SciEd Tuesday program, pointed out that the BLM's pending Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR pronounced "Whopper") would unfortunately revise the Clinton Administration's Northwest Forest Plan and put our public lands at risk. These plans would dramatically increase clear-cut logging in currently protected old growth and streamside forests on federal lands managed by the BLM, thus threatening to dirty our waters, degrade important habitat, and negatively impact salmon and other fish species. Forests, fish, northern spotted owls, marbled murrelets and the economies of the counties where the

lands are located will be affected.

WOPR proposes to eliminate old growth reserves on BLM land established under the Northwest Forest Plan in a likely violation of the Endangered Species and Clean Water Acts. Proposed increase in logging would come from clear-cutting currently protected old growth and streamside forests.

It would decimate these forests. Logging adjacent to streams would increase problems with aquatic resources, landslides and floods. And, the WOPR ignores the role that old growth forests play in regulating the climate. Also, motorized recreation takes priority in the WOPR over the quiet hiking, fishing, camping and wildlife viewing enjoyed by Obsidians.

THERE IS A BETTER WAY, according to Jay Lininger, our program presenter. Communities that rely on logging and income from O&C Railroad lands can receive a sustainable income from focusing on previously logged and fire suppressed forests, which are often in need of thinning. Thinning trees from BLM plantations could offer more than 2 billion board feet of commercially valuable timber over the next two decades.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Governor Ted Kulongoski must approve the plan before it can become operational in Oregon. Therefore, you can address your comments to:

Governor Ted Kulongoski

900 Court Street NE, Suite 160, Salem 973014047

Message phone 5033784582 Web: www.governor.oregon.gov

Janet's Jottings

(Continued from page 3)

a vibrant interpretation of Cascadia's wild places and conservation movement. From photos that capture the art inherent in natural forms to short films illuminating the struggle to protect endangered ecosystem, the exhibit explores political, social, ecological, economic, and spiritual elements of Wildlands conservation." From Cascadia Quarterly, Spring 2008.

THERE ARE MANY REASONS to attend summer camp. A quote from the 1942 Bulletin about Camp Stalsberg at Husband Lake is a poignant reminder why summer camp soothes the soul. "Those were the hours when, hemmed in by the night and the shadows of the mountains, we seemed to sense a deeper feeling of human warmth and friendliness. Then, as the last songs

faded away, each was reluctant to leave the few remaining embers lest we might never again catch that same delightful sensation of being glad just to be alive. Only they who have had the privilege of following a winding mountain trail, of resting at the edge of a flower-carpeted mountain meadow, or of gazing from the top of a majestic mountain peak can know the thrill and the complete uplift of one's inner self which comes to those who share in such experiences. All this was summer camp and so I would say, Let's do it again." (Written by Mary Donaldson).

Where is Hidden Lake? That was the question in the February *Bulletin*. There were two replies.

Ellen Sather: "Go on Hwy. 126 E. and turn right on Aufderheide Road (Hwy 19) Go past French Pete and turn right

on Forest Service (F.S) road 1980 to F.S. road 230. This Hidden Lake has no real hiking trail but you can bushwhack around parts of the lake. There's good fishing at the lake and you could portage in a small raft or inflatable kayak."

Vi Johnson: Hidden Lake in the Diamond Peak Wilderness is on the trail between Midnight Lake and Yoran Lake. There is also a Hidden Lake somewhere in the Eagle Cap Wilderness and in the Mt. Hood area of Zigzag. There may be others - there is a lot of room in Oregon! However, my favorite "hidden lake" is the Lost Lake Spring (it's a huge spring, not really a lake) on your left as you go up Hwy 242; a short walk off the highway, at the point that White Branch passes under the highway and goes on over the falls where it joins with Lost Creek."

UPCOMING



Camp Hamilton - Summer Camp 2008:

The Yankee Fork - What's There?

