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Dates to Remember

January 19	Wolves ExploraTalk
January 27	Sullivan Potluck
January 28	Bulletin Deadline
February 1	Board Meeting

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

Multi-tasker to the Max

Joanne Ledet

WHEN ELLE WEAVER ACCEPTED THE POSITION OF OBSIDIAN PRESIDENT for the coming year, she added yet another accomplishment to her ever growing list of unexpected experiences and learning opportunities.



It all started some years ago when she lived in Japan for her first 12 years and acquired a school girl knowledge of Japanese. But when her family moved to Florida there was little opportunity to speak Japanese and that skill has gradually faded over the years. After high school Elle moved on to Texas Christian University, earned her nursing degree and became the first in her family to graduate from college.

After working in Georgia and South Carolina, she settled in North Carolina. By this time her mother had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and required full time care. Along with home schooling one of her two sons for a few years, she found time to volunteer with the Literacy Program for Adults and quickly became interested in working with young adults and older students who needed basic language and math skills.

In order to fully commit to the program she went back to school and at age 50 earned her teaching certificate in special education from Appalachian State. Teaching classes in Adult Education, ESL, and GED was as enjoyable as nursing.

In 2007 she and her husband moved to Eugene and a new set of opportunities opened up. She has returned to nursing, currently working at a residential facility for people with dementia. She considers this a way to pay back all the caregivers who were especially kind when her mother needed end-stage care.

Knowing no one in this area she started to pursue opportunities for getting acquainted. She got online and discovered the Obsidians. While having done next to no hiking in North Carolina, she saw this not only as a challenge, but a good chance

(Continued on page 2)

Obituaries

Edith Rode
1916-2011

EDITH JOINED THE OBSIDIANS IN 2005 and went on numerous bus trips with the club. Her first bus trip was Eagles and More, led by Rick Ahrens and her last trip was to Umpqua River Steamboat Restaurant. While Edith was not a member of the club as many years as some people, her experiences with the bus group and the friendships made meant a great deal to her.

Editor's Note: See the Nov. 20 issue of the Register-Guard for a more detailed obituary.

(Multi-tasker from page 1)

to meet a variety of people, get outdoors and to discover the beauty of her new home state. As she reviewed the options for her first hike, Elle quickly became aware of some strange terminology. Equipment needed: 10 Essentials (10 Essentials? – What are they talking about?), Good Boots (Boots? – Why do I need boots, it hasn't been raining.). Not letting these mysteries stop her, Elle signed up for Dog Mountain – a good choice for someone who had never hiked before. She wound up driving the day of the hike and soon discovered the destination is in Washington and not in Oregon. Even after this surprising introduction to the Obsidians, Elle came back for more, and more and more. Having fallen in love with hiking, she went on her first camping trip when she went to summer camp at the Sawtooth Mountains, and did her first backpacking trip for a week in the Sisters Wilderness. She had a wonderful time on the Teton

Crest Trail this past summer. What next to conquer? Kayaking and biking would be on the list that keeps getting longer.

Elle has given generously back to the club, partly as a way of expressing her gratitude to the Obsidians for providing the opportunity for new experiences and making life-long friends. She worked on the Entertainment, Summer Trips, and Winter Trips Committees, and was elected to the Board in 2009. She has also served as Chair of the Publicity Committee for three years and has had a wonderful time sharing her Obsidian adventures with the community.

As President, Elle wants to continue building on the solid base that has been established by previous presidents. She is especially committed to involving more members in the organization. She would like new and long term members to know that any volunteer time is truly appreciated!



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Board of Directors

Elle Weaver, President
Matt Bell, Vice President
Kathy Hoeg, Secretary
Stewart Hoeg, Treasurer
Sharon Cutsforth, Pat Esch, Lyn Gilman-Garrick & 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	Sue Sullivan
Concessions	Lyn Gilman-Garrick
Conservation/SciEd	Joella Ewing
Entertainment	Susan Wanser
Extended Trips	Chris Stockdale
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Publicity	Jan Jacobsen
Safety	Pat Esch
Summer Camp	Lana Lindstrom
Summer Trips	Tom Musselwhite
Trail Maintenance	Matt Bell
Winter Trips	Jim Pierce

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The Obsidian Bulletin

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Deadline

for February 2012 Bulletin
Saturday, January 28, 2012

Assembly/Mailing Team

For November Bulletin

Assembly & Mail Manager - Lou Maenz
Assembly Team - Tom Adamczyk, Yuan Hopkins, Vi Johnson, Joanne Ledet, John & Lenore McManigal and Suzanne Steussy

Editorial Team

Writing & Editorial Staff - Bea Fontana, Joanne Ledet, Nola Nelson, Beth Roy, and Ethel Weltman
Copy Editors - Beth Roy & Ethel Weltman
Graphics Design & Desktop Publishing - Stewart Hoeg



The Odyssey of OR-7—A Wolf's Journey

Pat Bitner, Conservation, Science & Education

OREGON'S CELEBRITY WOLF, the 2-1/2 year male grey wolf who has traveled 730 miles since September 10, left his Imnaha pack members in Wallowa County to strike out on his own. He cut diagonally across Oregon, stopping briefly near Grants Pass and at this writing, has settled down near Crater Lake. He is the first wolf known to have crossed the Cascades since the 1940s when the last wolf recorded in the area was shot. He was dubbed 'OR-7' by the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, and has achieved a degree of fame. Even folks in Australia, Taiwan, and other far-flung areas have become fascinated with OR-7's activities; the worldwide web at work. British tabloids have been especially active.

Because OR-7 was fitted with a GPS collar while with his Imnaha family, his activities have been tracked by ODFW; the last update I found was *The Oregonian's* December 18 story by a reporter who accompanied a federal biologist in the Crater Lake area. The discovery of the carcass of a yearling elk who had become entangled in a fence evidenced the wolf had been feeding here a few hours earlier. The party was not able to sight the wolf, but the GPS signal indicated he was near. OR-7's tracks were found within a mile or two - and he has big feet, prints 5x5 inches.

*Rob Klavins, Wildlands and Wildlife Advocate for Oregon
Wild will do a slide presentation on wolves on
Thursday, January 19th at 7:00 PM at the Obsidian Lodge.*

As I write this, OR-7 appears to be alone, alive and looking for a mate and a territory of his own. It may be a different story when you read these words: OR-7 has a lot of fans, but wolves have many enemies, too.

We, as the top predator have attempted to eliminate the wolf from the lower 48 states, and until the reintroduction of wolves from Canada into the Yellowstone area in the early 1990s, had succeeded. Until today, with stable populations in Montana, Wyoming, Utah and Idaho, it appeared that the grey wolf had again taken his place in the hierarchy of the West. Over the past two years or so, the battle has been joined between largely urban environmentalists and largely rural ranchers and hunters. At this point in time, the wolf's future survival within the intermountain states is tenuous. The control of wolf populations in the Rocky Mountain states if left to state governments seems to revert to the 19th century maxim that wolves do not deserve to live, even referring to them as 'vermin'. The complaints of ranchers that their cattle (who graze on federal land) are seriously threatened from wolf kills, and of the powerful lobbies of hunters who fear

the elk herds will be decimated by wolves are clearly heard in the state houses of all four states.

The population who support the reintroduction of wolves, although largely resident west of the Cascades in Oregon, also includes some ranchers who want to find ways to co-exist with a species which has always been a part of not only the western states, but at one time was common all over the United States.



