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## Dates to Remember

Oct 22	Potluck - Backpackers
Oct 26	ExploraTalk - Raptors
Oct 30	Sharon Ritchie Celebration
Nov 3	Board Meeting

Complete current schedules at:  
[www.obsidians.org](http://www.obsidians.org) or  
 Register-Guard – Outdoors – Tuesday

Membership  
 Renewals Are Due  
 \$30 due by November 1  
 Now That's a Bargain!

No December Bulletin  
 There will be no December  
*Bulletin* published, so if you  
 have December events to fea-  
 ture, they will need to be in by  
 the November deadline for  
 publishing in the November  
*Bulletin*.

# Obsidian Online

By John Jacobsen

**T**HE OBSIDIAN ONLINE COMMITTEE has been working for over a year developing a system for Obsidian members and guests to sign up for trips via the internet. The project is nearing completion and soon you will be able to log in to the new online system from any computer, click on the trip(s) of your choice and bingo, it's done – no more jaunts to the Y to sign up for an activity – I wonder if they will miss us?

The project required much more than building a system for members and guests to sign up online. It will also allow the activities committees to create and monitor their schedules via the same system, from preliminary trip scheduling to archiving of the trip reports. Trip leaders will be able to fill out their trip signup sheets online, monitor the signup progress online, download the filled out signup sheet and finally enter their trip report online. Guests will be able to register to use the online signup as well, and once registered will be able to sign up

(Continued on page 7)

## Help Wanted – Testers and Data Entry

**STARTING IN MID-OCTOBER** we will do some testing of the new Obsidian online signup system. We want to load test the system, so we need a number of people that can help us at scheduled times to hit the system with various designated functions. There will also be some limited usability testing. Data entry to update the new system with historic data will be a big job that could involve a number of volunteers. Folks of varying computer skill levels using either Mac or Windows systems of various vintages are required.

If you would like to help, contact John Jacobsen, [johnwjacobsen@comcast.net](mailto:johnwjacobsen@comcast.net) and let me know:

- Computer and operating system you will use: Windows (Vista, Windows 7, etc.) or Mac (OS 10.1, 10.6 Tiger, etc.),
- Browser(s) that you use: Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari, etc.
- Times that would be best for you: anytime, week, weekend, evenings etc.

## OBITUARIES

### Ruth Bascom

1926 - 2010

**R**UTH BASCOM, FORMER OBSIDIAN AND MAYOR OF EUGENE, passed away on August 26<sup>th</sup> after being injured in an earlier car accident.

Ruth became involved with the Obsidians in 1962 when she took her first hike with the club, and eventually climbed five different peaks, doing Mt. Thielsen twice. It was a family affair too, as she and her young family attended three different summer camps in the mid 1960s. The first summer camp involved packing in supplies, and at a later camp their three year old daughter hiked in for eight miles. Quite an impressive accomplishment for a small child.

As Ruth became more involved in community activities she let her membership in the Obsidians lapse in 1990. But we, and the entire population of the Eugene area, can enjoy the legacy Ruth left behind. She was instrumental in promoting and guiding the expansion of the area's outdoor recreational facilities we all enjoy today.

*Editors Note: For more information about Ruth's life see the obituary in the August 30<sup>th</sup> Register Guard.*

### Carol Armstrong In Memoriam

**C**AROL ARMSTRONG, a hiker and Obsidian member for a short time, passed away September 8<sup>th</sup> due to lung cancer. She was 73.

*Editor's Note: See the September 12<sup>th</sup> Register Guard for further information.*

### Bob Dark Remembered

**P**RIOR TO THE LEWIS AND CLARK BI-CENTENNIAL, 2003-2006, Bob became interested in preparations for the event. He did a restoration project at the gravesite of the son of Sacajawea, Jean Baptiste Charbonneau, who died of pneumonia in 1866 at Inskips Ranch near Danner, Oregon. Bob was proud of the project and he urged Obsidians to visit the site when over that way.



Danner is located between Jordan Valley and Rome, Oregon, near the Idaho border. To visit the site take the turnoff that is 17 miles from Jordan Valley or 16 miles from Rome, then 3 miles from Highway 95 to the site. The turnoff is marked by a Lewis and Clark history sign. (42.9518° N and 117.339° W)

- Wes Prouty

*Editor's Note: Bob Dark's obituary appeared in the July/August 2010 Bulletin.*

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P.O. Box 322, Eugene, OR 97440

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

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Winter Trips ..... Tom Musselwhite

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Saturday, October 30, 2010

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## Sharon Ritchie ~ 1936 - 2010

**S**HARON A. RITCHIE died on September 18, 2010, as a result of head injuries suffered in a bicycle accident. She was 74 years young. She will live forever in the hearts of her loving family and her multitude of friends.

Sharon was born on February 5, 1936, in Bell, CA, to Arthur and Shirley Allen. She married Clarence Smith in 1954. They had one son, Mike. Clarence and Sharon were divorced in 1955. Sharon later moved to Los Angeles, where she worked as a secretary for Longview Fibre. During this period, she married Roy Clark. They had a son, Jeff, and a daughter, Sheri. Roy and Sharon divorced in 1963.

Sharon also worked as a secretary for North American Aviation and as executive secretary for Sequoia Pacific. In 1971 Sharon married James Ritchie in Carmel, CA. After James retired from Rockwell International in 1982, they relocated from Dallas, TX to Eugene, where Sharon became active in Food for Lane County and Senior Driving Services.

Sharon was an avid hiker, cross-country skier and road cyclist. She joined the Obsidians, a Eugene outdoor club, in 1987 and its members quickly became her second family. She served as President in 1991-92, led over 100 trips and participated in countless more. At the age of 67 she took up road cycling with a passion. She was a frequent sight on the back roads of the Willamette Valley on her prized blue Trek bike.



Sharon's husband, Jim, died on August 1, 2010 after a lengthy battle with Parkinson's Disease. Sharon is survived by her mother Shirley A. DeLung of Snohomish, WA; sons Mike Smith (and wife Sherry) of Bay City, OR and Jeff Clark (and wife Louise) of Beaverton, OR; daughter Sheri Melanson (and husband Tom) of San Antonio, NM; stepson John Ritchie (and wife Sherry) of Twin Falls, ID; brother Fred Allen of Snohomish, WA; half-brothers Randy DeLung of Lynnwood, WA and Tim Allen of Soquel, CA; five grandchildren and many, many friends.

Sharon will be remembered for her warmth, humor and infectious love of life. She had the wonderful ability of sharing her passions with everyone she met. She truly never met a stranger.

*By Lyn Gilman Garrick*

### Remembering Sharon

*By Janet Jacobsen*

**S**HARON WAS A LOVING and caring wife and mother, a super friend, an outdoor enthusiast, ultimate organizer, and a positive force in the Obsidians Club. Her first trip with the club and her first time up Mt. Pisgah was April 11, 1987. By June, she was a member, an avid hiker and later, a cross-country skier.

When the Obsidians celebrated their 75th birthday in 2002, Sharon wrote this recollection about her President's Tea at Camp Ritchie in the Gros Ventre Valley of Wyoming. The President's Tea focused on Sharon's interest in the portable toilets. Sharon, and husband Jim, had camp clean up duty which meant

*(Continued on page 6)*



### Celebration of Life

Saturday Oct. 30, 2010, 3 pm at the Obsidian Lodge

**C**OME AND JOIN SHARON'S FAMILY AND FRIENDS for a gathering in her memory. We want to celebrate her remarkable life and exuberant spirit. Bring a story of one of your good times with her and share reminiscences. There will be a dessert potluck – add a goodie to share, if you would like. Beverages will be provided.

## Laurie Funkhouser, Entertainment Chair

**D**ESPITE BEING VIRTUALLY A NATIVE OREGONIAN, my hiking did not really begin until joining the Obsidians in October 2003. Then I discovered that there was more to the club than hiking. I experienced the challenge of climbing through Climb School, the silence of the woods when cross-county skiing, the tasty delights of the potluck table, etc.

After some time of being a member and reaping the benefits of belonging to a well-organized group, I decided it was time to do my part in serving the club. This began with chairing the Concessions Committee then expanded to being a board member, serving as Secretary and finally becoming the Entertainment Chair. Involvement in the administration of the club has been very rewarding and enlightening.

There have been many trips that I have taken which bring fond memories due to the pleasure of the company, the beautiful scenery, challenge or accomplishment. I am looking forward to the continuing exploration of the outdoors through the Obsidians.

Outside of Obsidians, I am working as a full-time secretary with a local law firm.



## Tom Musselwhite, Winter Trips Chair

**L**ONG TIME OBSIDIAN JOELLA LEWING first introduced me to the Obsidians in 2004, and I became a member in 2006. I joined as the lodge renovation was nearing completion, and got to help with a few finishing touches, mostly painting. I have attended two Obsidian Summer Camps: Yellowstone at Earthquake Lake and the Mt. Lassen camp. This year I attended the Sequim camp, and have started leading a few trips myself. I've been a member of the Science & Education Committee for 3 years and now serve on the newly combined Sci-Ed/Conservation Committees. Also this year, after learning the ropes on the Summer Trips Committee, I am chairing the Winter Trips Committee.



First and foremost, I think it is the nature and character of the members that I appreciate most as a member. In second place on a list of what I like best about the Obsidians is the club's emphasis on organization around safety, planning, and training.

I was born on the east coast in rural south Georgia. My family moved to West Palm Beach, Florida in the summer I turned twelve. After a stint with the US Navy, I moved west, ending up in Boulder, Colorado where I met a fifth generation Oregon gal. That's how I ended up in Eugene in September of 1978. I've never seriously considered moving anyplace else.

Over the past 30 years I have worked some, raised kids some, gone to school some, and enjoyed a bounty of outdoor activities with friends and family, mostly here in Lane County. My interest in all things forest, rivers, and the outdoors goes back a ways. As a child in south Georgia, I was introduced to Smokey the Bear at a very young age. My cousin was the county Ranger, and my Grandmother . . . the firewatch. I spent a fair amount of time hanging out on the firetower

looking for smoke, and down in the Ranger Station checking out resin encapsulated insects and other Dept. of Forestry show-and-tells. More recently (back in the '90s), I accumulated a few credits at the UO, mostly in the area of basic environmental studies and research on ecological restoration projects in Oregon.

Also while at the UO, I had the privilege of meeting Mel Jackson. I suspect a number of long term Obsidians may remember Mel. Among other courses, Mel taught one titled "Risk and Liability for the Outdoor Professional". Yes I took the course, and NO, I am not a mountain climber. Not yet anyway.

Other interests include: my grandchildren (and their parents), my Neighborhood Association -- mostly around issues of air and water quality, public safety and human rights -- and an occasional fishing trip.

## Beth Kodama ~ 1945 - 2010

**B**ETH KODAMA, a good friend to many Obsidians, died August 27 of cancer. She was 64 years old.

Beth and husband Ken moved to Eugene from Maryland in 2001 and joined the Obsidians shortly thereafter. She was an active member and participated in and led a number of hikes. She played a major role on the Entertainment Committee for several years and wrote several memorable articles for the Obsidian Bulletin. Earlier this year, Beth organized and led a very successful extended trip to Crater Lake. She was an active participant at summer camp, having attended camps in Wyoming, the Wallowa Mountains, Mt. Baker, Yellowstone and the Sawtooth Mountains.

Beth was born in Ohio and raised in Syracuse, New York. She graduated from Muskingum College in Ohio and received a master's degree in Southeast Asian Studies from Yale University. Yale was even more significant in her life, however, because that's where she met Ken. They became engaged only ten days after their first date, and were married in 1967.

After graduate school, Beth worked as a copy editor for Yale University Press, then for the English language division of Tokyo University Press. The latter job took the Kodamas to Japan for three years where their son, Matthew, was born. When Ken took a faculty position at Colby College in Maine, Beth worked freelance as a copy editor, and later, their daughter, Emily, was born there.

In 1977, the Kodamas moved to the Washington D. C. area and Beth found a job with the National Security Agency as a translator and analyst. Beth remained in that position for twenty-two years until her retirement in 1999.

Beth led an active life in retirement. She volunteered for a time in Eugene's Japanese Immersion School, then became a Master Gardener and spent many hours working at the Grassroots Garden in Eugene. She was also an active and faithful volunteer for the Eugene Public Library, helping to prepare



for the library's annual book sale. She continued to use her editing skills to assist in the publication of newsletters for the Grassroots Garden and Habitat for Humanity.