By Janet Jacobsen

THE LAST MILES OF ROAD TO CAMP HAMILTON follow the Yankee Fork of the Salmon River to the Yankee Fork gold dredge and two ghost towns, Bonanza and Custer. This area of the Land of the Yankee Fork State Park, created in 1990, is packed with history. The abandoned 988-ton dredge with its 72 buckets is now a museum with guided tours. Those buckets gouged 35 feet deep, bringing up gravel and \$11 million in gold. Prospectors first found gold on the Yankee Fork in 1866. One of the lodes located in 1876 was named "The General Custer", for the general who died that summer at the Little Bighorn. More mines were discovered, the towns of Custer and Bonanza took shape, and Chinese immigrants moved in. There is a small museum at Custer and an old cemetery half a mile up the hill from Bonanza.

Walk another half a mile to a picket fence for the scandalous burial site of Richard King, Agnes Elizabeth King, and Robert Hawthorn. There are only three graves because townspeople didn't want to be buried with participants in such a tragic story. Who knows if this soap opera is true? Are Elizabeth and Richard a happy couple? Who kills Richard at high noon? Grief stricken Elizabeth seeks solace and a pledge of love from handsome Robert. Who would then shoot both Elizabeth and Robert? Who was discovered years later, dead in his cabin, with Elizabeth's locket in his hand? You can find the answers at their gravesite.

During those boom years, the only outside link was a 35 -

mile twisting toll road to Challis that took five days to negotiate. Because it was steep it was difficult to keep the wagons from picking up speed on the downhill parts. It is now called the Custer Motorway. One needs a high clearance vehicle and a sense of adventure to attempt this trip today.

The Lightning Creek trailhead is located near Bonanza. Park at the West Yankee Fork Trailhead. Then walk 2.5 miles to its confluence with Lightning Creek. It is another 8 miles to Lightning Creek Lake. This is a long, strenuous hike due to the climb and the fords over tributary creeks. It is suggested to take wading shoes.

A favorite and very popular stop along the Salmon River is the Sunbeam Hot Springs on the Salmon River Highway. The visible pools squeeze between the highway and the Salmon River. Water at 169 degrees F is piped beneath the highway from the springs and flows across a gravel beach into several popular pools at the river's edge. One can adjust the rocks to create a variety of soaking temperatures. One source mentioned, "Some years the downstream source has a tiny tub perched in the rocky bank to collect the flow. It's worth checking out, but requires a bucket for adding river water." The historical bathhouse has been repaired. There is a stone outhouse nearby. This is the perfect stop on the way back to camp from a hike. After using the pools you'll not need a shower back at camp.

Check out: www.idahohotsprings.com/destinations/sunbeam



Upcoming Bus Trips

NORTH UMPQUA RIVER - STEAMBOAT INN

Date: Tuesday April 22

Leaders: Verna Kocken, Liz Reanier

Cost - \$43 members - \$45 - non-members (includes lunch)

Reservations and checks to: Sharon Cutsforth - 746-4929

SINCE THE 1920'S the North Umpqua River has been known for its rugged beauty and for fly fishing. The North Umpqua Highway brings fisherman, photographers and all the rest of us who revel in the spectacular scenery. This visit to the North Umpqua Highway culminates with lunch at the historic Steamboat Inn, known as a haven for fishermen and for its wonderful food. Stops along the way will include Colliding Rivers at Glide and Susan Creek Campground, with an optional hike to the falls (a moderate one-mile hike). If time permits, we will stop for ice cream at Rice Hill.

EXPLORING FLORENCE - DUNE BUGGY RIDE

Date: Tuesday, May 13 Leaders: Barbara and Paul Beard

Cost - \$55 member - \$57 non-members, includes dune buggy ride. Without ride - \$45 members, and \$47 for non-members.

Reservations and checks to: Mary Lee Cheadle - 689-1085

WE WILL TRAVEL the back roads to Cheshire, Triangle Lake and Swisshome to the Florence area. In Florence we will explore the old historic buildings along the waterfront and the museum. Lunch at Driftwood Shores Resort (cost included). We will enjoy piano music by Paul. We then head south to Dune City, where we will board large dune buggies to learn about and ride the dunes. Hopefully, the wild rhodies will be showing their color by this time. Our homeward bound trip will take us out Route F east to Eugene, with an afternoon snack stop at the Gingerbread House (your cost).