The wolf has been a figure of myth and folklore for hundreds of years, once common all over the world. It has been both feared and admired; Native American legends of the intelligence, strength and cleverness of the wolf are common in all tribes. There has not been a record of one human death due to wolves in the last hundred years; not so with the grizzly bear. Yet, most people might well fear the wolf even over the bear. Myth is a powerful teacher.

Who is the wolf? He is a family man. Living in packs of 15 or fewer, the alpha male and alpha female are nominally the only pair to breed (unless a lesser male seizes his chance). The alpha female chooses the den spot and the pack follows. When the pups are born, the whole pack watches over them, brings food and never takes food from a pup; members of the pack serve as babysitters for the pups while the alpha pair are away. Pack members also bring food for an old or disabled pack member. The yearling wolves stay with the pack, hunting as a team. OR-7 at 2 1/2 years is ready to find a territory and a mate and establish his own pack; other young wolves choose to stay with their family as subservient members to the alpha pair. The wolf's family life is admirable by human standards.

Ref. *Oregonian* 12/18/11, Richard Cockle, 12/08/11 Bill Monroe; *Huffington Post* 1/29/11; *Oregon Wild* 12/2/11; *Earthjustice Alerts* 11/27/11; *Of Wolves and Men*, Barry Lopez.

NEW WILLAMETTE PASS WINTER RECREATION MAP

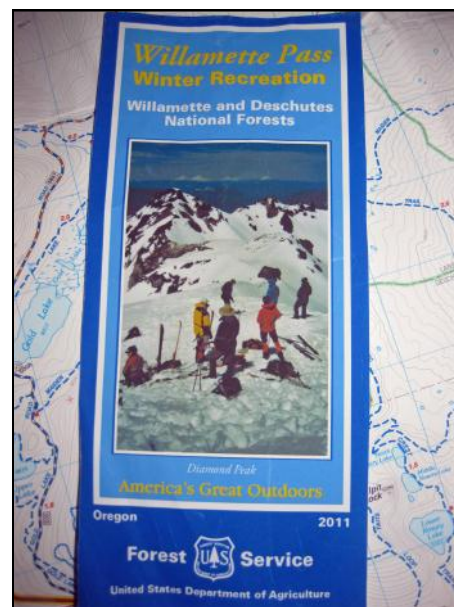
Jan Anselmo, Doug Jordan, Lyndell Wilken

VOLUNTEERS AND FOREST SERVICE PERSONNEL have been working two years to produce a new *waterproof* Willamette Pass Winter Recreation map for skiers and snowshoers. This map will replace the old Willamette Pass Oregon XC Ski Trails map.

The entire 80-mile winter trail system at Willamette Pass has been renovated with new diamonds and new signs over the last four years. The new map will reflect changes that have been made to these trails. If anyone skiing or snowshoeing the trails in the future notices that diamonds or signs are missing, please email Lyndell Wilken at lwbicycle@yahoo.com or Jan Anselmo at jananselmo@earthlink.net.

The map now lists mileages for all trail sections. There are updated summary descriptions for trails and winter shelters. Also included is a larger more precise insert for the popular Westview-Pengra Pass area and the Salt Creek Falls area. The Westview-Pengra Pass area has trail junction numbers on signs that correspond with the new map so skiers/snowshoers can determine their location more accurately.

The Willamette Pass Winter Recreation Map will be available for purchase by mid January at the Middle Fork Ranger District office, Gold Lake Ski Patrol hut and REI.



Exciting Trail Maintenance Changes!

Matt Bell, Chair, Trail Maintenance Committee

DURING THIS COMING YEAR there will be some exciting changes to the trail maintenance volunteer activities that we will be able to offer.

These changes are due to a convergence of factors. Chief among these is the competence and knowledge of trail maintenance practices and the Eugene Parks and Open Spaces (EPOS) standards for work that you all have developed over our time working to improve the trails on Spencer Butte and within the Ridgeline parks. As you may know, EPOS is facing continued cuts in funding which will diminish their ability to maintain and improve the city's parks and waterways. To help address the continuing demands put on their financial resources, EPOS has decided to restructure their volunteer program to emphasize adoption of parks and waterways with volunteers taking on many of the maintenance and small improvement tasks to free EPOS to focus their resources on larger labor and financially intensive improvements.

Now the exciting part! As part of this initiative we have been asked to adopt the trails in Spencer Butte Park for two years, which we have agreed to do. We will be agreeing with EPOS staff on a work plan for each year. We will be adopting all of the trails within Spencer Butte Park, the West and Main Summit Trails, the Tie Trail and the Ridgeline Trail between Willamette and Fox Hollow. We will be doing more independent outings during the year to free the staff to help get the other adoption groups up and running. We will also be increasing the number and types of outings we offer. In addition to our regular monthly outings, we will have ongoing projects that people can work on independently as they have time.

We will begin to develop the work plan in January and finalize how we will coordinate our efforts with EPOS. We will have completed the work plan by March and be able to complete the adoption agreement in April.

If you have ideas for trail work that we should do, please let us know in the coming months by emailing trails@obsidians.org

For those of you that live near other parks within the Ridgeline System we would encourage you to consider adopting. If you know of an organization, such as a neighborhood association that could be interested in a local park, please let them know about the adoption program and who to contact. Those interested in adopting a park or a trail(s) within the Ridgeline System should contact: Carrie Karl

South Region – Volunteer Coordinator
(541) 683 4850 (office)
(541) 510 4636 (cell)
Carrie.L.Karl@ci.eugene.or.us

Obsidian Newsmakers

RAY JENSEN WAS ONE OF THE WORLD WAR II VETERANS featured in the Register-Guard's December 4-7 salute to local WWII veterans in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. Ray manned an anti-aircraft gun at Utah Beach on D-Day. He was quoted, "We were all 19 years old....One guy said, 'What we all have in common is we're a bunch of dumb, scared kids.'"

Ray was awarded honorary membership in the Obsidians in 2010 for his work with the club, especially with bus trips. He wrote an article celebrating V-E Day for the May 2005 *Bulletin*, which is available on our website. Click on Obsidian *Bulletin* and find the correct month.

ANOTHER MEMBER FEATURED IN THE SERIES WAS MARILYN MURDOCK. Marilyn was 20 years old when she enlisted in the Army Nurse Corps. She was quoted as saying, "I was on the coast of England when they landed at Normandy, and we got patients within hours of the invasion." When asked if she had any regrets, she said "None. It would have been awful to have not been in the Army during the war."

She was a nurse for 35 years and moved to Eugene in 1983 with her husband, Royal. Both have been involved with Obsidian activities.

Note: There are also photos with the articles.

MATT BELL, CHAIRPERSON OF THE TRAIL MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE, has been nominated by the Eugene Parks Foundation as one of their 2012 Heroes of the Year. He is being recognized for his committed efforts in organizing volunteer work parties to maintain and improve the trails in the Spencer Butte Park area and the Ridgeline system. He also coordinates the work party efforts with the Eugene Parks Department. While Matt will be honored at a dinner in April, acknowledgement should also be given to the trail maintenance committee and the many members and nonmembers who spend a few hours each month helping maintain the trail system.

Note: See the February Bulletin for details on how you can attend the dinner at the Eugene Country Club honoring Matt.

IN FEBRUARY 1948, JACK MEISSNER BEGAN HIS 300 MILE SKI TRIP FROM MT. HOOD TO CRATER LAKE. He arrived at Crater Lake Lodge on April 8th. His adventure was a feature article, *Jack Meissner: Skiing the Skyline Trail* by Carolyn 'Ravensong' Burkhart in the December 2011 *Pacific Crest Trail Communicator* magazine. His trip was packed with challenges such as a blizzard, dangerous river crossings, difficult route finding, melting glacier, icy ravine descent, split ski, rain and slush. He got a ride from Crater Lake to Klamath Falls and took the train home.

