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Dates to Remember

Mar 16	ExploraTalk - Whales
Mar 25	Potluck - Peru
Mar 26	Spring Beach Cleanup
Mar 26	Trail Maintenance
Apr 6	Board Meeting

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

*Today is your day!
 Your mountain is waiting.
 So... get on your way!
 — Dr. Seuss*

Summer Trips Committee:

Summer Trips Kickoff

By Brian Hamilton, Summer Trips Chair



NO FOOLING! THE SUMMER TRIPS season starts on April 1. The Summer Trips Committee is getting the word out that we need volunteers to lead hikes, bike trips, raft and canoe trips, backpack trips, and anything else that will get us outdoors. We already have a proposed trip schedule and we’re looking for leaders to fill in the blanks. One of the most important ways a member can contribute to the club is to lead a trip. It can be a short or long one, an urban, mountain, coast or just outside of town. Consider exploring a new area or a new trail. We often get trip ideas from Sullivan’s guides and we tend to focus on Central Cascades or the coast, but there are several hikes in his Northwest Oregon, Southern Oregon, and Eastern Oregon books that aren’t that far away. Maybe this is the year for you to lead something new. Please let us know if there is a trip or trips that you want to lead.

While you’re looking at your calendars to plan your trips, be sure to mark a spot for the Summer Trips Kickoff/Social and Leader Training at the Obsidian Lodge, Thursday, March 31. Catch up with old and new friends, share stories, and join us for prizes, refreshments, and of course, training sessions for leaders and potential leaders. If you are a new member and are considering leading a trip, here is an opportunity to learn some basic tips.

We’ll hand out leader packets to save postage and there will be a special focus on our new online schedule system. Everyone is welcome.



Summer Trips Kickoff/Social & Leader Training

7:00 pm, Thursday, March 31 - At the Lodge



Our Oceans at Risk

MY COMPUTER SCREEN offers a magnificent black and white orca whale against a background of blue water and snowcapped mountains - a fitting symbol of the wild. This marine animal is a top predator who swims all its life within a family pod of four generations of killer whales, led by the alpha female. With its speed, power and ability to hunt collectively with a specific strategy, the orca would seem invincible. Not so fast: the orca, like its fellow ocean dwellers, is being threatened by pollution, over consumption of marine products and degradation of the atmosphere. The top predator is us.

What do we know? *Our Ocean* (www.ouregonocean.org) lists warning signs of the increasing threats to our Oregon coastal waters:

- Fish populations like rockfish and salmon are suffering dramatic declines. The primary food source for orcas in the northwest is salmon.
- Smelt, and other small forage fish which serve as food for birds and larger fish are in decline.

By Pat Bitner

- Up to 70% of Oregon's estuaries and tidal wetlands have been lost due to diking, and filling of wetlands.
- Research documents increasing water acidity, causing corrosion of the shells of marine creatures. The cause would seem to lie on the growing level of CO₂ in the atmosphere.

What can we do? Marine reserves are areas fully protected from any activity which would threaten or alter their habitat. Scientific research, diving and kayaking are permitted. Marine protected areas are portions of the ocean off-limits to oil drilling and trawling. Limited fishing or crabbing are permitted as are non-extractive activities, including clamming, diving, safe harbor anchoring, etc.

There are 4,500 marine protected areas worldwide and at least 250 marine reserves. Studies show that marine reserves are very important, causing positive increases in the size, diversity and numbers of marine life within.

Oregon is the only Pacific coast state with no marine reserves. The State of Oregon has been considering marine reserves for the past several years. There are currently two pilot marine reserve sites, a reserve at Otter Rock north of Newport, and a marine reserve and adjoining marine protected area at Redfish Rocks, near Port Orford. Four other sites have been considered and three have been recommended by OPAC (Ocean Policy Advisory Council) and ODFW (Oregon Dept. Of Fish and Wildlife). The three finalists are at Cascade Head, Cape Perpetua and Cape Falcon.

What can I personally do? Join fellow Obsidians and the members of SOLV on the annual Spring Beach Clean-up, Saturday, March 26. See the Conservation/SciEd Activities article (Page 14) for further information. Help clean our beaches of debris such as plastic (the worst offender), cigarettes,

(Continued on page 4)

OBSIDIANS, INC

P.O. Box 322, Eugene, OR 97440

Website: www.obsidians.org

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Kathy Hoeg, Secretary
Stewart Hoeg, Treasurer
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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.

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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 April 2011 Bulletin
Saturday, April 2, 2011**

Assembly/Mailing Team

For February Bulletin

Assembly & Mail Manager - Lou Maenz
Assembly Team - Yuan Hopkins, Vi Johnson, Bob Jones, Don & Barbara Payne, Margaret Prentice and Barbara Schomaker

Editorial Team

Writing & Editorial Staff - Bea Fontana, Ken Frazer, John Jacobsen, Joanne Ledet, Beth Roy and Ethel Weltman
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Antarctic Adventure

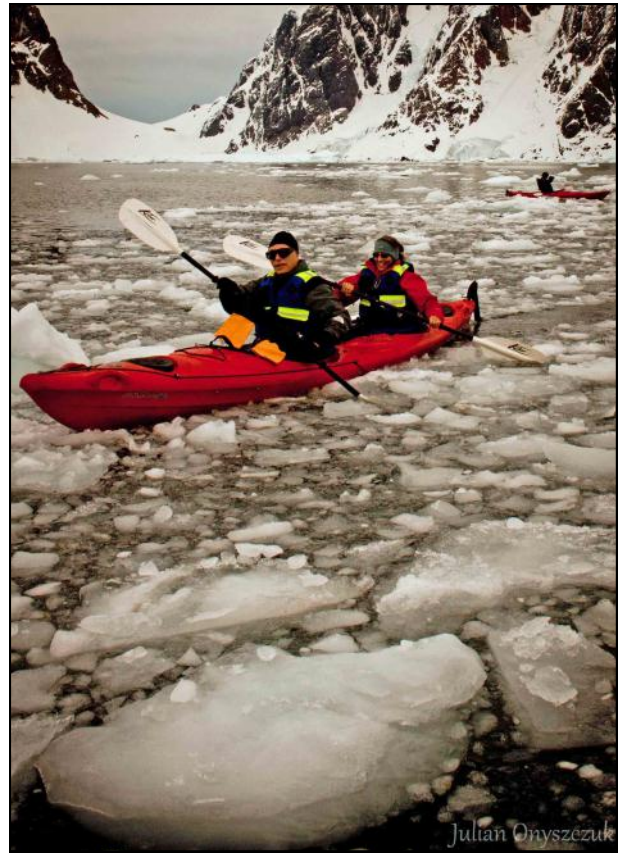
Story and Photos By Jim Pierce

SURREAL, BLACK AND WHITE PAINTINGS OF MOUNTAINS, ocean and ice, vastness, starkness, un-scaled grandeur, isolation, many forms of ice, abundant wildlife – these are just a few of the impressions of the vast Antarctic continent that few people ever have the privilege to see. I eagerly joined the Planetary Society Group last December for a two week exploratory and educational trip to see even a small portion of this forbidding continent.

