

Inside This Issue

Membership Renewal	2
2008 Annual Meeting	8-10
Board Notes	10-11
Trip Reports & Activities	12-20
Upcoming	20-23
Calendar	23

Features

Annual Meeting	1
Janet's Jottings	3
Goodbye, Reuls!	4
Awards, Awards	5
First Backpack Trip	6
Team Sight Unseen	7
Picture of the Month	24

Dates to Remember

Nov 18	Mt. Pisgah - SciEd Tues
Nov 21	Wild Grace - Potluck
Nov 22	Trail Maintenance
Nov 29	Dec Bulletin Deadline
Dec 3	Board Meeting

News Flash

This just in: Jim Duncan has been elected Obsidian Executive Board President for 2009. See the November Board Notes on Page 11 for details.

Final Warning!
Membership Dues
Are Overdue!

See Page 2

2008 Annual Meeting

By John Pegg, Photos by Tom Revere

THOUGH THE ANNUAL MEETING was sparsely attended, for those who came there was much to appreciate about being an Obsidian. The Annual Meeting is the place where the Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, and membership come together to elect new Board members, present annual reports, and recognize the efforts and accomplishments of individual Obsidians. See pages 8-10 for complete Annual Meeting notes.

One of the highlights was President Hamilton's "State of the Club" address. "We have much to be proud of," he told us. "The club is even in better shape than it was last year, both financially and in many other ways." Among the many things that Obsidians can be proud of this year, he pointed out, were successful potlucks, a thriving trail maintenance committee, an active youth committee, a great summer camp, the work of the Olympic Trials Committee, and the well attended Science and Education events. In addition, he specifically singled out the Obsidian web-site and the *Bulletin* for praise. They continue to present our face to the world as well as becoming a growing asset to members.

Three members were elected by unanimous consent to the Board of Directors: Stewart Hoeg, Larry Huff, and Verna Kocken. The committee reports were given by the individual chairs, and for those interested in the details, these are included in the minutes. Some of the highlights, though, were interesting. When deciding how to invest and reinvest \$20,000 this year, the Finance Committee chose not to invest in the stock market! Summer Camp, where attendance was down, did after all break even financially. Winter and Summer trips had about the same ratio of participation and cancellations, and both had a wonderful year. The September Welcome Potluck had over 125 participants, including many non-members.

(Continued on page 4)



Climb Chair Larry Huff presents the 10 Peak Climb Leaders Award to Wayne Deeter at the Annual Meeting. For more award pictures see Page 5

Welcome!

New Members

ADKINS, DAVID (Active)
1418 Quaker Street, Eugene 97402
344-4163 dv_adkins@hotmail.com

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2488 Blackburn St, Eugene 97405
338-3138 alyccema@comcast.net

ANDERSON, CAROL (Active)
468 Shamrock, Eugene, OR 97404
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BAUER, RON (Active)
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CORE, RALPH (Active)
656 Sterling Drive, Eugene 97404
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HARTY, SHANNON (Active)
184 Monroe Street, Eugene, 97402
485-8090 shannon_harty@hotmail.com

LEPPAN, ROBERT (Active)
497 Covey Lane, Eugene, OR 97401
344-0120 bob_carlsbad@yahoo.com

MOLLY, CHRISTOPHER (Active)
2105 Hubbard Lane, Eugene 97403
221-3204 mr_molly2u@yahoo.com

MUIR, BEN (Active)
184 Monroe Street, Eugene 97402
485-8090 muir_ben@yahoo.com

RAPAPORT, MOSHE (Active)
455 Lochmoor Place, Eugene 97405
844-1263 rapaport@hawaii.edu

SMITH, TALIE (Active)
1429 SE 52 Ave, Portland, OR 97215
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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

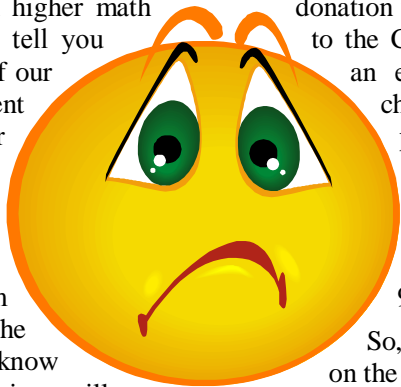
Board meetings are held at 6 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month, except August, at the Obsidian lodge.

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.....

90 Members Unpaid!

THE GOOD NEWS is that 83% of our members have sent in dues!! For those of you with higher math skills, I don't have to tell you this means that 17% of our members have NOT sent in dues. Now, for those of you who have not paid, past experience should drive you to immediately search for the renewal form and run, not walk, to the post office! You do know that I or one of my minions will be calling you. It is not a pretty thought. If you can't find your renewal form, it is easily available in the Member's only section (www.obsidians.org/Members). If that



doesn't work for you, just throw a check for \$30 per person (plus any donation you would like to make to the Contingency Fund) into an envelope, indicate any changes to your address, phone number, or email address and send to: Obsidian Membership, PO Box 51424, Eugene, Oregon 97405.

So, renew now or miss out on the wonderful benefits of the Obsidians. **FINAL WARNING:** those who do not renew by December 1 will be dropped from the membership roles.

- Julie Dorland, Membership Chair

Annual dues - \$30 - Payable to: Obsidians, Inc.

Send Renewal Form and Survey to:

Obsidians, Membership Chair

P.O. Box 51424, Eugene, OR 97405

The OBSIDIAN Bulletin

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Published monthly, except August. Articles, story ideas, letters to the editor and other editorial submissions may be emailed to:

bulletin@obsidians.org

Although email is preferred, submissions may also be sent to:

The Obsidian Bulletin

P.O. Box 51424, Eugene, OR 97405

For reprint rights, contact above.

Deadline

**for December 2008 Bulletin
Saturday, November 29, 2008**

Assembly/Mailing Team

For October Bulletin

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

Old Tents, Windex, Rocking & Books

Hard to sell a tent? On the NPR Writer's Almanac September 2, Garrison Keillor read "When We Sold the Tent" by Rhina P. Espaillet from *Playing at Stillness*. © Truman State University Press. The poem reminded me of the tents that John and I have used during 25 years of backpacking and summer camp. When one sells a well used tent, he or she is also selling the memories of mountains, lakes, streams, campfires, rain, mosquitoes, sore feet, a younger body, night sounds and shadows. One donates the sound of the zipper late at night as one steps outside to the amazing starry sky. A partner's conversations and snores certainly enhance the value. A well used tent is a steal even if the zipper is a bit rusty. Listen to the poem at:

<http://writersalmanac.publicradio.org/index.php?date=2008/09/02>

What flowers are Windex-blue? A member remarked that it didn't seem right that Paul Newman's eyes were described as Windex-blue in the September 28, *Register Guard*. Wouldn't a reference to a bluebonnet or chicory flower be a better alternative? A search of trip reports on the Obsidian website found that Windex-blue has never been used to describe a flower. Anyone who has seen the movie, *The Big Fat Greek Wedding*, knows that Windex can be used for anything – even for a trip report.

Start walking in the rain. *Walking the Gobi* by Helen Thayer is the story of her 1600-mile trek with her husband across the Gobi desert in 2001. She was 63 and her husband was 74. With two camels, GPS, tent, supplies, water (8 quarts per day), two beach umbrellas, and several airplane supply and water drops, they made the 60-day trek without a support team or radio contact. The descriptions of the terrain, the Mongolian culture, friendly interactions with Gobi Desert nomads and their food, scorpion bites, wildlife, smugglers, border police, and protecting the camels from wolves are breaks in the unending pace to keep on schedule and meet the plane. After one of the camels rolled over and broke one of the water containers, their days blurred with heat, wind, and dust. Almost too sick to walk, they painfully

stumbled to a life saving shallow salt lake. This will definitely put you in the mood to walk in the rain. The author's website is:

www.helenthayer.com

Rocking up a storm. **Brennen Babb-Hackett**, junior Obsidian member and a sophomore at South Eugene High School, was a cast member of the SEHS production of *Rent*, a rock opera. He sang, danced the tango, and rocked away in the supporting ensemble. Brennen seemed like a natural – no awkwardness for this guy. I liked *Rent* when I saw it a few years ago at the Hult but the SEHS production, full of enthusiasm and touching moments, was a joy and a tear jerker. The choreography and singing were superb. Brennen plans to try out for the next SEHS musical, *Chicago*. Summer campers will remember Brennen singing *Amazing Grace* at the Sequim Summer Camp and also singing in the *Lizzie King* melodrama at this year's Camp Hamilton. Good luck, Brennen!

Books, books, and more books. Obsidian member, **Vincenza Scarpaci**, will read from her new book, *The Journey of the Italians in America*, on December 2 at the Knight Library Browsing Room on the UO Campus. For more information about Vincenza and her book, see the Duck Store Literary Newsletter at:



http://uoduckstore.com/newsletters/literary/2008/NOVEMBER_X.html

And last, but certainly not least, Obsidian member, **Bill Sullivan**, will be signing books at two events. This is your chance to purchase the latest editions of your favorite books and do some holiday shopping. November 21, Friday, 5-6pm, booksigning at the U of O Museum of Natural History, sponsored by the UO Bookstore. December 6, Saturday, 10am-6pm, booksigning at the Authors & Artists Fair in the glass-roofed Atrium in the middle of the Lane County Fairgrounds, next to the Holiday Market. Both events are open to the public and free.

Upcoming events at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum

Mushrooming on the Mountain, Saturday and Sunday, November 15 and 16, 10am-4pm both days. This intensive class for beginning 'shroomers offers instruction on identification, ecology, folklore and more! Come prepared to expand your knowledge of Oregon's diverse fungi. Maggie Rogers of the Oregon Mycological Society will lead the class. A 'shroom hunt will follow Maggie's presentation. This class is geared toward people who want to get to know the entire amazing kingdom of Fungi. \$60/\$50 MPA members. Call Clare at 747-1504 or email mtpisgip@efn.org for more information or to sign up.

Play in the Rain, Saturday, November 22, 10am-2pm. Youth in Nature Partnership hosts an Exploration Day where local outdoor recreation and education organizations and clubs will come together at Mt. Pisgah and lead several exciting activities, games & workshops for you and your family. Our goal is to get kids outdoors immediately! There will be scavenger hunts, campfire cookery, hikes, horseback riding, arts n crafts and MORE! The sky is NOT the limit for enjoying the great outdoors! We hope to see you at Play in the Rain Day. Visit www.YouthInNature.org for more info.

Goodbye, Chuck and Sandy Reul!

AFTER 18 YEARS IN EUGENE and as Obsidian members, Sandy and Chuck Reul are moving to Durham Raleigh N.C. on November 1st. Sandy attended the September Potluck to express their appreciation to the Obsidians. She mentioned that at her first potluck, Bob and Pat Dark helped them get a plate and utensils. It was like coming full circle to see so many new people at this potluck who also didn't bring their plates. She told how Janet and John Jacobsen, Rick Ahrens, and Sharon Ritchie had been so helpful.

Talking with her later, Sandy said that these 18 years have been the best years of her life. Watching Sue Sullivan's media presentation brought back so many memories of great hikes; it was a way for her to have closure with the club. She believes the Obsidians survive because they are energetic and innovative.

Sandy and Chuck have been hikers and summer campers since 1990. Chuck and Sandy traveled to many



unusual parts of the world and always brought back gorgeous photos and many interesting and informative stories. They also shared lots of ideas about the mechanics of travel planning. Kathy Hoeg, previous entertainment

chair, said "Some of their presentations, such as the February 2007 *Cycling in Austria*, were so attractive that many in the potluck audience wanted to do the exact same trip themselves as soon as possible." One could tell they were thinking of the Obsidian potlucks when they took so many pictures on their trips. Some of their travel presentations include: Wandering round the world - November 22, 1991, Ecuador and Spain, January 20, 1995, The Scented Isle, November 20, 1998, Greece - March 24, 2000, The Pyrenees - February 23, 2001, Biking & Hiking: Castles to Crags - March 22, 2002, Land Down Under - December 19, 2003, Cape Town, South Africa - December 17, 2004, and Basque Vineyards and Villages - March 24, 2006

Sandy and Chuck are excited about their new adventure in N.C. We will miss them. If they are ever back in Eugene, we hope they will offer to show slides of their hikes in N.C. Good luck!