There is a short reference in the article to meeting up with some Obsidians. "Jack got a ride to Hood Lodge and told an audience of skiers and Obsidians, a Eugene outdoors club, about the trip. He stayed the night and shoveled snow to pay for his lodging and then hitched back to Santiam Pass to continue." An old Obsidian *Bulletin* indicates this happened on March 29 at Hoodoo when Obsidians participated in the All Oregon ski tournament.

Jack would have been an Obsidian member at the time of his ski trip. In the March 1948 Obsidian *Bulletin*, it is noted that he was part of a large delegation of Obsidians who showed up at Hood January 4th for the all-class Portland Day Trial Races sponsored by the Portland Jaycees. Twenty Obsidians in all raced including Jack, Virginia Tomkins whom he would marry in the following year, and Bob Moffitt who is a current member.

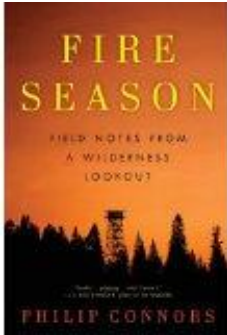
Meissner would become a well known alpine ski instructor at Willamette Pass and at Mt. Bachelor. His wife, Virginia, authored three ski and hiking books and has a sno-park named for her along the Cascade Lakes Highway between Bend and Mt. Bachelor.

You can also read about his ski adventure online at www.crosscountryskier.com/magazine/07_dec/meissner2.htm or just google his name.

Book Reviews

Janet Jacobsen

Fire season: Field Notes from A Wilderness Lookout, by Phillip Connor, Harper, 2011.



Around 15 years ago, Phillip Connor left his Wall Street Journal job to work in a fire lookout, ten thousand feet above sea level in the Gila National Forest in New Mexico. With a sense of humor, he captures the high and low points of being the first

to spot a fire, between five and fifteen times a year. He compares his story with Jack Kerouac, a fire lookout on Desolation Peak in the North Cascades in 1956. He shares his views of Norman Maclean, Aldo Leopold, the wilderness, fires and his understanding wife. His reflections and observations are informative and entertaining. His dog, Alice, communicates an active point of view about the isolation.

Editor's Note: Connor's comments about Aldo Leopold are particularly relevant with the documentary Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time, to be released on PBS in early 2012.

Spencer Butte Meditations, by Rick McMonagle, Mountains and Rivers Press, 2011.

Former Obsidians member Rick McMonagle, has taken time to reflect on his hikes on Spencer Butte. The result is a collection of haiku poems, nuggets of wisdom about the trail, the view, plants, and life. A junco taking a bath in a boulder basin, a small grain in a shoe, and a sentinel rock spot reveal quiet moments on the Butte.

Rick has written several haiku about his trail maintenance activities with the Obsidians. These are not included in the book. I asked him to share some from a trail project where we carried fence posts up to the treeline. Rick was carrying a post with member, Ed Lizewski.

This lugging 80 pound fence posts
with 70 year old Ed
60 breaths per minute

My over 50 year old body
up the trail

to repair our damage

He says a salty
fat breakfast slows
blood flow by ½
I tell him I had
oatmeal, toast,
and tea

Elegant trail work
timber set through
root loop
like loving partners
in a slow dance

Tight post
we carried
& dug in
is loose already
more rocks more rocks

Zero Days: The Real-Life Adventure of Captain Bligh, Nellie Bly, and 10-Year-Old Scrambler on the Pacific Crest Trail, by Barbara Egbert, Wilderness Press, 2008.

In April, 2004, Barbara Egbert, her husband and daughter began their 2,650 mile trek from Mexico to Canada on the PCT. They would spend 137 nights together in a 6x8 foot tent. Zero Days refers to the day when one takes a break from hiking. The author is comfortable sharing her thoughts about her family, disagreements, equality, thrift, and cleanliness. She speaks of the challenging moments/days and the joy and satisfaction of reaching each of the many passes on the trail. Humorous anecdotes abound such as the family discussion about rationing toilet paper.

If anyone wants to know positive ways to hike with a child, this is the book for you. Pages from the daughter's journal are so honest, "Today we spent the whole day cooped up in the rain. It was horrid to have so much togetherness. We wrote one verse in our song and practiced it. I read a lot."

You don't have to be cooped up in the rain in a tent to enjoy reading these books. *Fire Season* and *Zero Days* are available at the Eugene Public Library. For a copy of *Spencer Butte Meditations*, contact the author at zrickmcmonagle@gmail.com

***Thank You, Thank You,
Grazie, Danke, Merci, Arigato, Tak***

***...to the following generous donors, for their support of the Obsidians
through their premium memberships.***

GOLD MEMBERSHIPS - \$100-199

Anne Bonine, Joan Bradley, Max Brown, Margot Fetz, Steven Goins, Richard Heinzkill, Janet Jacobsen, John Jacobsen, Verna Kocken, Michael Landes, John McManigal, Lenore McManigal, Jack O'Donnell, Charlene Pierce, Jim Pierce, Liz Reanier, Julie Snell and Elle Weaver

SILVER MEMBERSHIP - \$50-99

Joan Abel, Ron Bauer, Hal Busby, Deb Carver, Rob Castleberry, Dan Christensen, Ralph Core, Sharon Custforth, Wendy Dame, Don Doerr, Jim Duncan, Sharon Duncan, Larry Dunlap, Rose Mary Etter, Jack Ewing, Joella Ewing, Scott Hovis, Brian Hoyland, Marjorie Jackson, Vi Johnson, Robert Jones, Brenda Kameenui, Joanne Ledet, Ann Lichtenstein, Ed Lichtenstein, Beth Machamer, Kathryn Madden, Ron Madden, John Manotti, Lisa Manotti, Juli McGlinsky, Richard McGuinness, Lynn Meacham, Sam Miller, Zola Miller, Doug Nelson, Natalie Newlove, John Pegg, Lin Pierce, Virginia Prouty, Barb Revere, Tom Revere, Karla Rusow, Susan Sanazaro, Ted Shannon, Velma Shirk, Chris Steele, Dorothy Turner, Nancy Whitfield, Birgitte Williams and Sue Wolling

DECEMBER BOARD NOTES

December 7, 2011

By Kathy Hoeg

President John Jacobsen called the meeting to order. Other Board members present: Matt Bell, Lyn Gilman-Garrick, Kathy Hoeg, Stewart Hoeg, Verna Kocken, Elle Weaver, and Nancy Whitfield. Also present were: Wayne Deeter, Jim Duncan, Pat Esch, Joella Ewing, Brian Hamilton, Janet Jacobsen, Lana Lindstrom, Lenore McManigal, Tom Musselwhite, Nola Nelson, Jim Pierce, Barb Revere, Chris Stockdale, Sue Sullivan, and Susan Wanser.

The Board approved the minutes of the November 2011 meeting.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Summer Trips (Brian Hamilton): Since the last Board meeting, 3 hiking trips were completed and 1 trip was cancelled.

Winter Trips (Tom Musselwhite): The Winter Trips Committee has scheduled Wednesday, January 25, for a Winter Trip Leaders Potluck/Social at the Lodge. Qualified Leaders are encouraged to schedule their Winter Trip now in order to attend this winter social event. Suggestions, comments, and input will be received from Winter Trip Leaders in order to prepare a 'Dream Schedule' template for next year's (2012-2013) Winter Trips season. As of December 6 there are 16 cross-country ski trips, 13 snowshoe trips, 1 combo (snowshoe/cross-country ski), and 18 hikes for a total of 48 trips scheduled for the 2011-2012 Winter Season.