Beth loved music and it played a big part in her life. She loved to sing and had a beautiful voice (a trait passed on to Emily). She participated in several singing groups and sometimes led group singing at Obsidians summer camp or on extended trips. Beth also played the ukulele and enjoyed playing and singing with local ukulele groups. She was a devotee of Bluegrass music and she and Ken attended several Bluegrass and folk festivals in the Pacific North-

west area. In addition, she was an avid dancer.

Beth had a keen intellect and read widely, and she was a witty and interesting conversationalist. She loved puzzles and games and intellectual challenges. She knew several languages, and more recently had immersed herself in French because of trips she and Ken made to France. Given her background in editing, it wasn't surprising that Beth was a good writer. Some may recall her funny story in the Bulletin from a few years ago, about donning all manner of winter gear during an unusual Eugene snowstorm for a trip across the street and down a few yards to get to the mailbox. Her wit and playfulness were always ready – the Lady Macbeth Award for superior hand washing at summer camp? – that was Beth.

I think Beth would say she led a charmed life – an ideal marriage, two wonderful children, and more recently, two grandsons to add to the fun. The hundreds of friends she made during her life are simply a testimony to her own love of life, her warm and generous personality, and her gentle nature and openness to the people around her.

In the end, words seem inadequate to capture what it was about Beth that made her so special to so many people. She was simply Beth – a sweet and gracious lady whose cheerful disposition and ready smile could brighten the gloomiest winter's day.

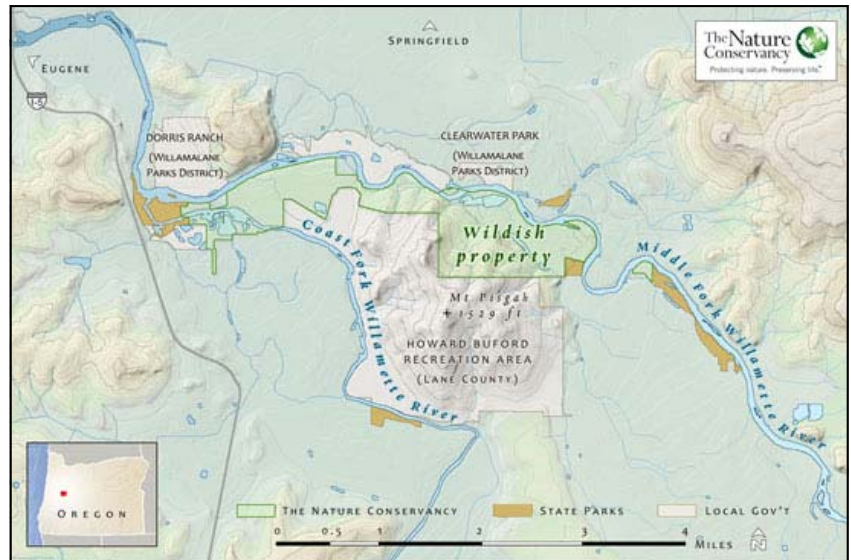
*By Jim Duncan*

# The Nature Conservancy to Purchase Willamette River Property from Wildish Family

**A**N EXPANSE OF SIGNIFICANT FISH AND WILDLIFE habitat at the confluence of the Middle and Coast Forks of the Willamette River will be conserved according to the terms of an agreement announced September 14. The Nature Conservancy expects to purchase the 1,270-acre property from the Wildish family, contingent upon major funding from the Bonneville Power and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

The property represents a unique chance to preserve increasingly rare elements of the Willamette Valley's natural heritage. Important habitats include over six miles of river and stream banks as well as extensive wetlands, floodplain forest, upland oak woodlands and native prairie. More than 30 species of fish and wildlife considered at-risk will benefit from the habitat protection and restoration efforts.

The property adjoins 3,500 acres of public land managed for conservation and recreation, including Lane County's 2,363-acre Howard Buford Recreation Area around Mt. Pisgah. Public interest in acquiring the property dates back to at least 1971, when Governor Tom McCall and others proposed a regional park around Mt. Pisgah including the Wildish property. In recent years scientists have identified the property's ecological diversity and importance to at-risk fish and wildlife as an unparalleled conservation opportunity.



Nature Conservancy scientists will work with multiple public and private partners to plan, finance and oversee extensive ecological restoration of river, streamside, floodplain and upland habitats. Once major restoration work is completed, management plans will identify opportunities to create trails and other public access on the property and the Conservancy will transfer the property to public ownership.

*For more information see The Register Guard, 9/15/10.*

## Remembering Sharon

*(Continued from page 3)*

they had to clean the toilets. Sharon made a plea at an early campfire for men to do a better job of aiming.

*I mean no put-down to other Presidential Teas during the past ten years but with great prejudice, I insist that mine was the best! Who else has an opportunity to spend several hours perched on an authentic, hand-carved wooden miner's 'thunder box' (toilet to the uninitiated)? This 'Throne' was dragged down by Ray Harris and Carol Scherer from an abandoned mining camp (at least I hope it was abandoned!). My crown was made up of partial rolls of toilet paper. As a scepter, I held a broom loaded with full rolls of t.p. And I wore, as a cape, a plastic red and white chequered tablecloth. The gifts, the skits, and songs are cherished memories, most of which had me laughing so hard that my sides ached... And I cried! The culmination of a truly great evening was to be serenaded by the cook playing his bagpipes.*

Sharon initiated the Leader Patches in 2005. She designed the patches, counted up trips and awarded patches to 59 members. In 2006 Sharon received her 100 leader patch and her 300 trip patch. Her animated trip reports reveal a wholehearted woman delighted and amused with each trip.

She wrote about her hike January 28, 1990 on the Tahkenitch Dunes: *What a fantastic day! And to think I almost can-*

*celled because of "a major storm system with 35-40 mph winds." The 'walk' on the beach was a riot. All these adults running, skipping and laughing like 5-year-olds. The wind was 35-40 mph with gusts to 50, and it seemed to lift us right off the ground. We all agreed it was a truly exciting and unique day. On July 29, 1990, Substitute Point: Well, I didn't exactly lie. I just said it's cooler up there than here in Eugene. Okay, okay, I was wrong. It was VERY warm.... We had a nice WARM hike to the top for lunch in the nice WARM sunshine. On June 29, 1997, Opal Creek Wilderness: The day was fantastic. Every year I write about blue skies, green huge trees, and crystal clear water ... well, it happened again. In fact it was hard to hike.*

When Sharon needed to spend more time at home taking care of her husband, Jim, she found that bicycling was a more efficient way to enjoy the out of doors. Sharon wrote in the April 2008 Bulletin: *After 18 years of weekly hikes and cross country skiing with the Obsidians, I was turning 67 and thinking about expanding my horizons...So I drug out my mountain bike, hosed off the cobwebs, climbed on and rode ...what I will tell you is that I fell in love with road biking.*

She was soon biking with Spoke Folks and making close friends in the biking community. Later, Sharon started leading rides for the Obsidians and encouraged members to hose off their bikes and join her. Whether hiking, skiing, or biking, a trip with Sharon was to celebrate her joy.



## Wind Farms, Friend or Foe?

By Pat Bitner, Conservation/SciEd Co-chair

**M**OST OF US ARE AWARE of the controversial proposed wind farms on the slopes of Steens Mountain. The Steens, regarded by many who love the wide open spaces of eastern Oregon as off limits to any form of development, sits in high desert, largely empty of human imprint. It is also a part of Oregon where the wind blows regularly and sometimes fiercely. Aside from wind farms, thousands of acres on Steens Mountain are open to development for homebuilding. The BLM manages 428,000 acres, the state 1,000 acres, but 67,000 acres on and around the mountain are privately owned. Most are suitable for homes. Only one of the proposed wind farms has been approved; the project known as Echanis has received a Harney County permit. Two other planned developments were withdrawn.

It appears that development of wind farms in Oregon has assumed a mantle of gold rush urgency in eastern Oregon and the Columbia Gorge. Oregon is now about seventh in the states with wind energy projects planned or in place. Under Senate Bill 838, wind, solar, geothermal and other types of renewable power must account for 25% of an electric utility's retail sales by 2025. According to a report released in 2010 by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Oregon has potential to install over 27,000 megawatts of onshore wind power. Oregon offers subsidies as part of its Business Energy Tax Credit Program to firms developing wind power, making development more attractive.

Recently I had the opportunity to visit the Elkhorn Valley Wind Project on a trip to eastern Oregon. The Elkhorn project, active since 2007, is located in a sparsely populated

rural area near the small town of Union. By our usual standards, of course, one might say, 'unpopulated'. It is difficult to see the towers as massive as they really are -- they march up the hills in rather pleasing curves, following the natural terrain. They somehow reminded me of so many Don Quixote windmill adversaries. I asked the site manager about damage to birds and bats; he said that a wildlife biologist regularly checks the site to assess damage to wildlife, and that he probably kills more birds with his car than do the turbines. (???)



Resistance to wind turbines has increased in Oregon. Both the Portland Audubon Society and the Oregon Natural Desert Association have fiercely opposed development on Steens Mountain, and two of the proposed developments have been withdrawn. Wind farms in the Columbia Gorge have faced opposition and the proposed Antelope Ridge Wind Power Project also near Union is drawing growing opposition from local residents. Much of the opposition is based on the undesirability of massive turbines degrading vistas of great beauty.

On the other hand, development of clean energy is vital to this country's future energy policy. Would one rather have a coal fired power plant in view, or a wind farm? In addition, the wind energy development is occurring in areas hard hit by loss of jobs and revenue from lumbering, dwindling revenue from agriculture and loss of local manufacturing. For those of us unlikely to face the prospect of a wind tower nearby, this issue is not an immediate concern - or is it?

Sources: Wikipedia; LaGrande Observer, 2/16/10; Oregonian, 3/5/10; Audubon Society Portland

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## Obsidian Online

(Continued from page 1)

online in the same manner as members.

The toughest part of the project has been integrating the new trip related functionality into the existing Obsidian database which currently handles membership tracking, *Bulletin* subscriber information/labeling and the trip/leader activity counts for trip/leader award purposes. A great deal of tweaking was needed to the existing system in order to meld the online sign up system with it. The actual MembershipDatabase file has been renamed the ObsidianDatabase to reflect the much broader scope and it has been moved to a more ca-

pable database server that can handle the access loading we believe we can expect from the new system once it is up and running.

The project is for the most part complete and the Winter Trips Committee will be the first to use the system as they enter their preliminary scheduling in October. When the initial Winter Trips schedule is finalized by early November, we hope to have the system ready to roll and members and guests will be able to sign up online. The shorter Winter Trips schedule, with fewer activities than Summer Trips, will give us an opportunity to see how the system is functioning and work out any bugs that crop up, so hopefully by the time the 2011 Summer Trips season planning is under way it will be smooth sailing (and easy signing up) for all.

# TRIP REPORTS & OTHER ACTIVITIES



## Hikes

### Ridgeline Trail

August 13, 2010

Leader: Diane Jeffcott

6 miles, 100 ft. (Easy)

**N**INE OF US HIKED ON THE RIDGELINE TRAIL from Dillard Road to Willamette and returned the same way. It was a beautiful, warm, sunny day. Our hike ended about 11:30 just before it started getting too hot. The trail is getting a lot of use and is in good condition. Members: Myron Cook, Dick Hildreth, Sachiko Iwasaki, Diane Jeffcott and John Minor. Nonmembers: Bev Delean, Bob Delean, Brian Popowsky and Eric Swegles.

### Williams Lake

August 15, 2010

Leader: Richard Hildreth

8.6 miles, 400 ft. (Moderate)

**RICHARD HILDRETH WAS SUBSTITUTED AS LEADER** when Joanne Ledet was called to the midwest regarding an illness in the family a few days before the trip. Brad Bennett and his wife Sallie had hiked the trip in June and thus Brad was very familiar with the route. The weather was sunny and warm and there were bugs biting here and there along the route but no oppressive

swarms of them. We started around the loop with the Erma Bell lakes and met a handful of hikers going the other way but saw no one else at any of the lakes the entire day. The highlight for several of us was a swim in Williams Lake where we spent an hour for lunch. The meadows between Williams Lake and Otter Lake still had many blooming flowers. The biggest mystery is the junction below Williams Lake where a sign points off to Judy Lake but there was no Judy Lake shown on Brad's Three Sisters Wilderness Map. Special thanks to Brad for helping with trail navigation and to Judy Ness who was our other driver along with the leader. Members: Brad Bennett, Pat Esch, Richard Hildreth, Lynn Meacham, Nola Nelson, Judy Ness and Richard Sundt. Nonmembers: Barbara Aten and Millie Schwandt.

