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Dates to Remember

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| Jan 18 | Explora-Collier Glacier |
| Jan 28 | Potluck-Sullivan |
| Feb 2 | Board Meeting |

Complete current schedules at:

www.obsidians.org or

Register-Guard – Outdoors – Tuesday

Something For Everyone

If you find errors in this Bulletin, please consider that they are here for a purpose. We like to publish something for everyone, and some people are always looking for mistakes.

Deja-vu All Over Again

By *Ethel Weltman*

AS JOHN JACOBSEN STEPS into office as president of the Obsidians board this month, one could excuse him for feeling a sense of jaded deja-vu. After all, this is his fourth stint in the president's chair, having previously served in 1988, 2001 and 2005. But while John is dedicated to the customs, traditions and 'culture' of the club, he does not primarily look back, but rather forward: what can we do now to make the Obsidians as an organization even better than it already is.



When John became president in 2005 one of his major goals was to develop a plan for Lodge repair. This has been masterfully accomplished. The Lodge has been renovated, restored and beautified, and John was instrumental in much of the process. The unique and beautiful Dallas Cole ceramic mural would not exist were it not for John's inspiration and dedication to seeing the project through.

John has contributed to other major recent projects such as the clean-up of the Lodge grounds and landscape, felling or trimming trees that had become dangerous or were overcrowded, and removing blackberries and weeds. This work is ongoing. Most recently he has put his considerable computer skills to good use in helping design and implement the online trip signup system.

John was raised on his family farm in North Dakota. He went on to study civil engineering at North Dakota State University in Fargo, ND. One day a friend invited him along to a summer job interview for the Forest Service. John spent that summer working for the FS in Superior, MT. And that was it, says John. "I fell in love with the mountains."

His career as a civil engineer further opened the world to John. He claims the honor of having worked on both the Trans-Alaskan Pipeline and the Jubail Industrial City project in Saudi Arabia. At the time they were the largest privately (Alaska) and publicly (Jubail) financed projects in history. There were also projects closer to home. "If you drive through Montana on Interstate 90," says John, "you put your life in my hands since I designed a number of the bridges that you cross."

It was while on vacation from work in Saudi Arabia that John met his wife Janet on a train through Denmark. The couple have continued to travel, enjoying numerous adventures both domestic and foreign. They have followed both the Lewis and Clark Trail and the Oregon Trail, using contemporary journals as guides.

The Jacobsens have traveled to Bhutan, "an incredible place . . . where growth of GNH (Gross National Happiness) is a national goal," marvels John. Other destinations have included Thailand, Switzerland, Russia, Cambodia, Tibet, China, Japan, Peru, Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands. Many of these trips have resulted in lasting international friendships. One notable friendship is with Pema Chhophyel, one

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IN MEMORIUM

Dora Harris 1927-2010

DORA HARRIS, age 83, Obsidians member since 1996, died December 29, 2010 after a long illness. Dora went on 153 bus trips, earning her the family nickname of 'Dora, the Explorer'. Her last bus trip was in October 2010 to see the fall colors. She received her 100 trip certificate in 2005. Dora was widowed at an early age leaving her with six young children to support. She eventually began work at Sacred Heart Hospital, working her way up to running tests in the laboratory and training as a phlebotomist. She soon became the first certified phlebotomist at the hospital. After retirement Dora was a volunteer at Sacred Heart for many years until her health and failing eyesight required her to resign.



Dora receiving her 100 trip badge.

Deja-vu All Over Again

(Continued from page 1)

of their guides in Bhutan, who later came to Eugene to study at LCC and UO. This friendship has widened to include other international friends and visits.

John began climbing and hiking with the Obsidians when he moved to Eugene in the early 80s. Over the years he has chaired or worked on most of the club's committees, including four times as Summer Camp boss. Currently he chairs the Lodge Grounds Committee and serves on the Online, Safety, Publicity, Publication, Membership, and Lodge Building Committees. John hopes to continue much of his committee work during the coming year.

But John is quick to deflect personal praise. He credits the hard work of the board, and all the committee chairs and Obsidians members who cooperate to make the club work. And this leads to one of his goals for the coming year: to increase club membership, which has dropped a bit in recent years, and to strengthen both the number of activities and member participation. He hopes to find ways to capitalize on the very successful Get Acquainted Hikes, so that these enthusiastic new hikers will be parlayed into equally enthusiastic and active club members.

John's favorite mock Latin motto is: *Illegitimi non carburundum.*

Be sure to ask him what it means.

OBSIDIANS, INC

P.O. Box 322, Eugene, OR 97440

Website: www.obsidians.org

Board of Directors

John Jacobsen, President
Lyn Gilman-Garrick, Vice President
Kathy Hoeg, Secretary
Stewart Hoeg, Treasurer
Matt Bell, Larry Huff, Verna Kocken,
Elle Weaver & Nancy Whitfield

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.

Committee Chairpersons

Byways-By-Bus..... Liz Reanier
Climbs..... Larry Huff
Concessions..... Lyn Gilman-Garrick
Conservation/SciEd..... Joella Ewing
Entertainment.....
Extended Trips..... Jim Duncan
Finance..... Stewart Hoeg
Librarian/Historian..... Lenore McManigal
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Lodge Grounds..... John Jacobsen
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Online..... Wayne Deeter
Publications..... Joanne Ledet
Publicity..... Elle Weaver
Safety..... Sue Sullivan
Summer Camp.....
Summer Trips..... Brian Hamilton
Trail Maintenance..... Matt Bell
Winter Trips..... Tom Musselwhite

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The Obsidian Bulletin

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**Deadline
for February 2011 Bulletin
Saturday, January 29, 2011**

Assembly/Mailing Team

For November/December Bulletin
Assembly & Mail Manager - Lou Maenz
Assembly Team - Tom Adamcyk, Don Baldwin, Yuan Hopkins, Margaret Prentice, and Janet & Richard Speelman

Editorial Team

Writing & Editorial Staff - Pat Bitner, Bea Fontana, Ken Frazer, John Jacobsen, Joanne Ledet, John Moser, Beth Roy and Ethel Weltman
Copy Editors - Beth Roy & Ethel Weltman
Graphics, Design & Desktop Publishing - Stewart Hoeg & John Jacobsen

Welcome!

New Members

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Economy Down / Diamonds Up

By Doug Jordan, Jan Anselmo and Lyndell Wilken

BLUE DIAMONDS ON THE SKI TRAILS THAT IS! During the last several years, much needed work has been completed by High Cascade Forest Volunteers to the diamond marked ski trails around the Willamette Pass area. This work is part of the Middle Fork Ranger District winter recreation plan. Many trails were falling apart from years of neglect and lack of maintenance. There were gaps in the diamonds along the trails, crumbling diamonds, too many diamonds or not enough diamonds, along with confusing routes due to a lack of signs at trailheads and junctions. With adoption of trails by volunteers, blue diamonds have been added, replaced and raised along with the installation of new signs. Limbs and branches have been removed to make signs and diamonds visible.

The Rosary Lakes Trail leaves from Willamette Pass ski area along the PCT with blue diamonds marking the route for skiers and snowshoers. Remember to 'share the trail' – skiers making one track and snowshoers putting in a separate track whenever feasible. This contributes to the enjoyment of both sports without intruding on the other person's tracks.

Above the Rosaries the trail continues to the junction for Maiden Lake. The Maiden Lake Trail has been improved over the last two years. With work done during the summer and winter months, many blue diamonds have been added. There is still work to be finished on this particular trail but we hope to complete it this year where diamonds need to be added, raised or removed. This is an enjoyable but long ski if snow is deep and you have broken trail from the Rosary TH, so be sure to allow for plenty of time. Don't forget your essentials including headlamp, GPS, map and compass.

CONTINUING ALONG THE TRAIL past the Maiden Lake junction takes the skier to a brand new sign at the Maiden Peak Saddle. This new ski sign shows directions for a choice of Taits Trail, Skyline Trail and Maiden Peak Shelter. The Skyline Trail connects down to the Maiden Peak Trail where another new sign marks your arrival at the T-junction of the Maiden Peak trail via Gold Lake Road. The Taits Trail loops above the Rosaries with a choice of returning the way you

came or taking a connecting ski trail back down to the Rosaries to return to the trailhead. Taits Trail is another route that had fallen into disarray with many confusing, unmarked junctions. Numerous diamonds have been added along with new signage.