Climbs (Larry Huff): The Climbs Committee is currently searching for a new committee chair.

Trail Maintenance (Matthew Bell): There has been one outing on Spencer Butte in November and one outing that was included in a hike on the coast. On the coastal hike, participants cleared salal for an hour. During the outing on Spencer Butte, participants planted native species, transplanted mature Sword Ferns, and brushed out the switchbacks. Committee recruitment is under way. 2011

Trail Maintenance Participation -- Outings on Spencer Butte: 9; Outings on Ridgeline: 2; Other Outings: 1. Estimated Volunteer Hours: 307.75.

Highways and Byways By Bus (Liz Reanier): The Bus group's final meeting of the 2011 year will be held on Dec. 6, 2011, at 11:00 am at the Lodge. We will have our Christmas celebration with a luncheon. Bus trip leaders for the 2012 year are finalizing details, writing descriptions and costing out their trips. All trip descriptions are due by mid-January.

Summer Camp (Lana Lindstrom): Summer Camp next year will be in the Mt. Baker area, about 40 miles NE of Bellingham, at the Excelsior Group camp.

Extended Trips (Jim Duncan): A new trip has been added to the schedule for 2012, a Mt. Tahoma ski and snowshoe trip, Feb 27-29, 2012, led by Chris Stockdale.

Conservation, Science, & Education (Joella Ewing): We met Nov. 22 to begin planning ExploraTalks, conservation articles, and trips for 2012.

Entertainment (Susan Wanser): The November potluck along with the presentation about the Camino de Santiago trek was attended by 56 people. \$54 was collected.

Membership (Barb Revere): We have 489 members, total. 441 Active, 22 Associate, 17 Life Members, 5 Juniors, and 4 Honorary. We have not received renewals from 51 members.

Concessions (Lyn Gilman-Garrick): We set up our table at two functions during the last month. The first was the Nov. 18th potluck. The second was the December 6th Christmas party.

Finance (Stewart Hoeg): The Finance Committee met on Thursday, November 17, and prepared the proposed 2012 Obsidian Budget.

Lodge Building (Doug Nelson): One lodge rental fee to submit—U of O Outdoor Program on November 13 - \$70.00.

Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): Nothing much to report, other than there were lots of leaves to clear out this month.

Safety (Sue Sullivan): There was one

report of an incident (minor injury) that occurred during an Urban hike. The incident report has been received by the Winter Trips Committee and has not yet been reviewed by the Safety Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

Kathy Hoeg and Sue Sullivan reported that the ad hoc committee is talking to vendors about acoustic solutions for the Lodge as well as a new sound system. The committee will also figure out how to patch the gaps in the ceiling and will consider installing thermal insulation in the ceiling. Based on the estimates received so far and on the potential scope of the work, the final cost might be between \$15,000 and \$20,000.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board gave its consent for the 2012 committee chairs appointed by incoming President Elle Weaver.

Stewart Hoeg described the proposed Obsidians 2012 Budget and said that the Board will vote on its approval at the January 2012 meeting.

The Board approved the following individuals to transact financial business, including signing checks, for the Summer Camp Fund: Lana Lindstrom, Camp Leader, Don Doerr, Treasurer/Registrar, Nancy Whitfield, Executive Foodie. Lana Lindstrom said that she will be moving the Summer Camp bank accounts from Umpqua Bank to Oregon Community Credit Union. Barb Revere will send a list of not-yet-renewed members to Lana so she can spot any Summer Camp veterans who might want to renew because we will have a Summer Camp this year.

Matt Bell reported that the Amazon-to-Baldy connector project is delayed and should have one more meeting. The Eugene Parks Foundation says that they do have funding and the project will happen, but it may not be done until after the Spencer Butte Summit project is completed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Board meeting will be on January 4, 2012, at 6:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned for food at Mazzi's.

JANUARY BOARD NOTES

January 4, 2012

By Kathy Hoeg

President Elle Weaver called the meeting to order. Other Board members present: Matt Bell, Sharon Cutsforth, Pat Esch, Lyn Gilman-Garrick, Kathy Hoeg, Stewart Hoeg, John Jacobsen, and Nancy Whitfield. Also present were: Wayne Deeter, Jim Duncan, Joella Ewing, Janet Jacobsen, Joanne Ledet, Lenore McManigal, Tom Musselwhite, Doug Nelson, Nola Nelson, Jim Pierce, Chris Stockdale, Sue Sullivan, and Susan Wanser.

The Board approved the minutes of the December 2011 meeting.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Summer Trips (Tom Musselwhite): At this time, the Summer Trips Committee consists of: Tom Musselwhite - Chair, Don Colgan, Valerie Metcalf, Elle Weaver, Janet Jacobsen, and Joella Ewing.

Winter Trips (Jim Pierce): There are a total of 43 trips on the schedule for the Winter Trips season (57 counting canceled and rescheduled trips). The following members have volunteered to be part of the Winter Trips Committee for 2012 - at least for the first half of the year: Jim Pierce - Chair, Sheila Barry, John Cooper, Chris Cunningham, and Judy Terry.

Climbs (Sue Sullivan): 2012 members: Sue Sullivan - Chair, Sean Breslin, Wayne Deeter, Brian Hamilton, Doug Nelson, John Pegg, and Dalen Willhite.

Trail Maintenance (Matthew Bell): 2012 Trail Maintenance Committee: Matt Bell - Chair, Jim Whitfield, Pat Soussan, Todd Larsen, Dave Predeek, and Ed Lizewski.

Highways and Byways By Bus (Liz Reanier): Bus Committee Members for 2012: Liz Reanier - Chair, Rick Ahrens, Ethel Allen, Bill Arthur, Barbara Beard, Paul Beard, Mary Lee Cheadle, Sharon Cutsforth - Secretary, Barbara Flanders - Treasurer, Dennis Flanders, Ray Jensen,

Verna Kocken, Lenore McManigal - Auditor, Barbara Payne, Don Payne, Janet Speelman, Richard Speelman, and Mary Ellen West. Nine bus trips are scheduled for 2012.

Summer Camp (Lana Lindstrom): The Summer Camp Committee members are: Lana Lindstrom - Chair, John Jacobsen, Rob Castleberry, Darlene Mancuso, Nancy Whitfield, Dan Christensen.

Extended Trips (Chris Stockdale): Committee members for 2012: Chris Stockdale - Chair, Jim Duncan, Pat Esch, Lana Lindstrom, and Helen Martz.

Conservation, Science, & Education (Joella Ewing): Committee members for Conservation, Science and Education: Joella Ewing - Chair, Pat Bitner, Lyn Gilman Garrick, and Tom Musselwhite.

Publications (Nola Nelson): 2012 Publications Committee: Nola Nelson - Chair, Stewart Hoeg, Joanne Ledet, Lou Maenz, Ethel Weltman, Bea Fontana, Elle Weaver, and Beth Roy.

Entertainment (Susan Wanser): 2012 committee: Susan Wanser - Chair, Laurie Funkhouser, Kathy Hoeg, Lana Lindstrom, Martha Welches and Charlie Van Deusen.

Membership (Elle Weaver): 2012 members: Elle Weaver - Chair, Barb Revere - Advisor, Sharon Cutsforth, Bea Fontana, Laurie Funkhouser, Richard Hughes, Janet Jacobsen, John Jacobsen, Daphne James, Lana Lindstrom, Helen Martz, Diana Masarie, Kate Parrish, Charlene Pierce, Jim Pierce, and Margaret Prentice.