### PCT Trail: Big Lake to McKenzie Pass

August 15, 2010

Leader: Buzz Blumm

13 miles, 200 ft. (Difficult)

**EIGHTEEN SIGNED UP BUT ONLY ELEVEN SHOWED** (to their credit, all seven no-shows called to cancel - thank you!). Since this was a one-way hike with a key-pass, it took a while to figure out groups and car-pooling. By 6:45 am we were on our way up the road, then on the trail at 9:45, six starting from Big Lake heading south, five starting from McKenzie Trail heading north. We met near the half-way point, in the burn (from a 2007 forest fire I heard), had lunch together, exchanged keys and continued on, each group completing the 13-mile hike about 4:45. During the hike we encountered four PCT travelers including two who had started at the Mexican border and were on the last third of their journey, which would end at the Canadian border, and an 80-year old Korean lady who was hiking 'just' the Oregon segment, with

full pack; Bob Welch wrote about her in his column in the *Register Guard*. This is a spectacular hike with varied scenery, great views of Mt. Washington, the Sisters, the Belknaps, not to mention beautiful forests and meadows. Stay tuned - we'll do this again next year. Hikers were non-Obsidians Mary Henzie, Ross Conforth, Brian Stent and Charles Fisher; members Mike and Patti McNutt, Sachiko Iwasaki, Ernst Schwintzer, Julianna Cichy, Cecile Blumm (co-leader) and Buzz Blumm (leader).

### McKenzie Pass Geology

August 20, 2010

Leader: Peter Rodda

Photo: John Jacobsen

3 miles, 200 ft. (Easy)

**STARTING ON AN UNEXPECTEDLY COOL AND CLOUDY MORNING** in the Eugene-Springfield area, six of us headed up the McKenzie Valley and into the sunshine of a beautiful day. We were joined by one person at the Forest Ser-



*Peter leading the group through the lava fields on McKenzie Pass during his geology hike.*



vice Ranger Station, and two others at the first stop at the junction of highways 126 and 242. As on previous years we started our geological tour at this first stop with a general introduction to the geological history of the area. We then drove up the McKenzie Pass road, stopping several times to view, examine, and discuss the volcanic features and evidence of glacial activity. The second stop was for a view of the canyon walls of Lost Creek, a discussion of the glacier that had filled the valley, and a look at the large spring that feeds Lost Creek. This was followed by a hike to Proxy Falls, walking over lava flows from Collier Cone. After lunch we walked on a small part of the South Belknap Crater lava flow, examined glacial grooves cut into older volcanic rock by Craig Lake, walked across an 'island' of the older volcanic rock nearly engulfed by young lava from Little Belknap Crater, examined the contact between the lava flow from Little Belknap Crater and the flow from Yapoah Crater, had a good view of the peaks from atop Dee Wright Observatory, and finally, walked the newly re-surfaced loop trail on the Yapoah lava flow. From McKenzie Pass we drove straight back to Eugene. Participants were members Keiko Bryan, Janet and John Jacobsen, Tori Lentfer, Susan Sanazaro, and Peter Rodda (leader); and nonmembers Sherwood Jeffries, Steve Knight, and Claudia Owen.

## Fuji Mountain Hike

August 21, 2010

Leader: Rod Wood

3 miles, 950 ft. (Easy)

**THE FOUR OF US FIT COMFORTABLY** in Rod's Forester. We arrived at the trailhead by 10:45, after a pit stop at the Oakridge Dairy Queen. We were on top by 11:40, having seen lots of purple aster-like flowers and some not-yet-ripe huckleberries on the way up. Mosquitos were not a problem and the temperature was perfect. The view was, as advertised, spectacular in spite of some high clouds. We could see all the Cascade peaks from Mt. Jefferson in the north to Mt. Thielsen in the south. Waldo Lake was at our feet with its surrounding peaks of Mt. Ray, Maiden Peak, and The Twins. After lunch and some picture-taking, we were back in the car before 1:00 pm. Since it was so early, Rod suggested that we drive up to Salt Creek Falls, which was only six miles further up Highway 58. This was a treat for those who had never seen it. We were back at SEHS by 3:00 pm. Obsidians were Sarah Praskiewicz and Rod Wood (leader) and nonmembers Jerry Pergamit and Maria Elena Munoz.

## Black Crater

August 22, 2010

Leader: Sue Wolling

7.4 miles, 2,500 ft. (Difficult)

**AFTER MEETING AT SEHS**, we needed only two vehicles to get our group of nine up to the trailhead near the Dee Wright Observatory, so by the time we started hiking, we were already quite chummy! The trail starts climbing immediately, and continues to climb quite continuously all the way up. It was steeper than I remembered (I'm not sure which conclusion is worse: that I'm losing my memory, or that a hike that didn't seem so steep a few years ago suddenly seems very steep to me now. Welcome to life as an old fart!) The trail rises through lodgepole forests, then a few rock outcroppings, a few meadows, and finally arrives on a moon-like volcanic landscape for potentially stunning views of the Cascades. We saw most of the major Cascade peaks: most of North and Middle Sister, most of South Sister, most of Mount Washington...but unfortunately we didn't see the peaks of any of these, because they were covered by clouds! Broken Top was completely visible and beautiful, while Mt. Jefferson was little more than a rumor. Despite very cold, windy conditions at the top (fortunately these Obsidians were all well-prepared), we enjoyed a relatively quick lunch in the shelter of some trees and were entertained by an incredibly industrious ant who carried a caterpillar three times his size back to his nest. (Does it say something about me that I find *American Idol* boring, but can happily watch an industrious ant for 30 minutes?!) The trip down was much quicker than the climb up, and we all agreed it was a good trip, even if the views weren't what they might have been. Enjoying this strenuous hike were members Dick Hildreth, Lana Lindstrom, Lynn Meacham, Nola Nelson, Chris Stockdale, Richard Sundt and Sue Wolling, and nonmembers Juliana Cichy and Chuck Harpham.

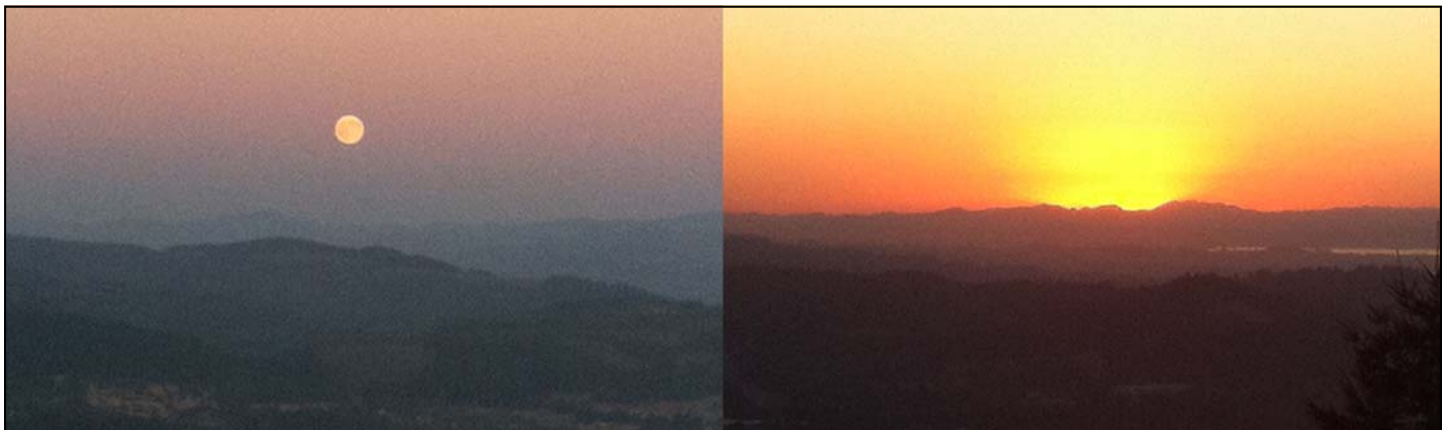
## Mt. Pisgah Moonrise/Sunset

August 24, 2010

Leader: Janet Jacobsen Photos: John Jacobsen

3 miles, 1,000 ft. (Easy)

**STANDING ON THE MT. PISGAH SUMMIT AT 7:50 PM**, we were just in time to see the silvery white moon rising in the east while the sun was beginning to set at 8:02 in the west. The dramatic red hues of sunset began to lose color as the full moon began to shine. It was a warm night making it easy for us to hang around on top and enjoy planet and star gazing. It was an impressive solar panorama 'produced' just for Susan and Jim's first time on



Moonrise/sunset from Mt Pisgah

Pisgah. Serenaded by crickets (or katydids?), the full moon beamed our way down the trail. At 9:12 we spotted the Space Station speeding across the sky above the moon. My directions for the meeting place on the sign-up sheet were confusing so thanks to nonmembers Richard McGainnes and Jim Koretz who figured it out. Also participating were members Rick Ahrens, Janet and John Jacobsen, and Susan Sanazaro.

## Sweet Creek

August 26, 2010

Leader: Jim Pierce

2.5 miles, 250 ft. (Easy)

**SWEET CREEK WAS MARVELOUS**, as always. The weather was great. The stream level was low, but not the lowest I have seen. We saw MANY varieties of ferns, mosses, flowers and trees. With all the plant identifications, it took us two hours to hike the mile to the falls. Members: Myron Cook, Helen Martz, Charlene Pierce, Jim Pierce, Margaret Prentice and Bonnie Richman. Nonmembers: Mary Morrison and Eric Swegles.

## Tipsoo Peak

August 27, 2010

Leader & Photo: John Jacobsen

6.2 miles, 1,500 ft. (Moderate)



*Trail sign to Tipsoo is also a target - luckily the shooters don't seem to be very good shots.*

**THIS HIKE WAS A PRELUDE** to the Mt. Bailey hike the following day. It would have been nice if the great weather we had for Tipsoo would have lasted one more day - oh well. The four of us headed out of our meeting point at Pleasant Hill at 7:00 am and were headed up the Tipsoo trail by 9:45. An hour and a half later we were on top enjoying the nice weather, a nice lunch, the world's best view of Mt. Thielsen and watching a couple of marimots cavort. Recent elk tracks on the trail and mule deer standing nearby were also a part of this wildlife extravaganza hike. While not a part of the official trip itinerary, after the main event we went up Cinnamon Butte to visit the lookout there and its fire watcher. We had a great introduction to fire watching and yet another great view of the area. Then it was on to Crater Lake for a hike up to the Watchtower and visit one more lookout, visit with one more fire watcher and enjoy an incredible view of Crater Lake. Members: Brad Bennett, Rob Castleberry, Janet Jacobsen and John Jacobsen.

## Mt. Bailey

August 28, 2010

Leader: John Jacobsen

9 miles, 2,500 ft. (Difficult)

**WE GATHERED AT THE DIAMOND LAKE RESORT** at 8:00 am under overcast skies with the hope that the showers predicted for the day would be fleeting if not avoided altogether, but it was not to be. Conditions were cold, comfortable and dry as we left the trailhead, but by the time we were mounting the east ridge a couple hours later on the way to the summit, the ceiling began to drop and a light spitting rain started. By the time we reached 7500 feet and breaking out of the sparse timber, the wind was blowing, the snow flying and the two climbers ahead of our group were heading down after bailing out short of the summit. We persevered, but not for long as the higher we went the lower the visibility and the more miserable the conditions became. Realizing that with any luck at all, Mt. Bailey would be there to climb again on a more reasonable day, we gave up about 500 feet below the summit near the crater on the south side. Janet and I stayed at Diamond Lake Resort that evening; about sunset the clouds cleared briefly from Mt. Bailey to reveal a freshly snowcapped peak. Members: Brad Bennett, Rob Castleberry, Janet Jacobsen, John Jacobsen, Daphne James and Chris Stockdale; nonmember: Jane Engert.

## Divide Lake

August 28, 2010

Leader: Judith Terry

8 miles, 1,200 ft. (Moderate)

**ALTHOUGH IT WAS AUGUST 28TH**, the temperature was 42 degrees when we began the hike and seemed to get even colder. We had drizzle/rain the entire day. At one point it even appeared it wanted to snow. The good part was that most of the hike was in the canopy of big trees. The other good part: absolutely NO mosquitos. We were passed by other hikers and backpackers coming and going. Notch Lake and Divide Lake had lingering fog that gave an eerie, strange beauty. Not seen were Diamond Peak and Mt. Yoran due to thick cloud cover, but we think they are still there. The nine wet and cold hikers were: nonmembers Sandra Feren, Chuck Harp, Art Kearney, Kate Parrish and Joanne Whitfield; and members Dick Hildreth, Karla Rusow, Guy Strahon, and Judith Terry (leader).