- Janet Jacobsen

Annual Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

The most enjoyable part of the evening was the presentation of awards. The Climb Committee was proud to give Wayne Deeter the 10 Peak Leader Award, for not only climbing the ten qualifying Oregon mountains, but going on to lead successful Obsidian trips to these summits. These mountains are Mt. Hood, Mt. Jefferson, Three Fingered Jack, Mt. Washington, Mt. McLoughlin, Mt. Thielsen, all three Sisters, and Broken Top. He is only the eighth Obsidian to ever receive this award. Larry Huff was awarded a 10 Peak certificate and patch for successful climbs of these same mountains, and three climbers, Mark Slipp, Rich Peevers, and Larry Huff, received the Three Sisters award for successfully summiting each of the Sisters on Ob-

sidian climbs, making them eligible to become Chiefs.

Trip Leaders are the heart of the club and awards went to members to recognize the number of trips they have led since joining the club. Jan Jacobsen, although she could not attend, was loudly applauded for receiving the 100 Trip Leader Award. Others receiving trip leader awards were Wayne Deeter for leading 75 trips, Rick Ahrens and Bill Montgomery for leading 50 trips, and Lana Lindstrom, Marshall Kandell, Laurie Funkhouser, Jim Pierce, Stewart Hoeg, Ruth Romoser, Sue Sullivan, and Barb Revere for leading 25 trips. These are amazing accomplishments.

Counting the trips we have participated in can be surprising. John Jacobsen and Wayne Deeter were recognized with a patch and certificate for participating in 200 trips. John Pegg, Joanne Ledet, Vera Woolley, Janet

Hall, Janet Speelman (101 bus trips!), Peter Graham, Mel Zavodsky, Lana Lindstrom, Stewart Hoeg, and Laurie Funkhouser all received the 100 Trip award.

The Complete Obsidian Award is presented to a member who participates in all of the following in the same year: a Summer and Winter Trip, Potluck, Climb, Bus Trip, Trail Maintenance Trip, Extended Trip, and Summer Camp. And if this were not enough, the member must serve on a committee and lead one of these activities! Incredibly three members qualified for the award this year. Jim Duncan, Jan Jacobsen, and Jim Pierce received the certificate and patch and deserve admiration from all of us.

We also owe a debt to our Historian, Lenore McManigal, without whose work it would be impossible to count any of these accomplishments.

Awards, Awards, Awards...



President Hamilton presents Compleat Obsidian Award to Jim Pierce



Sharon Ritchie presents 25 Trips Leader Award to Barb Revere

Awards List

Compleat Obsidian

Jim Duncan
Janet Jacobsen
Jim Pierce

10 Peak Leader Award

Wayne Deeter

10 Peak Award

Larry Huff

3 Peak Award

Mark Slipp
Rich Peevers
Larry Huff

100 Trips Leader Award

Janet Jacobsen

75 Trips Leader Award

Wayne Deeter

50 Trips Leader Award

Rick Ahrens
Bill Montgomery

25 Trips Leader Award

Laurie Funkhouser
Stewart Hoeg
Marshall Kandell
Lana Lindstrom
Jim Pierce
Barb Revere
Ruth Romoser
Sue Sullivan

200 Trips Award

Wayne Deeter
John Jacobsen

100 Trips Award

Laurie Funkhouser
Peter Graham
Janet Hall
Stewart Hoeg
Joanne Ledet
Lana Lindstrom,
John Pegg
Janet Speelman
Vera Woolley
Mel Zavodsky



Jim Duncan receives Compleat Obsidian Award from President Hamilton



Sharon Ritchie presents 25 Trips Leader Award to Stewart Hoeg



Larry Huff is congratulated on receiving 3 Peak & 10 Peak Award by President Hamilton



President Hamilton presents 100 Trips Award to Laurie Funkhouser

MY FIRST BACKPACKING TRIP

By Charles Durham

I HAVE WANTED TO BACKPACK from the first time I camped out in the woods. One day, while shopping at my favorite store (REI), I noticed a sign that read FINAL SALE on backpacks; my first thought was how could I go wrong with such a deal? So off the shelf and into my car went the backpack.

Over the years I asked my wife or golf buddies if they would be interested in a backpacking trip, but was unable to get anyone interested. So the pack sat for three years, staring at me each time I opened my closet.

After a few Obsidians hikes, doing Little Brother and South Sister, I felt the need to kick it up a notch. I dusted off my 3-year old, never used backpack and signed up for a 6-day beginners backpack trip with the Sierra Club. The trip was rated for beginners but I'm sure somewhere in the small print it stated that you should be able to carry a 40 lbs. pack for miles, sleep on the ground and POOP in the woods.

So off I went to the Sierra Club Clair Tappaan Lodge near Lake Tahoe for my 6-day trip, to consummate my relationship with my backpack.

Our first day at the lodge, built in 1934 with its original rustic character, was wonderful. I met other hikers with the same desire as myself: to hike and be able to survive in the woods. We did a short hike to adjust and fit all the

snaps, straps, belts, buckles and pockets on the pack. Then we received our commissary (food to feed 12 for 6 days), which increased my pack from

light pollution, we could see a faint outline of the Milky Way. At first there were a few twinkling stars, then as it got darker, an explosion of stars (the Milky Way) lit up the sky. That moment was worth all the pain endured to get there.

The next days were more of the same: short hikes in the hills followed by cooling off in local mountain lakes and streams. At first our meals were great. Unfortunately, we packed too much chili, and since we all pledged to follow the LEAVE NO TRACE policy we had to eat it or pack it out. We decided to eat it, so there were several meals which included chili.

On our sixth and last day we were considered seasoned backpackers. We had mastered the art of leave no trace and survived with only the contents of our pack. All good things must come to an end, so we packed up and headed back to the lodge. The main thought on our mind was a hot shower, a good meal (chili free) and a soft bed. After our showers and a little rest, we were surprised to learn the evening meal was, you guessed right: CHILI.

I will never forget this trip mainly because of the friends I made and the pain and suffering endured as a group. Also, the thought of being able to hike into the woods and survive with just the pack on my back was a spiritual experience to me.



Packs loaded and all ready to go.

what seemed like 20 lbs. of feathers to 50 lbs. of lead.

With all packs loaded, we started our hike through the beautiful Sierra Ne-

...but I'm sure somewhere in the small print it stated that you should be able to carry a 40 lbs. pack for miles, sleep on the ground and POOP in the woods.

vada mountain range. This is the area where several members of the Donner party succumbed to cannibalism and starvation in 1847. We hiked for what seemed like an eternity. Upon arrival at our camp, we set up tent, ate, cleaned up our mess and settled down for an evening of star gazing. We camped at an elevation of 8000 feet and, with the cool desert air and no

TEAM SIGHT UNSEEN

By John Pegg

MEET KYLE. He is a remarkable young man. Although still in high school, he is a successful wrestler, tandem cyclist, and technical rock climber. Last year he climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro. This year, with Obsidian Peter Green and Brad Jaffke, a climber and student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, he successfully climbed Mt. St. Helens and camped out at Illumination Saddle on Mt. Hood to practice snow camping and alpine climbing skills. He has plans to climb Mt. Rainier next year before attempting the highest summit in North America, Mt. McKinley. Kyle has been blind since he was six years old.

Kyle Carr is part of a very special group, Sight Unseen. Peter Green has been working with this group, which helps blind and vision impaired athletes pursue their outdoor goals, for the past year. Peter, whose mother and a sister are both legally blind, found this was a way not only to help others with vision impairments, but to share his love for the outdoors and the mountains. The goal of the group, as Peter explains it, is to redefine what it means to be a team and to shatter beliefs about what



Kyle on his way to the top

is possible for a team to accomplish. Sight Unseen is an amazing group of people and an inspiration to everyone, with or without disabilities.

In mid-July this year, Peter, Brad, and Kyle met at Government Camp for a week of climbing, alpine skills practice,

team building, and fun in the mountains. After a few days of practice with ropes, knots, ice axes, and crevasse rescue techniques, they headed up Mt. Hood to Illumination Saddle for a night of snow camping. Kyle lives in Florida, and there are not many opportunities for snow camping there.

The original plan was to climb Mt. Adams, but because of a large forest fire on the mountain, they changed their plans and decided to climb Mt. St. Helens. At snowline on the Worm Flows route they camped and practiced building a snow cave. Kyle was strong on the climb and negotiated everything well, including a boulder field when they got a little way off-route and the fast glissade for much of the descent.

The group ended the week at Ski Bowl Park. After surviving a week in the mountains, would you end your trip with bungee jumping? Whether Kyle is carrying a pack and ski poles or an ice axe, this is certainly a tough kid with a lot of heart and courage. Peter is looking forward to being involved as Team Sight Unseen gets a group together next year to climb Mt. Rainier. The goal is to attempt Mt. McKinley in 2010.



Peter, Brad and Kyle at week's end

2008 ANNUAL MEETING

October 10, 2008

The meeting was called to Order by President Brian Hamilton at 7:00 p.m. The Members of the Board in attendance: Jim Duncan (Vice-President), Stewart Hoeg (Treasurer), Laurie Funkhouser (Secretary), Barbara Revere, Anne Dhu McLucas, Jim Pierce, Wayne Deeter, and Marshall Kandell. They were introduced.

Election of New Board Members: The candidates for the Board were introduced: Stewart Hoeg, Larry Huff and Verna Kocken. By UNANIMOUS vote, the candidates were elected to the Board. (The departing Board members are: Stewart Hoeg, Anne Dhu McLucas and Brian Hamilton).

State of the Club: President Brian Hamilton announced the Club is in "better" standing than John Pegg's "good" standing of last year. This based upon the dedication of the Board members and Committee Chairs. Each committee has contributed to the quality of the club such as: the very-well-put-together Bulletin; outstanding Science and Education programs; high-quality Summer, Winter and Extended trips; An on-going trail maintenance program; very successful Summer Camp; a Youth program that continues to rise; the Conservation Committee's efforts to keep us informed on environmental issues; an outstanding website; and very popular Bus Trips.

The Ad hoc Olympic Trials Committee deserves special mention. The Olympic Trials had high expectations by the community. Despite the number of participants in the hiking events being less than what was hoped, the Committee set the ground-work for future endeavors, Obsidians name was in the media and the Club initiated an on-line registration.

The publicity efforts have continued with mention in the Register-Guard, Eugene Weekly, Mt. Pisgah Arboretum's newsletter, the local Sierra Club as well as through participation at Eugene Celebration and Berg's Nordic Night.

The September "Welcome Back" potluck by Sue Sullivan drew a large group of interested guests.

The Club continues to face hurdles in the future such as addressing the decrease in trip attendance (gas expense?), recruiting more volunteers, etc. To conclude

the State of the Club address.... "Ask not what your Club can do for you – ask what you can do for your Club!"

Treasurer's Report (Stewart Hoeg): In contrast with the rest of the economy, the Obsidians financial outlook remains bright. During 2008 we paid off the balance of the Endowment Fund loan. As of September 30th our balance sheet shows assets of over \$136,000 versus approximately \$124,500 as of December 31st. Our healthy financial position is a function of the improved cash flow from the new dues level and the continued generous support of members in the form of premium memberships and other donations. So far this year the club has received over \$ 3,000 in contributions from members, a \$ 2,000 contribution from the Bus Committee and a \$ 5,000 contribution from the Summer Camp committee. Thanks to everyone for your continued financial and other support for the club.

Recognition of Members "In Memory": James Jeppesen, Jr., Eunice Mickel, Norma Jones, Frances Newsom, Theodosia Leppman, William J. Prentice, Jr., Rosemary Mason, Grace Mikesell

Committee Reports:

Summer Trips (Barb Revere): To date: 101 trips, 693 members, 192 nonmembers participating. Member revenue: \$693; Nonmember revenue: \$850 for a total revenue: \$1544. The year proved to be a challenging one for Summer Trips, with 37 trips cancelled, and 42 trips rescheduled -- out of 167 trips originally placed on the schedule April 1. Late snow pack, unseasonal weather, leaders' illnesses and low interest (\$0.09/mile?, carbon conscience?) were major causes.

Unofficial count/reasons for cancellations: 12 - Leader/family illnesses; 11 - Snow/smoke/trees blocking road/trail; 10 - Low interest (no signups); 3 - Mosquitos (in August); 5 - other reasons /no reason given. Reasons for reschedules were trail/road conditions, leader illness or scheduling conflicts. We are very grateful to those leaders who rescheduled (rather than cancelled). We added 24 trips after the schedule was published.