Publicity (Janet Jacobsen): 2012 members: Janet Jacobsen - Chair, Mary Hamilton, Verna Kocken, Barb Revere, Darko Sojak, Laurie Marshall, Chris Stockdale, John Jacobsen, Ryan Hovland, Judy Newman, and Lisa Marcus.

Concessions (Lyn Gilman-Garrick): 2012 members: Lyn Gilman-Garrick - Chair, Sharon Duncan, and Patricia MacAfee.

Online (Wayne Deeter): 2012 members: Wayne Deeter - Chair, John Jacobsen, and Matt Bell.

Finance (Stewart Hoeg): 2012 members: Stewart Hoeg - Chair, Barb Bruns,

Dan Christensen, Jean Coberly, Lana Lindstrom, Stephen McCaffrey, and Liz Reanier.

Library/Historian (Lenore McManigal): All of the Obsidian members names who participated in trips listed in the last Bulletin have been recorded.

Lodge Building (Doug Nelson): With apologies, I would like to ask for another month to submit a slate of names for the Lodge Building committee.

Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): 2012 members: John Jacobsen - Chair, Pat Adams, Max Brown, Rob Castleberry, Larry Dunlap, Clara Emlen, Dick Hildreth, Scott Hovis, Brenda Kameenui, Gary Kirk, Ken Kodama, Darlene Mancuso, Laurie Marshall, Doug Nelson, Dave Predeek, Chris Shuraleff, Sam Tracer, and Martha Welches.

Safety (Pat Esch): 2012 members: Pat Esch - Chair, Nancy Whitfield, Verna Kocken - Bus Trips, Jim Pierce - Winter Trips, and Sue Sullivan - Climbs. The committee still needs someone from Summer Trips.

OLD BUSINESS

Sue Sullivan reported on the progress of the ad hoc committee that is working on improving the acoustics and sound system of the Lodge. She said that the committee is still gathering data and is considering working on the Board Room in addition to the main hall.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board approved the 2012 Budget.

The committee chairs read out the names of people proposed as members for each Obsidians committee which were then approved by the Board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lyn Gilman-Garrick reminded the group that the January 17 ExploraTalk will be Rob Klavins of Oregon Wild, who will do a presentation on the gray wolf in Oregon.

The next Board meeting will be on February 1, 2012, at 6:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned for food at Chapala's.

TRIP REPORTS & OTHER ACTIVITIES



Hikes

Grizzly Peak

October 15, 2011

Leader: Elle Weaver; Asst Leader: Kate Parrish

Hike: 10 miles, 2,700 ft. (Difficult)

SIX INTREPID OBSIDIAN WOMEN set out for Grizzly Peak, analyzing the skies and challenging the predicted rain showers. We launched into the padded mossy forest, Pamela Creek rushing alongside. Dappled sun greeted us at Pamela Lake, where we paused for some 'photo ops' amidst the brilliant fall colors. Small wonder this is such a popular lake. Chugging along the switchbacks we enjoyed peaceful quiet and maple vines displaying their splendor. We arrived at the first viewpoint in hopes of a full vista of Jefferson's peaks. Though we could see her snowy flanks, Jefferson's highest points remained shrouded in wispy clouds. We enjoyed some time at that first viewpoint, admiring the stillness of Pamela Lake below and the interesting channels carved in the bottom of the lake. The shore was dotted with a spectacular array of red, orange, and yellow. We all wondered about the thunderous roar of the inlet creek. It sounded as though it had the volume of a huge whitewater river. We stopped briefly again at another viewpoint and then marched to the top, enjoying views of the surrounding mountains and hills. The variable sun and clouds made for interesting and beautiful scenes. Hoorah! At the top we broke out our well deserved lunches, spiced up with fabulous home-made cookies from Marianne. Jefferson remained partially obscured throughout, though we admired the shifting cloud banks and changing perspectives. In spite of our enthusiastic pleas, the sun was not successful in completely burning off Jefferson's swirling cap. More reason to return another day! As we wove our way back down, Sue educated us about mosses and lichens. She then pursued a relentless search for the liverwort, which she finally located near the end of the trail. Of course we stopped again at the lake, soaked up the serenity, and idly watched dragonflies and waterfowl go about their business. It was definitely a wonderful day and we noted that we did not experience one single raindrop! Many thanks to our co-leader, Kate, for reporting our very enjoyable autumn hike. Members: Marianne Camp, Laurie Funkhouser, Lynn Meacham, Kate Parrish, Elle Weaver, and Sue Wolling.

Silver Falls

October 23, 2011

Leader: Jane Hackett

Hike: 7 miles, 600 ft. (Moderate)

WE ALL MET AT TARGET AT GATEWAY for the drive to Silver Creek Falls. It was a beautiful fall day with big clouds and lots of sun. Parking at the trailhead for Winter Falls, we took off on

the Rim Trail to North Falls and dropped into the canyon. The rest of the hiking was great because of the fall colors and dappled light. Several people brought cameras and kept themselves busy with leaf, light, waterfall and mushroom pictures. We ended the trip with lunch at the lodge and the hike back along the Rim Trail to the cars. One junior member, Madison, and friend Fergus, a nonmember, came along to add life to the party. Members: Madison Babb-Hackett, Jane Hackett, Laurie Marshall, Patrice McCaffrey, Stephen McCaffrey, Darko Sojak, and Jim Whitfield. Nonmember: Fergus Tyle.

Smith Rocks

October 29, 2011

Leader: Brian Hamilton

Hike: 12.7 miles, 2,842 ft. (Difficult)

THIS TRIP WAS INTENDED TO BE A DRY-WEATHER HIKE around Smith Rock State Park in Central Oregon at a time when the weather on the west side might be wet and miserable. To make the six-hour round-trip drive worth the effort, the starting point of the hike began at the Gray Butte Trailhead, adding four miles to a six-mile loop. Sure enough, it was raining when we left Eugene at 7:00 AM, but the skies cleared up when we crossed the Santiam Pass. This was an exploratory hike for the leader, which led to some interesting results. On our way to the trailhead, we were stopped by a locked gate 1½ miles from the trailhead. We arrived at the gate at 10:00 AM and were on our way up the trail at 10:20. After a 500-foot elevation gain, we reached the actual trailhead, confounded by a maze of hiking, biking, and cattle trails and dirt roads branching off in different directions. Luckily, a couple of passing bikers on their way to climb at Smith Rock pointed out the correct trail. The trail was fairly level for next 2½ miles, beginning among juniper trees and then transitioning to open sage brush and grassland with views of the Cascade volcanoes expanding in front of us. At noon, we reached a viewpoint on the east end of Smith Rock State Park, looking down at the Crooked River and the rock walls that attract climbers from around the world. Working our way along unofficial climbers' trails on the back side of the park, we dropped quickly until we were close to the river and could overlook the rock spire known as Monkey Face. We found ourselves in a *can't get there from here* spot and had to turn north and scramble down steep, rocky areas until we reached the trail near the base of Monkey Face. By now, it was 1:00 PM and the next section of the hike took us 600 feet up and over Misery Ridge and back down to Crooked River. We followed the river upstream looking for Burma Road which would lead us back to our original trail. There were several unmarked trails and again we resorted to asking a climber for directions. The sun was out and the weather turned very warm while we made our way back to our starting point. After 12.7 miles of hiking, we reached our vehicle shortly after 5:00 PM. On our way back to Highway 97, we stopped for a nice dinner at Terrebonne Depot. Again, we ran into rain when we crossed Santiam Pass. We made it back to Eugene by 10:00 PM. Members: Brian Hamilton, Bob Harrison, and Kate Parrish.