I first met my roommate for the trip in Miami and we then flew on to Buenos Aires where we met the rest of the group. After a day spent touring the city, we boarded an early morning flight to Ushuaia, Argentina. Ushuaia is the southernmost city in the world at 55 degrees south latitude. We had only a few hours to tour Ushuaia before boarding our ship, *Plancius*, a converted Dutch Naval research vessel. The ship can carry 110 passengers and has 43 multinational crew members.

As soon as we set sail we had the required lifeboat drill and also encountered the heavy seas we would experience during our two day crossing of the Drake Passage. Whitecaps and swells seemed an almost random pattern in the sea of dark gray. They made the ship rock back and forth like a cork, side to side and up and down, all at the same time. My legs struggled to adapt. Albatrosses and petrels, birds new to me, soared above the ship.

During the night we crossed over the Convergence into Antarctic waters. We were given instructions on shore behavior and had all our outer gear vacuumed to remove seeds and spores that could affect the ecosystem of the Antarctic



environment. We loaded into the Zodiacs for our first shore excursion and could tell when we were near shore by the strong odor of penguin poop. We enjoyed watching the gentoos, the smaller chinstraps and an occasional adelic penguin interact, vocalize, pebble hunt and leap in the water just off shore. The scua birds were constantly patrolling the rookery, looking for eggs, chicks and any other form of food.



ONWARD TO DECEPTION ISLAND at 63 degrees south latitude. After the Zodiacs dropped us on shore we began a four-mile round trip hike over snow to the chinstrap rookery. Along the way we encountered many types of snow: a very white dense powder, a porous rime-like surface and glaze ice. The sight of 30,000 pairs of penguins in this nesting area was well worth the hike. Some birds nest 300 feet above sea level, a long way to go to give a chick of mouthful of krill! The view from the ridge

(Continued on page 4)

Antarctic Adventure

(Continued from page 3)

where we hiked was stark – a painting in black and white. The only plants were beds of mosses and rock lichens. Just in this area are lichens that grow on rocks like miniature trees to two inches tall, and they could be hundreds of years old.

The next day we anchored beside Danco Island and had our first kayak outing. The ice covered mountains are stupendous, rising 3,000 to 6,000 feet straight out of the sea. The shapes of the bergs are amazing and the blues are especially intriguing. We kayaked through several different kinds of ice including frazil ice that is slushy, and the most distinctive, pancake ice. It looks like a 3-5 foot diameter lily pad, and is formed when

grease ice bumps together to make the unusual shape. During our visit the temperature was always within a few degrees of freezing – and this was summer in the Antarctic. On a kayak trip a few days later we were next to an especially blue iceberg when a glacier calved. We braced ourselves for the tsunami which never came, but the Zodiacs, being closer to the glacier, experienced waves two feet high.

WEATHER CONTROLS ALL OUR ACTIVITIES. On our last kayak excursion we received an urgent message from the ship that pack ice was closing in and we needed to get back to the ship ASAP. We quickly hopped into our Zodiac and pulled the strings of kayaks through the shifting pack ice. A few Zodiacs got stuck in the ice for a time,



but were able to free themselves. The Plancius was moving to open sea as the last Zodiac was being loaded. The large ship sailed through the pack ice, which was miles across, and that provided us a good opportunity to see all types of seals lolling on the flat topped ice. Weddell seals have lovely faces and are fish eaters. Crabeater seals eat krill. The bad boy of the sea is the large leopard seal. They eat penguins, usually catching them by a leg and thrashing them against the water until the skin comes off.

We saw penguin skins near the rookeries.

On our return trip to Ushuaia we were able to stop right beside the albatross and rock hopper penguin rookeries on the Diego Ramirez archipelago and to sail within six miles of Cape Horn, rather than the usual twelve miles. Overall, we were fortunate to have ‘good’ weather. A few days before we started

our trip a ship larger than ours was hit by a large storm wave. It broke windows on the bridge (70-80 ft. above the water line) and completely disabled the computerized controls. It was dead in the water. When the storm finally broke the ship had to be towed back to Ushuaia.

This trip was a wonderful collection of grand experiences. It was like being part of a National Geographic Expedition. Picking a favorite place or experience is like picking a favorite child – I loved each place for its own beauty and wonder. It is important to look for the positive in each place and experience that comes into my life.

Editor’s Note: To read the complete description of Jim’s trip, email him at: jimpierce1948@comcast.net

Our Oceans at Risk

(Continued from page 2)

etc. and save lives of seabirds, marine mammals and turtles.

At home: Don’t pour harsh chemicals down the drain or into storm sewers. Dispose of them properly, keeping them in their original containers, sealed and wrapped.

For cleaning jobs, substitute baking soda, vinegar and borax for bleach and ammonia.

Before going to the beach, or boating, weed out any plastic packaging which could blow into the water.

Stay informed. Make comments to OPAC and ODFW regarding marine reserves; write a letter to your local newspaper. For more information check out the following:

www.oregonocean.info
www.oceanconservancy.org

A Funny Balance

By Peter Green

LIFE HAS A FUNNY WAY OF BALANCING TRAGEDY and triumph, struggle and success, hardship and happiness. This past year I was laid off from my job of ten years. I felt like I was set adrift in a rudderless boat, into a vast unknown.

At the same time as I was struggling with forming a new plan for my career, I was awarded the grand prize in the Gore-Tex Experience More Challenge. The contest was designed to recognize someone who was using the outdoors to create unique and meaningful experiences for others. My entry essay talked about how I had over the last few years been climbing with a group of blind and visually impaired athletes known as Team Sight Unseen. I explained how my mother and sister are both legally blind, and how I had joined the team so that I could express my gratitude for having perfect eyesight, as well as to advance awareness of the challenges that blind and visually impaired people face.

In my first week of being unemployed I received the grand prize check for \$10,000. I also had \$5,000 donated in my name to the Access Fund, and got a box full of great Gore-Tex gear. Talk about the funny way life balances out! De-

spite the financial hardship I was in the midst of, I knew without a doubt that the best use of the money would be to continue the work that I had been doing with Team Sight Unseen. I have always looked at money as a tool that is used to build happiness, not happiness in and of itself. I knew that the reward for funding the team's climb would be a shared happiness worth more than anything I could have spent it on otherwise.