Winter Trips (Jim Pierce): Thanks to the Committee members: Jim Pierce, Chair; Laurie Funkhouser, Leader calling and Initial Schedule Coordinator; Glen Svendsen, Leader Packet Coordinator;

John Mowat, Leader Training Coordinator; Chris Stockdale, Announcements and Media Coordinator; and Daphne James, Outing Leader Reminder. The Leader Calling Team: Chris Shuraleff, Brian Hamilton, Steve Kuhn, Kathleen Floyd, Sue Wolling, and Chris Cunningham. There were a total of 356 participants including: 295 members; 61 non-members. There were 44 completed Winter Trips with 28 Different Trip Leaders - 18 Easy, 18 Moderate and 8 Difficult. Winter Trips had \$554 in income and expenses of \$119. A Leader Training Class was held in November 2007. All the Trip Leaders submitted their Trip Reports on line. Thanks Wayne Deeter. My thanks to the entire Winter Trips Team. It was our second largest Winter Trips season because YOU made it so.

Climbs (Larry Huff): It is with pleasure to announce yet another successful climbing season for the Obsidians. I would like to extend special thanks to the Obsidian Board for their support and the Climbs' Committee – Wayne Deeter, George Baitinger, Sue Sullivan, Doug Nelson and Peter Green – for their vision. I would also like to acknowledge the Eugene Mountain Rescue and Roger Bailey of the City of Eugene's River House as well as all the Club leaders. The climbs schedule kicked into gear in early January. The outcome of all this work results in a climb schedule completed and available to members and the general public by mid-March. The Climb School kicks into gear in mid April and provides basic mountaineering instruction. By May the climb season is under way with annual climbs of Diamond Peak and rock climbing at Smith Rock. The 2008 climb season started slowly due to a heavy snow year in the Cascades. Many of the early climbs were canceled or rescheduled to later dates. There was some advantage to this as many glacier approaches to mountains were still in good shape well into August. The season finished with a flurry of climbs in September.

Trail Maintenance (Peter Green): Throughout the year virtually monthly maintenance excursions have taken place with the primary task being to upgrade the trail to Skinners Butte.

By-Ways by Bus (Liz Reanier): To

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

date we have completed nine 1-day and 2 longer trips, involving 122 different riders. We are using the same bus company; although, it has been sold to a larger company and now goes under the name of OC&W. It is no longer a local company so our routine has changed. Several drivers took management jobs and we are training new drivers.

I want to thank all our riders and particularly my committee members who all work very hard. A special thanks to Ben and Pat Jeffries - our co-treasurers. Thanks to Ray Jensen for all his consulting and leadership. The reservations ladies, the leaders, the hospitality committee all do a fantastic job. It takes quite a few people to make these trips an enjoyable experience.

We still have two trips to go but our leaders are already out there scouting trips for the 2009 season.

Summer Camp (John Jacobsen):

Camp Hamilton at Sawtooth/White Clouds Mountain was a success, with 53 participants in the first week and 48 in the second week. Initially there was concern regarding the cash flow; however, the result was surplus of \$196.00. In addition, \$908 was spent on capital improvements and \$5,000 was donated to the Contingency Fund. Lana Lindstrom has already started on plans for the 2009 Summer Camp which will be held at Mt. Lassen with two 5-day sessions: 7/23/09-7/28/09 and 7/28/09-8/2/09.

Extended Trips (Jim Duncan):

Three rather different extended trips were made this year: (1) Columbia Gorge Waterfalls & Wildflowers led by Lana Lindstrom in June with 17 participants was a hiking trip at different places in the Columbia Gorge with meals and lodging at Menucha Retreat Center; (2) Mt. Lassen was a camping and hiking trip led by Jim Pierce in August with 14 participants. Four nights of camping in Mt. Lassen National Park (site of next year's summer camp) allowed for three days of hiking in the park and (3) Lewis & Clark on the Columbia River was led by Jim Duncan in October with 12 participants. Lodging was at Ft. Columbia State Park in Washington with visits to various sites associated with L & C on both sides of the river.

Thanks to the Extended Trips Committee for 2008: Lana Lindstrom, Jim Pierce, Sharon Ritchie, and Jim Duncan (chair).

Conservation (Juli McGlinsky):

This Conservation Committee began meeting monthly last February. The enthusiastic members; Ann Hollander, Lana Lindstrom, Stephen Brander, Brian Hamilton and I explored numerous committee foci ranging from sponsoring Earth Institute classes to exploring more energy efficient methods for transporting members into the outdoors. In addition to getting to know one another, over the past nine months we updated information on the conservation link of the Obsidian website, submitted several articles to the Bulletin giving members "conservation tips", and co-sponsored a Science Night presentation on forest ecology. We are planning an educational hike in the Andrews Experimental Forest in October and may again see if there is interest in the membership for an Earth Institute or similar class. It has been a pleasure to work with thoughtful, insightful members thinking about ways to protect and care for the outdoors that we love.

Publications (Committee Representative):

As reported by Stewart Hoeg, despite having no chairman, the Bulletin has continued to flourish with the Publications Committee publishing nine bulletins encompassing 176 pages so far this year. This success has a price: committee members spend between 80 and 100 hours a month creating, editing and mailing the Bulletin. In addition, with two issues to go, the club has spent \$3,500 to print and \$600 to mail the Bulletin. Thanks to the team of writers and editors including Jan Jacobsen, Barb Revere, Beth Roy and Jean Coberly, the graphics, design and desktop publishing team of John Jacobsen and Stewart Hoeg and the Assembly and Mailing Team usually led by Lou Maenz. Also, many thanks to contributors of articles, most of which are not written by committee members, and to the many people responsible for submitting the trip reports and the photos that are the lifeblood of the publication.

Entertainment (Laurie Funkhouser):

The season started off with a bang with Bill Sullivan's traditional January presentation. The season attendance tapered off throughout the year, but as of September, it had a resurgence which, we hope, will continue. We continue to be very appreciative all committee members who help make the Potlucks a success. Thank you!

Science & Education (Joella Ewing):

Ten programs were attended by 219 participants. We collected \$218.78 in lodge

use fees. The only expense was \$50 in travel reimbursement for long distance speakers. Attendance ranged from 41 to eight with an average of 21. Highest attendance was for travelogue type programs.

Fire management and other ecology programs received the lowest attendance. Programs were promoted in a variety of ways including articles in the Obsidian Bulletin, notices in the RG outdoor calendar, color posters at the Y and other places, postings on other web sites, and e-mail reminders to those who have requested them. One new neighbor saw the cars arriving and decided to come see what was happening, and he said he was glad he did.

Membership (Julie Dorland):

As of September 2008 the membership is 569. At the beginning of this year, there were fewer people applying for membership. However, more recently, membership applications have increased. Nine new members were approved by the Board in September and, for the time period September to October 7, 2008, ten people submitted applications for membership. This year, we tried something new, and sent out renewal notices with a return envelop. This seems to have improved the return rate, and currently, about 70 percent of members have sent in their dues.

Publicity (Anne Dhu McLucas):

The activities for the year included: "Shades of Pink" October 2007—an event at the Hilton celebrating women's health—attendance at our booth was sparse, so we decided not to participate this year; Winter Fest 2008 - attendance was much sparser this year, and we raise the possibility that we might not take part next year; Eugene Celebration- September 2008—our annual booth did well this year; we had a new, simplified booth structure (a ready-made red 9 x 9 tent and a table with a photographic display). The booth had over 250 visitors, and according to reports, at least a few decided to look into joining the Obsidians because of their visit to the booth.

Regular CVALCO entries - as a result of our membership in the tourism organization for Lane County, we now have the opportunity to list such events as our potlucks and Science-Ed meetings in their regular e-mail bulletins. It remains to be seen how much this extra publicity will help. Thanks members: Marianne Camp, Allan Coons, Bob Huntley, George Jeffcott, Helen Martz. With addi-

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

tional help from Chris Stockdale and Jan and John Jacobsen; and to everyone who helped on publicity in formal and informal ways, with a special nod to Janet Jacobsen and Marshall Kandell (for the Olympic Trials), who are both one-person publicity machines!

Online (Wayne Deeter): The Online Committee maintains the Obsidian web site and e-mail system. The web site continues to provide up to date information about the club and our activities, and provide email list, scheduling and trip reporting services to other committees. Thanks go to my other committee member, John Jacobsen, for his continued support in maintaining and improving the website and our services to the club.

Finance (Stewart Hoeg): The Obsidian Finance Committee during the past year was responsible for putting together the 2008 budget, recommending investments for the Endowment Fund and Contingency Fund, allocating transfers in funds resulting in the repayment of the Endowment Fund loan, and beginning the rebuilding of the Contingency/Capital Fund. In addition, the committee audited

the General Fund, the Summer Camp Fund and the Bus Fund. Thanks to committee members John Jacobsen, Dan Christensen, Lana Lindstrom, Liz Reanier and Chairmen Stewart Hoeg.

Library/Historian (Lenore McManigal): The duty of the historian is to keep records of the activities the members participate in during the year. It is also the Historian's duty to record the number of activities, and trips led for members who will receive awards

There are three sets of books at the Historian's house, where she can look up records of past and deceased members, besides the current members. This has become a full-time job, which takes many hours each month. As of 9/28/08, 235 trips were recorded for the year beginning 10/1/07 to 9/28/08.

Lodge Building (Brian Hamilton): Net income for 2008 has been \$77.61. The Lodge has been rented for 12/20/08. Three work parties have been scheduled through the year – 1/19/08, 5/24/08, 9/18/08 – with 47 members helping out. A few issues have been brought up by members throughout the year and I have tried to address them or correct problems.

The Committee continues to monitor for repairs and maintenance needed. The stove pilot light is now turned off during the warm weather months to save fuel costs.

Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): The Obsidian Grounds Committee held 9 monthly work parties for routine maintenance and upkeep on the lodge grounds. We also had two major work parties, a spring and a fall session, held in conjunction with the lodge building committee, to handle major cleanup and repair chores. I would like to thank the following grounds committee members for doing so much work to keep the grounds in shape and looking good: Pat Adams, Rick Ahrens, Max Brown, Jim Floyd, Brenda Kame'enui, Gary Kirk, Darlene Mancuso, Doug Nelson, Effie Neth, John Pegg, Dave Predeek, Martha Welches, Janet Winter.

Safety (Doug Nelson): Despite the number of trips that were scheduled throughout the year, the Safety Committee was pleased to report that there were no incidents.

Awards: See the cover story for the list of Annual Award recipients.

OCTOBER BOARD NOTES

October 15, 2008

President Brian Hamilton called the meeting to order. The following members of the Board were present Laurie Funkhouser, Jim Pierce, Barb Revere, Anne McLucas, Wayne Deeter, Stewart Hoeg and Jim Duncan. Other members present were Lenore McManigal, Larry Huff, Doug Nelson, Julie Dorland, Kathy Hoeg, Lana Lindstrom, and Verna Kocken.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Delegate for FWOC Convention (10/10-12/08, Selma, Oregon): In follow-up, Brian Hamilton determined that Shirley Cameron would be available to attend the convention. Therefore, the Board APPROVED providing the registration fee for her to attend the convention with the understanding that a report be provided.

Barbara Hillary Update: Brian Ham-

ilton reiterated that Ms. Hillary will be speaking at the University of Oregon – 150 Columbia Hall – on October 23, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. The club did not sponsor this event.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Board Officers: Discussion regarding election of officers took place with the following expressing interest in the respective office: Jim Duncan – President, Jim Pierce – VP, Stewart Hoeg – Treasurer and Laurie Funkhouser – Secretary.

Planning of 2009 Annual Meeting: Brian Hamilton commented upon the need to develop enticement for members to attend the Annual Meeting and avoid issues regarding a quorum.

Sponsorship of Alpinist Film Festival: The Club received an offer from Alpinist Film Festival for a DVD showing of climb, surf and ski events (similar to the Warren Miller films). No action taken.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Summer Trips (Barb Revere): Since 9/3/08 – 34 trips have taken place with

153 members and 47 nonmembers for total fees collected of \$343.00.

Winter Trips (Jim Pierce): The process of e-mailing potential leaders has begun. Currently have 19 outings on the schedule with 12 potential leaders indicating that they will be leading trips.

Climbs (Larry Huff): There were a total of four climbs for the month of September with 16 members and 3 nonmembers participating. A total of \$93.00 fees were collected (\$48 member and \$45 non-member).