Bus Trip News Flash

The June 23, 24, 25 bus trip touring SW Oregon needs more riders in order for it to go. Contact Mary-Lee Cheadle, 689-1085 for info and to sign up.

These Trips Shouldn't Tax You!

Thu. Apr. 17 --Little North Santiam – *Hike, moderate.* The color of the water in this river is uniquely blue-green and gray –and, well, very hard to describe, but it is beautiful. The riverside trail is through an old growth forest with mosses, lichens and ferns growing on every surface. The rocks in the river are huge, the pools are deep and you get a very fine view of Henline Falls across the river. Wildflowers surprise at every corner. Purple penstemon sprout from rock crevices and seem unsupported by soil. Be prepared for a few steep places on the trail. Boots are recommended, and take your walking sticks if you are at all unsteady on rough trail. Leader Dan Christensen leads this at a fastish pace to maximize the rest stops so you can drink in the beauty that surrounds you.

Sun. Apr. 20 --Historic Downtown Albany – *Walk, easy.* This somewhat unknown neighboring city to the north is so much more than a business center for grass farmers and “the place with the big smoke stack.” Walk around with leader Tyler Burgess and view just a fraction of the 700 registered historic buildings in three separate historic districts—the downtown commercial zone and the adjacent Monteith and Hackleman residential neighborhoods. You'll learn much about the settlement and early commerce of the Willamette Valley, as you join friends, old and new, in exploring, viewing and maybe even shopping in downtown Albany.

Sat. Apr. 26 – Silver Falls State Park –*Hike, moderate.* There are just over 7 miles of trail in this beautiful state park and only 600 ft of elevation change. The canyon boasts ten waterfalls and the trail snakes behind many of them. Leader Scott Hovis says the trip can be misty this time of year due to thundering falls, so dress appropriately and bring rain protection for cameras and such.

Tue. Apr. 27 --Raptor Center -- *Hike, easy.* Walk three miles, climbing 500 ft. to the mews of the Northwest Raptor Center. Though the purpose of the center is to help rehabilitate injured birds,

there are many resident birds, too. They have many species of owl and you can see these elusive and excellent hunters up close. In addition, you'll see American bald eagles, golden eagles, hawks, herons and more. This is a family oriented trip. That means kids of all ages are encouraged to join leader Jane Hackett on a visit to this unique place. As a small donation is asked at the center, the usual Obsidian trip fee is waved.

Sat. May 3 --McKenzie View -- *Bike, moderate.* For those on two wheels, Sharon Ritchie is leading this trip up McKenzie View Drive, out the Marcola valley and returning via Springfield's bike path. It is a good way to get back into the Obsidian bicycle scene, see old friends and meet new ones.

Same Day: If you are two-wheel challenged, you can walk on Jane Allen's Mt Pisgah hike of 6 miles and 1000 ft.

Sun. May 4 --North Bank Deer Preserve – *Hike, moderate.* Spring brings a special wildflower display on this trail near Roseburg. Very different from our forested Cascade and Coast Range trips, this trail undulates over lush green hills of one of only two places where the Columbia White-tailed deer still range. (The other is in the Columbia Gorge.) Bring a wildflower guide and a sharp eye for chocolate lilies, popcorn flower, spring beauty and dozens of other gorgeous blooms. John Jacobsen leads this trip, which has some very steep grades and a few muddy spots so boots are recommended.

Fri. May 9 --Kitson Ridge – *Hike, moderate.* This hike in the Oakridge area is a complete mystery to me, but in a report from a trip in 1981, the leader reports that they found a large Indian cave and took their lunch break there. Ask leader Rob Castleberry about this. This six-mile hike with 900 ft of climbing hasn't been led in recent years, so it is a good bet you'll see something new and enjoy yourself.

