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Dates to Remember

Dec 18 Baja Ha Ha Potluck
 Jan 6 January Board Meeting

Complete current schedules at:
www.obsidians.org or
 Register-Guard – Outdoors – Tuesday

**Membership Dues
 Are Way Way Way
 Way Way Overdue!**
 See Page 3
Late Fees Now Apply!!



Let It Snow, Let It Snow...

THE WINTER TRIPS COMMITTEE has prepared a very balanced schedule of trips for the 2009-2010 winter season. As of November 27, we have 22 hikes, 16 cross country ski trips, 15 snowshoe trips, and one combined snowshoe/cross country ski outing. Thirty-one leaders have volunteered to lead these trips. Last year we had 53 completed trips but only 23 leaders, partly due to cancellations due to either snow, weather or road conditions.

We are always looking for new leaders and have mentoring available, where an experienced leader will co-lead a trip with a first time leader. If you're not called to lead a snow trip, there are many hikes available throughout the winter months, either on or near the coast or in the surrounding rural areas.

There are many dates available that don't have a hike, snowshoe, or cross country ski trip scheduled. One way to find out about winter trips is to go to the Report Page on the Obsidian website. Do a search on snowshoe or ski or the name of the trip. Those trip reports have details about snow conditions, weather, and terrain. Or google "snowshoe obsidians" for a more random sort.

Please look over the schedule and if you are inspired to lead a trip this winter season, send an e-mail to wintertrips@obsidians.org with your trip date, location, miles and elevation gain or to ask for further assistance or information.

... But, Don't Put Those Hiking Boots Away Just Yet

GRAB YOUR RAIN GEAR, GLOVES, HAT and check out winter hiking in Oregon. The ever-changing waterfalls are spectacular and Oregon continues to be a beautiful place to soak up vitamin D. Winter hiking in low elevation areas offers a unique perspective.

A variety of hikes are already on the Winter Trips schedule to help us prove that "Obsidians hike in the rain." Winter hikes include the Ribbon Trail, Belknap Resort via LTD, Kentucky Falls, Willamette bike path, Tahkenitch Dunes, Dorris Ranch, West Eugene Wetlands, Row River Trail, Sweet Creek and Beaver Creek, North Shasta Loop, Wine and Dine in West Eugene, Spencer Butte, and the Skinner Butte eagles' nest.

But there are some "rain appropriate hikes" that could still be added. We just need leaders! These hikes are not on the schedule: Brice Creek, Shotgun Creek, Larison Creek, Fall Creek, Alsea Falls, McDonald Forest and on the coast Siltcoos Lake, Cape Perpetua and Sutton Creek/ Umpqua Dunes (just to mention a few). You are also more than encouraged to lead Sweet Creek Falls or Kentucky Falls or any other hike that is already scheduled. If you still need help, check out the table of contents in Bill Sullivan's books. He marks the hikes that are open year round.

If we left out your favorite hike, consider leading it. And if you do decide to lead, have a backup plan for a downpour and know when to retreat. Also, be sure to look at the Winter Trips schedule online so as not to schedule two hikes on one day.

*Paul Flashenberg, Winter Trips Chair
 Winter Trips Committee: Daphne James, Elle Weaver and Chris Stockdale*

OBITUARIES

Ingrid Carmichael

INGRID J. CARMICHAEL of Eugene died November 22 of age-related causes. She was 97. She was born August 29, 1912 in Eugene to Erick and Rikka Ness Johnson. She married Lorin B. Carmichael on August 17, 1935 in Eugene. He died June 23, 1970.

She graduated from Eugene High School and attended the University of Oregon. She worked at the McMorrان & Washburne Department Store and Russell Apparel, and was a partner at the Mountjoy & Carmichael Home Furniture Store. She retired in 1970. Survivors include a daughter, Judith Danielson of Seaside; two sons, Robert of Creswell and David of Eugene; eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Ingrid started taking bus trips with the Obsidians in February, 1975. She took a total of 164 trips with the club, the last one was to the headwaters of the Metolius River, in July of 2007. She led four bus trips. Each summer her children hosted a birthday party in her beautiful garden, at the house where she had lived since she was a very young child. Many Obsidians attended the parties and Ingrid thoroughly enjoyed greeting the many friends who came to visit and wish her happy birthday.

The funeral was November 29, at Central Lutheran Church. Remembrances can be made to the YMCA Campaign for Kids, or Greenhill Humane Society.

Media Notes:

Ethel Allen

ETHEL ALLEN, long time Obsidian member who has completed over 100 bus trips, was featured in a November 9th *Register Guard* article on staying agile. Ethel, age 90, has been doing tai chi for eight years and gives it credit for lending a sparkle to her golden years. Ethel looked very agile in the two RG photographs. We are impressed.

Ethel, in period costume, ready to lead a Bus Trip along the Applegate Trail in 2002
Photo by John Jacobsen



Welcome!

New Members

BRYAN, KEIKO (Active)
2905 W 19th Ave, Eugene 97405
342-1240 kbfujisakura@hotmail.com

Reinstated Members

HARRISON, BOB (Active)
3176 Wolf Meadows Ln, Eugene 97408
434-2329 bobharrison@comcast.net

STEWART, SUSAN (Active)
30 Cedarcliff Cir, Asheville, NC 28803
828-223-3996 susanstewart@hotmail.com

OBSIDIANS, INC

P.O. Box 322, Eugene, OR 97440

Website: www.obsidians.org

Board of Directors

President - Jim Duncan
Vice President - Jim Pierce
Secretary - Laurie Funkhouser
Treasurer - Stewart Hoeg
Wayne Deeter Larry Huff
Marshall Kandell Verna Kocken
Barb Revere

Board meetings are held 6 pm the first Wednesday of each month, except October when it is first Wednesday after Annual Meeting. No Board Meeting in August.