## Shasta Loops/Blackberries

August 31, 2010

Leader: Marshall Kandell

4 miles, 400 ft. (Easy)

**INSTEAD OF RAIN, WE HAD GREAT HIKING WEATHER:** cool and partly sunny. A few deer graced our walk down North Shasta Loop and up South Shasta Loop. As always, the neighborhoods and architecture spurred lots of conversation. The blackberries were in their prime and although everyone pretty much snagged their limits, we left a million or so for others (or for independent return trips). Rebecca Hale and Mickey Baden, who are new to Eugene (from Cincinnati), were on their first of what hopefully will become many Obsidian hikes. Lauren Bruyere had already qualified for club membership and just needed to remember to mail in her application. Members on the annual blackberry quest were Dick Hildreth, Sachiko Iwasaki, Diane Jeffcott, Marshall Kandell, Sandra Larsen, Margaret Prentice and Ken Rivernider.

## Junction Lake via Carl Lake

September 2, 2010

Leader: Dan Christensen

14 miles, 1,500 ft. (Difficult)

**THE EAST SIDE OF THE JEFFERSON WILDERNESS**, off of Jack Lake Road, is one of my favorite places to initiate hikes. Typically these hikes head in a westerly direction up the east side of the Middle Cascades toward the PCT. Either Mt. Jefferson and/or Three Fingered Jack is usually visible on the western horizon. A moderate hike into beautiful Carl Lake has been either a destination or way point on a number of these hikes for me. However, this fall's hike would be a new experience. The intention was to travel north on the Table Lake Trail from Carl Lake to a small pond called Junction Lake. When I called the Forest Service they informed me that, while the Cabot Lake Trail was well-maintained, they had ceased maintaining the Table Lake Trail and were advising hikers to be prepared for adverse conditions. Sounded good to me! Four brave (or foolish) adventurers joined me for this experience on a beautiful late summer day. 'Road Warrior' Scott's SUV was able to accommodate all five of us, providing a nice gas saving. The drive takes about 2 1/2 hours to the trailhead. The first two miles are a rather flat hike through the Cabot Lake burn to Cabot Lake. This area is covered with thick brush with pine and hemlock trees, still very small as the fire was about eight years ago. The trail then climbs 500-700 feet up a steep, but well-switchbacked section onto a relatively flat ridgetop. The trail then proceeds two miles through a thick forest canopy to Carl Lake. Carl is a breathtakingly beautiful, moderate sized alpine lake. It sits in a bowl surrounded by the forest canopy with a rock wall stretching up to the PCT on the west side and a canyon dropping away to the northeast. Mt. Jefferson looms overhead. After lunch we were on our way to explore the Table Lake Trail. To our surprise and relief, we found this trail to be in excellent condition. There was no blowdown, overgrowth or trail damage in evidence during this 2-mile stretch. We speculated that the additional four miles to Table Lake would likely be in a similar condition. We experienced about a 500-foot climb up out of the Carl Lake basin but, again, the excellent switchbacks made the climb seem easy. Junction Lake is really a small pond which would not be much of a hiking destination except that the views towards Mt. Jefferson are very rewarding. The reason for choosing this destination was that it happened to be about seven miles from the trailhead. This is about as far as I would venture on a day hike. It was a long day, 13 hours, but our consensus was "worth every minute of it." Chris thought she would consider leading a 2-3 night backpack into Carl next year, with a day hike up to Table Lake. For a 3-night stay, a second day trip up South Cinder Peak would be feasible. Members: Dan Christensen, Lynda Christiansen, Dick Hildreth, Scott Hovis and Chris Stockdale.

## Get Acquainted Hike: Ribbon Trail

September 3, 2010

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

2.5 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

**SIX MEMBERS JOINED FIFTEEN NONMEMBERS** for a pleasant late afternoon hike on the Ribbon Trail. When we reached the end of the trail at 30th and Spring, we made a loop on the new EWEB trail back to Central and the Obsidians Lodge. The city

has cut the switchbacks on the lower part of the EWEB trail so it is now ready for volunteers to spread the gravel. Members: Marti Berger, Roberta Chord, Jane Hackett, Scott Hovis, Janet Jacobsen and Joanne Ledet. Nonmembers: John Ballantine, Harriet Behm, Randy Brabham, Larry Brink, Patrick Bronson, Kathie Carpenter, Linn Cooper, Linda Harris, Janel Laidman, Sherrill Necessary, Doug Partridge, Linda Pickens, Debi Strochlic, Jim Whitfield and Kathy Wilkowski.

## Get Acquainted Hike: Ribbon Trail

September 4, 2010

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

2.5 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

**THE CARS ROLLED IN FOR THE SATURDAY MORNING** Get Acquainted hike. Fortunately, Rick Ahrens, Jim and Sharon Duncan, Lyn Gilman-Garrick, Brian and Mary Hamilton, Margaret Prentice, and Bonnie Richman were there to help greet 34 visitors for a total of 43 people. Most of the folks have lived in the area for some time and always wanted to connect with our group. Recently arrived from New Zealand, Ray Ward hoped to sign up for some challenging hikes. One gentleman from Carlsbad Caverns was visiting in Eugene for a week while his daughter attended camp. He commented that everyone was so friendly. While at the lodge, Lyn made a plug for the ExploraTalk, Jim described his upcoming hike, and Rick highlighted his potluck program. It appeared that everyone wanted to stay longer at the lodge. On the way back to Hendricks Park, we answered the big question: how do you get to the lodge if you are driving? Members: Rick Ahrens, Jim Duncan, Sharon Duncan, Lyn Gilman-Garrick, Brian Hamilton, Mary Hamilton, Janet Jacobsen, Margaret Prentice and Bonnie Richman. Nonmembers: Lynn Ash, Sylvia Beltran, Kathleen Caprario-Ulrich, Flo DeLaney, Ann Dunn, Peggy Funkhouser, Martha Greaney, Tim Griffin, Nancy Hanseri, Denise Hinz, Penny Hoge, Bonnie Hoskinson-Wiebe, Sandy Itzkowitz, Sarah Kerr-Daly, Don Kindt, Don Klinghammer, Sarah Klinghammer, Elizabeth Koch, Maureen Laughlin, Kent Loobey, Bill Mallonee, Linda Martin, Vic Martin, Alan Meyer, Nancy Meyer, Mary Morrison, Jeanne Palzinski, Frank Patten, Connie Pierce, Nancy Rathmann, Jana Rygas, Ray Ward, Jim Whitfield and Ellen Wiebe.

## Canyon Creek Meadows

September 4, 2010

Leader: Elle Weaver

6 miles, 1,300 ft. (Moderate)

**THANK GOODNESS FOR SUNSHINE!** We had an exceptionally beautiful day starting at Jack Lake all the way up to the rocky rim facing Three Fingered Jack. It was windy as usual on the rim and unfortunately the cirque lake was gray-brown, not the glistening turquoise seen on a previous trip. Because of the wind, we didn't go as far as the viewpoint saddle. Keiko directed us to a sunny lunch spot up on a hillside overlooking the trail and lupine fields. On the way home some of us stopped at Camp Sherman's general store. It was packed with Labor Day visitors enjoying the Metolius River which flows just across the street. Members Daphne James, Diane Pergamit, Nancy Whitfield, Keiko Bryan, Pat Esch, and Elle Weaver (leader) enjoyed meeting nonmembers Brian Popowsky and Laura and Michael Murphy.

## Green Lakes via Fall Creek

September 5, 2010

Leader: Daphne James

8.4 miles, 1,100 ft. (Moderate)

IT WAS A CLEAR DAY, NOT A CLOUD IN THE BLUE SKY, perfect for hiking in the Three Sisters Wilderness. The cool weather was ideal for hiking, but it did get a tad cold and a bit windy near the lakes. We got an early start for the two and a half hour drive. It was Labor Day weekend and the trail was busier than usual in the morning, since there were groups of runners training for an event. We hiked along the beautiful creek, viewing the waterfalls along the way, then headed out of the trees to hike along the lava flows. We veered left at the final junction and enjoyed the spectacular view of the larger of the Green Lakes nestled between South Sister and Broken Top glistening in the noon sun. We took a restful lunch at the edge of the lake with everyone taking some quiet time to explore the lake trails, wander along the rock flow, or nap in the warmth of the sun. The great hikers for this fabulous day were members Brad Bennett, Chuck Harpham, Daphne James, Tori Lentfer, and Diane Pergamit, and nonmembers Jolynn Fabiano and Leslie Graymer.

## Lillian Falls and Waldo Lake

September 11, 2010

Leader: Jim Duncan

7.6 miles, 2,200 ft. (Difficult)

SEPTEMBER IS A WONDERFUL TIME FOR HIKING to Lillian Falls and Waldo Lake. The mosquitoes are gone and the late-summer sunlight filters through the forest with a warm, yellow glow, highlighting the orange and red vine maple. It was just such a perfect day as nine hikers made their way to the falls, then on up to Klovdahl Bay on Waldo Lake. The two stream crossings en route provided variety to the steady uphill climb. Lunch at the edge of the lake was ideal with perfect temperatures, blue sky and beautiful vistas to the east. On the return trip, we spent some time at Lillian Falls, scrambling up for the best views. The falls cascade down multiple levels, through sun and shadow on mosses and grasses of infinite green hues, making this one of the most picturesque falls in the Cascades. The congenial group included members Joanne Ledet, Sachiko Iwasaki, Sharon and Jim Duncan, and nonmembers Denise Hinz (doing her second Obsidian hike), Sandy Feren, and Art Kearney. We also had visitors from New York, Orrie and Gudren Frutkin, who are members of the Adirondack Hiking Club.

## Twin Peaks

September 11, 2010

Leader: Brenda Kame'enui

6.6 miles, 1,600 ft. (Moderate)

EIGHT HIKING ENTHUSIASTS expressed repeated delight at the extraordinary autumn day and determined this hike to be a must for every fall season. The trail through mountain hemlock and lodgepole pine is excellent, and the hike offers giant rewards for a relatively short distance. We had clear 360-degree views from the top of the second Twin, and we enjoyed lunch and exploring in the sunshine with no wind. Thank you to the hikers who identified the lakes and mountains with and without a map. Three Obsidians hopefuls (Charles Fisher, Don Klinghammer, and Stephanie Schilling) joined members Brenda Kame'enui, Diane Pergamit, Ernst Schwintzer, Richard Sundt, and Nancy Whitfield on this trip.

## Maxwell Butte

September 12, 2010

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Photo: Richard Essenberg

9.6 miles, 2,500 ft. (Moderate)



IT TOOK TWO HOURS OF HIKING IN THE FOREST to reach the six switchbacks that opened up the panoramic views of the Three Sisters and Mt. Washington. Thirty minutes later we approached the top with a 'front seat' view of Three Fingered Jack and the lake basin. Around the corner, there were Mt. Jefferson and Mt. Hood. We lingered on the rocky butte over an hour, basking in the sun and identifying lakes and peaks. Chris Stockdale said, "It is the best view I've had all summer." Jim Whitfield, who is reactivating his membership, said, "If I had known this view was here, I would have hiked up here years ago." In the near future, he plans to cross-country to Berley Lakes. That sounds like a great car shuttle for an Obsidian hike. Members: Brad Bennett, Janet Jacobsen, Becky Lipton, Chris Stockdale and Jim Whitfield.

## Walterville Canal

September 12, 2010

Leader: Lou Maenz

3 miles, 0 ft. (Easy)

EIGHTEEN WALKERS SHOWED UP for this short, flat, urban walk on a Sunday afternoon. We hiked around the lake, then crossed the road and hiked along the canal. The trip was cut short, by about two miles, by popular vote as the weather was very hot and the canal is not shaded. We stopped at the first road crossover where there is an osprey nest on a pole support. We didn't see the osprey, just a turkey vulture circling high in the sky. Lots of ducks and geese were on the lake, and the apple trees were loaded with some good looking and tasting apples. Members: Jane Allen, Anne Bonine, Clara Emlen, Joanne Ledet, Lou Maenz, Barb Revere and Pat Soussan. Nonmembers: Barbara Aten, Jolyn Fabiano, Linda Harris, Hazel Jones, Jerry Jones, Liz Jones, Debbie McDonell, Donna Samson, Pam Tennant, Jolie Wagoner and Shelley Watson.