Summer Camp (Lana Lindstrom): Summer Camp will happen next year at Lassen National Park as reported in the last Bulletin. The wildflowers should be at their peak. Scott and Mandy Gilbert, the cooks last year, will be cooking again for us! The Board APPROVED Don Doerr and Wendy Dame as committee members.

Extended Trips (Jim Duncan): The three extended trips in 2008 resulted in contributions of \$430.00 in trip fees

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

paid and \$529.73 to Extended Fund.

Conservation (Juli McGlinsky): Lana Lindstrom informed attendees of the "Earth Leadership Center" addressing leadership skills to promote a sustainable culture.

Entertainment (Laurie Funkhouser): The September "Welcome Back" presentation by Sue Sullivan was well attended by approximately 124 individuals – including a large number of new

faces. The October potluck will be Sam and Zane Miller presenting their experiences trekking in Peru.

Membership (Julie Dorland): Ten applications for membership were received of which the Board APPROVED 9 applicants. Discussion regarding an applicant took place noting the lack of two membership signatures and some concerns regarding recent interactions. Therefore, his application was not approved. Current membership is 576.

Finance (Stewart Hoeg): Noted that

the Committee will be sending notices for Budget requests from Committees.

Library/Historian (Lenore McManigal): New membership sheets were generated for all the new members and all on-line reports have been recorded.

Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): Wayne Deeter stepped in for John Jacobsen. A work party will be scheduled for October 20 at 4:00 p.m. in preparation for the Science and Education program as well as the potluck.

NOVEMBER BOARD NOTES

November 5, 2008

President Brian Hamilton called the meeting to order. Present: Laurie Funkhouser, Jim Pierce, Marshall Kandell, Barb Revere, Anne McLucas, Wayne Deeter, Stewart Hoeg and Jim Duncan. Other members present were Larry Huff, Lenore McManigal, Doug Nelson, Joella Ewing, John Jacobsen, Elizabeth Reanier, and Kathleen Floyd.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Bike Rack: Doug Nelson has acquired a nice bike rack which he would like to contribute to the Lodge. The Board APPROVED his contribution and will work to provide concrete and muscle power.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Board Officers: Nominated officers APPROVED by the Board: President: Jim Duncan; Vice-President: Jim Pierce; Secretary: Laurie Funkhouser; Treasurer: Stewart Hoeg.

Club Funding of Dallas Cole Mural: John Jacobsen informed the Board that the "parts" of the wall have been sculpted and kilned but due to a recent illness in the family progress has been slowed. Discussion regarding payment for the materials took place. The Board APPROVED the Club contributing up to \$3,000 as needed to cover materials for this project.

Play in the Rain Day: Anne McLucas informed the Club of an upcoming event at Mt. Pisgah on November 22 sponsored by Northwest Youth Corp promoting youth exploring the outdoors even in the rain. A booth is \$20 plus the need for

activities from 10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. John Jacobsen, Larry Huff and potential others offered their assistance at this program.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Summer Trips (Barb Revere): Since the last report, 10 trips have taken place for a total of 160 for the season and 5 trips are still scheduled. Four trip reports are outstanding. A total of \$116.00 - \$51 members and \$65 non-member – fees were collected.

Winter Trips (Jim Pierce): Thirty-six outings – 18 hikes, 10 snowshoe and 8 cross-country trips – have been scheduled. There are leaders who have promised to submit trips – including some Board members – still outstanding. Looking to provide a leader mentor program rather than having a trip leader event at the Lodge due to the low attendance last year. In addition, looking to have leaders obtain the packets on line versus being mailed out due to the multiple changes in dates, venues, etc.

Climbs (Larry Huff): No report.

By-Ways-By-Bus (Liz Reanier): One trip is left for the 2008 season. Progress on the 2009 schedule has moving forward and is to include a trip led by Rick Ahrens – Eagles and More in February.

Summer Camp (Lana Lindstrom): A meeting has taken place and there is continued progress in the plans for Summer Camp in 2009. **Extended Trips** (Jim Duncan): Three trips are in the works.

Entertainment (Laurie Funkhouser): The October program presented by Sam and Zane Miller was attended by 50-54 people and collected \$49.00 in fees. The next program by Erick Alan – Wild Grace: Nature's Path is scheduled for November 21st.

Science and Education (Joella Ewing): Eleven people attended the Oct. SciEd Program and contributed \$11. November 18 program is by Director Chris Orsinger of Friends of Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah talking about restoration efforts there.

Membership (Julie Dorland): Based on the understanding that there are applicants who needed approval, the Board APPROVED the new members, after receipt of the applicant names by e-mail.

Concessions (Kathleen Floyd): August sales totaled \$109.00, October totaled \$30.00 with no expenses.

Online (Wayne Deeter): No report but will look into the status of the fill-in sign-up sheet.

Finance (Stewart Hoeg): Committee is working on developing the 2009 budget and recommended Committee chairs e-mailing budget requests.

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

Lodge Building (Brian Hamilton): Kathy Hoeg suggested we have the chimney cleaned and the committee will be taking steps to do this.

Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): Special thanks to Wayne Deeter for cleaning the grounds prior to the Science and Education and Entertainment program in John's absence. Additional helpers were Max Brown, Jim Floyd, Gary Kirk, Doug Nelson, Effie Neth and John Pegg. Gary returned after the work party with his pressure washer and cleaned up the handicap parking pavers. Pat Adams was able to deal with removing trees in a swap for the summer camp trailer. Still there are trees to be bucked, stacked and wood sold.

TRIP REPORTS & OTHER ACTIVITIES



Hikes

Brice Creek

June 21, 2008

Leader: Becky Lipton

6.7 miles, 1,300 ft. (Moderate)

BRICE CREEK was as beautiful as ever. The creek was rushing with spring run-off and flowers were blooming everywhere. Members: Myron Cook, Pat Esch, Becky Lipton and Pat Soussan; nonmembers: Cathy McLaughlin and Lamonte Smith.

Iron Mountain/Cone Peak

June 29, 2008

Leader: Becky Lipton

6.6 miles, 1,900 ft. (Mod-Difficult)

SMARTER HIKERS than the hike leader either cancelled or didn't show up for this hike. I would guess maybe they bailed out due to the first forecast of 95 degrees in the high mountains this weekend or because they checked in with the Forest Service first about trail conditions. At any rate, one unsuspecting guest showed up and experienced how this moderate hike became a difficult hike in the last weekend of June after a winter of record snows. Several remaining snow drifts provided an interesting hike up to the summit of Iron Mountain, where we discovered that the welcoming Fire Tower had turned into a pile of unsightly rubbish. We averted our eyes from the sad sight and looked out over the mountains beyond where many patches of snow remained from the long winter. Flowers were almost nonexistent; most of the flora was still pressed to the ground from being under tons of snow. A few trilliums were beginning to poke up through the forest floor and did give the promise of more to come. Upon descending Iron Mountain, we decided to try the Cone Peak Meadows trail. And now the adventure began. One snow drift after another soon became a solid field of 4-foot deep snow broken only by the occasional eroding effects of rushing snowmelt and frequent holes around tree trunks where we

would catch sight of the trail from time to time. Our adventurous guest did eventually query as to whether this was a good idea but by that time we had already traveled at least two miles across the snow fields and had come close to the other side of the mountain. In the end, after another mile or so, we did lose track of the trail, but the obvious and only way to go was to continue around the mountain and down, so around and down we went. I would say we were bushwhacking at this point but there were no bushes to whack - only more snow! Eventually we did return to the less snowy side of the mountain and made our way down through the trees to the road where we were less than 50 yards from where we were supposed to be. This was an adventure to be sure. Our guest did enjoy the glissading that we did but decided she really needed to invest in real hiking shoes for her next Obsidian adventure, as the Birkenstock shoes were a bit chilly! Member Becky Lipton and nonmember Barb Orsi participated.

South Cinder Peak

September 4, 2008

Leader: Dan Christensen

13.50 miles, 2,300 ft. (Difficult)

BEAUTIFUL CLEAR SKIES with modest temperature made for nearly perfect hiking conditions. The hike extends from the Cabot Lake trailhead on the east side of the Jefferson Wilderness up to the Pacific Crest Trail and then on to the top of South Cinder Peak. The first two miles pass through the Cabot Lake burn of several years ago on a relatively flat trail. Vegetation is limited to fireweed, low shrubs of various kinds which are overgrowing the trail in some places, and lots of fire-blackened trees. The first of the new pine tree seedlings are just beginning to appear above the surface. The second 2.8 mile section of the hike climbs rather steeply in a series of switchbacks from Cabot for a time and then levels out again for the hike on to Carl Lake. The forest is primarily hemlock with some true fir and spruce; the ponderosa pine having been left behind near Cabot Lake. The trail continues southeast past Shirley Lake, another pretty alpine lake slightly smaller than Cabot. The trail then resumes climbing

steeply along the side of a spectacular canyon up to the Pacific Crest Trail. The trail to the peak proceeds south on the PCT less than 1/4 mile before turning east and bushwhacking a very short distance across a glacial plain to the base of the cylindrical peak. A climb of the peak appears formidable from the base, with a pitch of 15% or more. But the climb took only 15-20 minutes on a well-defined trail. The view from the top makes the effort worthwhile. Mt. Jefferson is very close to the north and provides a stunning view. One feels he should be able to reach out and touch it! A number of other peaks are also visible including Three Fingerted Jack and Washington. Although the hike requires the investment in a 12-hour day (including the 2-hour drive each way), it is well worth it. Members: Dan Christensen, Daphne James, Lynne Moody and Jim Pierce.

Waldo Lake/Black Meadow

September 14, 2008

Leader: Scott Hovis

10 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

THERE HAS BEEN A LOT of "blow-down" on the trails: one spot required basic path - finding skills to get back onto the trail. Huckleberries were late this year. Waldo had a high water level for September, and a few creeks were flowing too. A fair amount of haze was in the sky, evidently from forest fires. Members: Paul Brown, Dick Hildreth, Scott Hovis, Lynne Moody, Ernst Schwinter and Steve Stifel.

Vivian Lake

September 16, 2008

Leader: Diane Jeffcott

9 miles, 1,600 ft. (Moderate)

FIVE OF US HIKED on a warm, sunny Tuesday to Vivian Lake. Along the way we passed millions of huckleberries, Fall Creek Falls, Diamond Creek Falls, Salt Creek Falls, and no other hikers. At the lake we had a great view of Mt. Yorlan, ate our lunch, walked part way around the lake, and saw lots of tiny frogs. We left Eugene at 8:30 and arrived back by 5:45. We picked lots of berries on our way back, and could have picked for hours - yum, they were sooooo good! Members: Glenn Hoernig, Diane Jeffcott, Jim Pierce and Elle Weaver; nonmembers: Robin Armstrong.

Waldo Mountain Loop

September 21, 2008

Leader: Peter Asai

8.8 miles, 2,000 ft. (Moderate)

THREE OBSIDIAN MEMBERS and one nonmember completed this 8.8-mile loop hike up over Waldo Mountain and back through Waldo Meadows. The weather was overcast and threatening. While the initial part of the hike up Waldo Mountain was refreshingly cool, after a quick lunch at the lookout the rain began and pretty much kept up the whole way back. Becky Lipton broke out her yellow rain poncho and was treated to an olfactory surprise courtesy of her cat. This added a certain memorable savor to the misty atmosphere of the remaining hike. An abundance of ripe huckleberries provided a much enjoyed compensation for the drizzly conditions. The group returned pretty much soaked through but in admirably positive attitudes. Members: Peter Asai, Paul Flashenberg and Becky Lipton; nonmembers: Chris Van Steenberge.

Belknap Crater

September 21, 2008

Leader: John Jacobsen

6 miles, 800 ft. (Moderate)

WITH ONLY ONE PERSON, Barb Revere, signed up, I skipped the SEHS meeting and picked her up on the way through Springfield. As we headed out, we soon encountered light drizzle, but anticipating better weather in the mountains we kept going. On reaching the trailhead, the drizzle eased up, and by 9:30 when we started north on the PCT the drizzle had stopped. As we entered the Little Belknap lava field the visibility was very limited, creating a bit of an eerie atmosphere. After another 2.5 miles through the open lava, we reached Little Belknap, when a new wave of serious drizzle moved in, along with a good wind. We decided to bag it and beat a hasty retreat. The rain increased and we were glad when we made it back to the car. We also decided to bag our bag lunches and headed to Finn Rock for a proper lunch. Members: John Jacobsen and Barb Revere.