Committee Chairpersons

Byways-By-Bus..... Liz Reanier
Climbs.....Larry Huff
Concessions..... Kathleen Floyd
Conservation..... Pat Bitner
Entertainment.....Laurie Funkhouser
Extended Trips..... Jim Duncan
Finance.....Stewart Hoeg
Lodge Building..... Doug Nelson
Lodge Grounds..... John Jacobsen
Librarian/Historian..... Lenore McManigal
Membership..... Barb Revere
Online.....Wayne Deeter
Publications..... Barb Revere
Publicity..... Elle Weaver
Safety..... Sue Sullivan
Science & Education.....Joella Ewing
Summer Camp..... Lana Lindstrom
Summer Trips..... Jim Pierce
Trail Maintenance..... Peter Green
Winter Trips..... Paul Flashenberg
Youth.....

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The Obsidian Bulletin

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For reprint rights, contact above.

Deadline

for January 2010 Bulletin

Saturday, January 2, 2010

Assembly/Mailing Team

For November Bulletin

Assembly & Mail Manager..... Barb Revere
Assembly Team ... Tom Adamecyk, LaRee Beckley, John & Lenore McManigal, Margaret Prentice, Don & Janet Speelman and Nancy Whitfield

Editorial Team

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



Taking Stock

The Continuing Saga of Waldo Lake

By Pat Bitner, Conservation Chair

WALDO LAKE

AS I WRITE, THE LATEST PRESS on the prohibition of gas-powered boats and float planes on Waldo Lake indicates an imminent ban. But don't count on it; the issue has been ongoing for a number of years, and just won't die. The State Marine Board, which will make a determination to ban or not to ban on December 15, is seeking public comment up to that date.¹

A very beautiful high Cascade lake, Waldo is beloved by all who love the outdoors, and is so easily reached from Eugene. Its clarity is unique. Waldo Lake has no permanent inlet to bring nutrients into the lake so there is no plant growth, and it is so pure one can see to depths of 120 feet. It's second only in clarity to Crater Lake. The US Forest Service issued a ban on internal combustion engines two years ago. Due to a lawsuit filed by a Eugene timber baron, a federal judge ruled the Forest Service had no clear authority to do this. The upcoming State Marine Board's ruling will, hopefully, favor the environmentalist and most outdoor enthusiasts' view of no gasoline-powered boats on Waldo!

THE FUTURE OF OUR SALMON

Unfortunately, the Obama administration has adopted the previously rejected Bush administration salmon plan for the Columbia basin, with a few minor improvements. NOAA chief Jane Lubchenco (formerly of OSU) assures the plan will "prevent further declines". So, an already endangered population faces another delay and more "studies" before any real action is taken. Removal of the four lower Snake River dams recedes into the distance and salmon populations will continue to decline with their inability to reach historic spawning grounds.

The Klamath Basin salmon have a brighter future, if one considers a wait of 10 years to be acceptable before the four PacifiCorp dams will actually be removed. A tentative agree-

ment was reached between the federal government, three tribes and 25 other parties and was signed on September 30. The agreement would allow for dam removal in 2020. Public meetings will be held to allow comment to the Secretary of the Interior. Federal legislation is required to implement the agreement. A determination by the Secretary is expected by March, 2012.

THE ROGUE, HOWEVER, FLOWS free from the Savage Rapids Dam for the first time in 88 years! On October 2, 2009 the dam was demolished, allowing Coho salmon and steelhead to reach their spawning grounds unimpeded.

Earth Justice attorneys represented WaterWatch, the environmental organization dedicated to the health of Oregon's rivers and streams, in the litigation resulting in the Savage Rapids dam removal. In 2008, the Gold Hill dam was removed and work is afoot to take out Gold Ray dam. Savage Rapids, however, was by far the biggest fish killer.

1. Comments on Waldo Lake by Dec. 15: E-mail: osmb.rulemaking@state.or.us Fax: (503) 378-4597 - Attn: June LeTarte OSMB

Dudes & Dudettes Dues, Way Overdue!



Looks like many of our friends will be missing next year, and we hope **you** won't be one of them. You're seriously tardy. Send \$35, no less, like now, to:

Obsidians, Inc., Membership Chair
P.O. Box 51424
Eugene, OR 97405

I'm ready to drop everyone who hasn't paid!
But I'll wait 'till January.

Thanks, Barb Revere and your Membership Committee

GPS Tips

From November SciEd Speaker Dale Sharper

Excellent REI video on how to use a GPS

[http://www.rei.com/gearmail/gm0829_3/cm?
cm_mmc=Email_com_gm_-newsletter_-082908_-img_gps](http://www.rei.com/gearmail/gm0829_3/cm?cm_mmc=Email_com_gm_-newsletter_-082908_-img_gps)

Garmin 'how to' about mapping and GPS

[http://www8.garmin.com/manuals/
UsingaGarminGPSwithPaperLandMaps_Manual.pdf](http://www8.garmin.com/manuals/UsingaGarminGPSwithPaperLandMaps_Manual.pdf)

Maps to download to Garmin GPS

http://www.miscjunk.org/mj/mp_main.html

BOARD NOTES

December 2, 2009

By Laurie Funkhouser

President Jim Duncan called the meeting to order. Board present: Laurie Funkhouser, Jim Pierce, Barb Revere, Verna Kocken, Marshall Kandell, Wayne Deeter, and Stewart Hoeg. Others: John Jacobsen, Elle Weaver, Doug Nelson, Pat Bitner, Lana Lindstrom, Leonore McManigal, Kathy Hoeg, Lyn Gilman-Garrick, Charlene Pierce, Larry Huff, Joella Ewing, Darko Sojak and Doug Nelson.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership (Barb Revere): One application for membership approved. Two reinstatements received. There are approximately 100 outstanding membership renewals at this time.