Tue. May 13 --Mary's Peak – *Hike, moderate.* It is always nice to hike this lovely Coast Range peak to the south-

west of Corvallis. Foxglove and lilies abound with many other blooms in glorious review as winter snows retreats. Dan Christensen leads this hike through an old growth forest to the largely wide-open meadow at the summit. Mary's Peak is the highest point in the Coast Range and on a clear day you can see most of the Oregon Cascades to the east, as well as the Pacific Ocean (no kidding!) to the west.

Family Hikes

These are hikes oriented for kids and their parents. Others are welcome if space is available. The starting times will be later than for most hikes.

April 13 Sun - **Skinner Butte**
Jane Hackett & Janet Jacobsen
984-0049,343-8030

April 27 Sun - **Raptor Center**
Jane Hackett 984-0049

May 11 Sun - **Mt. Pisgah**
Sue Carey 485-2239

Scott Hovis, Youth Chair

Nominating Committee

A NOMINATING COMMITTEE will meet in May to select three candidates for election to a three-year term on the Obsidian Board of Directors, beginning in January of 2009. At the April Board meeting, the Board appointed Barb Revere, Jim Pierce, Kathy Floyd, Janet Jacobsen, Sharon Ritchie, and Laurie Funkhouser to serve on the committee. A chair will be chosen at the first meeting. If you have suggestions for candidates for the Obsidian board of directors, or are interested in being considered as a candidate for the Board of Directors, please contact Laurie Funkhouser at 206-2303.

Taken for "Granite" More "Essentials" Needed

By Rob Castleberry

DURING HER MIDDLE-SCHOOL years, my stepdaughter asked me to proof read a composition she was working on. Always a creative speller, she had slipped the phrase "taken for granite" past her computer's spell check and I rather liked her mistake: doesn't "granite" suggest greater durability than something "granted", that can be rescinded or exhausted much sooner than the enduring stuff of mountains?

Many of us take our bounty of trails for "granite". We may imagine trails as existing in a "natural" state, needing only a few invisible public "servants" to keep them in good shape, rather like room "service" fluffing up the pillows at a hotel, attending quietly to our wants for comfort and convenience. Newcomers to our wilderness areas may not know that chain saws are forbidden there and that every log sawed from across the trail is the result of human labor, usually with a crosscut saw.

The needs are enormous. Volunteers are needed to fill the gap, even beyond last year's almost 10,000 hours

of volunteer labor in the Willamette and Deschutes National Forests. Funding for trail maintenance continues to decline. A recent *Register-Guard* article reported further cuts in forest service jobs in the budget now working its way through Congress. Trails will definitely be targeted for expenditure cuts. Positions will not be filled as staff retire, and what is now a skeleton crew will be further depleted. Without volunteers, the maintenance backlog will further accumulate and more trails will slip into neglect and abandonment.

EARLY REPORTS are that this year's winter storms toppled a huge number of trees across trails in western Oregon. A recent visitor to the Goodman Creek trail reported over fifty trees down in less than two miles, and that may be typical this spring. In October a freak wind event dropped hundreds of trees along the Foley Ridge trail near Substitute Point. These were only partially cleaned up before heavy snows closed the high country. Each year brings a need for bridge repair or re-

placement, tread repair due to earth movement or tree uprooting, and attention to drainage. Volunteers can help in many ways that don't necessarily involve hard physical labor, such as taking care of minor maintenance, freeing up others for the heavy work.

LET ME PROPOSE that in keeping with the importance of trails to our club, that Obsidians consider adding some other essentials to the "big ten": a small hand tool such as a hand pruner or folding saw, a willingness to take some time for trail maintenance on our outings, and an awareness of trail issues. For those who would choose to become more involved, the upcoming no fee High Cascade Volunteer training sessions (May 16-18 or May 31-June 1) offer an excellent opportunity to change one's relationship with trails, and to acquire a greater sense of ownership and caretaking of these public land treasures.