The route to the Maiden Peak Shelter from the saddle skirts through the woods along the PCT with a new Ski Shelter sign showing the turnoff. Without the new sign, some skiers and snowshoers have, in the past, been unable to locate the shelter. The ski shelter is a popular day use or overnight winter destination and is maintained and stocked with firewood by volunteers. A new woodshed started in 2009 was completed at this year's annual work party. Please use the woodstove conservatively because once the wood runs out, that's it for the season. What you pack in, please pack out! Help keep the shelter clean.

Accessing the Maiden Peak Shelter via Gold Lake road routes you by the connecting Skyline Trail mentioned earlier. Once you reach the PCT junction, just prior to arriving at the shelter, there is a ski trail to the top of Maiden Peak. Only a short section near the top needs more diamonds added. Diamonds also mark another route leaving from the Maiden Peak Shelter that connects to this same trail.

FROM THE SHELTER there are diamonds that mark a 9.6-mile Maiden Peak Loop Trail. The ski loop eventually connects to the Maiden Lake Trail and continues to the PCT junction which returns to the cabin via the saddle above the Rosaries.

After two years of work, winter volunteers have completed signage for the Westview and Bechtel Shelter trail systems. Both trail systems begin at the Gold Lake Sno-Park. There are a variety of difficulty levels for snowshoers and skiers. The shelters offer a great destination for lunch as does the Eagle Rock Overlook above Odell Lake. These are three-sided shelters with woodstove and sleeping loft.

The Westview Trails crisscross the hillside, taking off from the left side (east) of the snow covered road at the south

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Celebrate Wildish Property Protection!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The Conservation, Science, and Education Committee is planning two very exciting events in February to celebrate the purchase of the Wildish property adjacent to Buford Park and Mount Pisgah.

As many of you know, on October 29th The Nature Conservancy completed purchase of 1270 acres of prime habitat located at the confluence of the Middle and Coast Forks of the Willamette from the Wildish family. This property contains an amazing array of habitats including six miles of riverfront, wetland, forest, oak savannah and prairie, and supports more than 30 species of plants and animals considered at risk including the western meadowlark, Chinook salmon, red-legged frog, and western pond turtle.

The Nature Conservancy had lots of behind-the-scene support from several federal, state, local and nonprofit agencies: to name only a few, Bonneville Power Administration, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and The Doris Duke Foundation supplied funding. Friends of Buford Park, a local nonprofit charged with conserving habitat and promoting recreation in the park, provided vision and experience.

On Tuesday, February 15th, 7:00 pm at the Lodge, Val Rogers, Development Director of Friends of Buford Park will give a slide presentation about what the purchase of this re-



markable property means to all of us, whether it's restoring critical ecosystems or developing a compatible recreation plan. Then on Saturday, February 19th, and Saturday, February 26th, ambassadors from Friends of Buford Park will lead small group tours of the Wildish property (now called the Willamette Confluence Project). Signup will begin in early February. Come join the party!

Lyn Gilman-Garrick, Conservation and SciEd Committee

Economy Down / Diamonds Up

(Continued from page 3)

end of the Gold Lake Sno-Park. The Westview Trail, the Westview Loop, CJ Way, Diamond View Loop and the Odell Overlook Trail are all part of the Westview Loops system. There are also connector trails from the Willamette Pass overflow parking lot that lead to the Gold Lake Sno-Park and the Eagle Rock Odell Overlook with many trails branching off along the way. Signage and diamonds have all been improved to make intersections more clear. Because of the many intersections it is advised to have the current winter recreation map. During weekends and holidays there are also one sheet map handouts available at the Gold Lake Sno-Park warming cabin.

The Bechtel Trails are located on the right side (west) of the road leaving the Gold Lake Sno-Park at the first Y intersection. A more difficult trail to the shelter is via Bechtel Creek Trail where you stay to the right at the second Y intersection. Maryanne's Way runs uphill off of Bechtel Creek Trail just prior to arriving at the shelter. Either way you go, you can continue on toward Deer Creek or to Midnight Lake and other lakes along the PCT. A more challenging route to Midnight Lake is via Pengra Pass. Use caution, however; as the trails to Midnight Lake and beyond are in the Diamond

Peak Wilderness and are unmarked.

The Waldo Road area offers numerous marked trails, all of which have been improved with diamonds and signage. From the end of the Gold Lake Road past the Gold Lake Shelter, you can pick up the Gold Lake Trail which parallels Waldo Road. The trail crosses the junction to the Fuji Mt. Trail, the Mt. Ray/Upper Island Loop Trail and the Betty Lake/South Waldo Shelter Trail. If you do not like skiing up Waldo Road to these trailheads, the Gold Lake Trail is now a great alternative. The Twin Peaks Trail is marked with diamonds and can be reached by starting at the summer trailhead off Waldo Road, one mile past the Betty Lake TH.

While on the Fuji Mt. Trail you will pass Birthday Lake and come to the junction for Joanne and Lorin Lakes Trail. You can continue past these lakes on a loop going to Upper Island Lakes then back to the Fuji Mt. trail where you have an option to follow diamonds to the top of Fuji Mt. or to the Fuji Shelter. You can also continue back to Waldo Road via Verde Lake and Birthday Lake. Another way of reaching this trail system and the Fuji Shelter is via the Fuji Mt. Road, off of Hwy 58 across from the Salt Creek Sno-Park. The signage marking the Fuji Shelter is much improved and more visible. Even though the signs have been improved it is advised to plan on reaching Fuji Shelter before dark.

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Catherine's Gift

By Joanne Ledet

ONE CAN ONLY IMAGINE THE SURPRISE our club treasurer had when he opened a letter this past fall and read that the club was being given the largest monetary gift ever received by the Obsidians. When he overcame his initial shock he went on to read the details of the gift. The Obsidians were listed as the recipient of a very significant amount of money in the will of the late Catherine Jones, a longtime member.



cause, as did many members, by donating funds to help defray the significant cost of the repairs. Names of all the donors are listed at the Lodge.

Throughout her many years as an Obsidian member Catherine contributed to the club in a variety of ways, from leading hikes, attending summer camps, and serving not only on the board but also as club secretary. She climbed the Three Sisters and in 1969 became a Princess with the name, Blue Columbine.

Giving back to the club was not a new concept to Catherine as many members who knew her well can testify. When Catherine joined the Obsidians in 1960, the Lodge was not very old and as with any new 'home', there are always furnishings that are needed to make the home livable. The Lodge was no exception and the items most needed were chairs and tables. A call went out and as Obsidians always do, the members stepped right up and donated money to help purchase folding chairs for the Lodge. By 1963 one hundred chairs had been acquired with donations of about \$25 per chair.



Catherine and her good friend Margaret Wiese on an Obsidian outing.

Now that the members had chairs upon which to sit and rest their trail-weary feet, the next need was for tables. Once again, members saw the need and contributed funds to help purchase tables. Potluck dinners were now so much more enjoyable when members could eat the tasty fare at a table, rather than balancing a plate on their laps.

Catherine was one of the members that contributed \$25 to the chair fund, (an amount that was considered a significant contribution at the time) and then later contributed to the table fund. In fact, if one were to look, you could find a table marked with a plaque bearing Catherine's name. With the Lodge now over 40 years old, major renovations were in order and once again Catherine stepped up to help out the

It is apparent that the Obsidians played an important part in her life and that donating back to the club was just the 'right' thing to do as far as Catherine was concerned. We lost Catherine in December of 2009, but one of her final wishes was to still make a contribution to the club. We all have fond memories of Catherine and are honored that we meant so much to her through the years. Her generosity will be long remembered.

The Board now has the enjoyable task of deciding what to do with the money. That will be one of the items of discussion at a future board meeting.

Editor's Note: For more information about Catherine Jones and her life as an Obsidian member and contributor to the community, see the Feb. 2010 issue of the Bulletin.

Economy Down / Diamonds Up

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The new bridge over Salt Creek has been completed and Diamond Creek Falls loop is now marked and ready for use, although diamonds still need to be raised and signs installed. Parking for the Fuji Mt. Rd. Trail and the Diamond Creek Trail is at the sno-park just after the tunnel on Hwy 58. Be

sure to have your sno-park permit.

Warner Mt. Lookout Trail up Hills Creek has many wonderful improvements to diamonds and signage. You will no longer lose your way. Speaking of losing your way, we are happy to announce that a new waterproof Willamette Pass Winter Recreation Map is now being worked on and we hope to have it ready by the 2012 winter season.

The Grand Canyon... On a Train?

By Janet Jacobsen - Photos by Margaret Essenberg

Yes, you can get to the Grand Canyon on the train!

THE PLAN. August 2008, Obsidian members, Margaret and Richard Essenberg, and their friends, Bob Burket and Rickey Petty from Santa Monica, CA traveled on Amtrak to the Grand Canyon. They made plans to return and hike rim to rim. Margaret asked if I would be interested in joining them. I said, "Yes." I didn't realize I had just committed myself to a thirteen day Grand Adventure.