Publicity (Elle Weaver): Notice from Travel Lane County regarding a 1/9/2010 "Winter Trails" event and encouraging appropriate entities to have activities at that time. The club will promote the hike which is scheduled on that day as well as provide a copy of the winter trip schedule.

COMMITTEE REPORTS -via e-mail

Summer Trips (Jim Pierce): 7 trips for November - all hikes. One trip has not completed reports or paperwork. Two canceled trips. 40 members and 11 nonmembers. Revenue was \$79.00. When I get the last trip completely logged, I'll get out the annual report. My thanks to all the committee members and leaders who made this season successful.

Winter Trips (Paul Flashenberg): 52 trips on schedule. Last month there were 2 hikes, Members 11, Nonmembers 2.

Climbs (Larry Huff): Currently working on recruiting committee members.

Trail Maintenance (Peter Green): November 28th work project had 4 members and three non. Total of 28 volunteer hours. Most of the work was near the last switchback at the end of the trail before the rock scramble to the summit.

The Committee is asking the Board for approval of a letter supporting the Eugene Parks and Open Space's application to widen a segment of the Blanton Ridge section of the Ridgeline Trail.

By-Ways-By-Bus (Liz Reanier): The final bus trip for 2009 is the Christmas

Lights trip to Roseburg. The bus committee will meet at the lodge for a planning meeting on December 15 at 1:00 pm.

Summer Camp (Lana Lindstrom):

The Summer Camp Committee explored several options for Summer Camp 2010. Unfortunately, none of them worked out. Instead, Lana Lindstrom will lead an Extended Trip based at Sequim Bay State Park from July 13-18.

Conservation (Pat Bitner): Conservation and SciEd committees are continuing to work to combine these two committees for the coming year.

Entertainment (Laurie Funkhouser):

There were 34 attendees and fees received of \$33.00. The next potluck will be Friday, December 18 with David Becker presenting "Baja Ha Ha".

Science and Education (Joella Ewing):

Eleven attended the Nov. SciEd program, and \$11 was collected. The December program was postponed until February because of its proximity to Christmas and the potluck

Membership (Barb Revere): Current membership is 549. Renewals are down.

Publicity (Elle Weaver): Several parents along with their children and friends stopped at our table at Play in the Rain which was held at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum. We also had Winter Trip photos, schedules, etc. at Nordic Night at Berg's later in the month. More info in the Bulletin article.

Concessions (Kathleen Floyd): Revenue: November - \$12.00.

Online (Wayne Deeter): Web traffic is down from a year ago. November 2009 web site hits were about half that of November 2008.

Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): We had a small work party on November 17 to clean up mess from storm of previous night. Sold a cord of fir. Traded an odd lot of oak for a load of crushed rock (delivered at the October 24 work party) and a load of Bark-O-Mulch (to be delivered when mural is done).

OLD BUSINESS

Proposed Changes in Constitution and

ByLaws: The proposed language of the Constitution change was briefly discussed. The Board then discussed the change in the Bylaws and approved language allowing the Extended Trips and

Bus Trips to enter contracts related to their sphere of activity.

Proposal from Conservation and Science and Education Committees: Pat Bitner with Joella Ewing proposed that the Conservation Committee and Science and Education Committee combine to become Conservation, Science and Education Committee. The Board approved the combining of the two committees. The Board tabled the proposed Bylaw changes to allow adaptation of the suggestions presented during discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Committee Chairs for

2010: President-elect Jim Pierce presented his slate of proposed Committee Chairs for 2010. Discussion of having co-chairs rather than a chair took place. The Board approved the list of Committee Chairs.

Proposed Fees for Extended Trips: Jim Duncan proposed that the Bylaws be changed to incorporate trip fees for Extended Trips - \$5 for members and \$10 for nonmembers. The Board approved the Bylaws change as proposed.

Support of Eugene Parks and Open

Space Division Grant Application for

Blanton Heights Section of the Ridgeline Trail: Peter Green of trail maintenance presented to the Board a proposed letter of support for this grant application. The Board approved the letter.

Proposed 2010 Budget: Stewart Hoeg circulated the proposed budget for 2010 with historical information. Bus Trips, Membership and Summer Camp have been altered the most due to reduced participation, increased cost and/or, as in the case of Summer Camp, cancellation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Game Afternoon: Lana Lindstrom, Kathy Hoeg and Lyn Gilman-Garrick extend an invitation to an afternoon of games at the Lodge on Sunday, December 27, 2009 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Feel free to bring food, beverage, favorite game to share!

Travel Reimbursement: Jim Duncan checked the IRS rate for travel reimbursement which has not changed as of this date but noted that it would be by the end of December. As the Bylaws indicate, this should be reviewed on an annual basis.

TRIP REPORTS & OTHER ACTIVITIES



Hikes

Substitute Point

October 10, 2009

Leader: Rob Castleberry

Photo: Dick Hildreth

10 miles, 1,800 ft. (Difficult)



ON A SUNNY DAY we started up the Foley Ridge Trail through scattered patches of snow from a storm earlier in the week. The trail had only recently been opened after closure for almost two years. Using crosscut saws since power tools aren't permitted in the wilderness, Forest Service crews had to remove over 400 trees from the trail in the Substitute Point area, so the recently sawn logs lined the trail. Snow deepened to 6-8 inches at the high point, and as the trail began to descend, we realized that the spur trail to the old lookout site on the top had not been cleared and we'd walked past it. After only a few views through the trees of the Husband, South Sister, and Bachelor instead of the panoramic views from the top, we ate lunch in a warm opening in the forest, then started back.

The spur trail was covered with lots of fallen trees in the short portion we could see, and with the snow cover as well we decided we'd best not try scrambling through. Despite some disappointment, it was a beautiful fresh autumn day with Obisidan hikers Chuck Wagar, Peter Graham, Dan Christensen, Brenda Kameenui, Lamonte Smith, Dick Hildreth, Becky Lipton, Daphne James, Elle Weaver, Ernst Schwintzer, and Rob Castleberry (leader); and nonmember Dave Compton.