See the Willamette NF website for details: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/willamette/admin/volunteer>

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS' EVENTS

Mt. Pisgah

All Events take place at Mount Pisgah Arboretum. Call (541) 747-1504 for additional information and to sign up or see: www.efn.org/~mtpisgah

Early Bird Walk, Sat, Apr 19, 8-10am
Experienced birder Davey Wendt will be your guide for the spring migration.

Aquatic World, April 20, 1-3pm
Kids, bring your grandparents and learn about life at the base of the food chain!

Spring Field Botany, Saturday and Sunday, April 26 and 27, 10am-3pm.
Botanist Tobias Policha will help participants improve their identification skills and knowledge of our local flora.

Wildflower Walk, Sunday, April 27, 3-4pm
Botanist Dr. Rhoda Love will lead a wildflower walk.

Early Bird Walk, May 3, 8-10am
Ecological Arboriculture: Trees as Habitat, May 3, 9am-3pm
Join arborists Scott Altenhoff and Jason Morrow as they explore the world of arboreal ecology and ecological arboriculture.

Predator Walk, Sunday, May 4, 10am-noon
What's with the cougar warning signs at the park's trailheads? Come walk and talk with retired ODFW wildlife biologist Bill Castillo.

Birding Essentials, Sunday, May 4, 8am-12pm
Expand your knowledge of the avian world with birder Rick Ahrens.

Floodplain Wetlands: Form, Function, & Future, Sat, May 10, 2-4pm
Edaphic, hyporheic, lentic, lotic, and more! With the Arboretum's own wetlands expert, Cameron Bergen.

Birds & Blooms Walk, Sunday, May 11, 8-10am
Discover the early spring birds and flowers of the Willamette Valley with Rick Ahrens.

Nearby Nature

I Spy Spring Saturday, April 26, 10 am-noon
Come to this spring scavenger hunt. Meet at the Park Host House
Nearby Nature Yurt Warming Tuesday, May 13, 6:30-8:30 pm
Help Nearby Nature celebrate our new and improved yurt!

AT THE LODGE



POTLUCK

Friday, April 25:

The Joys of Cycling Japan

COME EXPERIENCE THE PLEASURE of bicycling in Japan from an expert. Ruthy Kanagy was born in Tokyo and grew up on both sides of the Pacific Ocean. After finishing high school in Japan and higher education in the U.S., Ruthy taught Japanese language and linguistics for 22 years. Currently, Ruthy works at Bike Friday (www.bikefriday.com) as a bicycle travel consultant, where she helps people design their perfect bike to take on adventures around the world.

She started cycling in earnest eight years ago. Her highlight was solo touring Hokkaido, the north island of Japan, to explore her roots. The mountains, caldera lakes, hot springs, the rugged seacoast, and wild flowers were just as she remembered.

In 2006 she started Japan Cycle Tours to introduce other cyclists to Hokkaido, Tokyo, and ancient Kyoto and Nara. Being on a bike makes you approachable and brings you closer to local people.

Her many photos are displayed at:

<http://livingabroadinjapan.com>

— Laurie Funkhouser, Entertainment Chair



**Friday, April 25, 2008 Obsidian Lodge
Potluck, 6:30 p.m. Program, 7:30 p.m.**

Bring your favorite potluck dish to share...along with your own plates, utensils and cups...plus \$1 to help cover club expenses. Parking at the lodge can be crowded. Please consider carpooling.



SciEd Tuesday, April 15:

Exploring the Himalayan Arc

ACCORDING TO BRUCE KLEPINGER, presenter of the April 15 SciEd Tuesday program, “Walking through a place and experiencing its people on a one-to-one basis provides insights about and a tangible and visceral connection to the land, the people who reside there, and the interaction between land and people that is obtainable through no other means.”

Bruce says “one of the world's great natural laboratories is the Himalayan Arc, which drapes across Asia from deep in Afghanistan on the west to Burma and Yunnan and Sichuan on the east, a span of more than 3000 miles. This immense arc includes the 1500 mile Great Himalayan Range, the historically critical Hindu Kush and Hindu Raj, the awesome Karakorum, the unknown Tien Shan and the many ranges of the Trans-Himalaya.”