Clear Lake

September 21, 2008

Leader: Beth Roy

5.5 miles, 200 ft. (Easy)

WE GATHERED AT SEHS AT 8:30 and headed up the McKenzie Highway, hoping to see fall colors. Although we had a bit of drizzle, the hike around Clear Lake

was pleasant and we enjoyed stopping at all the markers to read about the natural history of the lake. We stopped for lunch at the Great Springs and marveled at the source of the McKenzie River. The vine maple was indeed red in places, and although the lake was ruffled with wind and we couldn't see the underwater forest, it was a good tramp on this day of the autumnal equinox. Members included Beth Roy, Marshall Kandell, Julie Dorland, Wayne Cleall, and Ann-Marie Askew; nonmembers joining us were Moshe Rapaport, James Baldwin, and Ralph Core.

Indigo and Chuckle Springs

September 21, 2008

Leader: Jim and Sharon Duncan

6.3 miles, 400 ft. (Moderate)

THE MIDDLE FORK TRAIL on the Willamette River is beautiful any time of year, but especially in late summer and early fall when golden sunlight filters down through the trees. Our small group enjoyed a day characterized by intermittent sun and clouds and finally a few showers as we ended the hike. Because the trail roughly follows the route of the Oregon Central Military Wagon Road, we made the obligatory stop at Rigdon Meadows, then hiked three miles to Indigo Springs for lunch. We continued another 1.5 miles to Chuckle Springs before returning to our car shuttle at Indigo Springs. More water appeared to be flowing from the springs this year, perhaps due to the heavy snow-pack from last winter. Nevertheless, the stream crossings were negotiated without casualties. The hikers included members Jim Duncan, Sharon Duncan, Karla Rusow, Guy Strahon, Judy Terry and nonmember Mary Hickok.

McKenzie River Trail, Deer Creek to Trailbridge

September 23, 2008

Leader: Barb Revere

7.6 miles, 120 ft. (Moderate)

THE STRETCH of the McKenzie River Trail that we traveled was unknown to all of us and the weather was iffy, but we pushed on valiantly. What a wonderful fall trip! Marshall Kandell and Mary Morrison were my intrepid companions. We first hiked downriver to view the Deer Creek hot springs, then set out to do a small portion of the 27-mile trail, hiking upriver to the dam. The route follows the river closely and doesn't climb much and the surface is easy on the boots and

feet. Our turn-around point was the Trailbridge dam, where we saw some EWEB workers wrestling a large orange tub at the dam outlet. Were they dumping it over the side or just moving it to a different area -- we didn't stop long enough to find out. We enjoyed many very large trees along our path, mostly Douglas firs, but also red cedar and alder. It was all very ferny and lovely in the crisp fall weather that we were hoping for but didn't dare to expect. Members: Marshall Kandell, Mary Morrison and Barb Revere.

Rexius Trail

September 25, 2008

Leader: Marshall Kandell

4 miles, 50 ft. (Easy)

THIS WAS THE THIRD AND FINAL (for now) of our weekly hikes from Amazon Community Center up one side of Amazon Creek and down the other on the Rexius Trail. Two cancellations and a no-show left us with a small but convivial group of four hikers. Joining Obsidians Marshall Kandell and Myron Cook were Sue and John Oberton. Sue was on her second Obsidian hike. She and John, who recently retired from the Forest Service, were looking forward to more Obsidian activities and membership. We all wound up at the Hideaway Bakery to replenish our caloric expenditures. Members: Myron Cook and Marshall Kandell; nonmembers: John Oberton and Sue Oberton.

Red Butte

September 27, 2008

Leader: Sam Miller

11.8 miles, 1,800 ft. (Difficult)

THE TRAIL TO RED BUTTE offers a variety of sights including forests, meadows, lakes and an extensive burn area. From the top of Red Butte (5,848 feet) our group of 10 hikers enjoyed lunch along with panoramic views of Mt. Jefferson, Three Fingered Jack, and the Three Sisters. Participants in this 11.8 mile outing were members Rich Romm, Jim Fritz, Denise Butler, Rich Anselmo, Jan Anselmo, Daphne James, Mary Frazer and Sam Miller (leader) and nonmembers Jerry Hawn and Tim Swallen.

Umpqua Dunes

September 27, 2008

Leader: Robert Huntley

8.5 miles, 150 ft. (Moderate)

IT WAS ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL, sunny day on the dunes. Seals popped their

heads up to check us out, and pelicans and gulls were everywhere on the beach. The seven of us were the only humans to be seen. Everyone agreed that this hike is worth the long ride. Hikers were members Pat Soussan, Jane Allen, Linda Hovey, co-leaders Bob and Zella Huntley and nonmembers Eric Grape and Susanna Grape.

Salt Creek Falls/Vivian Lake September 27, 2008 Leader & Photo: Charles Durham 8 miles, 1,600 ft. (Moderate)

UNDER A CLOUDY COOL Eugene morning in late September nine hardy souls started out with five goals in mind: hike to Vivian Lake, visit three waterfalls (Salt Creek, Diamond Creek and Fall Creek), view Mt. Yoran, pick huckleberries and most importantly return home in time for the Ducks vs. Washington game on TV. We did our introductions, collected money and decided carpool options. With nine hikers why not use two cars and reduce our carbon footprint? Since I just purchased my new Outback, I was sure I could stack two people in front and three in the back. Well that's fine if you can find the seatbelt for the rear middle seat. With the help of Carol, Susan, Teresa and what seemed like hours of embarrassment to me, they located the seatbelt tucked away in the ceiling. After we located our 9th hiker, who was lost inside the YMCA, we finally departed

Eugene at 8:20 am, arrived at Salt Creek at 9:44 am and on the trail by 10 am. We started our hike along the Salt Creek loop to the Vivian Lake trail. Then we went up into the Diamond Peak Wilderness area, with a view of Fall Creek Falls, which had very low water flow but was still beautiful. We arrived at the lake around noon and ate our lunch with Mt. Yoran in view. By now we had accomplished most of our goals: view of Vivian Lake, Mt. Yoran, Salt Creek Falls, and Fall Creek Falls. After lunch we started our return, picking berries along the way and had a quick view of Diamond Creek Falls. We then made a mad rush back to the trailhead and were back in Eugene for the game, mission completed. Thanks to a great group of hikers. Members: Nola Nelson and Susan Sanazaro; nonmembers: Peggy Rubinstein, Don Colgan, Abbott Sayre, (who both filled out membership applications) Michelle Miller, Carol Anderson, and Teresa (no last name given).

Four-In-One-Cone September 28, 2008 Leader: Clare Tucker 8.6 miles, 1,500 ft. (Moderate)

THE DAY WAS PERFECT, sunny and warm with a little breeze at the top. Washington, Jefferson, and Three Fingered Jack jumped out of the immense lava field view as usual when we reached the top of the ridge. On the way out, Lana

and Richard found a smoking campfire which we were able to put almost completely out with everyone donating their drinking water. Out of fourteen people signed up for this hike, only six turned out for the trip: members Richard Hughes, Lana Lindstrom, Nola Nelson, Richard Sundt, and Clare Tucker, leader, and nonmember Draylynn VanNess.

Maiden Peak September 28, 2008 Leader: Doug McCarty 11 miles, 3,000 ft. (Difficult)

THE WEATHER WAS BEAUTIFUL and the trail was shady. This fall classic is so nice because it is so simple, and simple pleasures are the best. The drive to Gold Lake Road is a straight shot, parking in the shade is easy and we were on the trail by 9:45 am. Ten hikers took the pleasant Maiden Peak trail 5.5 miles up to the top where the vistas were 360 degrees, the breeze was pleasant, the temperature about 80 degrees, and food very tasty. After about 45 minutes at the top, the group reluctantly began the hike back down, and we were back at South Eugene High School parking lot by 5:30 pm. Hikers included members Laurie Funkhouser, Daphne James, Sue Wolling, Chrissy Anderson, Susan Wanser, Marianne Camp, George Baitinger, leader Doug McCarty, and nonmembers Terry Caron and Chris Molly.

Heceta Head September 28, 2008 Leader & Photo: Ann-Marie Askew 6 miles, 800 ft. (Moderate)

FIVE OF US DROVE to the Washburne Park day use area in a single car, and found the coastal weather as lovely as in Eugene -- low 70s, no wind, and a cloudless sky. The sand was pristine, thanks to last week's beach clean-up. Pat and Moshe toured the Heceta Head lighthouse while Anne, Yuan, and Ann-Marie shooed away flies taking advantage of the warm still air to check out our sandwiches. After lunch we hiked back up and down the Oregon Coast Trail to the Hobbit Trail where we crossed the highway to return on the lush Valley Trail. On the drive home we stopped at Alpha-Bits and marveled at the warm, happy communards who served us coffee, tea, and yummy date bars. Members: Pat Endicott, Anne Hollander, Yuan Hopkins, Moshe Rapaport, and leader Ann-Marie Askew.



Salt Creek/Vivian Lake hikers September 27

Sweet Creek

October 2, 2008

Leader: Jim Pierce

2 miles, 150 ft. (Easy)

IT STARTED TO RAIN AS WE LEFT and got more wet as we went west, but we were dressed for rain and enjoyed our leisurely hike. Sweet Creek was a joyous place... as usual. The low water showed the rocks and delicate falls, and we found eight different ferns. Members: Jim Pierce and Moshe Rapaport; nonmember: Norene Pergament.

Carl Lake

October 5, 2008

Leader: Laurie Funkhouser

9.4 miles, 1,000 ft. (Difficult)

THE CREW LEFT SEHS close to 8:00 under cloudy skies. After a brief stop at Harbicks on Highway 126, we reached the trailhead to begin hiking close to 10:45 am with the temperature gauge showing 52 degrees. At the beginning of the hike, the trail weaved through the 2003 burn with the trees looking stark in contrast to the beautiful fall colors of the undergrowth. Took a break at the first lake - Cabot Lake - then continued on to reach Carl Lake, where a change in weather took place. The clouds came in and the soft mist began with a touch of a breeze. Our lunch was short to avoid getting too cold. A brisk walk back kept the coldness at bay and presented a rainbow. We reached the cars around 3:30 to head home under rainy skies. A great day with good company - thank you all! Members: Carol Armstrong, Brad Bennett, Laurie Funkhouser, Dick Hildreth, Sue Meyers, Sam Miller, Chris Molly and Moshe Rapaport; nonmember: Tim Swallen.

Trials Country

October 11, 2008

Leader: Anne Dhu McLucas and Jim Gillette

6 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

THIS WAS A LOCAL HIKE at a property known as "Trials Country," which is a five-hundred acre wooded tract southwest of Eugene at the conjunction of Blanton Road and the Lorane Highway. Jim Gillette and Anne McLucas have laid out a six-mile trail that goes through many kinds of woods, including oak savannah, old-growth ponderosas, mad-



Heceta Head hikers, Anne, Moshe, Yuan and Ann-Marie on September 28

rones, cedars, maples, and of course lots of Doug fir. The small group (four people total) started at a leisurely 10 am, with the sun still hiding, but it came out in time to have lunch along the trail, and we were back by about 2 pm. Hiking were nonmembers Nicki Masters and Robert Coleman, new member Moshe Rapaport, and led by Anne Dhu McLucas with assistance of Jim Gillette.

McKenzie River Trail (Carmen to Tamolitch Pool, Koosah & Sahalie Falls)

October 11, 2008

Leader: Barb Revere

7.6 miles, 400 ft. (Moderate)

WITHOUT ANOTHER CAR we were unable to do a through-hike, so we opted to do the trail along the underground part of the McKenzie River from Carmen Reservoir to Tamolitch Pool. The 'Blue Pool' was, as always, beautiful and peaceful, and our turn-around point. When we arrived back at the car at Carmen we wanted more walking, so opted to hike up to Koosah and Sahalie Falls and found them flush and full. All of the river banks are lush and green like in spring, with little fall color -- unusual for a chilly October day. We kept our gloves and warm hats on from start to finish. Members: Paul Flashenberg, Carol Petty and Barb Revere.

Mary's Peak

October 12, 2008

Leader: Jim Pierce

9 miles, 2,000 ft. (Moderate)

OUR TRIP TO BLACK BUTTE was changed due to black ice on the pass. We decided on Mary's Peak to enjoy the nearly clear skies. The northeast ridge was a very different trail from May when there was a foot of snow on most of the trail. We even saw grasshoppers and a few flowers on this crisp October day. The views and forest were fabulous. Members: Carolyn Higgins, Becky Lipton and Jim Pierce; nonmember: Ginny Saunders.