North Fork

October 15, 2009

Leader: Jan Anselmo

11.5 miles, 1,000 ft. (Difficult)

MY BEST FRIEND IS THE ONLY PERSON who signed up for this hike (ok he is also my husband Rich!). Since we live in Oakridge, we met at our front door and drove the three miles to the Westfir trailhead. The original plan was to have a car shuttle so as to not retrace our steps, but since we were the only participants, we decided to start at Westfir and turn around after a stop at a great lunch spot by the river...making a total of 11.5 miles. Hint to newbies on this trail: for those who want to hike the trail and do not plan to shuttle cars, I personally find the 6-7 miles out of Westfir to be the most beautiful section as the trail stays close to the river. Weather was balmy (shorts and t-shirts). Though the day was mostly cloudy, we still had enough breaks in the overcast for the sun to pop out occasionally. The fall foliage was magnificent with lemon yellows, pumpkin orange and fire engine red! This hike is a hidden gem! The Forest Service has done a magnificent job in sprucing up the rest area by the Office Covered bridge: picnic tables, new colored signs about the Aufderheide and the surrounding area, a spigot to wash off your mountain bikes, etc. Leader Jan Anselmo and member Rich Anselmo had a great hike.

Fuji Mountain Upper Island Loop

October 21, 2009

Leader: Lyndell Wilken

11 miles, 1,000 ft. (Difficult)

SIX HIKERS BRAVED THE WET WEATHER and headed for Fuji Mountain along the Fuji Mountain Trail. After a rest stop at Birthday Lake it was decided to skip going to the top of Fuji given the wet, misty weather and continue to Upper Island Lakes for lunch. Along the way a Cy Bingham tree was discovered at the side of the South Waldo Trail, dated 1905. This tree blaze was in addition to the ones we saw later at the Mt. Ray Trail Junction. Despite the wet conditions, everyone enjoyed the misty fragrant mountain air and the remaining trek back to the car via the Gold Lake Trail. Members: Jan Anselmo, Rich Anselmo, Brad Bennett, Dick Hildreth, Sam Miller and Lyndell Wilken.

Sahalie-Koosah Falls

October 23, 2009

Leader: Chris Cunningham

3 miles, 400 ft. (Easy)

THREE OF THE SEVEN who had signed up for the Opal Creek hike arrived at the parking lot on this cool, rainy Friday morning. After some discussion about the long drive and predictions of heavy rains in the Opal Creek region, we did an about-face and drove along the McKenzie River toward McKenzie Bridge for a short hike around the 3-mile Sahalie-Koosah Falls loop. Heavy rain fell here too, but the towering

overstory of Douglas fir and the droopy branches of red cedar kept us dry for the first 1.5 miles or so. We stopped often at noteworthy vistas and took advantage of numerous photo opportunities. The mist and rain did little to detract from the sheer beauty of this emerald forest that boasts the 100-foot Sahalie Falls and the 70-foot Koosah Falls. Members: Chris Cunningham, Sue Meyers, Pete Peterson and Lamonte Smith.

Fall Creek

October 31, 2009

Leader: Ed Lichtenstein

9.3 miles, 700 ft. (Moderate)

SEVEN HIKERS GATHERED IN THE RAIN at South Eugene High and took off in two cars--optimistically. We set up a shuttle at Dolly Varden by cramming into Diane's vehicle and began hiking downstream from Rd. 1828, still in a light rain. The mist and clouds gave a surreal cast to the woods. The trail was still in good shape though we had to fight through a downed small tree to cross one of the bridges crossing the several tributaries. Lunch at Bedrock Campground: still light rain, but then the rain stopped, the sky lightened and there were even traces of sun. The creek had much water and many small rapids and there was a colorful mix of fir trees and maples. The hardy and happy hikers, all members, were Nola Nelson, Diane Pergamit, Jim Duncan, Dick Hildreth, Susan Sanazaro, Sarah Praskievicz, and leader Ed Lichtenstein.

Ribbon Trail/Mt. Baldy

November 1, 2009

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

5 miles, 800 ft. (Easy)

ELEVEN OF US MET IN HENDRICKS PARK to take the Floral Hill Trail to the Ribbon Trail. We made a short detour to show off the Obsidian Lodge to nonmembers and then continued on the trail to 30th. From there we took Spring, Woodson, and caught Spring again up the hill to the Baldy trailhead. It was foggy and cold on top so we did not tarry. Thanks to Ruth Romoser and John Jacobsen, there were two cars at the trailhead for the shuttle. Dick Hildreth walked back on his own and four hikers were dropped off at 30th to walk back to Hendricks on the Ribbon Trail. Members were Walt Dolliver, Dick Hildreth, Janet Jacobson, Effie Neth, Ruth Romoser and Pat Soussan. It was fun to share the trail with nonmembers Lauren Bruyere, Al and Karen Sieradski, Jim O'Connor and Pen Sand. Jim and Pen just moved to Eugene. Welcome!

Brice Creek

November 3, 2009

Leader & Photo: Jim Pierce

6 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

WHAT A MARVELOUS FALL DAY! We were wowed by the fall colors... mostly yellows, many lush mosses and lichens, as well as six types of ferns, huge, towering trees and the laughing river, brooks and waterfalls. The big surprise was



Along Brice Creek

the thousands of mushrooms: all kinds of sizes, shapes, colors and textures. The shuttle worked well, so we hiked the whole trail plus a side trip to lower Trestle Creek Falls. Enjoying the great day was a soon-to-be Obsidian, Love Opincar, and members Ruth Romoser, Susan Sanazaro, Lamonte Smith, Brad Bennett, Ron Allen, Pat Esch and Leader Jim Pierce.