## Clear Lake

September 21, 2010

Leader: Marshall Kandell

5.5 miles, 0 ft. (Easy)

DESPITE A COUPLE OF CANCELLATIONS and two no-shows, we

still had a great group of 11 hikers for our most enjoyable journey around Clear Lake. Previous days' rains had left the forest air fresh, the trail dust-free and the flora, especially the vine maple, sporting its brilliant fall colors. With no wind, the lake surface was like a mirror reflecting its surrounding landscape. Armed with lake brochures, we took turns reading the descriptions for each numbered vantage point (it was no *American Idol*, but we did have at least one dramatic performance). None of the wildlife mentioned in the brochure made their presence known to us (except for some ducks), but we did find an amazing blue-tailed skink. Post-trip research indicates that this was a young western skink. Apparently it's the juveniles that have the blue tails and this one had a very impressive electric, almost fluorescent blue tail. He was brave enough to let all of us get a good close-up look at him. Thanks to Anne Montgomery, we got a lot of wonderful information on many of the plants we passed. We had sun and partial sun about half-way around the lake, including during our lunch at Great Spring. Then the clouds took over, obscuring our view of the Three Sisters on the final leg of the loop. By then, however, everyone was more than pleased with the day's experience. Nonmembers on the hike included George and Judy Tanner, Jill Marvin and her sister Jane Morgan (visiting from Houston), Barbara Aten and Linda Harris. Members were Myron Cook, Patricia Esch, Marshall Kandell and Pat Soussan. Thanks to Patricia and Jill for volunteering to be drivers.

### **Mt. Pisgah Sunrise/Moonset**

**September 23, 2010**

**Leader: Royal Murdock**

**2.8 miles, 1,000 ft. (Easy)**

**EARLY MORNING MT. PISGAH IS NOT LONELY.** It seems that regardless of how early I've started, I always meet people coming down well before sunrise, as did prospective new members Beth Rivers and Flo DeLaney and myself after starting up just after 6:00 am. We arrived on top as the sun emerged from behind the Cascades, coloring the clouds in autumn reds and oranges. We had a pleasant hike down greeting friendly people and friendly dogs. Members: Royal Murdock; nonmembers: Flo DeLaney and Beth Rivers.

### **Beach Clean-Up**

**September 25, 2010**

**Leader: Joella Ewing**

**4 miles, 0 ft. (Easy)**

**NINE OBSIDIANS AND ONE NONMEMBER** enthusiastically picked up tons (well, it seemed like tons) of trash on the beach at the end of Sparrow Park Road out of Gardiner, just north of Reedsport. Weather was perfect mid-60s and the company perfect, too. Wayne Cleall carried the heaviest bag (about 40 lbs.) back to a waiting truck provided by SOLV, the sponsoring organization. Beth Roy garnered the most unique find, a dead banded bird, which she sealed into a small plastic bag so authorities can record the data. Bonnie Richman successfully used her invention, combining a sifter with large holes and a collander with smaller holes, to sift small plastic bits from the sand. Members: Wayne Cleall, Walt Dolliver, Joella Ewing, Tori Lentfer, Norma Lockyear, Tom Musselwhite, Bonnie Richman, Beth Roy and Ernst Schwintzer. Nonmember: Sally O'Donnell.

### **Carl Lake/South Cinder Peak**

**September 26, 2010**

**Leader: Becky Lipton**

**14 miles, 2,200 ft. (Difficult)**

**THREE HEARTY HIKERS** decided to defy the weather report of a slight chance of morning showers and proceeded to the trailhead for Carl Lake. A variety of numerous young conifers were peeking up through thick growths of manzanita and huckleberry shrubs throughout the 2003 burn area during the first two miles of the hike. It was reassuring to see the damaged landscape renewing itself with such strength and bounty. The morning was lovely, with partly sunny skies and beautiful fall colors already turning much of the huckleberry shades of flaming red, fiery orange and brilliant yellow. Above Carl Lake the weather began to come in earnestly. The 450-foot ascent up South Cinder Peak was windy with the sky getting darker by the minute. However, we all made it to the top and enjoyed the view with only a five-minute sprinkle to slow us down as we began our descent. Member Becky Lipton was accompanied by nonmembers Kathy Brenner and Charles Fisher.



## **Bicycle Trips**

### **North Fork Siuslaw**

**August 22, 2010**

**Leader: Stewart Hoeg**

**37 miles, 200 ft. (Moderate)**

**A FEW DAYS EARLIER**, the weather forecast hadn't been promising. However when we arrived at the parking area in Old Town Florence at 10:00 am the reality couldn't be beat--blue skies, temperature in the low 60s and no wind. Eleven riders headed out to ride along the North Fork and Upper North Fork of the Siuslaw and were soon surprised by large stretches of newly-paved smooth roads. Could things get any better? Traffic was minimal as we enjoyed the great weather and beautiful riparian scenery. On the way back from lunch, a few riders even stopped to sample the ample supply of blackberries beside the road. A perfect ride was capped off by trips to both BJs for ice cream and Siuslaw Coffee Company for beverages. Riders included nonmembers Chris Hayward-Mayhew and Ruthy Kanagy and members Pam Morris, Richard Hughes, Mel Zavadovsky, Judy Terry, Guy Strahon, Kitson and Peter Graham, Diana Masarie and Stewart Hoeg.

### **Row River Bike Trail**

**August 29, 2010**

**Leader: Guy Strahon**

**30 miles, 100 ft. (Moderate)**

**SEVEN OBSIDIANS RODE THE ROW RIVER TRAIL** on a cool, 58-degree August day. We started out with clothing in layers,

and ended up in shorts and 70 degrees. We rode 15 miles to Wild Wood Falls at a leisurely, social pace. We ate lunch just as the sun came out, and then watched (in amazement) as some teenagers jumped off the rocks into the cool water below. Then it was down the hill to our cars and a treat of sliced watermelon to cap off our ride. Our group consisted of members Barb Bruns, Peter Graham, Kitson Graham, Carol Petty, Virginia Rice, Judy Terry, and leader Guy Strahon.

## Fall Creek

September 26, 2010

Leader: Stewart Hoeg

Photo: Ruthy Kanagy

38 miles, 400 ft. (Moderate)



**THE TRIP STARTED WITH A ROAR**---the roar of drag boat races. We were scheduled to park in the lot on the north side of the reservoir in Lowell, but this was not to be. Week-end long drag boat races were taking place, leaving the lot full to overflowing with campers and race fans. As a result, we were forced to park on the street. Thankfully, after the first half mile we were far enough from the water to be able to hear ourselves think. Also on the plus side was the weather. After an unusually wet early September, Indian summer had arrived in western Oregon. Skies were sunny and the weather was warm. We rode up Big Fall Creek Road on the north side of the reservoir with very little traffic and beautiful scenery. Our lunch spot was Puma Campground which had a second noisy surprise. A half dozen men were there cutting firewood, often with chainsaws. Fortunately, their lunch break mostly coincided with ours and they even gave one of us a bottle of Gatorade. The ride back was equally tranquil and beautiful with the roar of the drag boats signaling the approach to our cars. Four of us finished off the day with a hard-earned stop at the Dairy Queen in Pleasant Hill. Members: Stewart Hoeg, Richard Hughes, George Jobanek and Darlene Mancuso. Nonmember: Ruthy Kanagy.



## Backpacks

### Jefferson Park

September 10-12, 2010

Leader: Scott Hovis

18 miles, 2,000 ft. (Difficult)

**L**AST YEAR WE WENT THE WEEK BEFORE LABOR DAY; this year we went the week after Labor Day. It made a difference in solitude, there were less people and we were able to get the campsite we wanted. There have been signs in the past of the area being loved to death, but restoration is coming along nicely. I was surprised that despite frost there were some hardy bugs still around. The PCT had just been reopened because the forest fire danger was gone. A lot of people brought dogs camping, and the barking took away from the wilderness experience. I noticed on the drive home that the Marion Forks restaurant has been reopened. Members: Keiko Bryan and Scott Hovis. Nonmembers: Teri Schesinger and Tom Warner.

### Hidden Lake (Waldo area)

September 24-26, 2010

Leader: Scott Hovis

16 miles, 2,000 ft. (Moderate)

**HIDDEN LAKE HAS NO TRAIL DIRECTLY TO IT.** It is helpful to locate Gerdine Butte as soon as you come to Charlton Lake; since Hidden Lake is at the base you can use the butte as your beacon to find it. This part of the forest is popular with mountain bikes. The area trails are nicely maintained and the signage is good. Where we park next to Charlton Lake no longer requires a trailhead pass. Camp robbers (Gray Jays) got into my blackberry crumble. Drat!!! Members: Brad Bennett, Scott Hovis and Daphne James; nonmember: Dorothy Kilmer.



## Climbs

### Broken Top

August 21-22, 2010

Leader: Doug Nelson

14 miles, 4,000 ft. (4<sup>th</sup> class)

**A** GROUP OF FIVE **OBSIDIANS** made the drive from Eugene to arrive about noon at the Green Lakes trailhead. The early afternoon was pleasantly cool, with a breeze and intermittent clouds, for our hike up Fall Creek to the beautiful Green Lakes Basin. Though we were carrying overnight and climb gear, the great majority of users were day hikers. I don't think I have ever seen so many cars in the parking lot. Even the overflow parking was full nearly to capacity. The popularity of this

trail is understandable, but it hardly seems like a ‘wilderness’ experience to hike such a heavily-used trail. After reaching the lakes, we soon left the crowds behind as we turned east off from the main trail and started up the gentle slope toward Broken Top’s northwest ridge. We had plenty of time for a leisurely afternoon. After setting up the tents on the rise above the spring, some opted for a hike around the lakes (and, for the really hardy, a swim - brrr!) and some stayed in camp to relax and enjoy the world-class scenery. Our evening was very enjoyable and the sunset clouds blowing about the Sisters were truly spectacular. There had been some question about the weather but morning dawned bright and clear. The breeze was light and the day cool and fine for our hike up the ridge. We took our time and moved carefully on the loose rock. At the base of a small cliff just below the summit we put on our harnesses and used a rope for protection for about fifteen feet of vertical climbing. One of our party decided to stop just below the cliff. The other four proceeded without further need of a rope, walking carefully up the exposed, sloping ramps that lead up the crumbling cliffs to the summit. The view from the top is phenomenal, and sharing it with a group of friends, new and old, is a great pleasure. After savoring the climb and posing for the obligatory photos, we started back down the ridge, again taking our time to pick our way carefully down the notoriously loose and steep slopes that are the trademark of the Cascade’s volcanoes. There were no problems in the descent and we had plenty of time to pack up camp and head back toward the cars. By the time we arrived, tired but contented with our successful climb, the weekend crowds had all but disappeared. Thanks to my fellow climbers who made this a very enjoyable trip. Special thanks to Wayne for his help and support and to Sue for generously sharing her van which allowed us all to travel together in one car. Members: Sean Breslin, Sue Carey, Wayne Deeter, Bistra Hristova and Doug Nelson.