Kentucky Falls

November 6, 2011

Leader: Joanne Ledet

Hike: 4.4 miles, 800 ft. (Easy)

SOME PEOPLE MAY HAVE BEEN HESITANT TO SIGN UP for this trip because of the forecast of rain towards the coast, but 14 hikers enjoyed a beautifully sunny, and dry, day at Kentucky Falls. There were 10 people who met at Lowe's parking lot on West 11th and we met four more hikers at the Whittaker Campground just off Highway 126. The caravan of four cars navigated the potholes, the twists and the turns of the road before arriving at the trailhead around 10:30. We followed the creek downhill, stopping to enjoy the Upper Kentucky Falls and taking photos of the vine maples along the trail. When the sun shone on the trees the yellow leaves became luminous and provided many photo opportunities. When we reached the bottom more photos were taken of the two waterfalls that are almost side by side. Most hikers chose to stay on the viewing platform by Lower Kentucky Falls, while a few decided to scramble over the wet rocks to get a straight-on view of the falls on the North Fork of the Smith River. Both falls may be seen from either vantage point. After lunch we decided to abandon the option of a short hike along the Smith River and instead headed back up the trail. We were soon back at our cars and headed for home. Sadly, no one had filled the pot holes while we were hiking, but at least some of the fog had lifted along the ridge and we could enjoy nice views in several directions. Members: Brenda Kameenui, Joanne Ledet, John Moser, Noy Rathakette, and Joe Sanders. Nonmembers: Dana Furgerson, Jane Dods, Mike Piehl, Andrea Larsen, Sandra Rowell, Leah Knelly, Roy Ward, Chuck Gibson, and Margaret Pargeter.

Sweet Creek Falls

November 19, 2011

Leader and photographer: Jim Pierce

Hike: 2.5 miles, 350 ft. (Easy)



WE STARTED TO KENTUCKY FALLS AS SCHEDULED. High in the Coast Range the road was covered with a couple of inches of snow with more coming down. We turned around and headed to

Sweet Creek, which is at a much lower elevation. So, we still got to see wonderful forest, six kinds of ferns, several water ouzels, and a bouncing, laughing river. The waterfalls were not as tall, and the hike was shorter, but we got home in time to hear the Beavs and Ducks ... lose! Thanks to Pat for driving in the snow. Members: Keiko Bryan, Lou Maenz, Jim Pierce, Sarah Praskievicz, and Pat Soussan. Nonmembers: Norma Bengiat, Kristen Simmons, and Marilyn Goodsell.

Ridgeline Trail

November 20, 2011

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Photographer: Darko Sojak

Hike: 6.2 miles, 900 ft. (Moderate)



THANKS TO THE CAR SHUTTLE WITH FIVE DRIVERS, ten of us were able to hike the Ridgeline Trail from Blanton Heights to Spring Blvd. A cold crisp day and an abundance of yellow leaves made for a pleasant 2½ hour walk. On the Blanton Heights section, we appreciated the newly widened trail with gravel. When we approached Dillard Road, one of the hikers slipped and fell, twisting her ankle. Ten minutes after a phone call to John Jacobsen, he arrived in his 'First Aid Wagon' and transported our hiker back to her car. The rest of us continued the hike over Mt. Baldy to the waiting cars. Members: Deborah Baumgold, Betty Grant, Janet Jacobsen, Sandra Larsen, Lana Lindstrom, Lisa Marcus, Diana Masarie, Darko Sojak, and Suzanne Steussy. Nonmembers: Norma Bengiat.

Brice Creek

December 3, 2011

Leader and photographer: Jim Pierce

Hike: 5.5 miles, 600 ft. (Easy)

A LUCKY GROUP OF 13 HIKERS fit into three cars on a frosty morning. Above the valley fog there was blue sky and sometimes the sunshine peeked over the ridges. Brice Creek was clear, bubbling and beautiful. The forest is filled with spectacular giants: firs, hemlocks, western red cedar. There were a couple of new fallen trees across the trail, but the largest obstacle was a rock slide with more threatening to come down onto the trail. It was cold, but dry. The moss was stiff from the cold, and there were a few places with ground hoarfrost. Most of the group took the side trip to Lower Trestle Creek Falls. Thanks to Nancy for sweeping and Pat and Mike for driving. Members: Barbara



Aten, Jim Pierce, Sarah Praskievicz, Susan Sanazaro, Pat Sossan, and Nancy Whitfield. Nonmembers: Norma Bengiat, Mike Piehl, David Madeira, Michael Quigley, Diantha Hull, Jenny Wilson, and Chuck Gibson.

Ridgeline Trail
December 4, 2011
Leader: Janet Jacobsen
Photographer: Darko Sojak
Hike: 6.2 miles, 900 ft. (Moderate)

WHY DID NINE MEMBERS SIGN UP FOR MY HIKE? To hike from Blanton to Spring trailheads taking advantage of the car shuttle; to visit with old and new friends; to enjoy a forest hike without a long car ride. Whatever the reason, everyone was glad to be outdoors. The bright golden witch's or witches' butter on many logs was the color of the day. On Baldy, the sun seemed determined to shine through the clouds, melting the frost on the fir trees providing condensation that had us rethinking the weather



report. A fast group, we were at the Spring Trailhead at 11:50 AM with everyone anticipating what they would do for the rest of the day. Members: Rick Ahrens, Anne Bonine, Janet Jacob-

sen, Sandra Larsen, Lana Lindstrom, Lisa Marcus, Susan Sanazaro, Darko Sojak, Suzanne Steussy, and Jim Whitfield.

Mt. Pisgah Sunrise/Moonset
December 10, 2011
Leader: Janet Jacobsen
Hike: 3 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

THREE NONMEMBERS MET ME IN THE DARK at 6:40 AM at the new yellow fee box by the trailhead. The total moon eclipse began at 4:45 ending at 6:57, the sunrise was at 7:36 AM and the moonset was at 7:42 AM. We had no reason to check the time since heavy fog kept the celestial happenings hidden from view. There were lots of people hiking and those that we talked to did not know what they were missing and thus were not disappointed. I discovered that Lou Bentsen was the son of members Dick and Mary Bentsen, now deceased. I expect to see these folks on another hike perhaps later in the day or on April 14, 2014 for the next total lunar eclipse. Members: Janet Jacobsen. Nonmembers: Jorry Rolfe, Diantha Hull, and Lou Bentsen.

Three Mile Lake - Tahkenitch Dunes
December 18, 2011
Leader: Becky Lipton
Photographer: Darko Sojak
Hike: 6.7 miles, 400 ft. (Moderate)



FOURTEEN HIKERS ESCAPED THE VALLEY FOG and enjoyed this Oregon coast hike. Sun peeked through the clouds occasionally. Everyone enjoyed the day. Members: Barbara Aten, Mari Baldwin, Don Cross, Dick Hildreth, Becky Lipton, Moshe Rapaport, Joe Sanders, Darko Sojak, and Jim Whitfield. Nonmembers: Chris Garrick, Melanie Carlone, Chuck Gibson, Ginny Mulvey, and Kainui Rapaport.