Doerner Fir

November 7, 2009

Leader: Ruth Romoser

Photo: Jim Pierce

1.1 miles, 200 ft. (Easy)



At the Doerner Fir

SATURDAY WE FOLLOWED BILL SULLIVAN'S DIRECTIONS to the world's largest Douglas fir tree (Doerner Fir). The hike is only half a mile each way, but it passes through a lovely, lush old growth forest. The giant is almost 12 feet in diameter and 329 feet tall, and has an awesome presence. Members: Walt Dolliver, Pat Esch, Shannon Harty, Sachiko Iwasaki, Ben Muir, Evelyn Nagy, Charlene Pierce, Jim Pierce and Ruth Romoser.

Golden and Silver Falls

November 8, 2009

Leader & Photo: Jim Pierce

3 miles, 400 ft. (Easy)

SUNDAY MORNING WE DROVE TO COOS BAY, then east to Golden and Silver Falls State Park. There are three out and

back trails to different views of the two waterfalls. We hiked them all for a total of three miles. The forest in the area has many myrtlewood trees. Both the waterfalls flow over the same 200-foot rock wall, but each waterfall is spectacular and has its own character. We ate an early lunch at the top of Golden Falls, then headed on to the next adventure. Members: Walt Dolliver, Pat Esch, Shannon Harty, Sachiko Iwasaki, Ben Muir, Evelyn Nagy, Charlene Pierce, Jim Pierce and Ruth Romoser.

Cape Arago

November 8, 2009

Leader: Charlene Pierce

Photo: Jim Pierce

0.9 miles, 200 ft. (Easy)



WE STOPPED AT EACH PULLOUT and walked to all the viewpoints. With the storm and high tide, the waves were especially magnificent. Our trip home was delayed by three hours as we helped a couple from Britain who were locked out of their car. It was a long day, but we felt good. Members: Walt Dolliver, Sachiko Iwasaki, Evelyn Nagy, Charlene Pierce, Jim Pierce and Ruth Romoser.

North Fork Middle Fork Willamette

November 15, 2009

Leader: Chris Stockdale

11.5 miles, 1,000 ft. (Difficult)

EVERYONE IN THE GROUP OF SIX on this hike agreed that it is a great, all-season trail that is scenic and long enough to make you feel you've done something. Starting at the gorge end of the trail, after leaving a car at the Westfir covered bridge parking lot, we headed into the woods. The trail has a good deal of up and down, especially in the first section that is about six miles long. The expected rain held off until halfway through the trip, and then it only came in a brief shower. The river was in spectacular form, thanks to recent rains and snow, and many of the rapids and cascades were torrents. The remains of the fall foliage were still colorful enough to enhance the many views of the river. Hiking time was about five hours for 11.5 miles. Obsidians Sam Miller, Daphne James, Bistra Hristova, and nonmembers Jane Dods and Marie Stringer joined leader Chris Stockdale for this day's outing.

Hendricks Park and Ribbon Trail

November 18, 2009

Leader: Barb Revere

4.5 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

WE ALL THOUGHT WE'D BE SQUELCHING along muddy trails because morning rain had been predicted the night before, but the sky was steadily blue and full of nice little puffy white clouds. We weren't warm in the 50-degree air, but the biting winds waited until we had hiked all the forest trails of Hendricks Park, including an "out and back" on the new Ribbon Trail. We stopped briefly at the Obsidian Lodge to peek under the tarp at the Dallas Cole mural -- approvals from all. We did part of the rhody garden, stopping for a long pause to admire a lone pileated woodpecker who didn't seem spooked by us at all. A few late flowers dotted the brush and beautiful fall foliage was everywhere, and not all of it underfoot; that is remarkable considering the rain and wind of the last week. The trails are in great condition in Hendricks as well as on The Ribbon. Our good spirits continued as we reconvened at the Renaissance Room at LCC. The food was interesting, very good, well presented and reasonably priced. Our group, six Obsidians and one 'almost Obsidian', had a great time getting to know one another and we ate every bite. We were invited back and all agreed that we'd take them up on it. Thanks to my hiking companions - good sports all! Thanks to the Essenbergs and Janet for guidance in Hendricks Park; they knew it better than I did. Members: Dan Christensen, Margaret Essenberg, Richard Essenberg, Janet Jacobsen, Sam Miller and Barb Revere. Nonmember: Keiko Bryan.



Trail Maintenance

Spencer Butte Trail Maintenance

October 31, 2009

Leader: Peter Green

DRESSED FOR RAIN, NOT HALLOWEEN, enthusiastic volunteers met in the main Spencer Butte Parking lot for a planting project. We carried about 100 potted Douglas fir, Ponderosa pine, dogwood, big leaf maple, vine maple and sword ferns up the steep west trail and planted between the barrier fences erected in previous sessions. At 11:00 we cheerfully voted to continue the planting on an unauthorized steep path taking off from the south trail. Pumpkin bread wrapped in individual bags made it easy for us to eat with our "muddy hands" and also not worry about the flu bug. It was a hard working crew! One person said, "I didn't want to come when I woke up this morning, but this was lots of fun. I'm glad I came." We appreciated the help of a Cal Young student, Joel, who was working on his leadership hours. Open Space staff included Lorna Baldwin, Jason Morrow and Christer Labrecque. Obsidians included Matt Bell, Tashi Choden, Peter Green, Janet Jacobsen, John Jacobsen, and nonmembers were Connie Morehouse and Adam Gapinski.

Play in the Rain

November 7, 2009

Sponsor: Publicity (Elle Weaver)

THE OBSIDIANS participated in the Play in the Rain event (November 7th) at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum which turned out to be "Play in the Sun" for most of the day. The children enjoyed climbing up the huge trees and toasting hotdogs and marshmallows at the roaring camp fire. For our nature activity in the White Oak Pavilion, we had butterflies for the children to color and mount with bright pipe cleaners on our tri-fold screen. We wanted to offer an activity that a wide age range of boys and girls would enjoy. Many parents stopped by to chat and pick up our schedules and brochures. Our trip photos were all that was needed to attract interested browsers walking by.