In the course of his visual presentation, you'll have the opportunity ‘to walk and explore’ the length and breadth of these mountains, seeing images collected over nearly four

decades. You'll glimpse Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains, Christians and many others in the locale that has led them to flourish. You'll be able to trace ancient trade routes that cut across the great barrier and witness how the exchange has transformed places. You'll observe how isolation and the land itself have influenced tribal customs, architecture and virtually every facet of life and vice versa. You'll see that the Himalayas still play a critical role for the remainder of Asia.

You'll see all these wonders when you attend *Exploring the Himalayan Arc* on Tuesday, April 15, at 7 P.M. at the lodge.

Bruce Klepinger is the owner of IBX Expeditions, Inc, located at 2657 West 28th Avenue. He has scheduled at least a dozen interesting trips in 2008 to the Patagonian Andes, Chilean Lakes District, Peruvian Andes, Tanzania, Mongolia, Turkey, China, Bhutan, Ethiopia and more.

— Joella Ewing, SciEd Chair

It's Spring, You Know? Must Be Time For: Trip Leaders Meeting - Tuesday April 29

YOU KNOW IT'S SPRING when forest trails are thawed, damp and spongy and streams course down with full-throated roar. You know it's spring when the first flowers push shyly into the light to open their petals, and ferns and mosses glow their special green in the brightening sunlight. Yes, it's spring when every red-blooded Obsidian is thinking about trails old and new, and leaders are scratching their heads over calendars and scheduling trips. When gear is pulled together, eyed carefully, and repaired or replaced. And it's spring when the Summer Trips Committee put their heads together to come up with a topic for the Leaders Meeting that will be of interest for leaders, experienced and new -- *and everyone is welcome, leader or not*, especially if they're new.

And we've done just that. This year we've put together a very special panel of seasoned experts to discuss how we can insure that all our trips will be safe

Mark your calendars:
Tuesday, April 29, 7 PM, at the Lodge, so *you know it's spring!* ... and to learn from Obsidian experts like **Sharon Ritchie, Doug Nelson, President Brian Hamilton and Bill Sullivan.**

ones. Sharon Ritchie, a member since 1987, has participated in over 300 trips, leading more than 100 of them as hiker and cyclist. She is a past president and board member and was chair of Summer Trips for three years. Doug Nelson, member since 1995 and current

Safety Committee Chair, is a past president and board member and was climbs chair for several years. Doug is a climber and cyclist who has led more than 25 trips. Current President of the Board of Directors, Brian Hamilton, joined the club in 2003 and leads climbs, hikes and ski trips. Finally, Bill Sullivan will join us. Bill is author of several regional guidebooks, as well as novels and history books about the Pacific Northwest. He has also hiked more miles in Oregon than just about anyone else we know. Bill joined the Obsidians in 2002 and leads a back packing trip for us every summer. Together our panel has many years of traveling the trails and roads of Oregon and they also have much to teach us from their experiences.

— *Barb Revere, Summer Trips Chair*

Wilderness First Aid Class



ATTENTION TRIP LEADERS AND INTERESTED OTHERS

THE SAFETY COMMITTEE is pleased to announce our annual *first aid class to be held Wednesday, May 15th at the lodge.*

Those of you who attended first aid training last year will remember Jeremy Adolf, the emergency medical technician (EMT) and Eugene Mountain Rescue (EMR) member who was our instructor. We are fortunate to have Jeremy instructing us again. He will be joined by Laurie Monico (also EMT and EMR). I look forward to a very interesting and informative evening learning about outdoor oriented first aid techniques from these two experienced medical responders.

Jeremy tells me they will cover "scene evaluation, patient approach and assessment, basic care, improvising, and first aid kits." That sounds like a lot of useful information to me. I think I'll bring a notepad! With luck we may even have time for a bit of question and answer as well.

This class will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 pm, May 15. I would encourage all our trip leaders, and anyone else with an interest in brushing up on your first aid, to consider joining us.

See you there.