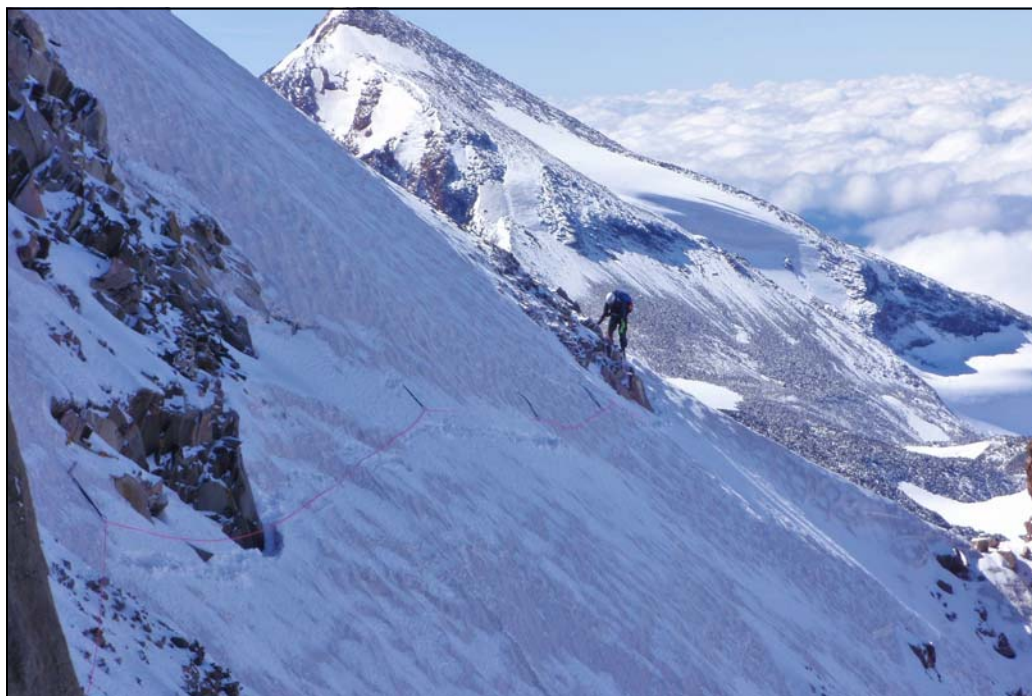
**Mt. McLoughlin**  
**August 27-28, 2010**  
**Leader: Juli McGlinsky**  
**10.5 miles, 4,000 ft. (Difficult)**

**DESPITE INCREASINGLY DISMAL PREDICTIONS** of dropping snow levels and rising chances of rain, our optimistic party of nine left after work to caravan to the Mt. McLoughlin trailhead. Surprisingly, or not, we had the trailhead to ourselves. Being the only ones meant plenty of places to stretch out and enjoy the sound of the creek throughout the night. We hit the trail just after 6:00 am without the need for headlamps. Just after the Mt. McLoughlin Trail joins the PCT, we detoured to Freye Lake. As promised, this provided our first glimpse of the summit. And it wasn’t completely socked in! We returned to the PCT/Mt. McLoughlin Trail and continued on, enjoying glimpses of the lakes

below through billowing clouds. We reached the summit at roughly 10:20. The temperatures were dropping and we were treated with white flakes instead of grand vistas so our stay was brief yet joyful. On the way down we seemed to stay just ahead of the precipitation. We were back at our cars by 1:20 as the mist became a full-blown rain. Even with an ice cream stop in Rice Hill we were comfortably home by early evening. Thanks to each member of the party for making this a fun and smooth trip. If you have the chance to climb with any of these people, do it! Climbers included Obsidian members April Anderson, Deb Carver, Scott Hunt, Shellie Robertson, Sue Zeni, co-leaders John Pegg and Juli McGlinsky, and nonmember guests Beth Machamer and Cambra Ward. (Note: this was my first experience at leading a climb. I want to thank Larry Huff for all his support with maps and sharing experience as well as John Pegg for proving excellent support and back up. Having such excellent support, along with a great bunch of climbers, made leading a very positive experience.)

**North Sister**  
**August 28-29, 2010**  
**Leader & Photo: Wayne Deeter**  
**14 miles, 5,000 ft. (I-3)**

**OUR FIRST TRY WAS ON THE WEEKEND OF JULY 10-11.** Peter Green was my assistant leader, and Monica came along for the backpack and to help prepare sushi and cream pie to share with the group; Ivan Paskalev (aka ‘the tooth’) and Boyan Dobrev made up the Bulgarian contingent; Steve Kuhn was our ‘official’ photographer, and Bob Harrison, Sean Breslin and Dave Jensen rounded out the group. We got an early, before-sunrise start Sunday morning, crossed the toe of the Hayden, ascended the gully to the col at the top of the Collier, then climbed the snowfield up onto the south ridge. Late June snows and cool temperatures meant that there was more snow remaining above 7,000 feet at this time of year than we’ve had for quite some time--it made this approach quick and easy. But



*Crossing the Dinner Plate on the North Sister*

when we got to the Camel's Hump it became a bit difficult and time consuming. We stretched a fixed line out under the Hump, then stomped out a good boot track up and over the next gendarme. The gully before the 'Dinner Plate' was completely filled with snow. Peter fixed two 60m ropes across the gully and the 'Dinner Plate', then he and I belayed each other the rest of the way to the base of the 'Bowling Alley', where we found ice blocking the usual climbing routes--summit denied! Our second attempt was on August 28-29. This time Bob was my assistant, Boyan and Ivan Dobrev (not 'the tooth') our Bulgarians, and Dave just along for the adrenalin rush. We camped Saturday night below the southeast spur (where our group camped last year). It snowed some during the night, but cleared up and got really cold in the morning. We delayed our start until sunrise, but made fairly fast time up the now snow-covered southeast spur, making it to the 'Dinner Plate' in about four hours. (Bob had turned back a short ways up the spur, and remained in camp the rest of the day.) Only a single 70m rope was needed this time across the traverse, but snow on the rock below the 'Bowling Alley' necessitated the use of a hand-line. The usual quick exit to the right out of the 'Alley' minimized the hazard caused by the new snow. The four of us enjoyed a few minutes in the sun on the summit before retracing our steps back to camp to rejoin Bob, pack up, and hike out. Warning: always remember to tie your tent down to something solid so you don't have to go looking for it after coming down from a climb! Members: Sean Breslin, Wayne Deeter, Peter Green, Bob Harrison, Dave Jensen and Steve Kuhn. Nonmembers: Boyan Dobrev, Ivan Dobrev, Monica Green and Ivan Paskalev.



*Roy approaching Thielsen's summit*

## **Mt. Thielsen**

**August 29, 2010**

**Leader & Photo: Brian Hamilton**

**10 miles, 3,990 ft. (I-2)**

**RAIN FELL SPORADICALLY** as we drove from Eugene to Diamond Lake on the evening before the climb. When we reached Diamond Lake Campground, we could see a dusting of snow on the top third of Mt. Bailey across the lake. We were lucky not to have any more rain during our climb, but we did encounter rime ice on trees and ice-slicked rocks on the West Ridge. Our climb began at 5:15 am under a partly cloudy sky with a two-thirds-full moon. We were able to turn off our headlamps by the time we crossed the big blowdown, an area of about 10 acres where all the trees had been toppled by a freak windstorm a few years ago. We reached 'Chicken Point' at the base of the summit pinnacle by about 9:00 and our entire party was on the summit by 9:45. Clouds cleared around us and we enjoyed great views of peaks in the distance poking above the remaining layer of clouds below us. We had the mountain all to ourselves, which was unusual for a summer weekend. It wasn't until we were headed down the ridge and had just reached treeline that we ran into other hikers. At the junction of the climbers' trail and the PCT, we met many more hikers including a contingent from Douglas County Search and Rescue on a training exercise. A steady pace got us back to the trailhead at 1:15. Many thanks to George and Andy Jobanek for joining us after a hiatus from climbing and for lending their knowledge of the mountain. Climbers were members Marci Hansen, George Jobanek (assistant leader), Roy McCormick, and Brian Hamilton (leader), and nonmember Andy Jobanek.

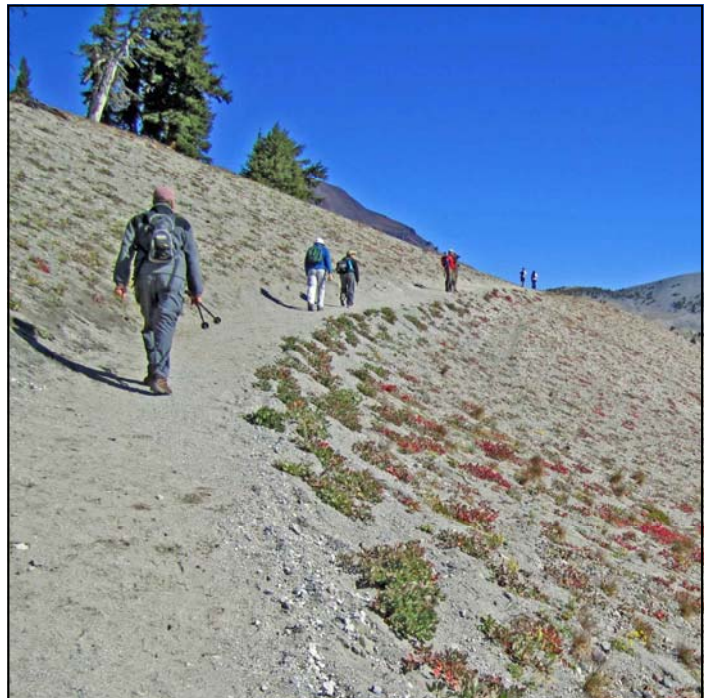
## **South Sister**

**September 5, 2010**

**Leader: Buzz Blumm Photo: Darko Sojak**

**12 miles, 4,800 ft.**

**STILL ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL LATE SUMMER DAY** - the 12 of us met at the trailhead and were hiking by 9:00 am. Given the various individual speeds, we were soon spread out along the trail, with the fast group reaching the top in 4.5 hours and the rest of





us in 6 hours. It was quite busy on the mountain, but very festive and friendly - we encountered perhaps 250 folks along the way, including the U of O women's lacrosse team. The summit was clear and breezy, and upon descending into a small sheltered area just 30 feet from the top, we witnessed a gentleman from Bend proposing marriage to his young lady - she was thrilled, and the subsequent smooching went on for quite a while. Climbers were nonmembers Dennis Chappa and David Russell, and Obsidians Margaret Bayless, Martha Welches, Julianna Cichy, Darko Sojak, Richard Hughes, Lana Lindstrom, Effie Neth, Janet Jacobsen, Madeline Blumm and leader Buzz Blumm.



*Obsidians on Diamond Peak summit*

**Mt. Washington**  
**September 12, 2010**  
**Leader: Brian Hamilton**  
**10.5 miles, 3,000 ft. (I-3)**

**HERE ARE A COUPLE OF THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND** if you're going to climb the north of Mt. Washington in September:

1. When spending the night before the climb near the trailhead at Big Lake, avoid camping close to people with generators, bonfires, and alcohol. You may not get all the sleep you need.
2. When hiking the Pacific Crest Trail in the dark on the morning's approach, remember that you will encounter the climber's trail, marked by a rock cairn, shortly after a sharp switchback in a new section of trail. Don't keep going for another half mile unless you enjoy hiking and have plenty of time to kill.

We were fortunate to have beautiful weather although we began our climb day with frost on our tents. We were on the trail at 5:00 am. This was the leader's first lead of Mt. Washington and the first time on the mountain for the other five of us. A seventh member of our party came along for the hike and stayed at the base of the 'nose' while the rest of us set up and followed three fixed lines to the summit. There was hardly even a breath of wind on the summit and just a few distant whiffs of smoke from the recent Scott Mountain fire. After a half hour on the summit, we down-climbed two of the pitches, secured by prusik loops, and rappelled off the final pitch. The rest of the descent was made on the scree trail, where one climber was narrowly missed by a rock knocked loose from above. After 11½ hours (including an hour spent checking maps and locating the climber's trail) we were back at the trailhead. Along for the hike was Kevin Murphy on his first Obsidian trip. Reaching the summit were Garney Hamilton and Dalen Willhite on their first Obsidian climb and Obsidian members Sean Breslin, Randy Sinnott, April Anderson (assistant leader), and Brian Hamilton (leader.)

**Diamond Peak**  
**September 24-25, 2010**  
**Leader: Doug Nelson Photo: Wayne Deeter**  
**12 miles, 3,550 ft. (3<sup>rd</sup> class)**

**A WEEK PRIOR TO THIS CLIMB** I looked out my window at a wet gray day, checked the long-range weather forecast, and e-mailed the group to say things did not look good for our scheduled climb. Things can sure change in a week! This is the second time I have led this trip as a night hike, ascending the mountain under a full moon with the goal of watching the sun rise from the summit. And the weather could not have been better. A last-minute cancellation brought our party size to five. We drove to the Diamond Rockpile trailhead, arriving well after dark. The moon shone brightly as we hiked into Marie Lake. Our planned camp site at the east end of the lake was occupied so we circled to the other flat area at the west end of the lake and bivouacked under the trees for a few hours of sleep before heading on up the south ridge. We were out of camp at 3:00 am. Wayne led us (more or less) north through the trees and up the mountain. Anyone who has ever climbed in the Oregon Cascades has probably made a few unfavorable comments about the quality of those crumbling slopes. But despite the constantly loose footing I enjoyed the climb very much. The moonlight on the mountain lends an ethereal quality that is quite enchanting. Both Bistra and Roy had brought small tripods and spent some time taking low-light photos of the rocks, trees and sky. As we progressed our party split into fast and slow groups, staying in radio contact as needed. The fast group brought the team success in our stated goal of sunrise from the summit. The slow party took in the same tremendous spectacle from the false summit, then joined our friends on the top a bit later. We all had a fine leisurely break on top (though Wayne could not resist tagging a couple more high points north along the ridge from the summit while the rest relaxed) then headed back down the mountain, greeting several other parties we passed as they as-

cended. We did a little exploration on the way back down to the lake, following the climber's trail a bit to the east to intersect the PCT. Then it was back to camp to pick up our bags and hike at an easy pace to the car. Thanks to all who joined me on this beautiful and most satisfying outing! Everyone's companionship was greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Wayne whose help as co-leader is invaluable and to Sue who provided comfortable transportation for all. Members: Sue Carey, Wayne Deeter, Bistra Hristova, Roy McCormick and Doug Nelson.