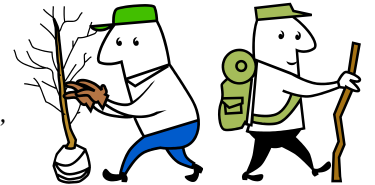


This year we also displayed our winter and Climb School photos at Nordic Night, held at Berg's on November 18th. Mary and Brian Hamilton, Sue Wolling, and Sam Miller were all lucky winners of door prizes.

Many thanks to John Jacobsen, Kathy Hoeg, Anne Dhu McLucas, Mary Hamilton, Sam Miller, and Sue Wolling for all their help with these events..

Thank You Trail Maintenance Volunteers

I planned on working on trail maintenance today.... but the bed felt sooooo nice and warm and instead, I slept in. And then unexpectedly, a friend called to hike Spencer Butte. Although feeling just a wee bit guilty, I agreed. I hadn't hiked the Butte in at least a year.



What a pleasant surprise it was to see the work that's been done during that time. Ferns, snowbushes, Oregon grape and other native plants have been planted on some of the steeper areas. There are wooden "guard rails" guiding hikers to stay on the main trail in a couple of areas. Blue markers have been placed on the rocks toward the top. Today the group was hard at work installing a retaining wall on a narrow section of trail.

Thanks to all the regulars who help to maintain this gem, particularly during the cold, wet winter months. It's hard work! We slackers appreciate it! Obsidians on the trail in November were Matt Bell, Janet Jacobsen, Ed Lizewski, and Pat Soussan.

Lana Lindstrom

Your Chance For Redemption

Slackers seeking to assuage any guilt for missing trail maintenance, can do that easily by getting to the next one. After taking a break in December, work parties will be held the last Saturday of each month, starting Saturday, January 30th.

Obsidian Trail Maintenance Committee

Hikes, Snowshoes and X-Ski's, Oh My!

Sat., Dec. 12 – Trapper Creek to Westview – S'Shoe, moderate. Paul Flashenberg leads this all new trip in the Willamette Pass area. Your trail starts near the west end of Odell Lake by Shelter Cove and winds west and north through woodland to the Westview Sno-Park trails. A lunch break at the Westview Shelter gets you energized for your return trip. 5mi., 500'.

Tues., Dec. 15 – Spencer Butte/Dillard West – Hike, moderate – Janet Jacobson leads this eastern approach to the summit and covers a proposed new trail that avoids the mud wallows normally encountered between Willamette and Dillard roads. 6.2mi., 1000'.

Wed., Dec. 16 – Kentucky Falls – Hike, easy. Waterfalls are always popular and never more so than in winter when the cold temperatures turn mist and cascades into cake icing over black basaltic rock. The Kentucky Falls hike is likely to show you just such a scene on all three falls. Join Jim Pierce and other hardy hikers on this popular trip in the Oregon Coast Range. 4.4mi., 800'.

Sat., Dec. 19 -- Midnight Lake—X-Ski, moderate. Heading southeast from Gold Lake Sno- Park, this trip takes you into the Diamond Peak Wilderness for a lunch break at Midnight Lake. The scenery is winter wonderland and forest trails all the way. Sue Wolling leads this ski trip of 7 miles, climbing 600'.

Sun., Dec 20 – Tahkenitch State Park – Hike, moderate. A trail that is popular in all seasons, this route travels over and through dunes, forest, creek side, lakeshore and beach. Keep an eye peeled for wildlife: black bear, porcupine, osprey, great blue heron, sea lion, baby seal and brown pelican are some of the animals spotted on previous hikes here. Becky Lipton leads this 7mi., 1200' hike near Reedsport.

Sun., Dec. 20 – Arrowhead Lake – X-Ski, difficult. Your trail leaves Gold Lake Sno-Park and travels south into Diamond Peak Wilderness on the Pacific Crest Trail. You'll pass Midnight Lake before arriving at your destination and lunch spot at smaller Arrowhead Lake. Chris Shuraleff leads this 8mi., 800' ski trip. **NOTE:** This same trip (perhaps a somewhat different route) will be led by Doug McCarty on Sun., Jan. 17.

Sun., Dec. 20 --Odell Viewpoint – S'Shoe, easy. Gold Lake Sno-Park is the departure point for this easy snow shoe trip, led by Jim Pierce. Beautiful scenery and twisting trails take you above the west end of Odell Lake to a wonderland view from atop Eagle Rock. 3mi., 400'.

Mon., Dec 21 – Mt. Pisgah –Hike, easy. Get a new take on an old favorite on this nearby hike that celebrates the winter solstice. Many an Obsidian has trudged up the summit trail at Mt. Pisgah, but on this trip, you'll get a new perspective

and new appreciation of your surroundings from leaders Janet Jacobsen and Rick Ahrens. This is an evening hike and the leaders hope to take in the sunset. 3mi., 1000'.

Fri., Jan. 1 – Spencer Butte – Hike, moderate. Starting at the main Spencer Butte parking lot of south Willamette St., you'll cover some of the new trail restoration work done by the Obsidians trail maintenance committee, Eugene city park crews and other organizations. Janet Jacobsen leads. 2.2mi., 600'

Sun., Jan. 3 – Rosary Lakes – X-Ski, moderate. Beginning from Willamette Pass your route winds up the Pacific Crest Trail to a string of small lakes on the south shoulder of Maiden Peak. The views are of the Diamond Peak Wilderness and the Willamette Pass ski area. Led by Brian Hamilton. 6mi., 1000'

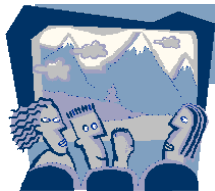
Sat., Jan. 9 – Midnight Lake – S'Shoe, moderate. Midnight Lake is one of several small lakes nestled along either side of the Pacific Crest Trail as it heads south into the Diamond Peak Wilderness from highway 58. Forest views and gray jays looking for handouts are just two of the many sights that keep leaders and hikers returning to the area again and again. Led by Matt Bell. 6mi., 400'.