This could not have been more true. I used the entire prize money to personally fund the 2010 team trip to climb Wyoming's highest mountain, Gannett Peak. In addition to the transportation, horse packers, and food for the climb, I was able to purchase new gear and clothing for each member of the team. The climb itself took a week to complete and was a grueling 50-mile round trip with almost 9,000 feet of vertical gain. We enjoyed the beauty of the mountains together, strengthened our bonds of friendship and trust, built new skills for future climbs, and hopefully set an example to others of what is possible when people work together toward a common goal. For more information on the climb itself, or to make a donation to help support our future climbs, please visit www.teamsightunseen.com.



Team Sight Unseen near the summit of Gannett Peak.

BOARD NOTES

March 2, 2011

By Kathy Hoeg, Secretary

President John Jacobsen called the meeting to order. Board members present: Matt Bell, Lyn Gilman-Garrick, Kathy Hoeg, Stewart Hoeg, Elle Weaver, and Nancy Whitfield. Also present: Don Colgan, Wayne Deeter, Jim Duncan, Joella Ewing, Tom Musselwhite, Doug Nelson, Jim Pierce, and Barb Revere.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Summer Trips (Brian Hamilton): Planning is underway for the Leader Training/Summer Trips Kickoff Social. Don Colgan will represent the Summer Trips Committee at the March and April Board meetings.

Winter Trips (Tom Musselwhite): February revenue: 17 trips; 101 members \$101; 29 nonmembers \$136; total: \$237. Winter trips total so far: total 38 trips; 221 members \$221; 67 nonmembers \$277; total: \$498.

Climbs (Larry Huff): Climbs is compiling a climbs activities schedule. The climbs activities schedule will be released April 1st. The committee recently sent out a survey polling club members active in climbs. The poll is seeking feedback on members' interest in intermediate climbing education, leadership skills, and related skill sets.

Trail Maintenance (Matthew Bell): One outing was led by Jim Pierce on the Ridgeline Trail near the Blanton Trailhead to remove English ivy from the park. The outing scheduled for February 26th was canceled due to the dangerous driving and trail conditions brought on by the snow and freezing temperatures.

Byways By Bus (Liz Reanier): The Eagles And More trip with 30 participants was very successful.

Extended Trips (Jim Duncan): A new extended trip, North Coast Hiking led by Mary Holbert, has been added to the schedule in April.

Conservation, Science, & Education (Joella Ewing): 55 people attended both the January and February ExploraTalks and \$52 was collected at each.

Publication (Joanne Ledet): The cost of the February Bulletin was \$400.05 for 401 copies.

Entertainment (Laurie Funkhouser): The February 25 potluck was canceled due to weather and potential hazardous driving conditions for the speaker traveling from Portland.

Membership (Barb Revere): New applications to be presented tonight are: Jacque Davis, who qualified via trips and didn't answer the referral question; Betty Grant, who qualified via trips and found Obsidians, Inc. on our web page; Eric Grape, applying as an Associate Member, who qualified via trips and was referred by a friend; Ryan Hovland, who qualified via trips and found Obsidians, Inc. in the newspaper. The Board approved the four applications.

Publicity (Elle Weaver): Backcountry Gear and Dick's Sporting Store are now displaying our brochures.

Concessions (Lyn Gilman-Garrick): We ordered lots of new merchandise from McKenzie by SewOn. Some of it to round out our inventory (e.g., women's fleece vests in various sizes and colors) and some of it to add to our inventory (i.e., nylon hats with brims and drawstrings, for hiking and boating in the sun).

Online (Wayne Deeter): A few statistics for online signups since we started using the new online system: Currently signed up for trips: 24; Cancelled: 173; No shows: 23 (15 were nonmembers); Completed: 328.

We have experienced some outages with our online DB system server recently and have been working with the vendor (Point in Space) to resolve these issues.

Finance (Stewart Hoeg): The Finance Committee completed an audit of the general and extended trips funds for 2010. A \$20,000 19 month CD at 1.15% interest was purchased from US Bank.

Library/Historian (Lenore McManigal): All of the activity sheets of the former members who did not renew their 2010-2011 dues last fall, have been put in the set of books for inactive members.

Lodge Building (Doug Nelson): Two lodge rental fees to submit: Member, Doug Nelson - \$70 (adoption party

2/20/11); and Member, Pete Cunningham \$70 (birthday party 5/6/11). We are also in process of renting to McKenzie River Trust for use for future Board meetings in 2011. Five dates: Tuesday evenings; April 12, May 10, July 12, Sept. 13, and Nov. 8. Lodge expenses: \$65.04 - restocked trash bags, toilet paper and light bulbs.

Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): Fir Removal/Oak Restoration Project - Sam Tracer and Pat Adams continue to work on fir removal. Dave Predeek has gotten 7 oak starts and lattice protectors for them - we hope to have them planted soon. Thanks to the Friends of Buford Park nursery for the oaks. We also got several needed ditches dug. Thanks to Gary Kirk for his help.

NEW BUSINESS

There was a discussion about the accessibility of members' information. John Jacobsen explained that requests from outsiders for members' phone numbers or addresses are usually handled by letting the member know that someone is trying to contact him/her. Members who request it can have their contact information deleted from the Membership Directory. There was discussion of whether to offer an opt-out on the Membership Application, but several people felt that would result in a lot of opt-outs, which would make it difficult to contact people for necessary things such as the mailing out of leader packets. John Jacobsen suggested that if we want to make an explicit policy, we need to add it to the Bylaws.

John explained the method he uses when there is a need to send an email to all members, such as the recent cancellation of the February Potluck. He said that mass notifications like this have only been done two or three times, have gone through to almost all the email addresses successfully, and have generated no complaints.

John also suggested that the club could benefit from an opt-in list for people who want to be reminded of upcoming potlucks, Sci/Ed talks, and similar events. Joella Ewing and the Conservation Committee are currently doing reminders for Sci/Ed talks by personally telephoning all members.

TRIP REPORTS & OTHER ACTIVITIES



Hikes

Amazon Headwaters/Spencer Butte

February 5, 2011

Leader: Janet Jacobsen Photo: Darko Sojak

Hike: 6.4 miles, 1,530 ft. (Moderate)

NINE MEMBERS MET at the Martin Street Trailhead at 9:00 to begin the hike up to Spencer Butte. Darko pointed out exquisite bright red, ear-like mushrooms tucked away on logs in a few sheltered spots off the trail. He said in Croatia they were called Peter's Ears and here they are called Scarlet Elfcup. On top of Spencer Butte, it was warm and overcast. We posed for a photo by one of the trail markers, white dots, that mark Option Four reroute. At the Fox Hollow Trailhead, we talked with hard workers from Lane County Youth Services program who were excited about the near completion of graveling the upper trail to Dillard. One hiker remarked that it was perfect weather for hiking. Members: Sheila Barry, Jim Duncan, Sharon Duncan, Janet Jacobsen, Patricia Mac Afee, Diane Pergamit, Darko Sojak, Jim Whitfield. Nonmember: Paul Flashenberg.