September 2009, Margaret made the lodging and rim shuttle reservations and Richard made the train reservations. Our itinerary: two nights on Amtrak trains to Flagstaff; shuttle to Williams; Grand Canyon Train to the South Rim; two nights at the Bright Angel Lodge; a 4½ hour shuttle ride to the North Rim; two nights at the Grand Canyon Lodge; two nights at Phantom Ranch; another two nights on the South Rim; and two nights on the train back to Eugene. Now it was time for us to start the 'training'.

Before our trip, Lenore and John McManigal, Effie Neth, Leona Devine, Sam Miller, Buzz Blum, Yuan Hopkins, Peggy Windle, Lois and Bill Morse and other Obsidian members entertained me with their attention-grabbing stories about their trips to the bottom of the canyon. I began to think that I should have made this trip 30 years ago!

THE TRAIN. September 21st, 2010, Margaret, Richard, and I boarded the Coast Starlight at 4:45 pm. I waved goodbye to John, settled myself in my minuscule sleeper and perused the multitude of tickets I had for this journey. The steward gave each of us a complimentary bottle of champagne. We were on our way! Richard, a train buff, explained the 'subtle' things that were happening when the train slowed down on the climb out of Oakridge. At one point, the train was going west back to Eugene. Thanks to Richard, there were many other 'train highlights' on our trip.

Amtrak was a scenic and friendly way to travel except for several early morning wakeup calls. Take a map! In the middle of the night when the train stopped at Needles, a god-forsaken place, I had no idea where we were. Margaret reminded me that Snoopy's brother, Spike, lived in the desert near Needles, CA.

THE CANYON. The Bright Angel Lodge where Margaret, Richard and I stayed on the South Rim is one of the six Grand Canyon buildings including Phantom Ranch designed by Mary Colter in the early 20th century. Colter also decorated the nearby historic 1905 El Tovar Hotel where Bob and Rickey made themselves at home in the Fred Harvey Suite. The hotel was built with Oregon pine. Bob and Rickey invit-

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The Grand Canyon

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ed us to their private balcony overlooking the Canyon for drinks and to watch the sunset and rise of the full moon. That was a highlight!

We walked the Trail of Time, a new 1.2-mile timeline trail on the rim with markers and rocks representing still-visible rocks of this region's geologic history. Bob, who graduated from Cal-Tech in geology, was enthusiastic about the rock display. He said, "This gave us a chance to walk a couple of miles at 7,000+ feet elevation, but as there were geological displays about every 200 feet, we made pretty much glacial progress."

I purchased bright orange Grand Canyon Rocks bandanas for us at the Yavapai Geology Museum. The bandana's timeline depicted 18 layers of rock. There will be more about this handy low tech gizmo.

After reading the entertaining boating story, *Through the Grand Canyon from Wyoming to Mexico* by E. L. Kolb, Margaret and I were most interested in the Kolb brothers' six-story home and studio (1904) perched at the Bright Angel Trailhead. We were thrilled to sign our group up for a special tour of the 23 room house. Margaret and I were not so thrilled when the Park Ranger intimated that the Kolb brothers had a tendency to exaggerate. But that is too long a tale.

The North Rim, 1,000 ft. higher, had fewer tourists and a slower pace. On a short hike near the Grand Canyon Lodge, Margaret, Bob and Ricky saw four Kaibab squirrels with their distinctive white tails. Lucky them! I had to be satisfied touching the nose of Brighty of the Grand Canyon, a bronze statue of the well-loved burro made popular in a children's book. Later at Phantom Ranch, I felt much better when I was the first to spot a gray fox.

THE DESCENT. It was only a mile to the North Kaibab Trailhead but we were only too happy to take the 5:45 am shuttle from the lodge. That meant we had only 15 miles to hike to the bottom of the canyon. It was so cold! Within an hour, we shed our warm clothing. The precarious drop offs on the trail kept our eyes in front of our feet and meant that we had to stop and look to really see that we were walking through time. Bob and Richard energetically speculated and

pointed out geology that I hadn't noticed. We were the only hikers consulting bandanas to identify the rock layers. I felt lucky to be part of the 'geology high'. Margaret said, "It took us four and a half hours to hike from the North Rim to Roaring Springs, and those were the best hours of the whole trip. We were very tiny in that immense landscape." Roaring Springs, a cool place for lunch, is the source of water for the North and South Rims. Someone did ask us if we were experienced hikers. Perhaps orange bandanas or Rickey's bright pink, 50¢ backpack gave a curious impression.

I did not feel so lucky to be part of the 104 degree 'temperature high' as we neared the bottom of the canyon. I became less interested in geology! Margaret and I were now dipping our bandanas in the creek to keep cool. We reached Phantom Ranch at 6:00 with just enough time to find our top bunk beds in the air

conditioned dorms, take showers and line up for the family style dinner at the cantina. Yes, one could buy beer at dinner. We looked forward to a rest day.

THE ASCENT. It was warm when we left Phantom Ranch, crossed the butterscotch-colored Colorado River and started up the Bright Angel Trail to the South Rim. One slow step at a time, I walked up through the geologic layers. It seemed to take forever: 1.84 billion years to be exact. Richard showed me where a missing billion years' worth of rock, The Great Unconformity, should have been; I made record time walking through this layer. (Layers 11-16 on the bandana.) It reminded me of the missing the top 1,000 feet on Mt. St. Helens. The last three layers of rock were daunting with the steep switchbacks. The Kolb house was now in view. None of the tourists took note of us as we walked up to the rim at 4:00. Ten hours! It was time to reclaim our luggage, take a shower, and celebrate with a drink on Bob and Rickey's balcony. To quote Bob, "... after a beer, cleaned up and standing in front of the Canyon that we, if not conquered, at least experienced completely."

On our last day before boarding the Grand Canyon Train, we finally saw a condor gliding on the air currents. That was a grand ending.

If you decide to visit the Grand Canyon I recommend taking the train, along with reading material about Mary Colter, Fred Harvey and the Kolb brothers. That will keep you so fascinated that you won't need to hike all the way to the bottom of the canyon.



Predawn departure at the N Kaibab Trailhead. Rickey, Margaret, Richard, Janet and Bob

DECEMBER BOARD NOTES

December 1, 2010

By Kathy Hoeg, Secretary

President Jim Pierce called the meeting to order. Other Board members present: Lana Lindstrom, Wayne Deeter, Stewart Hoeg, Verna Kocken, Elle Weaver, Lyn Gilman-Garrick, and Kathy Hoeg. Also present were: Matt Bell, Jim Duncan, Sharon Duncan, Joella Ewing, Laurie Funkhouser, Brian Hamilton, Jan Jacobsen, John Jacobsen, Doug Nelson, Barb Revere, and Nancy Whitfield.

Treasurer's Report: Stewart Hoeg reviewed the Budget-vs-Actual Report. The Board approved payment of the bills.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Summer Trips (Scott Hovis and Brian Hamilton): New trips since last report (November 3, 2010) -- 6 trips: 33 participants (24 members, 9 nonmembers).

Year-End Total: 135 trips -- 115 Hikes, 10 Bike Trips, 4 Water Trips, 6 Others; 1,157 participants (666 members, 419 non-members.)

Winter Trips (Tom Musselwhite): 2 trips 7 members/\$7.00; 2 nonmembers \$4.00 (urban trip rate). Total Trips Scheduled 51: 18 Snowshoe; 18 XC Ski; 1 XC Ski/Snowshoe Combo; 1 XC Ski / Backpack; 13 Hikes.

Trail Maintenance (Matthew Bell): One trail maintenance outing this month on the Spencer Butte West Summit Trail. Year-to-date -- Outings on Spencer Butte: 11; Total Participants: 108 total; 61 members; 47 non-members; Unique Participants: 57 total; 24 members; 33 non-members; Total Estimated Volunteer Hours: 319.75.

Highways and Byways By Bus (Liz Reanier): The bus committee will meet at the Obsidians Lodge at 1:30 on December 6 to finalize the planning for 2011. The Rally is set for Sunday, February 27, 2011.

Summer Camp (Lana Lindstrom): Will not be a Summer Camp in 2011.

Conservation, Science, & Education (Pat Bitner & Joella Ewing): The committee met to discuss programs and goals for the next year. We plan more conservation hikes and extended trips or over-

nights and are in the process of setting up programs for January through June.

Publications (Joanne Ledet): All material that is to be published in the *Bulletin* must be submitted electronically.