Sat., Jan. 9 – Spencer Butte –Hike, moderate. Starting from the 52nd St. trailhead. Leader Janet Jacobsen is highlighting Spencer Butte this winter with this, her fourth trip of the season. She, along with Matt Bell, the Obsidian trail maintenance committee and Eugene City parks staff have been concentrating on improvements on the Spencer Butte and Ridge-line trail systems. Janet will fill you in on past work and future plans, as you enjoy the scenery, views and the good trail surfaces underfoot. 5.6mi., 1000'.

Sun., Jan. 10 -- Gold Lake – S'Shoe, moderate. Over familiar territory, this trip route has some narrow trail sections through forest above the Marilyn Lakes area and there is a possibility of a water crossing -- if the snow bridge has not built up yet. Led by Matt Bell. 5.6 mi., 300'. **NOTE:** This same trip (perhaps a different route) will be led by Jim Pierce on Tues., Jan 12.

Sat., Jan. 16 – Dorris Ranch – Hike, easy. If travelling icy roads is not your idea of a relaxing day out, join me, Barb Revere, on a hike through history. Springfield's Dorris Ranch Park, on the confluence of the Middle and Coast Forks of the Willamette River, is only a half-mile south of downtown. We'll cruise through old hazel nut and black walnut orchards, while we keep our eyes and ears open for wildlife. I have spotted bald eagles, ospreys, red tail hawks, pileated woodpeckers and, twice, coyotes here. In summer the confluence of the two forks is partially hidden; only in winter do you see the braided streams meet. 3mi., flat.

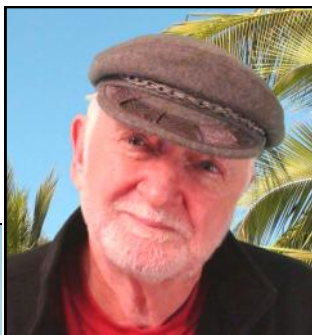
AT THE LODGE



POTLUCK

Friday December 18:

Baja Ha Ha on Daydreamer!



T IRED OF THE HOLIDAY RUSH, RAIN, CLOUDY SKIES?? Join member David Becker on an escape to warmer weather and sunnier skies on his sailboat trip to Baja. David traveled on a 51 foot sailboat, the “Daydreamer”, in October and November 2008.

Laurie Funkhouser, Entertainment Chair

December Potluck

Friday, December 18, 2009 - Obsidian Lodge - Potluck, 6:30 pm Program, 7:30 pm

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



**SciEd Tuesday:
December SciEd Postponed
Until February 16**



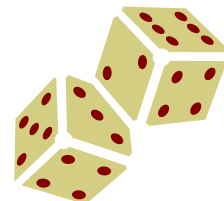
BECAUSE OF THE PROXIMITY on the calendar of SciEd Tuesday, the potluck, and Christmas, the December SciEd Tuesday program by Oregon Wild speaker Chandra LeGue has been postponed until February 16. Her topic of old growth forest is subject to change if a more pertinent environmental issue jumps to the forefront.

Joella Ewing, SciEd Chair

Games Day



WHAT BETTER WAY TO SHARE THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT than playing games! Kathy, Lyn and Lana will provide a variety of board and card games. Just show up and have fun!



Sunday, December 27
2:00 – 4:00 PM at the Lodge
Bring a snack to share and
\$1 for lodge expenses
Coffee and tea will be provided

Sequim Summer Camp Becomes An Extended Trip

By Lana Lindstrom, Summer Camp Chair

WE TRIED HARD, WE REALLY DID, TO HAVE A SUMMER CAMP NEXT YEAR. We scouted for a decent camp with potable water and some shade, close to great hiking, but didn't find such a place. Plan B was to return to Sequim State Park, but unfortunately, we weren't able to reserve seven days at both the group campground *and* the adjacent facility which has the lodge/kitchen (there are two separate reservation systems). Plan C was to split the camp into a 7 day and a 4 day session. But after mulling that over for awhile, we decided that it would be too complex, probably not popular, and an administrative headache. Enter Plan E for Extended Trip!

Instead of a regular camp, there will be at least one Extended Trip next summer. We will definitely be based at Sequim State Park (Ramblewood Environmental Learning Center) from July 13-18 (Tuesday-Sunday). The group will be limited to 30 persons and we'll do our own cooking in the lodge. This trip will officially be posted in February.

And we hope that others will lead overnight trips next year. If you're unsure about leading a trip by yourself, find a co-leader! It's easy ... really!

Thanks to the Summer Camp Committee and others for processing the options: Jen Barnes, Melody Clarkson, Don Doerr, Jim Duncan, Scott Hovis, Renee Klein, Ed Lichtenstein, Jim Pierce, and Nancy Whitfield. We're going to start planning early next year for the 2011 camp; all help is appreciated!

Happy Holidays from the Concession Committee

THE HOLIDAYS ARE FAST APPROACHING and you may be wondering what to get your favorite Obsidian. How about a bright lunch sack, a t-shirt in soft earth tones, a stylish cap, or an environmentally friendly travel mug? Those of us on the Concessions Committee (Kathleen Floyd, Sharon Duncan and Lyn Gilman-Garrick) invite you to visit our display table at the next potluck to find the perfect gift for that special someone or yourself! If you don't want to wait, visit the Obsidian web site and click on "Get Obsidian Merchandise" or simply give us a call at 345-5236. We'll make sure you get your gift in time for the holidays.