Sweet Creek

February 6, 2011

Leader: Jim Pierce

Hike: 2.5 miles, 250 ft. (Easy)

WHAT A GREAT DAY FOR AN OUTING. The coastal fog cleared as we finished. We stopped often to examine new ferns, trees,



Coming off of Spencer Butte on February 5.

mosses, and nurse logs. The water level in Sweet Creek was low and crystal clear. My thanks to Kristen and Eric for driving. Enjoying the hike and the warm day were members and soon-to-be-members. Members: Mary Bridgeman, Roberta Chord, Myron Cook, Linda Hovey, Jim Pierce, Barbara Sutherland. Nonmembers: Kristen Simmons, Michelle Friedner, Eric Grape, Jacque Davis, Sarah (Sally) Brown, Teresa Zug.



Snowshoe Trips

Diamond Creek Falls

January 16, 2011

Leader: Scott Hovis

SShoe: 3.0 miles, 400 ft. (Easy)

SOMETIMES IT'S LIKE THE BUMPER STICKER....a bad day snowshoeing is better than a good day at the office. It rained a lot, causing a couple of trails to become creeks. We decided to turn back before we made it to the falls. The foot bridge crossing Salt Creek has been widened, making it much safer. On the drive home there was a dangerous road condition: it was raining so hard the trenches were filling up, causing a sheet of water to cross the highway, and I found my car hydroplaning. Note: I am starting to list our meeting spot as 19th & Patterson of S.E.H.S. parking lot. People have been missing the trip because they are waiting on the other side of the school. Members: Roberta Chord, Scott Hovis, Susan Sanazaro, and Stephanie Schilling. Nonmembers: Angela Hirst, Donnelle Clark, Keren Levine, Chenoweth Robertson, and Mark Rust.

Gold Lake

January 22, 2011

Leader: Scott Hovis

SShoe: 5 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

THE SNOW WAS POOR AND HARD-PACKED, but the sunny day and warm temperature was nice. The blue diamonds we followed on the trail were recently improved. When snow conditions are poor, it is often hard to cross the creek going from upper Marilyn Lake to Lower Marilyn Lake. We had to cross over a log which was doable, but a bridge needs to be put in. We noticed an ancient bridge that had fallen into the creek and was unusable. We had lunch

at the Gold Lake shelter and had plenty of camp robbers (gray jays) to go around. Members: Keiko Bryan, Patricia Esch, Scott Hovis, Lou Maenz, Patrice McCaffrey, Stephen McCaffrey, Cindy Rust, and Suzanne Steussy. Nonmember: Sheila Barry.

Maxwell Butte

January 23, 2011

Leader: Daphne James Photo: Cindy Rust

SShoe: 5.5 miles, 600 ft. (Moderate)



WE SET OUT FOR MAXWELL BUTTE SHELTER on an unusually warm winter day. It had not snowed for a while, so the snow was packed down hard and some hikers opted to take off their snow shoes and hike all or some of the way in their hiking boots, which worked just fine. We took the most direct route, switch-backing our way up to the shelter. The morning had been a mix of sun and clouds, but as we made our way to the shelter the sun prevailed and we were treated to lovely views of Three Fingered Jack and the Three Sisters. We took a leisurely lunch, enjoying basking in warm sunshine while taking in the views of the Cascades. We took a slightly longer route down, looping back to the trailhead. Members: Sherrill Bower, Marianne Camp, Don Cross, Daphne James, Becky Lipton, Ed Lizewski, Cindy Rust, Charlie Van Deusen, and Jim Whitfield. Nonmember: Sheila Barry.

Bechtel Shelter

January 27, 2011

Leader: Jim Pierce

SShoe: 4.5 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

WOW, WHAT A DAY! There was fog in the valley, but clear skies all day. There was not enough snow under the trees to go to Diamond Creek, so we decided on Bechtel Shelter with a few side explorations. The snow was down to three feet, and we had the place to ourselves. Members: Mari Baldwin, Jim Pierce, and Charlie Van Deusen.

Tait's Trail

February 3, 2011

Leaders: Lyndell Wilken Assistant: Jan Anselmo

Photo: Scott Hovis

SShoe: 8 miles, 800 ft. (Difficult)

TAIT'S TRAIL WAS A GOOD ALTERNATIVE to the Maiden Peak ski cabin. Switching to snowshoes was definitely a good idea,

given the icy conditions under the trees. To avoid the chopped up trail on Rosary we headed up the groomed nordic track around to the backside chairlift, then climbed to the Maiden Peak Saddle to intersect Tait's Trail. The trail skirted along the cliffs above the Rosaries. We were rewarded with sunshine and good views of Maiden Peak, Pulpit Rock and the surrounding mountains. Lunch was above Lower Rosary in an open area where we gazed out over the Cascades and lakes below. Our return trip followed Tait's Trail to the downhill ski run, Perseverance. Panoramic views of Diamond Peak and Mt. Yoran greeted us before our descent to the Willamette Pass Lodge. Members: Jan & Richard Anselmo, Dick Hildreth, Scott Hovis, Chris Stockdale, and Lyndell Wilken. Nonmember: Shawn Litson.



Leaders Jan and Lyndell, on Tait's Trail trip.

Maxwell Butte

February 6, 2011

Leader: Scott Hovis

SShoe: 5.5 miles, 600 ft. (Difficult)

THE SNOW WAS POOR BUT GOOD ENOUGH....a few places had short brown spots. Solitude was good. There were few people in this popular place because of poor snow but also it was Super Bowl Sunday. We went first to the new South Maxwell Shelter. I doubt the forest service appreciated that someone built a fire ring in the shelter and knocked out a cedar board near the roof so smoke would vent out. The place does need a wood stove. The second shelter looked in good shape. The best map for the area is a forest service map you can get from the Detroit Ranger District. It's helpful because it shows the numbered intersections. My new REI map has the new shelter on it but not the numbered intersections. Members: Brad Bennett, Keiko Bryan, Scott Hovis.

Bechtel Shelter

February 12, 2011

Leader: Jim Pierce

SShoe: 4.6 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

ANOTHER GREAT DAY IN PARADISE. The threat of rain held off. There was 3-5 inches of snow last week... nicely consolidated. We saw tracks from several rabbits, deer and a coyote. The clouds and mountain views were spectacular. Members: Jane Allen, Lou Maenz, Jim Pierce. Nonmember: Charles Fisher.