Duffy Lake

October 12, 2008

Leader: Barb Revere

6.6 miles, 800 ft. (Moderate)

ALL BUNDLED UP IN FLEECE mittens and hats, we started up the trail to find that the dusting of snow at the trailhead turned into a fully covered trail --but only an inch or so, so on we went. At the lake, the usually inviting lunch spot at south beach was passed by for the ridge on the south side of Duffy Butte. Here we found sunshine instead of shade, fluffy vegetation instead of wet sand and, best of all, a fine view of Three Fingered Jack to the east. Even though a high overcast rolled in and a bit of mysterious 'Oregon mist' fell during our repast, it was hard to pack

up and head down the trail to end this fine, clear and cold October day. No campers or horsemen were seen -- a single bare rectangle of earth and footsteps in the snow of a lone hiker were the only evidence that we weren't the discoverers of beautiful Duffy Lake -- perhaps Duffy's ghost revisited over the weekend. Members: Wayne Cleall, Pat Esch, Lou Maenz, Barb Revere, Beth Roy and Charles Wright; nonmembers: Deb Brewer and John Lorang.

West Eugene Wetlands

October 17, 2008

Leader: Chris Cunningham

3 miles, 0 ft. (Easy)

EIGHT OF US BEGAN OUR WALK at Meadowlark Prairie Overlook on this overcast autumn morning. Moshe Rapaport, who recently relocated here from Hawaii, was astonished at the number of Canada geese migrating overhead—perhaps as many as one hundred, on two separate occasions. Having newcomers in our midst certainly deepens our appreciation for the tremendous diversity in the Northwest. Curiosity, rather than pace, prompted us to stop often to watch other birds, including Great Blue Herons in flight and on water, and what we believed to be a cormorant standing guard atop a weathered tree stump near one of the shallow wetland pools. Crossing a bridge, we noted a sandpiper, poking its bill into soft mud for a meal. Enjoying the walk with Chris Cunningham were members Moshe Rapaport, Lou Maenz, Joan Abel, Myron Cook, Margaret Prentice, Dick Hildreth, and nonmember Norene Pergament.

Fall Creek

October 18, 2008

Leader: Ed Lichtenstein

9.3 miles, 700 ft. (Moderate)

ANOTHER FINE HIKE DOWN THE CREEK --and up one ridge. Lots of fall colors and rushing water. There was early fog/overcast and then it was partly sunny for much of the day. Eleven hikers in three cars set up the shuttle for the one-way hike. Hikers were Robert Leppan (about to become a new member), nonmembers Nathan Thompson and Mike Schwab, and members Lena Houston, Daniele Delaby, Barbara Schomaker, Karla Rusow, Nola Nelson, Lynda Godell, Ernst Schwintzer, and leader Ed Lichtenstein.

Cape Mountain

October 19, 2008

Leader: Pat Hutchins

7.7 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

A GRAY DAY IN THE VALLEY makes a great day for a hike! So our crew of five (including one drive-up “is there still room?” traveler) headed to the coast to Cape Mountain in search of the sun. At the trailhead just a few miles north of Florence we discussed options and decided to scale the mountain early in the day, then head north and then down into Berry Creek before taking lunch at Nelson Ridge. The weather was mild as we trekked through the fir, spruce and cedars.

At times you could hear the surf hitting the beach even though it's close to five miles away. We found a few remnant huckleberries and some oxalis to snack on, and a lot of mushrooms to view. As we came out of the canyon and onto the meadows at Nelson Ridge we were greeted by bright sunshine and a great view to the north of Baker Beach and the Siuslaw jetties. Some skin (mostly ankles and feet) was exposed to the fall sun and a leisurely lunch was enjoyed. Then back up the trail where we heard, but could not quite see, a herd of elk in the draw below us. A frog and a snake were observed before the end of a nice trip. Members: Jim Fritz, Pat Hutchins, Moshe Rapaport and Susan Sanazaro; nonmember: Diane Kurz.

H. J. Andrews/Lookout Creek

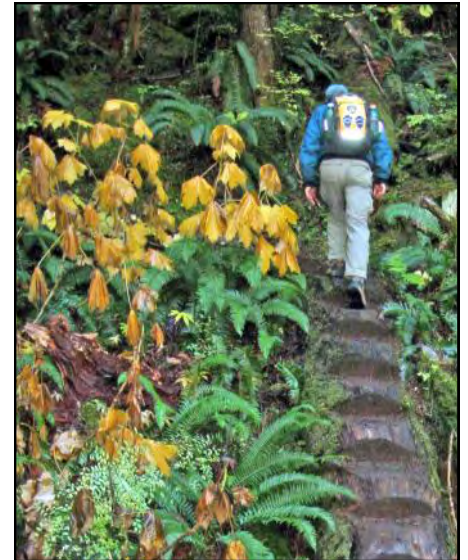
October 26, 2008

Leader & Photo: Brian Hamilton

3.5 miles, 1,400 ft. (Moderate)

THIS TRIP in the H. J. Andrews Experimental Forest began with a tour led by Site Manager Kathy Keable. We toured laboratories, conference rooms, and support spaces where scientists from all over the world come to study forests, watersheds, air quality, soils, flora, and fauna. We learned about long-term studies of spotted owls, log decomposition, stream sediment flows, and logging practices. The site has the capacity to house about 80 visitors. One of the unusual uses of the site is Long Term Ecological Reflections, a creative writers' collaboration, intended to continue for 200 years, in which participants reflect upon the many parts of the forest through poems, essays, and other literature.

We finished up our tour with a visit to the experimental debris-flow flume, a concrete chute 300 feet long with a 60 percent slope and a large runout area where scientists study the effects of landslides.



After the tour, we drove about eight miles to the Lookout Creek Old Growth Trail, leaving one vehicle at the upper trailhead. We started at the lower trailhead and hiked the 3.5 miles in about 3½ hours with a break for lunch. We had cool but clear weather and enjoyed the autumn colors, huge cedar, fir, and hemlock trees, many varieties of mushrooms and ferns, nurse logs, and lots of thorny Devil's Club. The trail was in good shape, with several slippery log bridges and some log stairs, but it was a more rigorous hike than we had expected. Near the creek crossings, many large trees had fallen and we were impressed by the effort it must take to keep the trail cleared by cutting and moving sections of logs up to six feet in diameter. After reaching the upper trailhead, we shuttled back to our second vehicle.

We finished our day with a short hike on an unmarked trail to the site of the 200-year Log Decomposition Experiment which has been continuing for over 50 years. It was fascinating, but to those of us without a scientific background, it generated about as much excitement as watching grass grow! Our hikers/tourists included guest Meredith Fox and Obsidians Jim and Sharon Duncan, Mary Hamilton, Joanne Ledet, Charlene Pierce, Jim Pierce, and Brian Hamilton (leader).

Pre's & River Trails
October 27, 2008
Leader: Marshall Kandell
Photo: Lou Maenz
4 miles, 0 ft. (Easy)



OUR MORNING BEGAN with our breath visible in the chilly air, and ducks scurrying after bits and pieces of nuts being dropped from the tree limbs above our heads by sloppy squirrels. Bright sunshine soon dispersed all morning fog and revealed the glorious fall colors of Alton Baker Park. Autumn was also reflected in the various lakes and waterways along Pre's Trail. A Great Blue Heron posed as we passed by, but no other significant wildlife was spotted. What a beautiful hike...and right here in our own backyard! Hikers, all members, were David and Shelly Call, Myron Cook, Marshall Kandell, Sandra Larsen and Lou Maenz.

Duck Pond to Island Park
October 30, 2008
Leader: Marshall Kandell
4.5 miles, 0 ft. (Easy)

ON WHAT PROMISED TO BE the final glorious day of autumn before the rains commenced and daylight savings time ended, there were but two stalwart Obsidians on this wonderful stroll. Alton Baker Park was dressed in its finest fall colors and did its best to luxuriously carpet its trails with leaves of all hues and shapes. The hike along Pre's Trail to Island Park offered a continuing series of classic fall scenes, serene water vistas, scurrying squirrels and a distant Great Blue Heron (we always see one...is it the same one?).

Our timing was perfect for catching the Em-X back to Agate Street, from where we returned to the duck pond via the Autzen Bridge and River Trail. The weather was overcast and a bit on the cool side. There were public restrooms on both ends of the hike. Who could ask for anything more!? Hikers were Myron Cook and Marshall Kandell.



Bike Trips

Our Daily Bread, Veneta
September 20, 2008
Leader: Sharon Ritchie
42 miles, 200 ft. (Moderate)

THE FIRST DAY OF FALL was a perfect day for a bike ride: cool, with clouds and sun. Ten other people joined me on a favorite ride on back-country roads to Veneta for a fantastic lunch at Our Daily Bread with a return via Crow Road and the bike path. My sincere thanks to Barb Bruns, Stewart Hoeg, Judy Terry, Richard Hughes, Guy Strahon, Paul Garrick, Lewis Luchs, Kitson & Peter Graham and Walt Davis for sharing this lovely day and great ride with me. I also want to thank Stewart for showing us the "Van Dusen Cutoff." You'll have to come on the next ride to find out what that means!! Members: Barb Bruns, Walt Davis, Paul Garrick, Kitson Graham, Peter Graham, Stewart Hoeg, Richard Hughes, Sharon Ritchie, Guy Strahon and Judy Terry; nonmember: Lewis Luchs.

Briggs Hill/Hinman Winery
October 18, 2008
Leader: Sharon Ritchie
36 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

OUR "SUNSHINY" DAY started out "drizzle/drip" from fog with possible showers in the morning. Rats! In spite of this, ten diehards showed up at Amazon and off we went. Those with glasses needed windshield wipers going down Lorane on the backside, but, fortunately, about a half-hour later the fog lifted and the rest of the day was high clouds and cool (not cold) temps. We ate lunch on the patio at Hinman and were joined by Jim Robertson, who works at Hinman and whose completed Obsidian membership application is sitting on his desk. I want to thank all those who chose to brave the nasty weather and have a great ride with me. They were nonmember Pat Gripp and members Stewart Hoeg, Barb Bruns, Paul Garrick, Joyce Sanders, Kurt Koivu, George Jobanek, Darrell McBee and Walt Davis. Also my sincere thanks to George for taking "Point".

McKenzie View/Bottom Loop
October 19, 2008
Leader: Guy Strahon
25 miles, 100 ft. (Moderate)

ON A COLD (46 DEGREES) Sunday morning, six hearty bicyclists left on a scenic fall ride north of Eugene. The weatherman (why do I listen to these people) had promised a sunny day with 64 degrees. We were bundled up for the cool weather and it was dry so we had a very enjoyable ride. After going 12 miles round-trip on McKenzie View we rode into Coburg for a pleasant lunch at the Wind-up Bird House Cafe. Then we continued our ride on Coburg's Bottom Loop and returned to our starting point at ShopKo parking lot on Coburg Road. By then it had warmed to a balmy 52 degrees. Members Sam Houston, George Jobanek, Ben Muir, Guy Strahon, Judy Terry and nonmember Kim Skukas had a very beautiful fall color ride.



Climbs

Mount Thielsen
September 20, 2008
Leader: Jim Pierce
9 miles, 2,600 ft. (no rating)

WE GLIDED PAST THE FIRE on Highway 58 with just a minor slowing rather than the expected 20-30 minute delays. At Diamond Lake, we could see and smell the smoke, but could see across the lake. Dinner at the lodge was rustic elegance. The south campground was closed, so we spent the night at the trailhead. It drizzled as we set up Steve's tent. Elle decided to sleep in the van. We were in bags by 9:00 pm. Brian arrived about 11:00. During the night it was partly cloudy with brief glimpses of stars. We were up by 5:00 am; it was still quite dark and started drizzling again as we took down the tent and packed up the gear. Breakfast was by van light. We hit the trail with headlamps at 6:00 am in a light drizzle. There was still the aroma of fire in the air, despite the drizzle. After 10 minutes it started to rain steadily. We were sure that the fire crews wanted that rain. Headlamps were off about 6:30. After 40 minutes we reached the trail

junction to Howlock Mountain, which is just under two miles in. Above the junction the trail steepened. There were several places where a wind shear had come through and blown down most (if not all) the trees in a swath 100-200 yards wide. The trail had been cleared or rerouted through those sections and was in good shape. At 7:00 we got a nice view of Diamond Lake and Mount Bailey, and ten minutes later we got our first look at Thielsen. We reached the PCT (Pacific Crest Trail) at 7:43, having covered four miles and about 1900 feet, half the elevation gain. Above the PCT we were on the west ridge of Thielsen where the wind picked up and occasionally we were pelted with icy sleet. Since we were wet from the rain, we got cold quickly. We added layers and continued up the ridge. The wind got stronger near the tree line. After a conference, we concluded that the wind, wet and cold were too great to try the summit. So we turned back about 8:20 at about 8000 feet. We could see the smoke layer on Mount Bailey up to about 7600 feet. We crossed the PCT at 8:45 going down. The rain stopped below the PCT. We got to the Howlock junction at 9:45 and to the trailhead at 10:20. On the descent, we met three other parties: only one pair was going to try the summit, but they had not yet felt the wind. It was a disappointment not to summit, but the hike was nice anyway. Members: Brain Hamilton, Jim Pierce, Steve Still and Elle Weaver.