Several of you have asked us if we could carry note cards with photographs of activities or places that are special to the Obsidians. We think it's a great idea, so we've decided to challenge all the photographers out there to send us a few of your very best photographs. Don't send us any just yet. We wanted to give you a heads up so you'll start looking through all your drawers and computer files...a fun project for those long gray winter afternoons. We'll send out another announcement in January with more details. There will be prizes for the ones we choose!

Obsidian Calendar

December

- 12 Sat – **Trapper Creek**, S'Shoe, Flashenberg 461-1977
- 15 Tue – **Spencer Butte**, Hike, M, Jacobsen 343-8030
- 16 Wed – **Kentucky Falls**, Hike, E, Pierce 344-1775
- 18 Fri – **Baja Ha Ha, Becker** **Potluck**
- 19 Sat – **Midnight Lake**, X-Ski, M, S.Wolling 345-2110
- 20 Sun – **Tahkenitch St Pk**, 7m 1200' M, Lipton 736-7498
- 20 Sun – **Arrowhead Lake**, X-Ski, D, Shuraleff.. 726-8416
- 20 Sun – **Odell Viewpoint**, S'Shoe, M, S.Hovis .. 345-7788
- 21 Mon – **Mt Pisgah**, Hike, E, R. Ahrens 689-3996

January 2010

- 1 Fri – **Spencer Butte**, 2.2m, E, Jacobsen 343-8030
- 3 Sun – **Rosary Lakes**, X-Ski, M, B.Hamilton..... 343-6550
- 9 Sat – **Midnight Lake**, S'Shoe, M, M.Bell...503-884-8829
- 9 Sat – **Spencer Butte**, 5.6m M, Jacobsen..... 343-8030
- 10 Sun – **Gold Lake**, S'Shoe, M, L.Funkhouser ... 206-2303
- 12 Tue – **Gold Lake**, S'Shoe, E, J.Pierce 344-1775
- 16 Sat – **Dorris Ranch**, 3m E, B.Revere..... 543-3514
- 17 Sun – **Arrowhead Lake**, X-Ski, D, D.McCarty 342-6962
- 23 Sat – **Bechtel Shelter**, S'Shoe, M Camp 221-1866
- 23 Sat – **Berley Lakes**, X-Ski, M, B.Hamilton..... 343-6550
- 23 Sat – **Maiden Ski Shelter**, S'Shoe, D, Bell 503-884-8829
- 24 Sun – **Sand Mtn Plateau**, X-Ski, D, S.Miller.. 484-4586
- 29 Fri – **New Wilderness Areas, Sullivan**..... **Potluck**
- 30 Sat – **Lava Lake**, S'Shoe 7m 300' D, S.Hovis . 345-7788
- 30 Sat – Trail Maintenance, M Bell.....503-884-8829
- 31 Sun – **JoAnn/Lorin Lakes**, X-Ski, D, Jensen.. 344-1363

February

- 2 Tue – **Spencer Butte**, 6.5, M, Jacobsen 343-8030
- 4 Thu – **Maiden Peak**, X-Ski, D, J.Anselmo..... 782-2369
- 6 Sat – **Arrowhead Lake**, X-Ski, D, J.Cooper 344-8517
- 6 Sat – **JoAnn Lake**, S'Shoe 9m 1200' D, S.Hovis 345-7788
- 6 Sat – **Maiden Peak**, S'Shoe, D, M.Bell.....503-884-8829
- 7 Sun – **Maxwell Shelter**, S'Shoe, M, D.James.... 683-7488
- 7 Sun – **Redtop Mtn**, X-Ski, D, G. Sayre..... 345-2370
- 10 Wed – **Row River Trail**, Hike, D, S.Larsen 687-2589
- 10 Wed – **Willamette Bike Path**, M, Romoser 726-8154
- 13 Sat – **Rosary Lakes**, S'Shoe, D, Funkhouser... 206-2303
- 13 Sat – **Rosary Lakes**, X-Ski, M, S.Wolling 345-2110
- 16 Tue – **Dmnd Creek Falls**, S'Shoe, M, Pierce.. 344-1775
- 19 Fri – **W Eugene Wetlands**, E, Cunningham.... 344-0486
- 20 Sat – **Gold Lake**, S'Shoe, M, C.Durham..... 687-0885
- 21 Sun – **Maiden Peak**, X-Ski, D, D.McCarty 342-6962
- 25 Thu – **Tahkenitch Dunes**, Hike, M, S.Larsen . 687-2589
- 27 Sat – **Maklaks**, X-Ski/S'Shoe M, Lindstrom... 683-1409
- 27 Sat – Trail Maintenance, M Bell.....503-884-8829
- 28 Sun – **Talking Stones**, Hike, M, R. Ahrens 689-3996

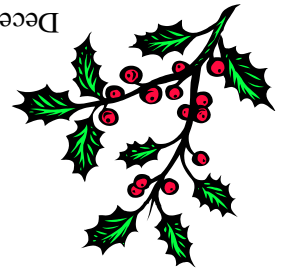
March

- 7 Sun – **Fuji Shelter Loop**, X-Ski, D, Anderson .. 946-1732
- 13 Sat – **Gold Lake**, X-Ski, M, L.Funkhouser 206-2303
- 13 Sat – **Walk, Wine & Dine**, Hike, E, J.Ledet ... 683-2603
- 14 Sun – **Island Lakes Loop**, X-Ski, D, Jensen ... 344-1363
- 15 Mon – **North Shasta Loop**, Hike M, Romoser. 726-8154
- 16 Tue – **Butte Eagles Nest**, Hike E, Essenberg .. 343-1733
- 26 Fri – **Backpacker Behaviors, Lau**..... **Potluck**
- 27 Sat – Trail Maintenance, M Bell.....503-884-8829



Silver Falls near Coos Bay—see Trip Report on Page 7. Photo by Jim Pierce

December 2009



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