Entertainment (Laurie Funkhouser): The November potluck - Eugene Mountain Rescue was well attended by 47 participants.

Membership (Barb Revere): We have 495 members: Active 441; Assoc 26; Honorary 3; Junior 8; Life 18.

Concessions (Lyn Gilman-Garrick): The Concessions Committee took in \$46.00 in sales at the November 19th potluck. Our plan is to meet in early January 2011 to take inventory and decide on what merchandise to purchase for the upcoming year.

Online (Wayne Deeter): The Online Signup system is now in place and being used for Winter Trips.

Finance (Stewart Hoeg): The Finance Committee met in November and prepared the proposed 2011 Budget.

Library/Historian (Lenore McManigal): All of the trips club members have participated in have been recorded in the Activity books. Janet Jacobsen has done the annual count of the activities each member has participated in, during 2010, up to December 1.

Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): Fir Removal/Oak Restoration Project - A few trees have been dropped, but remain to be bucked, split and cleaned up. General Grounds Activities - A general cleanup before the November potluck was all that happened to the grounds in November.

Safety (Jim Pierce): The committee had a marvelously successful first aid class on November 1, 8, and 15. There were over 20 participants.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee Budgets: Stewart Hoeg described the Committee Budgets for 2011, which the Board will vote on in January 2011. Stewart Hoeg said that the estate of Catherine Jones has been finalized, and the Obsidians received a bequest of \$68,582.48. Kathy Hoeg will write a

thank you note to Catherine's niece and send her the article in the *Bulletin* when it is published in January.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Chairs: President-elect John Jacobsen listed the 2011 Committee Chairs who he has confirmed so far: Highways and By-Ways By Bus - Liz Reanier; Climbs - Larry Huff; Concessions - Lyn Gilman-Garrick; Conservation, Science & Education - Joella Ewing; Extended Trips - Jim Duncan; Finance - Stewart Hoeg; Lodge Building - Doug Nelson; Lodge Grounds - John Jacobsen; Librarian/Historian - Lenore McManigal; Membership - Barb Revere; On-Line - Wayne Deeter; Publications - Joanne Ledet; Publicity - Elle Weaver; Safety - Jim Pierce; Summer Trips - Brian Hamilton; Trail Maintenance - Matt Bell; Winter Trips - Tom Musselwhite. The Board approved these chairs. The positions that John is still trying to fill are Entertainment and Summer Camp 2012.

Honorary Membership.: Jan Jacobsen brought up a question she has about Honorary Membership. What should the Board do if multiple people are nominated?

Compleat Obsidian Award: Jan Jacobsen and Jim Pierce described changes they propose for the Compleat Obsidian award: Further discussion of the requirements was postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Jacobsen said that the new online system has been up for 27 days and is attracting much usage. There have been about 1,800 accesses of the system, and 23 non-members have registered. He described the current features of the system and the additional functions that are being worked on. John said that Tom Musselwhite has been an extremely valuable contributor to the testing of the system, putting in many hours of work and suggesting ways to improve the usability.

The City of Eugene will have the final public meeting for the Spencer Butte trail survey at 6:30 on Tuesday, Dec. 7, at Hilyard Community Center.

JANUARY BOARD NOTES

January 5, 2011

By Kathy Hoeg, Secretary

President John Jacobsen called the meeting to order. Board: Matt Bell, Lyn Gilman-Garrick, Kathy Hoeg, Stewart Hoeg, Larry Huff, Verna Kocken, Elle Weaver, and Nancy Whitfield. Also: Wayne Deeter, Jim Duncan, Joella Ewing, Brian Hamilton, Jan Jacobsen, Joanne Ledet, Tom Musselwhite, Doug Nelson, Jim Pierce, Barb Revere, Sue Sullivan.

Treasurer's Report: Stewart Hoeg reviewed the Budget Report and the Balance Sheet. Payment of bills approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Summer Trips (Brian Hamilton): Our first committee meeting will be scheduled soon to assign tasks and prepare a schedule for the 2011 season.

Winter Trips (Tom Musselwhite): Nov 15-30: 2 trips 7 Members 2 non Revenue: \$11. Dec 1-31: 9 trips (3 hikes, 3 snowshoe, 2 XC Ski, 1 combo ski/ss); 43 Members 13 non Revenue \$98.

Total Winter Trips Revenue 2010 = \$109.00 (not including 2 trips still outstanding). Total Trips Completed 11.

Trail Maintenance (Matthew Bell): There were no trail maintenance outings in December because attendance would be very low around the holidays. The proposed 2011 trail maintenance schedule has been sent to the City. 2010 Outings on Spencer Butte: 11; 61 members; 47 non; Unique Participants: 57 total; 24 members; Total Hours: 319.75.

Highways and Byways By Bus (Liz Reanier): Met on Dec 6 to discuss the tentative trips in greater detail and to solidify a trip agenda for 2011.

Conservation, Science, & Education (Joella Ewing): Drafted a response to the Department of Forestry's 2011 update of "The Forestry Program for Oregon" to promote sustainable forestry. Exploratory talks programs are in the planning stages.

Publications (Joanne Ledet): The bulletin returns in January on its regular schedule. The February issue will contain the Membership Directory and will be mailed to everyone.

Entertainment (Laurie Funkhouser): December's potluck - Grace and Tranquility by Eric Alan - was attended by 28 people. I will announce the potlucks

which are scheduled for 2011 shortly.

Membership (Barb Revere): There are currently 471 members: 419 Active, 23 Associate, 3 Honorary, 8 Junior; 18 Life. The Membership Committee presented seven new membership applications to the Board, and they were approved.

Concessions (Lyn Gilman-Garrick): Our table at the December potluck sold \$48 worth of merchandise. We are meeting January 11th, to take inventory and to discuss what items to add to our merchandise in 2011.

Library/Historian (Lenore McManigal): The bus trip in December to Salem was put in the Bulletin, and the club members who were on the trip had their participation in the trip recorded on their Activity Sheets.

Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): Sam Tracer and Pat Adams got the trees downed in November bucked, split and stacked. Ken Kodama and Effie Neth cleaned up the mess. The wind and rain have been kind to us so far this winter.

Safety (Sue Sullivan): One incident report has been received and is in the process of being investigated.

OLD BUSINESS

Compleat Obsidian Award: Janet Jacobsen said that she has thought about last month's discussion of the requirements for the Compleat Obsidian Award. She believes that we should leave them as they are currently written. There was no objection to this from the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Membership: Barb Revere listed the seven persons who have applied for club membership. The Board approved all of the applications.

Committee Chairs: John Jacobsen received Board consent for Sue Sullivan to chair the Safety Committee.

Committee Memberships: The Board approved each committee their proposed members except Entertainment, Safety, and Summer Camp.

Kathy Hoeg stated that the club's Bylaws are very specific about the minimum number of members for each committee, and we don't always adhere to this requirement. She asked whether we should

reconcile this discrepancy. John Jacobsen asked her to consider the issue and bring it to the Board at a future meeting.

Budget: Stewart Hoeg presented the 2011 Budget, and the Board approved it.

Trip Mileage Rate: Stewart Hoeg reviewed the history of the Trip Mileage Rate. He said that because of the small change in the IRS rate he recommends that the Obsidians rate remain at \$0.09/mile. The Board approved this rate.

Spencer Butte Trail Adoption: Matthew Bell reported that the City of Eugene has asked the Obsidians to formally adopt the Spencer Butte trails. The Board approved adopting the trails.

Catherine Jones Bequest to the club. Stewart Hoeg said that the usual procedure for gifts and donations is to put them into the Capital/Contingency Fund, unless the donor specifically designated another fund. The Board approved putting Catherine's bequest into the Capital/Contingency Fund. John Jacobsen said that at a future Board meeting there can be a discussion of whether to use some of the bequest now.

Committee Board Reports: John Jacobsen asked the Board members whether they wanted to continue the current practice of submitting committee reports via email before the Board meeting instead of reading them orally during the meeting. The Board decided to continue with the current practice.

Ridgeline Trail Celebration: Matthew Bell said that he has been contacted by the City of Eugene about a celebration that is planned for April 23 by the Friends of the Ridgeline Trail. He said that the club may be asked to participate in some way.

Constitution and Bylaw Test: John Jacobsen conducted a lighthearted quiz of the meeting attendees' knowledge of the Obsidians Constitution and Bylaws.

Club Growth: John Jacobsen brought up the topic of growth in the club's membership and participation. He said that it appears that the Get-Acquainted Hikes and the online signup system are helping.

Volunteers: Barb Revere reminded the group that the new membership application form has a 'Check to Volunteer' box.