## Byways By Bus

### Harrison's Hot Springs Resort

August 16-21, 2010

Leader: Sharon Cutsforth

**M**ONDAY MORNING, OUR ADVENTURE BEGAN as 18 Obsidians and guests boarded the OCW luxury motor coach with Kevin as driver. First stop was at a favorite wooded rest area near Wilsonville for our usual 'Obsidian coffee break.' From there, we traveled to Tumwater Falls Park by the old Olympia Brewery, stopping long enough to enjoy a picnic lunch and view the Deschutes River falls.

Heading north on I-5, we took a slight detour through downtown Seattle with Kevin as tour guide, then on to Best Western Tulalip Inn in Marysville for the night. Tuesday, our first stop was Lynden where we found coffee and goodies, explored some shops and the Dutch Village Mall. Unfortunately, many of the shops inside the mall are closed up, but the water feature and koi fish were still there. After an uneventful border crossing, we arrived at Minter Gardens near Chilliwack, B.C. We spent a couple of hours walking the garden paths, enjoying the beautiful flowers and landscaping, as well as having lunch at the Garden Cafe.

Our mid-afternoon arrival at Harrison Hot Springs Resort was a bit early, however most rooms were ready and the staff graciously allowed us early check-in. The resort is located on the shore of Harrison Lake and is almost completely surrounded by a mountain backdrop, a truly beautiful location.

On Wednesday we drove to the Great Blue Heron Reserve at Chilliwack for a guided walking tour of the grounds bordering the Vedder River. Our guide, Janet, told about different projects they are doing to improve the habitat for blue herons and other native species. August is not the best time to see blue herons at the reserve, but one did accommodate us by flying overhead. The modern interpretive center has attractive exhibits of bird and animal life and of course a gift shop. We were treated to coffee, tea and cookies.

Lunch today was at the Royal Hotel in Chilliwack. Built in 1908, The Royal has been lovingly restored with original hardwood floors, vintage furniture, claw-foot tubs and modern comforts. One of the goals of this trip was to have ample time to enjoy the ambiance of Harrison Hot Springs Resort and the adjoining village. During our free afternoon, some of the group went

salmon fishing on the Fraser River, some took the Harrison Lake scenic boat cruise, others spent the time exploring the village and resort or just relaxing.

Thursday found us heading north along Trans-Canada Highway 1 in the Fraser River Canyon. This was gold mining country in the late 1800's. We marveled at the construction of this modern highway, with seven tunnels in the canyon walls. Our turnaround point was the village of Lytton. Here we visited with the friendly ladies at their visitor center, and walked to the view point to see the blue/green Thompson River join the gray/brown Fraser. The contrasting colors form an interesting pattern as the two rivers merge.

Next stop was Hell's Gate Air Tram for an exciting ride across the Fraser River to Simon's Café for lunch, browsing the gift shop, sampling their fudge and a walk across the suspension bridge, a bit spooky because of the wind. The river is very narrow and deep here, and it is said that 200,000,000 gallons of water per minute flow through the gorge at this spot. Friday was a day for exploring the lower Fraser River valley, stopping first at the Chilliwack Museum. This former City Hall building, a National Historic Site, has been beautifully restored. Displays include a portrait wall of early settlers, 1858 gold rush history and railroad history. The lower valley area contains a wide variety of agricultural farms in a scenic setting. A short drive took us to Bridal Veil Falls Provincial Park, where most of the group completed the short but somewhat strenuous hike up to view the falls.

Then on to the small town of Hope, known for the many chainsaw wood carvings throughout the town. With walking tour maps in hand, we set off in different directions to locate carvings and find some lunch. Other points of interest here: Memorial Park, The Japanese Friendship Garden, Historic Christ Church and Centennial Park on the Fraser River. As we left town, we dropped in on Pete Ryan, internationally known for his wood carvings. He was very gracious in welcoming a surprise bus load of visitors to his shop. As we headed back to Harrison Hot Springs, we stopped at a hazelnut farm to check out how Canadian hazelnuts compare to Oregon's. Dinner this evening was compliments of Barbara and Paul Beard, as they shared their salmon catch with us. Chef Peter of Morgan's Restaurant prepared the salmon in an especially tasty manner, and Barbara and Paul provided bread, fruit and veggies. We filled our plates and had an impromptu picnic in the lakeside park. It was a pleasant way to end our stay.

On Saturday morning we boarded the bus with a bit of sadness that this fun trip was coming to an end. The weather throughout our trip ranged from very warm the first two days, to cool and cloudy later in the week, and then sun again - perfect weather for traveling. Knowing we had the potential for delay at the border, we had a McDonald's rest stop mid-morning, a wise idea, as we did indeed get delayed at the border. Our misfortune was arriving on the heels of a bus load of 54 Korean citizens who were having their documentation thoroughly examined by customs officials. Lunch stop was at Falls Terrace Restaurant beside Deschutes River Falls at Tumwater. A long afternoon of driving brought us to Shopko about 7:00 pm. This was a special trip and the question has been asked "when can we do this again?" Members: Thomas Adamcyk, Don Baldwin, Ron Bauer, Barbara Beard, Paul Beard, Paula Beard, Sharon Cutsforth, Barbara Flanders, Dennis Flanders, Marjorie Jackson, Verna Kocken, Terri Mason, Barbara Payne, Don Payne, Liz Reanier and Barbara Schomaker. Nonmembers: Judy Adamcyk and Edith Pattee.



## Canoe/Kayak Trips

### **Womens' Waldo Lake Kayak/Canoe** **September 17-18, 2010**

**Leaders: Pat Esch & Pat Soussan Photo: Joella Ewing**

**S**IX INTREPID CAMPERS who took a chance on the iffy weather forecast gathered Friday noon at Shadow Bay on the southeast side of Waldo Lake and claimed three adjacent campsites in the loop closest to the lake. We had an afternoon paddle along the shore under warm but cloudy skies. Figuring it was going to rain sometime, we set up a canopy over one picnic table, so were snug during the evening thunderstorm and warmed by our fire as we ate our potluck dinner, sang songs, read stories and played cards. It was rainy Saturday morning, so we elected to hike to the shelter at the

south end of the lake and on the way back we spotted four otters. A lunch of yummy leftovers capped an interesting stay for Obsidian members Keiko Bryan, Clara Emlen, Pat Esch, Joella Ewing, Helen Martz and Patricia Soussan.



## Trail Maintenance



*Photo courtesy of the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space staff*

### **Spencer Butte Trail Maintenance** **July 28, 2010**

**Leader: Matthew Bell**

**N**O ONE, NOT EVEN THE CITY STAFFERS, knew how our project of cleaning off and exposing the cobbled trail bed would go. To that end Christer and Josh had brought along a variety of tools to try out. The most interesting tool was a Stihl with a Powersweep attachment which can only be described as a strange motorized creation of rubber wheels with squeegee-like flaps. We made further progress than anyone expected. Christer cut a log that had long ago fallen over the path of the cobbled trail. Thanks to a little muscle we were able to roll and position a 25-foot section of the log along the trail. Participants: members Ed Lizewski, Pat Soussan, Bill McWhorter, Dan Christensen, Janet Jacobsen and leader Matthew Bell; nonmembers Tom O'Brien, Todd Larsen, Christopher Cox, Kyle Schnabel, and Marie Mentand.

### **Spencer Butte Trail Maintenance** **August 25, 2010**

**Leader: Matthew Bell**

**FOR THIS MONTH'S PROJECT** we continued cleaning off and exposing the cobbled trail bed. Josh brought a bunch of tools including two of the Stihl powered-squeegee things. We made great progress, making it nearly all the way to the first switchback. Participants: members Ed Lizewski and leader Matthew Bell; nonmembers Todd Larsen, Kyle Schnabel, and Gregory.

### **Spencer Butte Litter Pick-up** **September 1, 2010**

**Leader: Janet Jacobsen**

**MELANIE GRUBMAN AND I DROVE** to the main Spencer Butte parking lot to begin picking up litter in our recycled 'gift bags.' Melanie recently moved to Eugene and has a broad background in trail building in Vermont and Maryland. As we walked up the steep west trail, I pointed out the Obsidian trail projects. Melanie said that she was used to pounding rocks with a sledge hammer instead of hauling gravel. Rodney Butler, who was also interested in trail work, joined our party. We filled our bags with bits of paper, broken glass and pistachio shells. I hope that Melanie and Rodney, nonmembers, join our next trail maintenance.

## UPCOMING



### Nearby Nature

#### Mushroom Identification and Medicinal Uses

**Sunday October 17, 1-4 pm**

Taught by Jennifer and Dustin Olson, the owners of the Mushroomery, a biodynamic, organic mushroom farm. Participants will each get to inoculate their own log to bring home. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. The workshop costs \$30 for members, \$35 for nonmembers.

#### 14th Annual HAUNTED HIKE!

**Friday October 22, 5:30-9 pm**

A night of creature fun and discovery. Go on a pumpkin-lit hike through Alton Baker Park and meet our costumed night critters! Enjoy creepy crafts and munch on tricky treats. Cost: members FREE, nonmembers \$5 per person.

#### No School Day Program: Forts in the Forest

**Friday November 12, 8:30 am-3 pm**

How do animals build their homes? Make deer beds, a bird nest, and your own fort from the forest. Navigate in the woods by compass and hidden clues. \$30 members, \$35 nonmembers, ages 6-9.

#### Quest: Get Squirrely Saturday, Nov. 13, 10 am-noon

Find out who's getting ready for winter on this late fall wander through park meadows and woodlands. Enjoy a craft and snacks. FREE members, \$2 or \$5/family nonmembers.

#### Workshop: Backyard Habitats Sunday Nov. 14, 1-4 pm

Join us if you are interested in creating a backyard habitat for native birds, bees, and butterflies using native plants. Pre-registration is required. \$30 members, \$35 nonmembers.

[www.nearbynature.org/learnscape/lessons-in-the-learnscape-workshop](http://www.nearbynature.org/learnscape/lessons-in-the-learnscape-workshop)

Or call 687-9699, ext. 2, or email [info@nearbynature.org](mailto:info@nearbynature.org)



### Eugene Natural History Society

All events are free in Room 100, Willamette Hall, UO campus.

**Friday October 15, 7:30 pm FOREST FUNGI**, like truffles, aren't just there for us to eat, but play a role in the health of our forests and critters of the forests. Hear James Trappe, forest scientist, give a talk on *Trees, Truffles, and Beasts: How Forests Function*.

**Friday November 19, 7:30 pm WHERE DID ALL THE ASPENS GO**, not to mention streamside vegetation and beavers and songbirds? Bill Ripple, OSU professor of forest science ascribes the losses in Yellowstone National Park to the elimination of wolves.

**Friday December 10, 7:30 pm** The tropics will be a little closer when songbird enthusiast, Doug Robinson gives a talk on *Bird Ecology in Panama*.



### Mt. Pisgah Arboretum

#### Finding and Identifying Mushrooms

**Saturday October 16, 10 am-4 pm.**

Join mushroom enthusiast Josiah Legler for a short lecture and a hike to observe mushrooms in their native habitat. Meet at the Mount Pisgah Arboretum Visitors Center. Fee: \$25 (MPA members/\$20). Call 747-1504 to sign up or for more information.

#### Scarecrow Building and Pumpkin Carving

**Sunday October 24, 1-3 pm**

Get ready for the Mushroom Festival's Scarecrow Contest at this fun, family-oriented event. The Arboretum staff provides inspiration and know-how for creative pumpkin carving. Meet at the Mount Pisgah Arboretum Pavilion. Fee: \$5 per pumpkin or scarecrow. Call 747-1504.

#### Mushroom Festival

**Sunday October 31, 10 am-5 pm**

Don't miss our annual fall celebration of mushrooms and the harvest season. There will also be a huge plant sale, live music, a scarecrow contest, children's activities, hayrides, craft vendors, incredible mushroom-inspired food, fresh cider, wine and much more. Suggested donation: \$5/person (Kids under 12/free) Call 747-3817.