Diamond Peak **September 27, 2008** **Leader & Photo: Jim Pierce** **10 miles, 3,200 ft. (Class 3)**

WE STARTED from the LCC parking lot at 6:00 under clear skies. That should have given us time to drive, make the climb and return in daylight, but I got lost several times on poorly marked roads. (Note: take good maps.) I recommend driving to Summit Lake from the west side. We did not, and found the road from Crescent Lake highway is six miles of VERY poor roads (over 40 minutes in dry conditions). We did not start hiking until almost 10:00, two hours late. The Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) leaves from just north of Summit Lake at about 5600 feet. In the first 20 minutes the trail passes beside several small ponds, through a dry, mixed forest. Hike about



Long rocky road to the top of Diamond Peak

2.3 miles to trail junction to Marie Lake. Continue on PCT another 1.2 miles through forest of huge mountain hemlocks with ground cover of short red huckleberries (with tiny berries!). Hike to obvious rock outcrop with fabulous views of Summit Lake to the south at 6600 feet. The large rock cairn is around the sharp right corner (about 50 yards). We took 2.5 hours to reach the cairn, including time for lunch. The climbers' trail is obvious to the left, up the ridgeline.

The trail up the ridge is VERY steep. There are many trails, all marked with cairns, so take note of your route. The upper half of the ridge, above most of the trees, is difficult scree and talus. There was a wonderful hatch of butterflies flowing down the mountain with the slight northwesterly breeze. On the ridgeline, whitebark pines joined the now-stunted mountain hemlocks. After clearing the forest we frequently looked back down the ridge to be sure of our descent along the middle ridge. We mostly hiked up the talus (and down the scree) to the south summit (false summit) at 8421 feet. We reached the south summit about 2:00. There were several other climbers there, including a dog without scree booties. The six of us left our packs and hiked 0.4 miles around the three gendarmes to the true summit (8744 feet). It took us over 4.5 hours to reach the true summit of Diamond Peak.

From the summit we could see the Sisters, Jefferson and even Mount Hood

to the north and Thielsen to the south. There were also several lakes visible: Waldo, Odell, Crescent, Summit, and Diamond, despite the smoke that had started to drift in from the Kitson Ridge fire, just a few miles away. After a few quick photos we were headed down. We were back to the south summit about 3:00. From the south summit, the scree descent was relatively fast; poles are a great help. We were down to the PCT in just over an hour. We took a long break at the rock outcropping as the smoke drifted across Summit Lake. The hike out took another 1.5 hours, so it was about 6:00 when we got back to the trailhead. Jim took 140 pictures. Members: Becky Lipton, Charlene Pierce, Jim Pierce, Guy Strahon, Judy Terry and Elle Weaver; nonmember: Brian Watson.



Backpacks

Alder Springs/NE of Sisters **September 19-21, 2008** **Leader: Scott Hovis** **8 miles, 1,600 ft. (Moderate)**

THIS WAS A GOOD PLACE to find solitude. The trail can be steep in areas, so walking sticks are helpful. We carried out a fair amount of trash that others left behind, but quite a bit more

needs to be picked up. We went down farther along the Deschutes River, then there was trail; it's an easy bushwhack you might want to consider. The ford across the creek, to the better camp sites, is passable: about 25 feet wide, ankle deep, and very cold. The drive in is on some rough dirt roads, but still passable by just about any vehicle, just don't try and break the sound barrier. Members: Brad Bennett and Scott Hovis.

Extended Trips

Lewis & Clark's Footsteps

October 3-5, 2008

Leader and photo: Jim Duncan

TWELVE INTREPID TRAVELERS, on an Obsidian extended trip, spent the weekend of October third through fifth exploring Lewis & Clark sites near the mouth of the Columbia River. The sporadic rain and cooler temperatures during the weekend made it slightly easier to imagine the travails of the Corps of Discovery as they camped on the banks of the Columbia in November of 1805 at sites known as "Dismal Nitch" and Station Camp. The modern day travelers spent a more comfortable weekend at Fort Columbia State Park where we occupied two buildings; one was originally the fort hospital (Scarborough House) and the other was the hospital steward's house. Both buildings have been completely modernized from the time they were built at the turn of the 20th century. Scarborough House had a large living room area as well as kitchen and dining room where the group assembled for breakfasts and dinners. The highlight of the trip may have been the good meals

prepared by the participants – Obsidians do eat well!

Some folks went for a walk on the Friday afternoon we arrived, but the rain was pretty heavy that evening. Rain continued the next day so we spent Saturday morning visiting various museums in Astoria. The Maritime Museum and the Uppertown Firefighters Museum both proved popular. By Saturday afternoon the rain had mostly stopped and different participants visited several sites or took short hikes at Ft. Canby State Park at the mouth of the Columbia. Most everyone toured the newly renovated Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center, some walked over to Cape Disappointment Lighthouse, others climbed Mackenzie Head and visited a campsite where Capt. Clark and some of the men camped on November 18, 1805. The sun broke through from time to time during the afternoon, so a few folks opted to take a longer hike to North Head Lighthouse; the rain, of course, started again once they got out on the trail. The following morning some folks headed for home while others spent a couple of hours visiting the newly reconstructed replica of Fort Clatsop back on the Oregon side of the river. The films being shown at the visitor center were worthwhile, and we also were able to see the new statue of Sacagawea (the old statue had been stolen and the metal sold to a scrap dealer!) and the newest version of the fort.

Thanks to the Obsidians own Corps of Discovery for being such a congenial group and for prepping up great meals: Norma Lockyear, Pat Esch, Barb Schomaker, Daniele Delaby, Barb and Tom Revere, Kathy and Stewart Hoeg, Lana Lindstorm and Richard Hughes, and Sharon and Jim Duncan.



Byways By Bus

High Desert Museum

September 30, 2008

Leader: Barbara Beard

IT WAS A GREAT DAY to head for the mountains via the McKenzie/Santiam passes. Our destination point was the High Desert Museum, south of Bend on Highway 97. The weather was perfect, although lingering smoke from several fires made the mountains hard to see, especially when we are all so used to seeing these glorious mountains against a vivid blue sky with their magnificent peaks and white glaciers. The familiar towering giants, Mt. Hood and Mt. Jefferson, were obscured from our view points because of the lingering smoke.

Thirty riders enjoyed spectacular sights of Sahalie Falls and the beautiful McKenzie River along the way. A good amount of water was coming over the falls, which made for refreshing mist in the face as many a camera made for some excellent pictures. We even had some guests with us who had not had the experience of seeing the falls so this was a first time experience. The High Desert Museum was full of new exhibits and much more activity and information than one could see in a couple of hours' tour. We enjoyed lunch in the Rim Rock Cafe inside the museum. The weather, continuing to be just great, found many of us enjoying outside dining. The museum is noted for animal and bird rescue and rehabilitation, and the pair of eagles and the Canada Lynx were a favorite with many. Some animals make it back to the wild but for some the museum will be their permanent home. It is a great facility.

Our trek back to Eugene found us experiencing the Cascade Lakes Highway and more mountains which seemed almost a touch away. At this point of the trip, questions began to arise as to which mountains were included in the 10 Peak Climb requirements for Obsidians, and how many in our tour had completed such a task. John and Lenore McManigal and Don Payne could all rise to the occasion and claim their victories, so there were some extra goodies for them. Congratulations! As we approached the lava flow surrounding a portion of Davis Lake, the burned area from a few years



Probably not the same fare that Lewis and Clark ate!

past, we were made vividly aware again of the destruction wildfires leave on our beautiful Oregon forests. The lake is completely visible now from the highway, amid blackened tree trunks.

As we approached Highway 58 at Crescent Lake, we saw evidence of yet another recent fire which burned both sides of the highway, closing it for a day or two just a few weeks ago. Our last stop at Oakridge was a refreshing stop for rootbeer floats and dishes of ice cream for some. This A & W Rootbeer stand is one of the few drive-ins still operating with carhops. We did not drive the bus up to one of the carhop windows and ask for 30 floats, although I am sure they would have been happy to accommodate us. We enjoyed our snacks in their restaurant and on the outside deck.

Members: Ethel Allen, Barbara Beard, Paul Beard, Paula Beard, MaryLee Cheadle, Sharon Cutsforth, Rosemary Etter, Barbara Flanders, Dennis Flanders, Marc Hansen, Dora Harris, Marjorie Jackson, John McManigal, Lenore McManigal, Barbara Payne, Don Payne, Liz Reanier, Janet Speelman and Vera Woolley; nonmembers: Alice Anderson, Ron Bauer, Patty Cheadle, Virginia Cheadle, Susan Frasier, Albert Harkness, Theresa Harkness, Susan Reinnohe, Beverly Robertson, Ellen Zimmerman and Ken Zimmerman.

Wildlife Safari and Fall Color **October 21, 2008** **Leader: Ray Jensen**

WE HAD PLANNED for our traditional Fall Color Trip to use the scenic Territorial Road through Lorane and Yoncalla, but it was less than scenic because of the dense ground fog. At the Cabin Creek Rest Area, we dined on gourmet goodies provided by our wonderful hospitality committee, then went on to Wildlife Safari, now in sunshine and warm weather for a fantastic 90-minute circuit.

The animals were very active and our guide Wanda was most interesting. At midday, we lunched at their Smokin' Hippo restaurant and we had time to see other animals and exhibits, including Snowball, the now famous rescued deer. Following a shorter drive through the facility, we traveled back roads in colorful countryside through Lookingglass, Melrose and old Fort Umpqua. At I-5, after a brief rest stop, we stopped at Ricehill for the usual ice cream. The nickle cone is \$2.00, and the two-scoop size is \$2.50.

Driver Mo Langham maneuvered the large bus over narrow roads and tight turns at the Safari with great skill.

Twenty-nine riders, including six nonmembers returned to Shopko at 5:15 pm. Members: Barbara Beard, Paul Beard, Paula Beard, MaryLee Cheadle, Sharon Cutsforth, Rose Mary Etter, Barbara Flanders, Dennis Flanders, Yuan Hopkins, Ben Jeffries, Ray Jensen, John McManigal, Lenore McManigal, Natalie Newlove, Barbara Payne, Don Payne, Charlene Pierce, Jim Pierce, Carolyn Rayburn, Elizabeth Reanier, Chris Shuraleff, Janet Speelman and Viola Stults; nonmembers: Carol Campbell, Jackie Giustina, Suzy Hess, WuMei Shene, Jerry Welch and Barbara Wilson.



SciEd **Tuesday**

Coast Range Ecology **October 21, 2008** **Reviewed By Joella Ewing**

WASSEN CREEK is the largest block of late successional reserve and habitat for the marbled murrelet and spotted owl on the Oregon coast according to James Johnston, presenter for the October SciEd Tuesday program.

Johnson, who hikes over 1,000 miles a year, said it is the place in Oregon he would least like to have a broken leg because of its remote ruggedness, difficulty to find and difficulty to traverse. There are no human trails, only animal trails through dense brush and blow downs. Walking in streams is the best way to navigate, though slippery flat bedrock even makes this difficult without felt bottomed wading shoes. The area, located in the Siuslaw National Forest and Coos Bay BLM land between the Smith and Umpqua Rivers, was slated for inclusion in the 1984 Wilderness Bill, and then removed. The BLM wants to log the old growth timber in this area, but it was designated as a reserve recently.

James would like individual Obsidians to contact Representative Peter DeFazio and ask him to include Wassen Creek in the next wilderness bill.