Hikes

Four in One Cone

September 5, 2010

Leader: Clare Tucker

9 miles, 1,500 ft. (Moderate)

IT WAS A PERFECT DAY TO EXPERIENCE THE VIEW from Four in One Cone. Nine hikers in two cars (thank you Nola for driving) made it up to Highway 242 to a closed parking area at Scott Lake (unfortunately we received incorrect information from the USFS), but we found a convenient pull out and even met up with our hiker from Sisters, Sandra Larsen. We lunched on the ridgeline overlooking the North and Middle Sisters, Mt. Washington, Mt. Jefferson, Three-Fingered Jack and Mt. Hood. Great view and a great group of people: Janet Hall, Sachiko Iwasaki, Sandra Larsen, Nola Nelson, Richard Sundt, Clare Tucker, and nonmembers Norma Bengiat, Patty Neis, Lori Callahan and Jim Whitfield.

Silver Falls State Park

October 23, 2010

Leader: Becky Lipton

6.7 miles, 700 ft. (Moderate)

NICE FALL COLORS AND A GOOD AMOUNT OF WATER OVER THE FALLS treated six happy hikers the week before Halloween. The rain held off until the drive home – a success all in all. Members: Don Cross, Liz Jones, Becky Lipton and Sarah Praskevitz; nonmembers: Stephanie Schilling and Debbie Tyler.

Opal Creek & Jawbone Flats

October 29, 2010

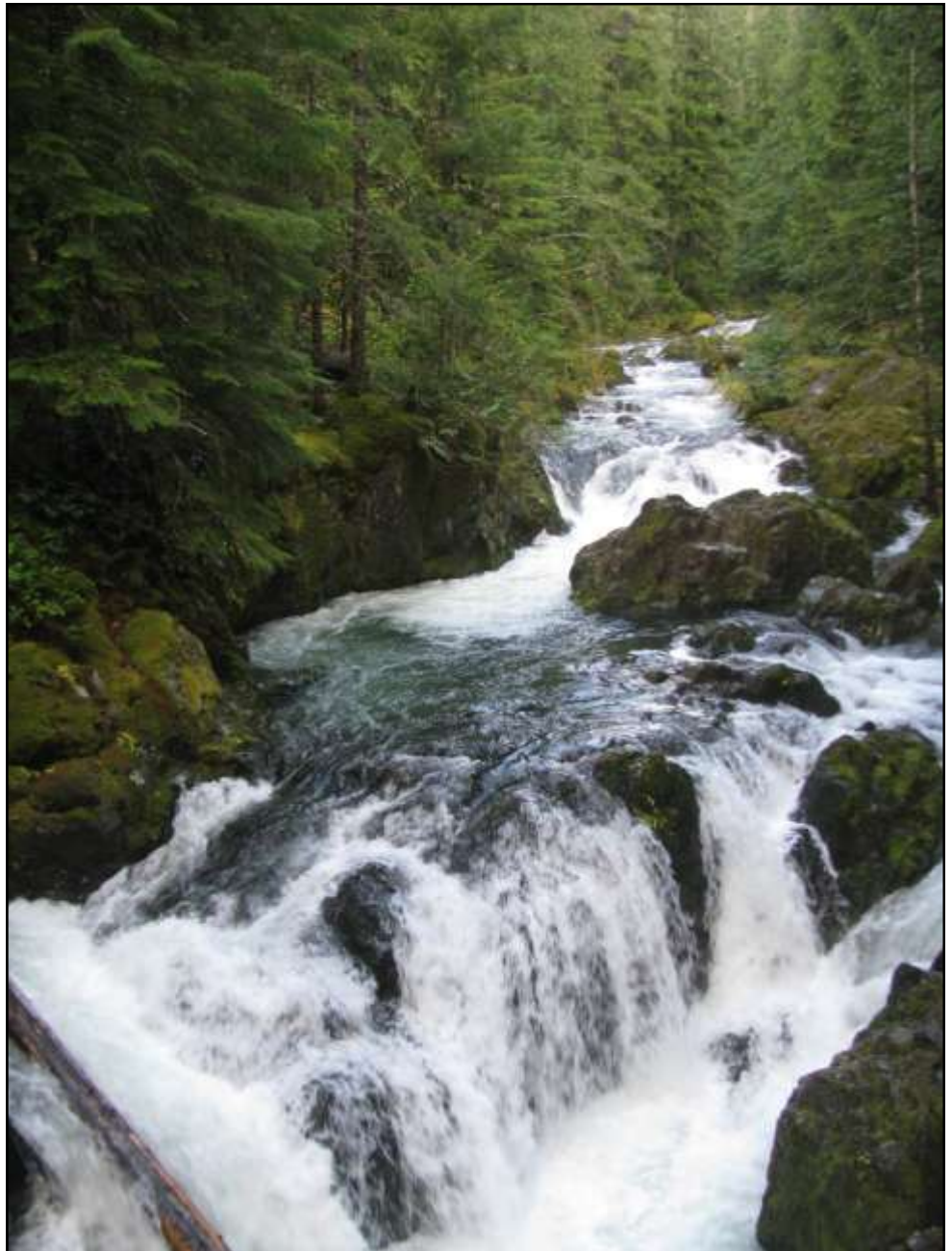
Leader: Chris Cunningham

Photo: Lamonte Smith

6.3 miles, 200 ft. (Moderate)

PREDICTIONS OF 40% PRECIPITATION didn't materialize. We all were grateful for the sometimes cloudy and often sunny day as we hiked 3.25 miles along Forest Road 2209 to Jawbone Flats. Damp moss dangled from old-growth limbs and huge fungi clung to enormous trunks.

Red, black and purple mushrooms stood among clumps of dewy ferns, wild geraniums and withering Solomon Seal. Within earshot, the swollen North Santiam River rushed over enormous boulders. In a clearing, Depression-era machinery and an outbuilding are still intact, remnants of the abandoned Merten Mill. Just beyond, Sawmill Falls' step-like, frothy rapids glimmered in the sunlight. At Jawbone Flats, we ate lunch and chatted, and admired the well-preserved yet retrofitted buildings of this old mining camp. We wandered among a roadside exhibit of old trucks and aging wood-burning stoves. Before returning to our car, we took a short jaunt to Opal Pool, a luminescent gem in this lush wilderness. Members: Chris Cunningham, Pete Peterson and Lamonte Smith; non: Janel Laidman.



Opal Creek



Hiking in the Southwest hills of Eugene, enjoying the autumn art.

Hills of Southwest Eugene

October 31, 2010

Leader: Joanne Ledet Photo: Darko Sojak

4.5 miles, 400 ft. (Easy)

AFTER A WEEK OF HEAVY RAIN AND FOG the chance of nice weather for our walk through the hills of southwest Eugene was not looking good. But luck was with us and when we met at 9:30 am the temperature was pleasant and the skies were fairly clear. As we walked up Warren and into the treed area the skies clouded slightly but we were still able to have some good views when we got to the high point of our walk. A great debate followed over what the larger buildings were that we were seeing on the valley floor, but there was no consensus. I resolved to bring my binoculars with me the next time I walked to that vista point. No debating the wildlife as we all enjoyed spotting the wild turkey and deer. The heavy rains did fill the creek and we enjoyed listening to the water rush downhill as we walked beside the creek. As we walked through the moist areas Darko spotted many varieties of mushrooms and picked a few beauties for a luncheon snack. The hikers all felt the elevation gain was much more than the 400 feet I listed on the sign-up sheet, but we all did it and felt a great sense of accomplishment. Members: Darko Sojak, Yuan Hopkins, Roberta Chord, Walt DOLLIVER, John Moser and nonmember Carolyn Sojak.

Spencer Butte Survey Site Visit

November 1, 2010

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

5.2 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

IT WAS SO WARM THAT WE REGRETTED all of the warm clothes

we carried to the summit where it was 50 degrees. The hike was designed for us to explore the five options for the Spencer Butte Summit Survey. Above the treeline, we followed the white dots marking Option Four for 300 feet. Everyone planned to complete the survey before the deadline, around November 14th. We liked the views and open areas on the new reroute at the beginning of the 52nd and Willamette Trail. Members: Margaret Essenberg, Richard Essenberg, Janet Jacobsen, Pat Soussan and Eric Swegles. Non: Flo DeLaney, Betty Grant and Connie Pierce.