Ski Trips

Three Fingered Jack View

January 22, 2011

Leader: Sean Breslin

X-ki: 8.5 miles, 1,500 ft. (Difficult)

THE TRIP FROM EUGENE got going right on time at 7 am. The roads were clear, and the day promised to be warm (in the high 40s) and clear. We arrived at Santiam Sno-Park in no time, threw some skins on our skis, and proceeded north/northeast directly from the parking lot to meet up with the PCT. Almost immediately views of Mt. Washington to the south and Three Fingered Jack to the north beckoned us to keep going through the crusty/icy/blah snow. Those of us with metal ski edges were at a definite advantage given the snow conditions. Other than a few problems adjusting skins along the way, following the virtually unmarked PCT proved no problem for us as Sam 'Snow Dog' Miller just kept finding it (as confirmed by my GPS again and again). We finally crested a ridge about 2.5 miles in and were rewarded with a spectacular (but windy) view of Three Fingered Jack in the distance.

The group lost a little elevation as we entered tree line, proceeded up a pretty steep 100 foot climb, and began the steady climb towards the climber's trail through the trees. We stopped for lunch at a prearranged time with the views to the south revealing a breathtaking Three Sisters and Mt. Washington. Five of the seven chose to continue on to the climber's trail after lunch and the two others were obliging enough to wait for us. The trees opened to reveal sparkling snow crystals with the clearest of blue skies and WOW! . . . suddenly Three Fingered Jack was right in front of us with its towering spires. After a quick photo thanks to Dave Jensen's camera, we started back to meet the others. Luckily the snow had softened slightly by the time we returned and we all carefully swooshed back the way we came with the last of us making it out just as the sun began to set. A full and beautiful day in the mountains! Many thanks to Sam Miller who took the lead with Sean Breslin acting as sweep. Those on the trip did a great job and I can't wait to get out with you all again. Members: Sean Breslin, John Hartman, Dave Jensen, Becky Lipton, and Sam Miller. Nonmembers: Fritzy Grevstad and Pamela Anderson.

Marilyn Lakes Loop

February 19, 2011

Leader: Brian Hamilton

Xski: 4.5 miles, 380 ft. (Easy)

AFTER ABOUT 7 WEEKS OF NO NEW SNOW, Willamette Pass finally received 29 inches of snow over three days. With a forecast of a cold, but mostly dry day, we had high hopes of a great trip. Apparently this was a popular idea because the Backcountry Ski Patrol counted 73 cars parked at Gold Lake Sno-park! With a 10 am start on the trail, we had expected someone to have gone before us on the Marilyn Lakes trail, but we were the first. Fortunately, the new snow had settled significantly and breaking a new trail was not difficult. Light snow fell almost continuously as we made our way down to Upper and Lower Marilyn Lakes. After two hours, we were finally brought to a halt when we reached the creek flowing between the two lakes. Any snow bridges that had been in place over the creek had melted out during the long warm, dry spell. The only way across would be to walk over fallen logs; okay for snowshoes, but treacherous on skis!

After taking a break for lunch, we turned around and followed our tracks back up to the road. When we reached Gold Lake Road, there were so many people traveling back to the sno-park, mostly on snowshoes, that it was like a busy street. We heard that at one time, there were 20 people in the Gold Lake Shelter! We made it back to the sno-park by 2 pm and agreed that it had been a great ski trip even if it didn't turn out as planned. Thanks to Charlie for being assistant leader and breaking trail while the leader brought up the rear. Members: Patricia Esch, Brian Hamilton, Jonathan Jost, Brenda Kameenui, Charlie Van Deusen, Martha Welches. Nonmember: David Bailey.

Birthday Lake-Fuji Shelter Loop

February 19, 2011

Leader: Dave Jensen

Xski: 11.5 miles, 1,150 ft. (Difficult)

WE LEFT GOLD LAKE SNO-PARK under cloudy skies and had a quick ski down to the lake on a good track. From Gold Lake, the path was much less traveled and was completely unbroken once we started up the Fuji Mountain trail. The upper layer of snow was about a foot deep in the more open places, thankfully having consolidated quite a bit over the past several days. We continued up toward Birthday Lake and made good progress despite the trail-breaking. It was after 2:00 when we reached the second Fuji Shelter turnoff, and would have taken 4-5 hours to complete the planned route, so the decision was made to stop at Birthday Lake for lunch, and then return via the route we came up on. The ski down was fast, and the deep, new snow made for some great skiing. It ended up snowing lightly on us much of the day. It was a full day of skiing, and we were glad to get back to the Sno-Park well before dark. Members: Jan Anselmo, Richard Anselmo, Marci Hansen, Dave Jensen, Lyndell Wilken. Nonmembers: Betty Grant, Paul Murtaugh, Pamela Anderson.



Trail Maintenance

Ridgeline Ivy Removal

February 22, 2011

Leader: Jim Pierce

Trl Mnt: 1 mile, 100 ft. (Easy)

WE WERE PROUD of our ivy removal. The small patch was removed, and we even got a lot of the roots. We also made a significant dent on the large ivy patch by the bridge. We put about 8 man-hours into the project and are planning to go again . . . there are a lot of blackberries if we run out of ivy. The ivy removal team included members Jim Whitfield and Jim Pierce, and nonmember Donald Burton.

Winter Trips Update

THE WINTER TRIPS SEASON STARTED with a promising schedule, and the promise of snow. At this point, despite on and off snow conditions, it looks like the promising

start could end as a very good season, at least so far as the numbers go—snow conditions, oh well. Last year 50 trips were completed during the winter season (thru 3/31).

As of today (2/26), thirteen trips are available for signup online and nine more trips are scheduled, but not yet online. Seven trips have been cancelled this season, and six trips have been rescheduled. Nine trips are done, but have not yet cleared the final approval process, and 28 trips have been completed and approved. That adds up to 59 trips scheduled for the Winter Trips season of which 37 have been completed, and 22 trips remain on the schedule. Participants include 186 members and 62 nonmembers. Thirty one leaders have led Winter trips.

Kudos to leaders, drivers, and participants for what promises to finish up a great season, with not an accident to report. Let's keep our fingers crossed, and our eyes open. We can plan to finish the winter season with a perfect safety record, and who knows, maybe other records too. Special thanks to John Jacobsen for putting up with my suggestions and questions. And to the leaders, participants, and committee members who have made the switch to online signup and this winter season go so well. And so it is, as we move into the final month of the Winter Trips season... Onward, and happy trails!

Tom Musselwhite, Winter Trips Chair



February ExploraTalk Review:

Willamette Confluence Project

By John Hartman

THERE ARE 4,700 ACRES OF PUBLIC LAND around Mt. Pisgah. This includes 1,270 new acres, the Willamette Confluence Project, which includes six miles of the Willamette River Middle Fork south shoreline, and the NE slopes of Mt. Pisgah. A virtual aerial tour of the area, and signups for tours of the new property, are on the Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah website, <http://bufordpark.org>. The Friends cultivate a culture of stewardship among users, volunteers and agencies. Val Rogers described this wild parkland, and the work of Friends of Buford, where she is Development Director and former Volunteer Coordinator. The talk was well-attended, thanks in part to newspaper publicity.