— *Doug Nelson, Safety Chair*

Camp Hamilton - Summer Camp 2008:

Don't Miss This One

REGISTRATION IS open for Camp Hamilton and available slots are filling up for both weeks (July 19 - 26 and July 26 - Aug 2). Don't miss this opportunity for phenomenal hiking in a beautiful area and camping with this congenial group.



A registration form and instructions was provided as an insert to the March Obsidian Bulletin and is also available online along with a lot of additional information at:

http://www.obsidians.org/com_summercamp

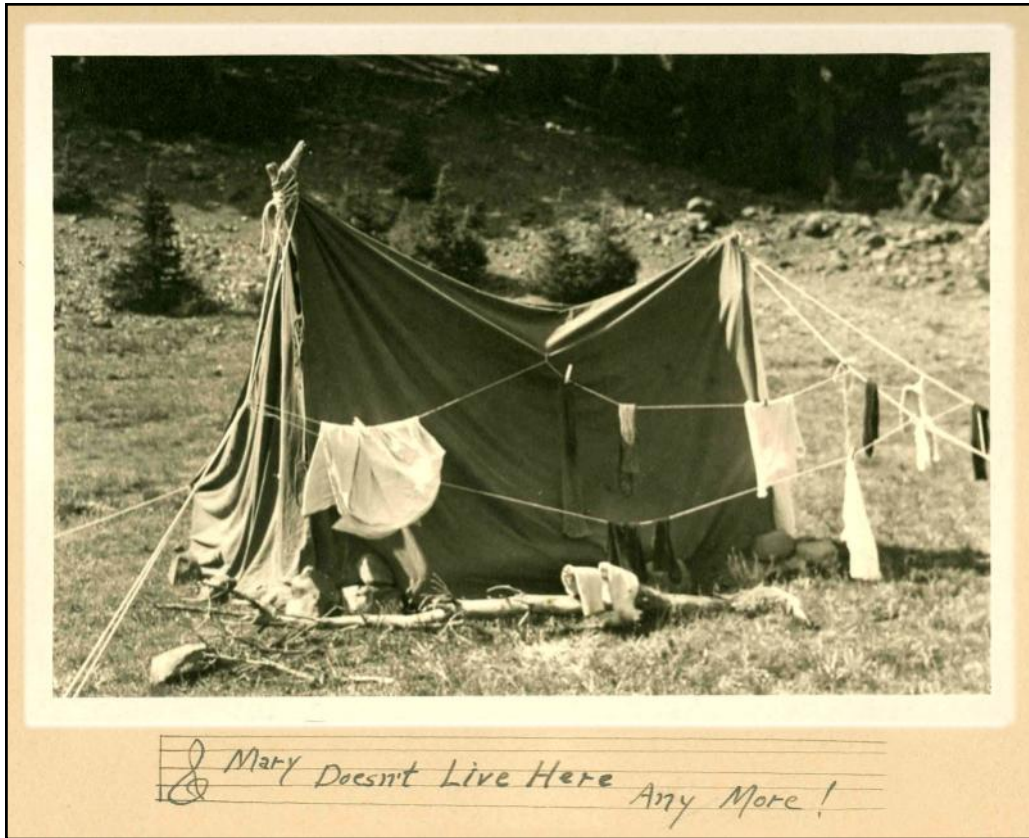
Contact John Jacobsen johnwjacobsen@comcast.net 343-8030 or Sharon Ritchie rehugr@comcast.net 342-8435 with questions or for more information.

Non-members are welcome.

Obsidian Calendar

THE JUST RELEASED 2008 Annual Obsidian Schedule is included as an insert to this Bulletin. Online viewers may access it from the Obsidian home page or directly from:

<http://www.obsidians.org/schedule/annual/2008>



From the Obsidian Archives: Photo taken by Louis Waldorf and entered in the "Human Interest" division of the annual Obsidian Photo Contest. It was likely taken at Summer Camp in the 1930s or 40s. Does anyone know when or where this picture was taken... and who could Mary be?



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