Kelly Butte

November 5, 2010

Leader: Chris Cunningham

3.5 miles, 180 ft. (Easy)

THE THREE OF US STARTED OUR WALK just behind the old train depot on South A Street in Springfield, mainly sticking to the 3.5-mile route in Tyler Burgess' book, *Oregon Townscape Walks*. We walked along the Day Island Park trail and continued by the river until we entered an attractive residential area, with deciduous trees bursting in brilliant reds and yellows. As it turned out, Kathleen is a Springfield resident who knows the area well, so she pointed out a number of her favorite restaurants, retailers and points of interest. The last quarter-mile to Kelly Butte and Park was a nice climb. At the top, visitors often are rewarded with lovely views. The fog never lifted for us, so we didn't have the panorama I have enjoyed on previous visits. Nevertheless, walking in the cool morning air in good company was still a pleasant way to begin the day. Members: Chris Cunningham and Julia Jacobson; non: Kathleen Caprario-Ulrich.

Eel Creek

November 7, 2010

Leader: Jane Hackett

6 miles, 250 ft. (Moderate)

IT WAS RAINING CATS AND DOGS when we left Eugene. But by the time we reached Elkton for coffee, the sun was shining. We celebrated the sun and our decision to not cancel the trip. The beach was beautiful, perfect short-sleeve weather. On the way home, we stopped for more coffee. A great day! Members: Jane Hackett and Chris Shuraleff; nonmembers: Jonathan Jost.

North Fork of the Middle Fork, Willamette River

November 15, 2010

Leader: Tom Musselwhite

6.5 miles, 1,450 ft. (Moderate)

TWO WEEKS EARLIER THIS TRAIL was bright with the color of vine maple, and huge big-leaf maple leaves covered large stretches of the forest path. This day, most of the leaves were down, and bare limbs foretold winter's approaching storms.

This North Fork hike is the first trip of the official Obsidian Winter Trips season, and the first to be scheduled through Obsidians' online access. Online access worked with only a few bugs, which, from my end were not a problem with John Jacobsen's help; a triumph considering all that is involved. The user/member interface works to add or remove participants and edit trip info. The Trip Signup Sheet PDF (now on 11-inch paper instead of 14-inch legal paper) printed out well. Overall, from volunteering to lead a trip, to signing up for an outing, the online system offers many advantages. One is a Trip Signups Utility Sheet available for leaders to print that contains participant contact information.

Our party of four Obsidians departed Amazon Center promptly at 8:30 am, and arrived back shortly after 3:00 pm. It was cloudy, gray, and overcast when we left Eugene. We found mostly clear skies up river, but in less than two hours the weather began to change to misty rain. The fir landscape became shrouded with drifting fog as we explored this 6.5-mile trail segment along the North Fork of the Middle Fork of the Willamette River. We found assorted fungi and salamanders, and spring-board notches in the stumps of old trees. Judging by the tracks, a single large deer had recently preceded us up the trail. The river level was up, due to snowmelt from recent rain on new snow in the high country. Despite the weather, the trail was not very slick or muddy.

We were all adequately equipped for the weather, and experienced no problems as we each bounced between short sleeves and rain gear several times. The weather forecast had been for scattered showers beginning about 1:00 pm. The steadily increasing drizzle hit us about noon as we sat down for lunch.

Thanks, no doubt, to our excellent safety discussion before embarking we have no accidents to report . . . and I had plenty of time to make my last First Aid Class (Outdoor First) at the Obsidian Lodge that night. There are numerous footbridges (7-9) across tributary creeks; some are more slippery than others, but not dangerous unless you aren't paying attention. This trail has several steep sections, both up and down, that require sure footing and a moderate amount of stamina. Trailheads for this section are located on FS Road 1912 and FS Road 1920. The four Obsidians on this hike were: Dick Hildreth, Keiko Bryan, Brian Popowsky, and Tom Musselwhite (leader).

Ridgeline Trail

November 20, 2010

Leader: Janet Jacobsen Photo: Darko Sojak

6.2 miles, 900 ft. (Moderate)



On Baldy, along the Ridgeline Trail. From left: Beckie, Janet, Lisa & Maria.

THANKS TO JOHN JACOBSEN who drove us to the Blanton Trailhead and then left the car at the Spring Trailhead. Fortunately, the weather forecast for rain was wrong. There was some confusion about departure time, but somehow Maria Elena Munoz amazingly met up with us near Fox Hollow. It was her 3rd trip and she had her membership form ready for us to sign. The Skyline Trail to the top of Baldy offered views of the city, but it was on top of Baldy that we marveled at the blue sky, sun, and the views of snow covered hills. Nonmember, Lisa Marcus, on her 2nd trip commented, "It was a refreshing way to start the day." Members: Janet Jacobsen, Beckie Jones, and Darko Sojak. Nonmembers: Lisa Marcus, Maria Elena Munoz.

Bronze Sculpture Hike/Walk

December 1, 2010

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

4 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

WERE WE SURPRISED that it stopped raining for our walk through downtown Eugene and up to Skinner Butte. With the

temperature around 52 degrees, we took our time to peruse the bronze sculptures of Eugene Skinner, Rosa Parks, Downtown Critters, Ken Kesey, Small Girl Waiting for Train, and Wayne Morse. Fortunately, Susanne Steussy was wearing rubber boots and was able to wade and dig in the ancient sand dig at the Riverplay Discovery Village, discovering a bronze fossil and a pioneer artifact. We opted not to dig for more fossils in the wet sand. On the way up Skinner Butte, we met up with the hard-working Oregon Roads crew removing ivy. What a difference that makes. We enjoyed sharing our observations and historical anecdotes about Eugene. Participants were members Janet Jacobson, Margaret Prentice, and Suzanne Steussy, and nonmember Les Benoy.

Mt. Pisgah

December 21, 2010

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

3 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

THE PARKING LOT WAS FILLED WITH CARS and the trail filled with hikers hoping to feel the spirit of a rainless Winter Solstice with a spectacular sunset. As we neared the top, the possibility of the sun's rays shining through the Mt. Pisgah Sighting Pedestal became less likely. It was not to be. There was a slight wind on the summit but not enough to prevent us from enjoying the views and conversation with friends. It was Les Benoy's first trip up Pisgah; he was most impressed with the views and number of people on the summit. We enjoyed the lights of Eugene as we hiked down to our cars. Next year, we must remember to bring celebratory food and drink! Participants included Obsidians Janet Jacobsen, John Jacobsen, Darko Sojak, Royal Murdock, Peggy Windle, Susan Sanazaro, Rick Ahrens, Mari Baldwin, and Jim Whitfield; nonmembers were Les Benoy, Jim Koretz, Mel Huey, and Van Likes.

Spencer Butte

January 1, 2011

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

2.2 miles, 600 ft. (Moderate)

THE DAY BEFORE, WHEN I SCOUTED THE TRAIL FOR ICE, there was only one unavoidable slippery spot. During the night freezing rain froze most of the trail and added a shiny layer to some of the rocks. Fortunately, I had extra hiking poles for those that needed them. The ice did not deter any of the nine hikers from reaching the top. Jim Whitfield with his boots that never slipped was able to put out a hand in the worst spots. On top we had the Butte to ourselves to celebrate the New Year. It was Barbara Floyd's first trip. Soon to be member, Ryan Hovland, had a tripod to take a photo of all of us celebrating the New Year. We all agreed that it was a wonderful way to start the first day of 2011 and that next year we would bring food! Other nonmembers were Lisa Marcus and Tom O'Brien along with members Clara Emlen, Janet Jacobsen, Susan Sanazaro, Darko Sojak, and Jim Whitfield.



Snowshoe **Trips**

Midnight Lake

December 4, 2010

Leader and Photo Matthew Bell

6 miles, 400 ft. (Moderate)



THE WEATHER FOR THE FIRST OBSIDIAN SNOWSHOE TRIP couldn't have been much better. There was almost three feet of snow at the measuring station. Though the day was overcast it barely snowed on us. Our group of 12 snowshoers set out from Gold Lake Sno-Park and headed to Odell Overlook, stopping at Westview Shelter along the way. The size of our group was perfect to pass into the Diamond Peak Wilderness area and on to Midnight Lake. After Midnight Lake we headed over to Bechtel Shelter and back to the parking lot. I would like to thank Jim Whitfield for volunteering to be the sweep for the outing and making sure that we didn't leave anyone behind at any of the many trail junctions. Participants were members Mari Baldwin, Donald Klinghammer, Stephanie Schilling, Darko Sojak, Suzanne Steussy, Charlie VanDuesen, Jim Whitfield, Nancy Whitfield, and Matthew Bell (leader). Nonmembers included Douglas Berg, Cindy Rust, and Joyce Trawle.