Mt. Pisgah - Winter Solstice
December 22, 2011
Leader: Janet Jacobsen
Photographer: Darko Sojak
Hike: 3 miles, 1000 ft. (Moderate)

WHAT WAS THE OFFICIAL TIME AND DAY of the 2011 Winter Solstice? It usually falls on December 21 but occasionally on the

22nd. For Eugene, the official time was 9:30 PM on the 21st. For all time zones to the east of the Central Standard Time meridian (90 degrees west longitude), the December solstice falls on Thursday, December 22. Enough astronomy! Thanks to the leader, the Obsidians celebrated on the 22nd and that meant we had fewer people on the top. That gave us ample viewing space to observe and photograph the sunset radiance in the pedestal slot. Everyone had positive things to say about the sunset hike: authentic glow, timeless feeling, spectacular, luminous, golden, outstanding, vermilion, orange/stripy, great weather, and the leader's date selection. We started up the trail at 3:40 PM with



just the right amount of time to enjoy the sunset at 4:37 PM. The alpine glow on Diamond Peak was our farewell view as we started down the trail around 4:45 to enjoy the reds of the sunset in the west. You don't need to take my word for it but the beginning of a new era or the end of the world 2012 December Solstice is Friday, December 21, 2012. There will be an Obsidian sunset hike up Mt. Pisgah. Check out the 2012 phenomenon on Wikipedia. Members: Janet Jacobsen, Lana Lindstrom, Patricia MacAfee, Laurie Marshall, Helen Martz, Cindy Rust, Susan Sanazaro, Randall Sinnott, Darko Sojak, Pat Soussan, Jim Whitfield, and Nancy Whitfield. Nonmembers: Jerry Rolfe and Charles Ashmore.



Backpacks

Golden Lake

September 3, 2011

Leader: Becky Lipton

Backpack: 17 miles, 1,500 ft. (Difficult)

FIVE DELIGHTED BACKPACKERS hiked up the Fall Creek Trail past Green Lakes and on towards Park Meadow. On the north side of Broken Top, the group doubled back and worked their way in to Golden Lake, a gorgeous but less well-known destination. On this Labor Day weekend, however, this hidden get-away was filled to overflowing with at least eight backpacking groups plus one rule-enforcing ranger, all looking for the perfect hideout from the crowds. \$350 tickets were issued

liberally for campfires, poorly buried personal waste and camping too close to the water. Fortunately, our group was highly law abiding and we escaped any unpleasantness. The following day we enjoyed hiking up the shoulder of Broken Top and then scrambling down the boulder-filled drainages to Park Meadows where lunch and sun basking were enjoyed before returning to our campsite to enjoy an exceptional sunset that evening. On the third day, we backpacked out, fully satiated from our communion with nature. Members: Mari Baldwin, Don Cross, Becky Lipton, and Chris Stockdale. Nonmember: Jen Rodenburg.

Vivian Lake

September 24, 2011

Leader: Becky Lipton

Backpack: 4 miles, 1,600 ft. (Difficult)

THREE EAGER BACKPACKERS hiked from Salt Creek Falls to Vivian Lake on a gorgeous and warm fall day, taking time to view Diamond Falls on the way up. Tiny black toads were hopping everywhere at Vivian Lake and required a sharp eye to avoid. After enjoying a campfire and warm evening, the group settled in only to discover that fall had arrived by morning with a sharp drop in temps and a rain shower. Members: Don Cross and Becky Lipton. Nonmember: Jen Rodenburg.



Trail Maintenance

Spencer Butte

October 29, 2011

Leader: Matthew Bell

Trail Maintenance: 2 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

FOR THIS MONTH'S OUTING our group of 10 volunteers met Josh Schrader in the main Spencer Butte parking lot on Willamette Street. We discussed the potential projects for the day and broke into four groups. Joanne would clean the stairs. Nola and Lisa would take a shovel, Terra hoe, and folding saw up the Main Trail, clearing culverts and doing light brushing. Matt and Jim would do the same but head up and over the butte via the West Trail. The others would hike up the Main Trail with Josh and continue to work to clear small fir trees that are attempting to take over the Junction Meadow. The plan was for those of us clearing drainage and doing light brushing to meet up at the Junction Meadow and help haul and disperse the trees that Josh cut down. Nola and Lisa made it to the meadow to help before Jim and I did. However, Jim and I were surprised to not find anyone working in the meadow when we arrived and quite a few trees that could still be cut down. We scattered a small pile of branches and cut down a very small tree with the folding saw. Still not seeing anyone we decided to head down to the parking lot. Upon arriving at the parking lot we still didn't find anyone so we turned around and headed back up the trail. We had almost made it back to the meadow when we finally ran into our group who had run for cover after disturbing a large yellow jacket nest. Josh had not only stepped on the nest a couple of times

but had even cut a log directly above its entrance. Thankfully, no one got stung! Because of the cold morning, it took the yellow jackets a while to warm up enough to even fly around. This gave everyone enough time to realize that there was a large knee high swarm and get out of there before the yellow jackets warmed up enough to sting anyone. We hiked back to the park-

ing lot and all marveled at the amazingly clean steps leading into the park. We took a group picture on the stairs that Joanne had meticulously cleaned. Members: Matthew Bell, Janet Jacobsen, Todd Larsen, Joanne Ledet, Lisa Marcus, Nola Nelson, Dave Predeek, and Jim Whitfield. Nonmembers: Rick McMonagle and Alex Lockfeld.



Bus Committee Christmas Gathering December 6, 2011

Lenore McManigal

OBSIDIAN MEMBERS AND GUESTS spent a delightful time on December 6th enjoying the Lodge decor, food, and friends. Janet Jacobsen led members in a Winnie the Pooh skit, which all enjoyed.

Members of the bus committee prepared the food. In particular Barbara Beard, who is dessert chef at the Inn at Spanish

Byways By Bus

Head, provided wonderful cookies and a chocolate cake to die for.

The Beards gave a wonderful program with the bells, and Paul playing Christmas carols on his electric piano. The program was a real treat.

Some bus committee members expressed that they would like this to be an annual affair, instead of our tripping around the state to see Christmas lights.

My thanks to all the committee for all their work and to Colleen Milliman for taking the trash away.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Mt. Tahoma's High Hut February 27-March 1, 2012 Leader: Chris Stockdale Ski/Snowshoe

HERE'S AN OPPORTUNITY for experienced backcountry skiers or snowshoers to enjoy the trails in the Mt. Tahoma trails area located in the Rainier National Park. We will ski or snowshoe into the High Hut which, at just under 5,000 feet, is the highest of the four huts in this ski area. If the weather cooperates, we will have fantastic views of Mt. Rainier from the hut. The hut offers propane heat, a fully equipped kitchen, sleeping mats and comfortable furniture. We will just bring sleeping bags, clothes, equipment and food. The group will prepare dinners together, but participants will be responsible for their own breakfasts and lunches.

If the group agrees, we will drive up on Sunday, February 26 and stay in a motel in order to get on the trail early the next day.

The price of \$70 per person includes three nights' accommodation in the hut and three dinners. Carpooling and motel

accommodation will be extra.

For information on the Mt. Tahoma area, go to www.skimtta.com. Sign up online and send a nonrefundable deposit check for \$15, payable to the Obsidians, to Chris Stockdale, 32665 W. Saginaw Road, Cottage Grove, OR 97424; telephone 767-3668.