The Nature Conservancy bought the Willamette Confluence from the Wildish family in October, primarily with \$20.8 million from BPA and \$2.5 million from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. It contains old gravel pits and spectacular habitat - river, floodplain, and upland, prairie, woodland and savanna, with over 300 animal species, some endangered. There will be years of planning, restoration, and limited public access before final management and ownership are determined. Many organizations will be involved. For example, the Army Corps of Engineers Willamette Floodplain Restoration Project will reconfigure dikes and channels, remove invasives, and re-vegetate.

Interestingly, some of the gravel ponds were originally dredged in the river, and were diked off when this became illegal in the '70s.

Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah supports various projects in the Pisgah area, including controlling invasives, planting natives, and working on trails. After ten years, the South Meadows restoration is nearly complete. There are new gravel and mowed trails, floodplain reshaping, and steelhead sightings! Over a thousand volunteers contributed. The Native Plant Nursery produces seeds and plantings. Far more will be required for the Confluence Project. Val said, "Volunteers are always needed, and they'll enjoy it!" Dave Predeek and other Obsidians are Monday morning regulars. Volunteer events and information are on the website.

The Wildish purchase is an exciting step towards connected parkland shown in the Willamette River and Ridgeline Vision Plans. Across the river on the north shore, Willamalane just completed a paved bike path downstream from Clearwater Park to a bridge over Quarry Creek, with a rough trail continuing to Dorris Ranch. Someday there may be a footbridge across the Middle Fork from this route to the Wildish property and Mt. Pisgah. Trails will extend along the south shore to Glassbar Island, Franklin Blvd, LCC, and the Arlie Ridgeline extension. Thank you to inspired planners, organizations and volunteers!

WILLAMETTE CONFLUENCE TOURS

Willamette Confluence Tour

February 19, 2011

Leader: Lyn Gilman-Garrick

Photo: Darko Sojak

Hike: 3.5 miles, 50 ft. (Easy)

ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH, Bruce Newhouse, an ambassador with Friends of Buford Park (FBP), led 13 of us on a tour of the Willamette Confluence Project (WCP). The WCP encompasses 1,200 acres and stretches along 6 miles of the Coast and Middle Forks of the Willamette River. It was recently purchased by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) from the Wildish Family which extracted sand and gravel from the area for many years. TNC is in the early stages of developing a 10 year plan for the property, including habitat restoration and compatible recreation. However, FBP has already started removing invasive species such as the thick mounds of blackberries which blanket the oak savannas. Bruce shared his extensive knowledge of the natural and human history of the area with us. We stopped often to watch birds such as the flocks of ruby crowned kinglets and admire the trees such as the groves of cottonwoods and alders along the river. We also learned a lot about the Native Americans and early settlers. Most of us were surprised to learn that there was once a dance hall on the land. It was built to entertain the hops pickers many years ago. A second tour of the WCP occurred on Saturday, February 26th. If you were unable to take



one of these tours, you can sign up for a tour with FBP. Just go to www.bufordpark.org and follow the links to the tours. You can also find out more about work parties out to the WCP. Members: Jennifer Baer, David Becker, Roberta Chord, Dan Christensen, Jim Duncan, Sharon Duncan, Laurie Funkhouser, Lyn Gilman-Garrick, Colleen Milliman, Jeanne Schmidt, Darko Sojak, Jim Whitfield. Nonmember: Carolyn Sojak.

Willamette Confluence Tour

February 26, 2011

Leader: Lyn Gilman-Garrick

Photo: John Jacobsen

Hike: 3.5 miles, 50 ft. (Easy)

ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH, fifteen of us met on the chilliest morning of the year to tour the Willamette Confluence Project. This was the second tour of the WCP sponsored by the Obsidians in conjunction with Friends of Buford Park. The first tour was the week before on Saturday, February 19th. Please see the trip report for that tour for more information. Sue Sullivan, John Mowat and Lyn Gilman-Garrick lead this tour. Despite the cold, we were very lucky in a couple of respects. First, we saw a bald eagle. Second, all the cow pies and muddy paths were frozen solid so we hardly got our boots dirty. We ended a little earlier than the first tour as we needed to keep moving to stay warm! Members: Mari Baldwin, Patricia Esch, Lyn Gilman-Garrick, John Hartman, Janet Jacobsen, John Jacobsen, Greg Milliman, John Mowat, Nola Nelson, Peter Rodda, Chris Shuraleff, Sue Sullivan, Sam Tracer. Non-members: Sally O'Donnell, Angie Thompson.



UPCOMING EXTENDED TRIPS

North Coast Hiking

Saturday-Monday, April 16-18 - Leader: Mary Holbert



Saddle Mountain

HERE'S A NEW TRIP IN AN AREA WE HAVEN'T EXPLORED. Come enjoy three ocean vista hikes from our base in Cannon Beach. Or enjoy a hike or two and explore the beaches on your own.

We'll stay at a rental house in Cannon Beach with full kitchen. The house sleeps 10, if there are three couples. If not, there is room for seven individuals on various beds. We'll draw straws to see who sleeps where, as beds vary in size and no doubt comfort! (See link below.)

There will be three hiking opportunities over the course of three days: Neahkahnie Mountain/Oregon Coast Trail, Tillamook Head, and Saddle Mountain. All three hikes are within ½ hour of Cannon Beach. The first two offer ocean views, the third features the mouth of the Columbia River. Two are moderate hikes, requiring good physical condition. Saddle Mountain is a bit more challenging. Steep! Weather will be instrumental in altering our hiking plans to shorter loops if it's pouring.

We will eat dinners communally, breakfast and lunch is on your own. We'll meet at the rental house after 4 pm on April 16th. You may want to explore other hiking options on your own on the way up.

Sign up online in March. \$115 members, \$120 nonmembers, includes the price of dinner. Preference will be given to members. Mail checks made out to the Obsidians to Mary Holbert, 257 NE San Bay O Circle, Newport, OR 97365. Cancellations will reap a refund as long as the empty slot is filled by someone else. Otherwise non-refundable. Questions to Mary Holbert at holbertmary@gmail.com, 265-4208

Rental house: <http://oregonbeachvacations.com/cannon-beach/easy-beach-access/house/rentals/captain-johns-cannon-beach/284/alpha>

Neahkahnie Mt.:

http://web.oregon.com/hiking/neahkahnie_mountain.cfm

Tillamook Head: http://www.portlandhikersfieldguide.org/wiki/Tillamook_Head_Traverse_Hike

Saddle Mt.: <http://www.nwhiker.com/SaddleMtHikes.html>

Malheur Wildlife Refuge

Friday-Sunday, May 13-15 - Leader: Marianne Camp



Malheur Wildlife Refuge

AN EXTENDED TRIP LED BY MARIANNE CAMP has been scheduled for the May 13-15th weekend in Frenchglen, which is about 60 miles south of Burns, adjacent to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in southeastern Oregon. Malheur Wildlife Refuge is one of the most important freshwater marshes in the western US. Three major bird migration corridors within the Pacific Flyway converge here, creating a way station for all kinds of birds: waterfowl, shorebirds, songbirds, and birds of prey. Our very own Rick Ahrens will be participating on the trip as the resident naturalist. The focus of this trip is birding. Bring your binoculars!