Fawn Lake

December 19, 2010

Leader and Photo: Matthew Bell

7 miles, 900 ft. (Moderate)

THIS TRIP WAS RESCHEDULED from Saturday to Sunday to avoid some nasty weather. Because of the stormy week prior to this trip there was a lot of fresh powdery snow. As we set out from Crescent Sno-Park it became apparent that it was going to be a lot of work to get to Fawn Lake. Even with snowshoes we sunk down about a foot and a half. It was quite literally walking in a winter wonderland.

On the way in we experienced a torrential snowbombing that left 2 of us drenched in snow and the others experiencing a whiteout.



Trip to Fawn Lake—a winter wonderland.

We each took turns breaking trail to Fawn Lake as it is a lot of work plowing through that much snow. Along the way a group of cross-country skiers caught up to our group. Together we made the final push to Fawn Lake. It took us 3.5 hours. We enjoyed lunch along the shore of Fawn Lake but due to the cloudy skies and falling snow our vistas didn't include the surrounding peaks.

We snowshoed back through our own trench in 1 hour and 40 minutes, just under twice as quickly.

Participants: Daphne James, Danneille 'Danni' Harris, Suzanne Steussy, Lynda Christiansen and Matthew Bell (leader).

brisk pace down Abernathy Road. After about a mile, we turned off toward the PCT, following a track set by two other skiers and their dogs. We arrived at Midnight Lake just before noon and took about 20 minutes to eat lunch. Returning back to the junction at the loop trail, we had to break trail through 24 inches of powder to continue our clockwise loop. Breaking trail became easier when we met a skier coming in from Bechtel Shelter breaking trail by himself on a counter-clockwise loop. After reaching Abernathy Road, we dropped in to see Bechtel Shelter and then continued on to the trailhead. At least three inches of snow fell during our trip, but when we reached the cars at 2:00 pm, blue skies were starting to appear. Thanks to Sue for scheduling a trip that we all enjoyed. Skiers were Obsidians Mari Baldwin, Frank Chemotti, John Hartman, Sam Miller, Robert Smythe, Chris Stockdale, Charlie Van Deusen, and Brian Hamilton (leader). Nonmembers included Sherrill Bower (on her 3rd Obsidian trip) and Sharon Friedland.



Ski Trips

Midnight Lake Cross-Country Ski

December 18, 2010

Leader: Brian Hamilton

6 miles, 400 ft. (Moderate)

SUE WOLLING WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO LEAD THIS TRIP, but an injury required that she stay off skis for awhile. However, she did ride her bike to the meeting place to see us off. We arrived at the Gold Lake Sno-Park, where eight inches of snow had fallen overnight, and set off at 10:30 am on a

Byways By Bus



Salem Christmas Lights

December 7, 2010

Co-leaders: Paul & Barbara Beard

PAUL AND BARBARA BEARD WERE THE LEADERS for the bus trip to Salem and surrounding area to see the Christmas

lights and to have dinner. Twenty-five Obsidians and friends left the Eugene Shopko parking lot at 2 pm, and our first stop was at the Capitol to view decorated trees in the Rotunda. A magnificent train display under the enormous lighted tree was a trip back to childhood for many. The bridges, tunnels and all the traditional Christmas decorations was a sight to see. To top off the experience, we listened to holiday music by soloist Kathy Madden and pianist Paul Beard, giving us a mini Christmas concert in the performance area of the Rotunda.

Our second stop was the Mission Mill Museum and shops, which were all decorated with thousands of lights. The mill is still producing electricity from a millrace for the operations there. The walkways and waterways were fascinating to walk as the lights began to come on about 4:45 pm and entirely changed the atmosphere of the mill. At a later date we plan to have an entire tour of the operation there. Our time on this visit was spent shopping the wonderful gift shop and enjoying the lights. Our emphasis on decorations for the trip was to find as many of the large living trees as possible, decorated from top to bottom. The largest tree was the sequoia at Western Oregon University in Monmouth. We could see the huge star at the top as we traveled Hwy. 51 from Independence, a truly wonderful sight. All in all, 15 living trees were found on the trip. The last tree was in our own back yard -- the huge lighted tree on Coburg Rd. at the Oakway Mall.

A family-style Chinese buffet was enjoyed at Kwan's Restaurant, with a taste of many exotic rices, and wonderful tea to start our dining experience. Kwan's boasts they are one of only two restaurants in the U.S. with such a collection of healthy rice.

As our finale, we enjoyed hot fruit wassail and Christmas tree cookies as we walked around the almost half a block of buildings and lights located at the intersection of Liberty and Commercial. As one member said, "This is indescribable -- you just have to be here to take it all in."

RIDERS: Members: Ethel Allen, Alice Anderson, Bill Arthur, Barbara Beard, Paula Beard, Paul Beard, Sharon Cutsforth, RoseMary Etter, Barbara Flanders, Dennis Flanders, Betty Hack, Verna Kocken, Kathy Madden, John McManigal, Lenore McManigal, Barbara Payne, Don Payne, Liz Reanier, Julie Snell, Dick Speelman, Janet Speelman, Bonnie Ward. Non-Members: Marcia Claypool, Geri Nelson, Edith Pattee.



Trail Maintenance

Spencer Butte Trail Maintenance **October 30, 2010**

Leader: Matthew Bell Photo: Jim Pierce

FOR THIS MONTH'S TRAIL MAINTENANCE OUTING on Spencer Butte we broke into two groups: one group continued our work on the West Summit Trail, and the second group of Tom O'Brien and Connie Morehouse hiked the main trail clear-

ing culverts to prepare the trail drainage for a wet winter. Along the West Trail this time we planted 88 sword ferns and 3 big leaf maples along the sides of the cobble path to revegetate and rehabilitate what was once an extremely wide trail. Sword ferns are resilient and hopefully many of them will survive and provide a visual clue to help people and pets stay on the official trail. Participants included Obsidians Jim Pierce, Rob Castleberry, John and Janet Jacobsen, Peter Green, and Matt Bell (leader); and nonmembers Flo DeLaney, Betty Grant, Todd Larsen, Connie Morehouse, Tom O'Brien, Katie O'Neal, and Lance Poole-Hussa.



Waiting to plant stuff at Spencer Butte

Spencer Butte Trail Maintenance

November 27, 2010

Leader: Matthew Bell

WE MET CHRISTER LABRECQUE AND LORNA BALDWIN of EPOS for two projects on Spencer Butte. Though the sky was overcast and showers may have been falling in Eugene karma rewarded our participants with pleasant weather for an outing.

Connie, Jim Whitfield, and Matt helped Christer address a muddy section of the main trail. The work occurred just past the rock work bridge where there is a seep. Rocks, gravel, and tools were hauled up to the spot. Connie decided that there were too many people in a small space. Never one to stand idly by she moved to the planting project on the West Trail. After a bit Dave Predeek arrived undaunted by the overcast sky for some trail maintenance work. We excavated the wet spots and placed the rocks and gravel so that the seep flowed across and through the trail without creating a muddy spot.

Lorna, Janet, Jim Pierce, Cynthia and Connie planted sword ferns, vine maple, and Douglas fir along the West trail. The planting was our second attempt to get some plants to take hold in between two sections of fencing that we used to stop people from short-cutting the switchbacks. Our efforts last winter at reintroducing vegetation were met with a very low rate of survivorship.

Participants: Janet Jacobsen, Dave Predeek, Jim Whitfield, and Jim Pierce (members); Connie Morehouse and Cynthia (nonmembers); and Matthew Bell (leader).

AT THE LODGE



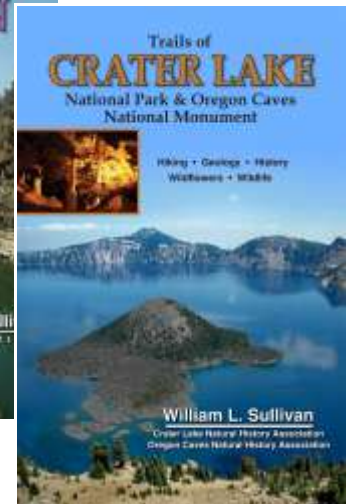
POTLUCK

Friday, January 28th:

New Hikes in Southern Oregon

OREGON'S HIKING GURU, **BILL SULLIVAN** takes us on a slide show tour of new trails he discovered while researching two just-released books, *100 Hikes in Southern Oregon: 3rd edition* and *Trails of Crater Lake*. We'll find hidden beaches on the Illinois River, explore a Darlingtonia bog at Eight Dollar Mountain, backpack in Northern California's Trinity Alps, and find out what new trails are being built at Crater Lake. As always, Sullivan spices his slide presentation with notes on the geology, wildlife, and history.