Potlucks

Trekking in Peru **October 21, 2008** **Reviewed by Sue Sullivan**

ATTENDEES AT THE OCTOBER potluck were treated to a fascinating presentation by Obsidian members Sam and Zane Miller as they shared pictures from their travel adventure in Peru during the summer of 2007.

Sam had first visited Peru in 1997, where he had hiked in the Cordillera Blanca region. That trip inspired him to return last year with Zane and several other friends and acquaintances on a six-week adventure. For Zane, a senior at Churchill High School, the trip was his first experience in travel outside the US.

The first part of their presentation included facts about Peru set to a soundtrack of Andean music (for example: did you know that Peru is the 3rd largest country in South America, and is about 3 times the size of California?). They then presented pictures and video clips of their 12-day, 75-mile trek in the remote and beautiful Cordillera Huayhuash region, which included travel over passes as high as 16000 ft.

After returning to civilization, the group traveled to Manu National park, on the eastern border of Peru. The Amazon jungle landscape shown in their photos was a sharp contrast to the treeless stark mountain scenery of the Huayhuash region. They traveled by motorized canoe on the river and were treated to sightings of many tropical birds, capybaras (the largest rodents in the world), reptiles, monkeys and some enormous insects that this writer would personally rather not run into. Manu National Park is the home to over 15,000 species of plants, including over 250 varieties of trees. It is a destination of bird watchers from around the world, with over 800 species of birds. Overall, Manu National Park protects more different life forms than any other preserve on earth. After their time spent in the jungle, Sam and Zane returned once again to the mountain region, and did a short trek on part of the

(Continued on page 21)

UPCOMING

"Get Up and Go" Hikes... For Those Lacking Early A.M. "Get Up and Go"

By Marshall Jay Kandell

A LOT OF OBSIDIANS greet the dawn all bright eyed and bushy tailed. I'm not one of them.

Some of our climbers think nothing about crawling out of a tent at 3 a.m., strapping on their flashlight hats and hitting the snow before it softens. I wouldn't think of it!

Some members are so gung-ho to hike in the mornings that they have formed little unofficial cliques that scurry up Pisgah on Mondays or meet at the old L&L twice a week for hikes to Hendricks Park or Skinner Butte. I even heard of a "ladies only" group that I would try to crash, if it wasn't for the fact that they meet too early!

It isn't that I *can't* get up early...it's just that I have a hard time getting going early. Heck, I used to get up early to go deep sea fishing...so I know I can do it, if I'm motivated. No, that's not entirely true. I also have to be **committed**. The fishing required reservations and sometimes a deposit or even full advance payment. That kept me from just rolling over in bed and saying, "Forget it!"

If I'm signed up for a hike or leading one, I feel committed, even if the motivation is lacking on the morning of the hike. I will not be a no-show. I even got out of a sick bed once to drive over to the meeting place to explain to the leader why I couldn't go on the hike. *I will not be a no-show!!!*

This is a very challenging time of the year. It's dark in the morning. It's even getting dark in the afternoons. It's getting colder...and wetter! The number of scheduled hikes is diminishing dramatically as the "get up and go" snow bunnies happily anticipate the arrival of frigid fun in the mountains. They even get up earlier so they can have a full day freezing their you-know-whats off. I'll keep my you-know-what warm, thank you.

No hikes to sign up for. No motivation to get up and go. No commitments. Days can easily slip by with more excuses than exercise. Not a good deal.

So, to make sure I keep up on my hiking, I've scheduled a bunch of twice-a-week urban hikes. And I *have* to go on

them since I'm leading them! They're not overly ambitious. Pre's Trail, River Trail, Rexius Trail, the North and South Shasta Loops. About 4 miles each, more or less. Some designed to include coffee or bakery stops (*that's motivation, not commitment*).

I hope others will also lead urban hikes this fall and winter. I led a few Rexius Trail hikes in September and they were fun. Only had four or five hikers on each, but we all enjoyed ourselves and got our get up and go going. These aren't macho endurance hikes or ambitious mountain climbs, but they are daily exercise and fine morning social outings for those of us who otherwise wouldn't be so social in the morning.

And if it rains? If the wind blows? If it's absolutely miserable? As they say, misery loves company.

Lead an urban hike. Sign up for one. Get motivated. Make a commitment. Get up and go!

Christmas Lights by Limo

Date: Thursday December 11

Leaders: Barbara Payne, Liz Reanier

Cost: \$24 Members, \$26 non-members

Send checks to: Janet Speelman



WE WILL MEET AT **SHOPKO** on Coburg Rd. at 6:45 pm to board the limo for a fabulous two hour ride around Eugene. No walking, no cold, just a relaxing ride to see the lights. Of course, if you want some more socializing, we are going to informally gather at Papa's Pizza on Coburg Rd. about 5pm. When you register let us know if you plan to come for pizza, so we have some ready for you. The donation toward the pizza price will be determined later. Of course we will provide rides if you speak up at the time of registration. There is a limit of 44!

So don't be left out. The deadline to register for this fabulous trip is November 7, or soon thereafter, as the Limo's have to be ordered early.

Potluck Review

(Continued from page 20)

Inca trail between Cuzco and Machu Picchu in the Ollantaytambo region. Here they were able to visit Inca ruins, and they ended their trek with a visit to the Machu Picchu ruins.

The final stretch of their journey took them to Lake Titicaca, which at 12,500

ft in elevation is the highest commercially navigable lake in the world. They traveled to Uros, an area where native inhabitants have constructed floating reed islands upon which they have built dwellings, and they fish from reed boats. Sam and Zane also visited Taquile, another island in the lake, on which the local residents have maintained their traditions and culture

nearly unchanged for centuries.

Overall, this was fascinating evening with a little of everything – history, ecology, geography, beautiful mountain scenery, and music. Sam and Zane made the presentation entertaining by alternating as presenters and ad-libbing with stories about amusing events on the trip. Now I am all fired up to go there myself!

AT THE LODGE



POTLUCK

Friday November 21:

Note Early Date

Wild Grace

HEAR ERIC ALAN and see his incredible slides at the November Potluck. He is the son of Obsidians member Shirley Froyd and author/photographer of the book *Wild Grace: Nature as a Spiritual Path* (White Cloud Press), a celebration of the natural world and a meditation upon living mindfully within it. Looking within nature's graceful, tightly woven forms, *Wild Grace* seeks philosophical and practical answers useful in improving our daily lives, regardless of where we live and how damaged the natural order may be there.

His photography has been displayed in galleries, magazines and other locales, including the press box of the San Francisco Giants baseball team. In his presentation to the Obsidians in November, Alan will merge material from *Wild Grace* with new photography and prose from his forthcoming book, *Tranquility's Light*.

Alan is also known regionally as the music director of Jefferson Public Radio, a network of twenty stations centered in Ashland, Oregon, where he lives.



**November Potluck - Friday, November 21, 2008 - Obsidian Lodge
Potluck, 6:30 p.m. Program, 7:30 p.m.**

Bring your favorite potluck dish to share...along with plates, utensils and cups...plus \$1 to help cover club expenses.



SciEd Tuesday, November 18:

Protecting & Enhancing Mt. Pisgah

PROTECTING AND ENHANCING native ecosystems and compatible recreation in the Mt. Pisgah area will be the topic of the November 18 SciEd Tuesday program at the lodge at 7 p.m. Buford Park Executive Director Chris Orsinger will present slides of one of the Obsidians' favorite "nearby nature" destinations for exercise, pleasure and volunteering. Mt. Pisgah volunteers, including many Obsidians, remove invasive species such as false brome. Volunteers also build and maintain hiking trails and otherwise work to provide a lovely environment for picnics and education programs, mushroom festivals and many other activities.

Joella Ewing, SciEd Chair



Winter Trips



WE ARE PUTTING TOGETHER the Winter Trips schedule for the 2008-2009 season. There is a preliminary list of Winter Trips on the Obsidian website. We are still waiting for many leaders

(past leaders and new leaders) to put their trips onto the schedule. Outings can be cross country ski or snow shoe trips, or winter hikes in the Valley or Coast.

Leaders, please look over your calendar and pick dates and destinations for the outings you would like to lead. We also need the distance and elevation gain for the outing, and the approximate driving distance. We will get your trip onto the schedule fastest if you send me an email (pe8165@comcast.net).

We are trying to do this by email to avoid bothering you with phone calls.

Any questions? Call Jim Pierce at 344-1775.

Jim Pierce, Winter Trips Chair

Trail Maintenance

The next work party is Saturday, November 22nd at 9:00 a.m. The meeting place is usually one of the nearby Ridge-line or Spencer Butte parking lots.

The Eugene Parks and Open Space staff will provide gloves, shovels, and whatever is needed. Although strong backs are helpful, the jobs vary. There is something for everyone at all skill levels. Usually there is coffee and snacks. Trail tending is a rewarding way to spend a few hours on Saturday morning. Email Peter at peteg@nwframing.com to be notified about details and meeting place. Once you are on his mail list, you will be notified about the monthly work parties.

- Peter Green, Trail Maintenance Chair

Unique Winter Trip

New on the Winter Trips schedule: Tues., Dec 9 -- Portland by Amtrak -- an urban day trip, led by Barb Revere. We will go north on the Cascade train, departing Eugene at 9 AM, and return south via Thruway bus, departing Portland at 6:15 PM. We will have about 6 hours in Portland. Note: We are not hiking, *per se*, but there is plenty of opportunity to walk! I will visit Powell's and the Portland Art Museum and plan on lunch at Henry's 12th St. Tavern. I will be happy include those who want to tag along with me, but feel free to go your own way, just don't miss the ride back home!



Summer Camp 2009

Mt. Lassen National Park
Lost Creek Group Campground

Choose either or both 5 day sessions!

July 23 - 28 & July 28 - August 2

Watch next month's Bulletin for more information.

Obsidian Calendar

November

9 Sun – Eel Creek, 6m M, J.Hackett 984-0049
11 Tue – **Rexius Trail**, 4m 50' E, M.Kandell 345-8095
13 Thu – **LCC Trails**, 3m 200' E, B.Revere..... 726-4989
13 Thu – **Shasta Loops**, 4m 400' E, M.Kandell.... 345-8095
16 Sun – **Middle Fork**, 5.6m 400' E, J.Pierce 344-1775
18 Tue – **Mt Pisgah** - Orsinger **SciEd Tues**
18 Tue – **River Trail**, E, M.Kandell 345-8095
20 Thu – **River Trail**, E, M.Kandell..... 345-8095
21 Fri – **Wild Grace: Nature's Path** - Alan **Potluck**
22 Sat - **Trail Maintenance**, P. Green 510-1151

December

6 Sat – **Westview Shelter**, S'Shoe 3m M, Hovis .. 345-7788
7 Sun – **Eagles Rest**, 5.2m 1600' M, J.Pierce 344-1775
7 Sun – **River Trail**, 8m 200' M, R.Romoser 726-8154
9 Tues - **Portland by Amtrak**, E, B. Revere..... 726-4989
11 Thu – **Christmas Lights**, Bus, J.Speelman..... 344-3019
16 Tue – **Bicycle Expeditions**, Wilken **SciEd Tues**
21 Sun – **Tahkenitch Dunes**, M, B.Lipton..... 736-7498
27 Sat – **Trapper Creek**, S'Shoe, M, Flashenberg 461-1977

Bulletin Classifieds

For Sale

More than a dozen gently used demo Hobie kayaks of various models, including singles and tandems, pedal drive and traditional paddle type at wholesale prices. These boats are **g r e a t** for all kinds of flat water fun - some even can add a small sail. Loaded with features, they are available now for inspection in storage near Fern Ridge reservoir, and by arrangement, can be demoed at Fern Ridge. Contact Jen Strong at 689-8460



SciEd Wants You

THERE IS MUCH HIDDEN TALENT among us that we'd like to discover. Please call Joella Ewing at 344-9197, or contact Rick Ahrens via e-mail if you want to show slides or know someone whose slides you would like to see.

Articles Wanted For Bulletin

The Bulletin crew invites you write (or submit) an article about a climb, hike, or related experience. Book reviews are also needed. Don't wait to be asked! Contact bulletin@obsidians.org for more information or Janet Jacobsen, Article coordinator, 343-8030

Obsidian Goodies

T-shirts, \$10 (no matter design or size); sweatshirt, \$15; cap, \$15; mug or tumbler, \$10; whistle, \$3. Contact: Kathleen Floyd xxx.

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.



On the ridge to Mt. Thielsen on a fall mountain climb. See climb report on Page 17. Photo by Jim Pierce



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November 2008