#### Enhancing your Nature Sketchbook

**Saturday November 6, 9 am-4 pm**

A workshop with natural science illustrators Kris Kirkeby and Katura Reynolds. This workshop will include a morning of learning basic drawing techniques and an afternoon of field sketching, which will allow you to quickly put these lessons into practice. Registration required. Meet at the Mount Pisgah Arboretum Visitors Center. Fee: \$30 (members/\$25). Call 747-1504 or 747-3817.

#### Fall Fruits and Foliage

**Saturday November 6, 10 am-Noon**

Join Botanist Rhoda Love to enjoy the fall colors and learn about the adaptive strategies of plants for dealing with the coming of winter, as well as the great variety of fruits and seeds and their diverse dispersal mechanisms. Meet at the Mount Pisgah Arboretum Visitors Center. Fee: \$5 (members/donation). Call 747-1504 for more information.

#### Mushrooming on the Mountain

**Saturday/Sunday November 13/14, 10 am-4 pm each day**

This two-day class for beginning 'shroomers offers instruction on identification, ecology, picking and cooking with mushrooms, fungal folklore and more! Marcia Peeters, 'Mushroom Queen' and co-founder of Cascade Mycological Society will lead this two-day workshop with interactive demonstrations, discussions and field identification characteristics. Meet at the EPUD. Fee: \$75 (members/\$70). Call 747-1504.

# A Chalet Stay

By Ken Frazer

**G**LACIER NATIONAL PARK in Montana is celebrating its centennial anniversary this year and I had planned a trip in late August to commemorate the event with my wife, Mary. With all the changes 100 years of 'progress' brings, what better way to pay tribute to their anniversary than to experience the park much in the same way as visitors a century ago.

Early vacationers could travel through the park on horseback or under their own power, and stay at chalets along the way. Nine chalets, modeled with Swiss architecture, were built in the park between 1913 and 1915 by the Great Northern Railway as a way to stimulate use of their rail line that passed through the southern boundary of 'America's Switzerland'.

Of the original nine chalets, only the two built of rock remain today, having survived avalanches, wildfires and complete deterioration due to disuse during two World Wars. Sperry Chalet operates very much as it did when it opened in 1914 as a full service chalet with meals provided, whereas Granite Park Chalet, first opened in 1916 and now a National Historic Landmark, no longer prepares meals for guests due to more restrictive wastewater policies. It is more of a hiker's hut.

**HAVING DECIDED GRANITE PARK CHALET** was more our style, we had a choice of four trails to get there. We selected the Highline Trail (7.6 miles, 600 foot descent) which follows the Garden Wall, a massive spine of rock that forms part of the Continental Divide. The scenery was spectacular with the Garden Wall rising high above on one side and the McDonald Creek Valley deep below on the other. Adding to the scenery was the abundance of wildlife including mountain goats, marmot, pika, Columbian ground squirrels, a golden eagle, and bighorn sheep that would let you get surprisingly close before ambling off the trail.

Once at the chalet, what struck us most was that it was as if we had stepped back in time. The buildings remained little changed from 1915. The external walls and floors were built of rock and the internal walls and beams were constructed using timber, both materials quarried and harvested from the surrounding area. There was no electricity at the chalet, but



propane fueled lights in the common area and the kitchen as well as the stove in the kitchen. Water had to be hauled from a source a quarter mile away and treated. In the common area, there was a woodstove for heat and drying gear, tables and benches for dining, and a small library with a local focus. Guest rooms were little more than bunk beds, a small table

and a chair.

Guests signed up for times to prepare dinner to keep congestion in the small kitchen to a minimum. Though most guests ate freeze dried food, we saw some preparing elaborate meals of salmon and honey-crusted pork loin. Because you had to bring all of your own food and were hiking through grizzly country, we thought better of packing in salmon, pork, and honey. And, there were grizzlies around . . . lots of them. The most popular after dinner activity was watching them forage in Bear Valley through binoculars and spotting scopes.

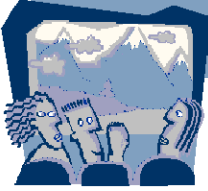
**DAY HIKING OPPORTUNITIES** from the chalet were outstanding. One of the best views of a glacier in the park is from the Grinnell Glacier overlook, a short hike from the chalet (3.2 miles, 900'). The last portion of the trail is known as the most difficult in Glacier as you gain 1,000' in the last 0.6 miles. Portions of the trail were covered with an inch of snow from the night before, making the hike more precarious, but we just took our time. We were rewarded with a spectacular bird's-eye view of Grinnell Glacier and Upper Grinnell Lake as we sat atop the crest of the Garden Wall, right on the Continental Divide. It was the highlight of the trip.

**If you want to go:** Plan early! Reservations for the 2011 season become available in late October 2010. Act quickly! The chalet is typically booked for the season within the first two weeks reservations are taken, with some dates full in the first ten minutes. For more information:

<http://www.graniteparkchalet.com/>

Though some guests stay only one night, most of their time is spent hiking to and back from the chalet. Staying at least two nights would provide greater flexibility and opportunities to enjoy the area.

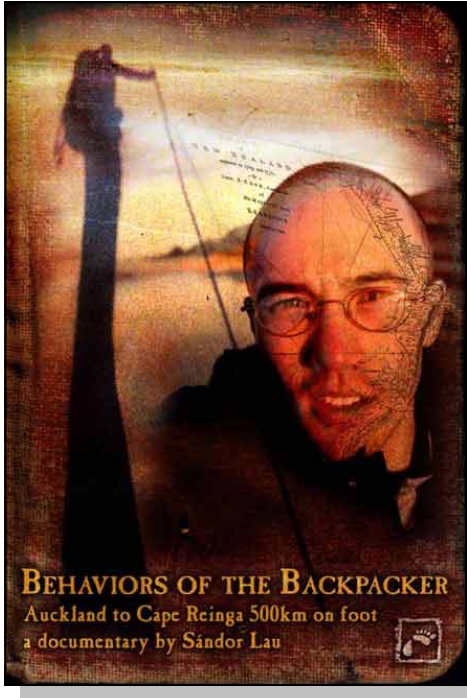
## AT THE LODGE



# POTLUCK

Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>:

## "Behaviors of the Backpacker"



**S**ÁNDOR LAU, a Chinese/Hungarian American film student and Fulbright scholar, walked 500 km. alone from Auckland to Cape Reinga, New Zealand's geographic and spiritual center. A black comedy road trip documentary records the stories of backpackers from around the world, organic farmers, hostel owners, tour operators, Maori communities and the filmmaker himself. Enjoy a different perspective on backpacking in New Zealand.

*Laurie Funkhouser, Entertainment Chair*

**October Potluck**  
**Friday, October 22, 2010**  
**Potluck, 6:30 pm Program, 7:30 pm**  
**Obsidian Lodge**

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

Explorataalk: Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>:



## Cascades Raptor Center



**K**IT LACY, education director of the Cascades Raptor Center in Eugene, will show slides and speak on the natural history and migratory habits of local raptors at the Tuesday, October 26 ExploraTalk. Sponsored by the Obsidians Conservation, Science and Education committee, the program will begin at 7 pm at the lodge.

Kit will also describe the work of the CRC, which is a non-profit nature center and wildlife hospital in south Eugene, specializing in raptors. This community supported and volunteer driven organization has been rehabilitating wildlife and educating the public for 20 years. With over 60 non-releasable birds of 33 native species, the CRC nature center has an unparalleled ability to engage visitors of all ages from around the world. CRC works with approximately 200 raptors each year in its hospital. Kit has an MS in biology, taught at LCC and is now leading the CRC education team.

*JoElla Ewing, SciEd/Conservation Co-chair*



*Kit Lacey and friend*

## We Need Leaders ...and Snow!



Photo by Sam Miller

**G**ET OUT THOSE SNOWSHOES OR SKIS ... but don't put the hiking boots away just yet either. We need you to lead a ski trip, a snowshoe trip or a hike! If you don't have a favorite trip, check out the Report Page or view the 2010 schedule on our Obsidian website. There are lots of 'rain appropriate' hikes at low elevations that will appeal to Obsidians and all of those nonmembers who participated in the Get Acquainted hikes—they don't mind hiking in the Oregon rain. Figure out what you want to lead and send an email to:

[wintertrips@obsidians.org](mailto:wintertrips@obsidians.org)

Or call me at 461-3296. The preliminary Winter Trips schedule will be posted on the website in late October.

*Tom Musselwhite, Winter Trips Chair*

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## Kudos To The Club

**T**HE BULLETIN STAFF recently received an e-mail thank you addressed to the club from Creth Mayr, a non-member who has recently moved back to Oregon. While Creth and some friends were exploring mines in the Blue River area they came upon a headstone marking the resting place of A. Renfrew. Who was A. Renfrew and how did he meet his fate? His curiosity aroused, Creth started researching the internet and came upon our archived bulletins which contained information about the dearly departed. He now had the answers he hoped to find.

Glad we could help and thanks for the note of appreciation Creth.

*Editor's Note: Dr. Alexander Renfrew, 1816-1876, set out on a four mile hike to one of his mines in the Gold Hill area, and died after what is believed to be a diabetic attack. He is now buried near the creek that bears his name.*

## Obsidian Calendar

### October

20 Wed – **Coast Range**, Bus, M.Cheadle ..... 689-1085  
21 Thu – **Clear Lake**, 7.5m 200' M, J.Ewing ..... 344-9197  
22 Fri – **Backpacker Behaviors**, Lau..... **Potluck**  
23 Sat – **Silver Falls**, 7 m 800' M, B, Lipton ..... 736-7498  
24 Sun – **Fall Creek**, 9.3m 800' M, E.Lichtenstein ..... 683-0688  
24 Sun – **McKenzie View**, Bike 25m M, G.Strahon ..... 505-9084  
26 Tue – **Raptor Center**, Lacy..... **ExploraTalk**  
29 Sat – **Opal Creek History**, 3.5 m E, Cunningham ..... 344-0486  
30 Sat – **Silver Falls**, 7m 800' M, B.Lipton ..... 736-7498  
30 Sat – **Spencer Butte**, Trail Maintenance, Bell .... 503-884-8829

### November

1,8,15 Mon – **First Aid/CPR Class**, S.Sullivan ..... 342-6546  
5 Fri – **Kelly Butte**, 3.5m 180' E, C.Cunningham ..... 344-0486  
7 Sun – **Eel Creek**, 6m 250' M, J.Hackett ..... 953-7046  
19 Fri – **Eugene Mountain Rescue**..... **Potluck**  
27 Sat – **Spencer Butte**, Trail Maintenance, Bell .... 503-884-8829

### December

7 Tue – **Christmas Celebration**, Bus, B.Payne ..... 746-1964  
17 Fri – **Grace and Tranquility**, Alan ..... **Potluck**  
18 Sat – **Threemile Lake**, 7m 1200' M, B.Lipton ..... 736-7498

## Outdoor First Aid Class

**T**HERE IS STILL ROOM FOR MORE FOLKS! An outdoor-oriented first aid class will be offered at the Obsidian Lodge in November. The nine-hour class will be conducted in three 3-hour classes on the evenings of November 1, 8, and 15. Attendance at all three sessions is required to obtain first aid certification.

Topics to be covered include basic assessment, care of musculoskeletal injuries, cold and heat problems, and an introduction to the first steps in care and stabilization of a critical patient. The class is being taught by Laurie Monico, a local paramedic and member of the National Ski Patrol. Instruction assistance will be provided by members of the Ski Patrol and Eugene Mountain Rescue.

The cost of the course is a super deal: \$5 per participant, to cover the cost of materials used for the course. There is a limit of 20 people for the course. To sign up, contact Sue Sullivan ([suesulliwat@gmail.com](mailto:suesulliwat@gmail.com)) or 913-3684)

*Sue Sullivan, Obsidian Safety Committee*

## Redwood Reunion

**FORMER OBSIDIAN MEMBER, ANNE MARIE ASKEW**, sent an e-mail to the club expressing her feelings about living again in California and among the magnificent Redwood trees. Her apartment is a twenty minute drive from a Redwood grove which is a great source of inspiration to her.

For those who wish to read Anne Marie's letter in its entirety, email Joanne Ledet at [jled39@gmail.com](mailto:jled39@gmail.com) and it will be forwarded to you.

*Joanne Ledet, Publications Chair*



*Bistra Hristova and Sean Breslin crossing Fall Creek on the way to climb Broken Top  
See climb report on Page 14 - Photo by Wayne Deeter*

October 2010



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