Sullivan is the author of a dozen books about Oregon. New in April 2010 was his historical novel *The Ship in the Hill*, based on the true story of a Viking longship unearthed on a Norwegian farm in 1904.



January Potluck - Friday, January 28, 2011

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.

ExploraTalk Tuesday, January 18

Collier Glacier's Secrets



OSU GEOSCIENCE RESEARCHER **CODY BEEDLOW** will show slides featuring Collier Glacier for the January 18 ExploraTalk, 7:00 pm at the Lodge.

Flowing down the flanks of the Three Sisters, Collier Glacier, at an elevation of more than 7,000 feet, is one of the largest glaciers in Oregon. It is on the short list, of maybe only 100 in the entire world, of glaciers that have been intensively studied and monitored for extended periods of time.

Difficult, dangerous and labor-intensive work, supported by the National Science Foundation, is showing an ice mass that has shrunk by about half of its peak size in the 1850s, when it was nearly two miles long, and has decreased more than 20 percent from its size in the late 1980s. Beedlow's presentation will show how data from the automatic weather station he and assistants packed in, and from stakes drilled into the ice provide critical information.

“Even to get up onto the glacier in summer you need to travel pretty fast and light, before the next storm front moves in,” Beedlow said. “We usually start hiking in at night with headlamps, and often get off the glacier just as the clouds are piling up. For this kind of science, you have to take your opportunities when you can find them.”

Lyn Gilman-Garrick, Conservation/SciEd Committee

Save the Dates Extended Trips

THE FOLLOWING EXTENDED TRIPS have been scheduled for 2011; there may be more.

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Big Lake Snowshoe & Ski Trip | Mar 30 – Apr 1 |
| Malheur Wildlife Refuge Birding | May 13 – 14 |
| Spring Basin Wilderness Hiking | May 19 – 22 |
| Cispus River Camping & Hiking | Aug 14 – 19 |

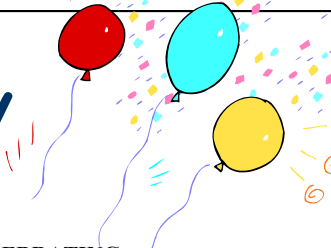
Registration for these trips will be available once the complete description of the trip is published in the online Bulletin.

Winter Trips Update

JUST A REMINDER THAT THE WINTER TRIPS SEASON is now in full swing. We still have room for more trips if leaders want to check the online schedule and add another ski, snowshoe, hike, or other winter trip this season.

Also, a note to leaders. If you haven't yet completed filling in your online Trip Signup Sheet details (departure time and place, trip description, and food and equipment sections) please log in and do that as soon as possible. Trip Signup Sheets must be filled out by leaders before they are made available for online signup. Trip status is changed from 'scheduled' to 'online' three weeks before the date of the trip.

For more information on completing your online Trip Signup Sheets contact Tom Musselwhite, Winter Trips chair, 461-3296.



It's Party Time

**WE ARE CELEBRATING
JANET JACOBSEN & DAVE PREDEEK'S 70TH BIRTHDAY**
Sunday, January 30th from 2:00-4:00
At the Obsidian Lodge

Dave's birthday is January 28th and Janet's is on February 4th, so we plan to split the difference and celebrate on the 30th. If you would like to take a short walk with them on the Ribbon Trail near the Lodge, come early and join them at 1:00 in the Obsidian Lodge parking lot.

No gifts. No cards. Just come and celebrate.
Instead, if you wish, you may bring a nonperishable food donation for Food for Lane County.
Hosted by John Jacobsen

Obsidian Calendar

January

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| 15 Sat - Brice Creek , Hike E, Pierce | 344-1775 |
| 16 Sun - Birthday Lk-Fuji Shltr Lp , Xski D, Jensen ... | 344-1363 |
| 16 Sun - Diamond Creek Falls , SSHoe, E, Hovis | 345-7788 |
| 18 Tue - Collier Glacier , Beedlow | ExplraTalk |
| 22 Sat - Spencer Butte , Hike M, Jacobsen | 343-8030 |
| 22 Sat - Maiden Peak Shelter , SSHoe D, Bell | 503-884-8829 |
| 22 Sat - Three Fingred Jack , Xski D, Breslin | 607-339-1816 |
| 23 Sun - Maxwell Butte , SSHoe M, James | 683-7488 |
| 23 Sun - Cone Peak , Xski D, Sayre | 345-2370 |
| 23 Sun - Gold Lake , SSHoe, E, Hovis | 345-7788 |
| 27 Thu - Salt Cr and Diamond Cr Fl , SSHoe M, Pierce | 344-1775 |
| 28 Fri - Exploring Oregon , Sullivan | Potluck |
| 29 Sat - Odell Butte , Xski D, McManigal | 503-635-9973 |
| 30 Sun - Hoodoo Bt - Potato Hill Lp , Xski D, Miller | 484-4586 |

February

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| 3 Thu - Maiden Peak Cabin , Xski D, Wilken | 343-3080 |
| 5 Sat - Booth/Square Lakes Loop , Xski D, Hamilton ... | 343-6550 |
| 5 Sat - Maiden Peak , SSHoe D, Bell | 503-884-8829 |
| 5 Sat - Salt Creek Falls , SSHoe M, Breslin | 607-339-1816 |
| 6 Sun - Sweet Creek , Hike E, Pierce | 344-1775 |
| 6 Sun - Iron Mtn, Cone Pk, S Pk Tour , Xski D, Goins | 484-1018 |
| 6 Sun - Maxwell Butte , SSHoe, E, Hovis | 345-7788 |
| 11 Fri - Atomic Ranch , Hike, E Cunningham | 344-0486 |
| 12 Sat - Bechtel Shelter , SSHoe M, Pierce | 344-1775 |
| 13 Sun - Redtop Mountain , Xski D, Thompson | 683-8942 |
| 19 Sat - Bechtel Shelter , SSHoe M, Camp | 221-1866 |
| 19 Sat - Marilyn Lakes , Xski, E, B. Hamilton | 343-6550 |
| 20 Sun - Potato Hill , SSHoe, D, Hovis | 345-7788 |
| 22 Tue - Eagles 'N More , Bus, Reanier | 687-1925 |
| 26 Sat - North Waldo Lake , Xski, D, Hubata-Vacek ... | 345-3060 |
| 27 Sun - Sand Mountain , Xski, D, Sam Miller | 484-4586 |

March

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| 5 Sat - Hills of SW Eugene , Hike E, Ledet | 683-2603 |
| 6 Sun - Island Lakes Loop , Xski D, Jensen | 344-1363 |
| 13 Sun - Maiden Lake , Xski D, Pegg | 343-0909 |
| 13 Sun - Little Nash , SSHoe, D, Hovis | 345-7788 |
| 18 Fri - HJ Andrs Lookout Cr , Hike M, Musselwhite .. | 461-3296 |
| 19 Sat - Fawn Lake , Xski, D, Sinnott | 915-0234 |
| 20 Sun - Lava Lake , SSHoe, M, Hovis | 345-7788 |
| 24 Thu - Skinner Butte , Hike E, Essenberg | 343-1733 |

April

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| 9 Sat - PCT N Santiam Sno-Park , SSHoe M, Hildreth .. | 345-7520 |
| 10 Sun - South Waldo Shelter , Xski D, Jensen | 344-1363 |
| 29 Fri - Hemlock Butte , Bkpk, D, Hovis | 345-7788 |



WALKING COMPANION(S) WANTED for Camino De Santiago, a 500 mile well established and supported pilgrimage route in Spain, for April 15, 2011 to May 23, 2011. For more information:

<http://www.americanpilgrims.com/about/welcome.html>

Please contact: Leila Snow, 968-5533 or leilas@ori.org

STORAGE WANTED: A place to store firewood long-term. Cash or handyman services in exchange.

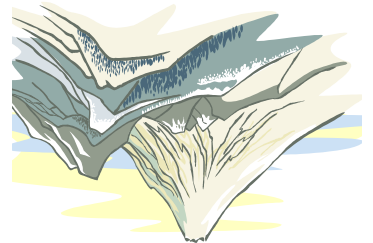
Call Sam: 744-6258

Happy New Year!



New Year's morning atop Spencer Butte, once an annual tradition, is again being done; this is the third year in a row. A frosty trail welcomed this intrepid group—from left: back row: Ryan Hovland, (soon to be member), Tom O'Brien (nonmember), Jim Whitfield, Darko Sojak, Susan Sanazaro; front row: Janet Jacobsen (leader), Barbara Floyd (nonmember), Lisa Marcus (soon to be member); and in the very front: Clara Emlen. See Trip Report Page 13 - Photo by Ryan Hovland

January 2011



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