Trip participants will stay in the historic Frenchglen Hotel, which was established in 1916 and is a popular destination for people from all over the world. Many historical sites are close by, the Alvord Desert is just an hour away and Steens Mountain is right outside the hotel's front door (although snow levels will prevent driving to its summit).

The hotel's evening meal is served family style and is good home-style cooking. It will provide a nice setting for sharing the day's adventures. The most popular dessert is homemade marionberry cobbler a la mode.

The hotel has eight rooms, each with double beds and shared bathrooms down the hall. A newer motel style addition has five rooms with queen beds and private baths. The cost of the trip will depend on your desired unit and occupancy. Breakfast and lunch are not included in the cost.

Prices, which include room and dinners for both Friday and Saturday, are: Double bed, single occupancy, \$210; double, \$140. each. Queen bed rooms (private bath) single occupancy, \$240; double \$155. Members fee \$5, nonmembers \$10.

Additional information regarding the logistics of the trip will be provided at a pre-trip meeting.

Sign up online and send your \$20 nonrefundable deposit (payable to Obsidians) within 5 days to Marianne Camp, 1245 W. 16th Ave., Apt. 1, Eugene, OR 97402. Please include your phone number and email address. Questions: Call Marianne at 221-1866 or email at: mcamp@hsolc.org

UPCOMING BUS TRIPS



Byways By Bus

Service Stars - Green Eugene

Tuesday, March 22, 2011

Co-leaders: Sharon Cutsforth & Bill Arthur

Cost: \$47 members, \$49 nonmembers

Reservations & checks: Barbara Payne 746-1964

WE WILL LEAVE SHOPKO PARKING LOT at 8:30 am to begin our day of visiting local nonprofit agencies. At Food for Lane County, we will tour their 30,000 sq. ft. building and learn about the acquisition, sorting, packaging and distribution of food to low income persons. They have graciously agreed to let us have our coffee break inside the building. Next stop will be The Eugene Mission for a tour of all buildings and to hear about future development plans for assisting homeless people. There will be stairs to climb here or a place to wait for those choosing to avoid the stairs. The Mission staff will serve us a light lunch (cost included). After lunch we will visit St. Vincent de Paul's Aurora Glass Works where discarded glass is recycled and transformed

into various colored and shaped pieces of art. The last stop of the day will be to view the exterior and grounds of the new Native American Long House at LCC. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended. We will return to Shopko at approximately 5 pm.

Food, Food, Food

Tuesday, April 12, 2011

Leader: Mary Ellen West

Cost: \$40 members: \$42 nonmembers:

Reservations & checks: Janet Speelman, 344-3019

IF FOOD IS YOUR FANCY, this trip should satisfy. Our first stop will be in Albany at the headquarters of Allan Bros. Coffee Roasters. This will be our morning coffee stop (cost included). We'll get a peek at the roasting process, will learn about coffee and have a chance to shop. Next is Bob's Red Mill in Milwaukie for a tour of the world headquarters where more than 300 products are produced. We'll have lunch (your cost) at the whole grain store nearby. Our third stop will be the Willamette Fruit Company in Salem. They are well known for their pies and other fruit products. There will be samples and an opportunity to shop for a variety of gourmet products, gift and garden items. Back to Eugene between 5 and 6 pm.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS UPCOMING



Eugene Natural History Society

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

Friday, March 18, 7:30 pm

Not your ho hum climate change talk. Hear about cutting edge research concerning the future status of our terrestrial ecosystems. Plan to attend a dynamic talk by Scott Bridgham, Professor of biology and environmental studies at the U of O. Scott's presentation will detail the ongoing impact of climate change on ecosystems as diverse as northern peatlands and prairies and oak savanna.

Friday, April 15, 7:30 pm

Amphibians and Reptiles at the Center of the Universe! This enigmatic topic will be fully explained with great photos and in depth knowledge by Tom Titus, PhD, researcher in the EvoDevo lab and instructor in Neurosciences at the University of Oregon. Come learn the science and feel the passion of someone who loves snakes and frogs and salamanders.



Explore Nature With Kids!

DO YOU HAVE ONE MORNING A WEEK (May 1-June 14) to share your love of nature with kids in our community? **Mt. Pisgah Arboretum** is looking for volunteers to lead small groups of K-5 grade students on nature hikes this spring. Training is free and covers natural history and teaching techniques for the trails. Orientation Session: Wed. March 16 or Tues. March 29, 6:30-8 pm at Wayne Morse Family Farm, 595 Crest Drive, Eugene. For more information or an application call Fran at 747-1504 or email at mtpis-fr@efn.org, www.mountpisgaharboretum.org

Still Room at Big Lake!

There are still a few slots left for the Big Lake Ski/Snowshoe trip March 30-April 1. Cost is only \$75. See February Bulletin for additional information.

Lana Lindstrom, Trip Leader



Focus On the Ocean

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS and join us for these activities. Also, since most of these activities concern the Oregon coast, you might want to look at Pat Bitter's conservation article about the ocean on Page 2 in this *Bulletin*.

ExploraTalk - Whales of the Oregon Coast Wednesday, March 16, 7 pm

BILL RUSSELL, ONE OF THE FOUNDERS of Shoreline Education for Awareness (SEA) will give a slide presentation on Whales of the Oregon Coast for the March 16th ExploraTalk at 7 pm at the Lodge. Please note the day is a Wednesday instead of the usual Tuesday, because of speaker availability.

Bill will give an overview of whales in general and a bit about orcas, but he will concentrate on the gray whale, which is the one seen most on the Oregon coast. Dedicated SEA volunteers educate visitors about our beautiful shoreline's natural treasures with its amazing marine wildlife and how we can best protect them in harmony with nature. Last year, SEA docents talked with over 16,000 visitors at Coquille Point in Bandon and Simpson Reef near Charleston.

Bill retired to Bandon in 1989 after careers in the U.S. Air Force and in the military industrial complex. He's been president of SEA for 16 of its 20 years, but has retired to give a new generation a chance to grow in SEA's important endeavor.

H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest Friday, March 18

TOM MUSSELWHITE WILL LEAD a hike along Lookout Creek in the experimental forest. Hikers will spend about an hour in a question and answer session with the forest director and site manager prior to the hike to learn about the mission and work underway at the Forest.

The trail begins at an elevation of about 2,600 ft. and climbs 750 ft. over three plus miles. The trail is rated moderate but rugged with several large diameter logs to climb over, and half a dozen slippery stream crossings, several of which can be treacherous, depending on snow conditions. Conditions will determine whether to retrace the trail, making a seven-mile hike, or to set up a car shuttle. (Sign up online.)

SOLV Spring Beach Cleanup Saturday, March 26

THE OBSIDIANS WILL AGAIN JOIN THOUSANDS of volunteers that have been coming together for 27 years to

pick up litter and protect the health of our watersheds and oceans, and the wildlife that make their homes there. As you know marine debris damages ocean ecosystems, wildlife and coastal economies. Ocean currents circulate litter from the land and trash dumped by vessels. Small pieces of plastic have been found in the stomachs of fish, birds and other wildlife, and can be fatal if they cause an obstruction.

We will be assigned a stretch of beach in the Reedsport area and be given collection bags and instructions by SOLV, the sponsoring organization. Bring your own gloves and lunches and be prepared to stay after the cleanup to enjoy an afternoon at the coast. (Sign up online.)

Whale Watch Boat Trip Sunday, March 27

TWELVE LUCKY PEOPLE WILL ENJOY a three hour whale watching tour on the largest whale charter vessel on the Oregon coast for \$30 each. Bill Russell, the presenter of the March ExploraTalk, will join the crew to provide information and answer our questions. He will also arrange for docents to be at Simpson Reef with spotting scopes to view sea lions and answer questions.

To secure your place, sign up online by March 21st and send a check to Joella Ewing, made out to Miss Linda Charters, by March 22nd. We will leave Eugene by 7 am to be on board for the 10 am sailing out of Charleston Harbor. You may cancel your reservation and receive a refund ONLY if there is someone to take your place. People attending both the Saturday Beach Cleanup and the Sunday Whale Watch may want to consider spending the night at the coast. Yurts may be available at Sunset Beach near Charleston through the Oregon Parks Department.

Miss Linda started out as a fishing vessel in 1989 but is now a heavy duty yet beautiful commercial charter boat and research vessel. She serves the entire Pacific coast as needed, at times as a diving platform for the U.S. Navy underwater construction diving team, and at other times as a research vessel for OSU, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and SCRIPPS Institute of Oceanography.

The U.S. Coast Guard licensed captains, mates and crew are First Aid and CPR certified and also Coast Guard Auxiliary members.

For more information about the Miss Linda and her crew, please log on to: www.misslindachartersandtours.com

Joella Ewing, Conservation, Science and Education Chair



South of the Equator



THE MARCH POTLUCK WILL FEATURE a presentation by Shelby Wanser, daughter of member Susan Wanser. Shelby traveled and volunteered in Peru last fall, and she and Susan toured both Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands. The presentation will focus on Shelby's four day trek on the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu, the location of the mid-15th century Inca ruins. Only brought to the attention of the outside world a hundred years ago, Machu Picchu is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In addition, Shelby will share some of her visit to the floating islands of Lake Titicaca, the largest lake in South America, and to the Galapagos Islands.

March Potluck
Friday, March 25, 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.



February Potluck Cancelled

THE FEBRUARY 25TH POTLUCK was cancelled the previous day when the speaker, Hussain Mirza, telephoned that due to the weather he was unable to drive from Portland. A mass email about the cancellation was sent to members, plus a notice was posted on the webpage. A volunteer tried to call as many members as she could who did not have email. A SORRY sign was attached to the gate for those folks who didn't get the word. We know that bean salad, French bread, and brownies were already prepared for the potluck. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Classifieds

For Sale

Barrecrafters roof mounted **ski rack** for cars with roof gutters, \$25. Breakaway by Rhode Gear **bike helmet**, size small/med, \$25. Bell **bike helmet**, size large, \$10. Fischer Crown Outbound **cross country skis**, 189 cm., **poles and Alpina boots**, size 13. Whole package \$100. Very good condition. Email sglars@comcast.net, or phone: 687-2589, ask for Sandra or Chris.

Obsidian Calendar

March

- 12 Sat - **Ridgeline Trail**, Hike **M**, Jacobsen , 343-8030
- 13 Sun - **Maiden Lake**, Xski **D**, Pegg 343-0909
- 13 Sun - **Little Nash**, SShoe, **D**, Hovis 345-7788
- 16 Sun - **Whales of Coast**, SB Russell **ExploraTalk**
- 17 Fri - **Ridgeline Extension**, Hike **E**, Castleberry 726-2412
- 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
- 22 Tue - **Exploring Eugene**, Bus, Cutsforth 746-4929
- 24 Thu - **Silver Falls**, Hike **M**, Musselwhite 461-3296
- 25 Fri - **Peru**, Wanser **Potluck**
- 26 Sat - **Beach Clean-up**, Hike, **E**, Ewing 344-9197
- 26 Sat - **Spencer Butte**, Trail Mtn, Bell..... 503-884-8829
- 27 Sun - **Whale Watch**, Boat, **E**, Ewing..... 344-9197
- 29 Tue - **Skinner's Bt Eagles**, Hike, **E**, Essenberg..... 343-1733
- 30 Wed - **Big Lake**, Ext Trip, Lindstrom 683-1409

April

- 9 Sat - **PCT N Santiam Sno-Park**, SShoe **M**, Hildreth .. 345-7520
- 10 Sun - **South Waldo Shelter**, Xski **D**, Jensen 344-1363
- 16 Sat - **North Coast Hiking**, Ext Trp , Holbert 265-4208
- 23 Sat - **Spencer Butte**, Trail Mtn, Bell..... 503-884-8829
- 26 Tue - **W Eugene Wtlnds Bird**, Bike **E**, Montgomery 688-7025
- 29 Fri - **Hemlock Butte**, Bkpk, **D**, Hovis 345-7788
- 29 Fri - **Nepal**, Obsidian Travelers **Potluck**

May

- 13 Fri - **Malheur Refuge**, Ext Trip, Camp..... 221-1866
- 19 Thu - **Spring Basin Wld**, Ext Trip, Stockdale..... 767-3668
- 25 Wed - **Spencer Butte**, Trail Mnt, Bell 503-884-8829
- 27 Fri - **Lewis and Clark Trail**, March..... **Potluck**

Editor's Note: The Summer Trips Committee is busy putting together their trip schedule for the upcoming season and should have it available in early April, greatly expanding the above list of activities.



Snowmen dancing along FS 5890 near the PCT. Photo by Chuck Mitchell

March 2011



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