Crater Lake

March 30-April 1, 2012

Leader: Chris Stockdale

Ski/Snowshoe

THIS IS A GREAT TIME TO VISIT CRATER LAKE. Often the snow will be good, the sun will be shining and the temperatures comfortable. We will be staying at the historic Union Creek resort where our group will have exclusive use of the lodge including the kitchen, living room with enormous fireplace, and game room. The comfortable, clean rooms are all equipped with wash basins, coffee makers, microwaves and mini-refrigerators. We will share bathrooms down the hall (showers and toilets). On Friday night you will have the option of eating at Beckie's Café across the road (good, inexpensive food) or preparing your own food in the kitchen. Breakfast and lunch is on your own, but you'll have plenty of room to store provisions in the large refrigerator. On Saturday evening we'll have a group dinner in the lodge. Ski and snowshoe trips will be organized at the lake on Saturday; hiking options are available with the Union Creek and Upper Rogue River trails just across the road.

All participants will have their own beds; couples may request a king or queen bed; and no more than two people will be assigned to each room. Cost for this trip is \$80 members, \$85 nonmembers, which includes accommodations and dinner on Saturday. To reserve your spot, sign up online and send a nonrefundable deposit of \$15 (check payable to the Obsidians) to Chris Stockdale, 32665 W. Saginaw Road, Cottage Grove, OR 97424. Phone: 767-3668. Email: happyhiker2010@hotmail.com



Summer Camp at Mt. Baker

August 18-25, 2012

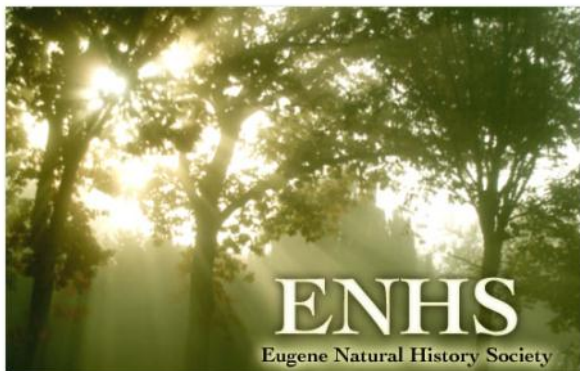
Leader: Lana Lindstrom

THE OBSIDIAN GRAPEVINE IS ACCURATE - summer camp is happening next August! It will be near Mt. Baker, Washington, about 40 miles NE of Bellingham. The Excelsior Group Campground is the same one we used in 2004. The scenery in this area is dominated by Mt. Baker and Mt. Shuksan and is just spectacular; driving distances to the trailheads are short.



So mark your calendars for August 18-25, 2012. Watch the *Obsidian Bulletin* for more details and registration information.

OTHER ORGANIZATION EVENTS



Eugene Natural History Society

All events are free at 7:30 pm in Room 100, Willamette Hall, UO Campus

Friday, January 20:

If you like learning about the evidence for early human activity in Oregon, you will be captivated by Dr. Patrick O'Grady's program, *Sheep Mountain Clovis Site Archaeology*. The UO professor headed the field study class that discovered the fluted and stemmed points in Mazama sediments, dating human activity in Oregon to more than 7,500 years ago. The site provides ongoing excavation each summer.

Friday, February 17:

Spider venom, what do you really know about it? Come hear Greta Binford, Assistant Professor of biology at Lewis and Clark University, talk about its evolution, the role it plays in immobilizing prey, and why some spiders have more lethal venom than others. You will love her photography!

AT THE LODGE



POTLUCK

Friday, January 27, 6:30 PM

Bill Sullivan

Favorite Oregon Hikes & Adventures

OREGON HIKING GURU **BILL SULLIVAN** will take us on a tour of his favorite trips -- hikes and adventures in all parts of the state, choosing top trips for each month of the year. Based on his new book, *Oregon Favorites*, the presentation includes tips on new trails, as well as anecdotes about history, geology, wildlife, and people along the way.

A fifth-generation Oregonian, Sullivan has written seven books about Oregon's outdoors, as well as two books on Oregon history, two adventure memoirs, and three novels. His

journal, *Listening for Coyote* was chosen by the Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission as one of the 100 most significant books in the state's history.

Bill is a perennial favorite, and his presentations are always enjoyable and informative.



January Potluck

Friday, January 27, 2012

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

Thursday, January 19, 2012, 7:00 PM

The Gray Wolf In Oregon History, Politics and Recovery Policy

ROB KLAVINS, WILDLANDS AND WILDLIFE ADVOCATE FOR OREGON WILD will do a slide presentation on wolves for the January ExploraTalk.

Joella Ewing, Conservation/SciEd Chair



Joys of Winter Hiking program at REI
Thursday, January 12th 7:00-8:00 PM
Presenter: Jim Pierce

DON'T RUN FROM THE WOODS WHEN IT RAINS! The pleasures of hiking do not stop when the days get short and wet. Discover the joys of winter hiking from Jim Pierce, Obsidian Winter Trips chair. There are plenty of opportunities to hike around Eugene, along the coast, in the Coast Range, and in the foothills of the Cascades. Jim will share photos of his favorite winter hikes including forest and stream details to notice on winter trails. Other Obsidian members will offer tips for safe and comfortable hiking in unpredictable Oregon weather. By hiking through the winter, you can be in shape for hiking when the snow melts. Handouts include the Obsidian Winter Trips schedule. Obsidian members are welcome! Bring a friend.



Classifieds

Yachats Rental

STEPS TO ROCKY SHORE WALKING PATH and one block to 6 miles of sandy beach. Many day hikes in area. Two-story house with ocean views, 3 bedrooms and 3 baths. Winter two person special: \$95/night, 2 night minimum; additional cleaning fee fully refundable. See www.Whalesnook.com or contact Steve at 852-3823.

For Sale

Petzl headlamp - unopened, from Back Country Gear, 10 year shelf life, \$15. Contact Suzanne Steussy: 222-9861, or suzannesteussy@yahoo.com

Barrecrafters roof mounted ski rack. Do you have a car with roof gutters? If so, this ski rack is for you. It is in excellent condition with two keys, instructions and all parts. \$40. Sandra, 687-2589 or sglars@comcast.net

Cross country skis, poles, and boots. Fisher Crown Outward Bound skis, size 189 cm. Exel poles. Alpina Boots, size 13. Chris, 687-2589 or sglars@comcast.net

Note: There is no charge for placing Obsidian Bulletin Classified ads; however, only members can place ads and preference will be given to ads that relate to the club's mission and our members' outdoor activity interests.

Obsidian Calendar

January

14 Sat	Maklaks, Combo E Lindstrom	683-1409
15 Sun	Diamond Creek Falls SShoe E Hovis	521-3663
15 Sun	Circle Lake Xski D Stockdale	767-3668
19 Thu	Gray Wolf in Oregon	ExploraTalk
20 Fri	Eugene Wetlands Hike E Cunningham	344-0486
21 Sat	Bechtel Shelter SShoe M Pierce	344-1775
22 Sun	Gold Lake SShoe E Hovis	521-3663
22 Sun	Cone Peak Xski D Sayre	345-2370
22 Sun	Midnight Lake Xski M Wolling	345-2110
24 Tue	Moon Mountain Hike M Rapaport	654-4000
22 Sun	Finley Refuge Hike M Gilman-Garrick	345-5236
27 Fri	Favorite Hikes Bill Sullivan	Potluck
28 Sat	Spencer Butte Trail Maintenance Bell	503-884-8829
29 Sun	Maxwell Butte SShoe M James	683-7488

February

01 Wed	Newberry Crater Snow Ext Trp Lindstrom	683-1409
02 Thu	Maiden Peak Cabin Xski D Wilken	343-3080
02 Thu	Ridgeline Trail Hike M Jacobsen	343-3080
04 Sat	Midnight Lake Xski M Funkhouser	206-2303
05 Sun	Maxwell Butte SShoe M, Hovis	521-3663
08 Wed	Lorin Lake Xski D Anselmo	782-2369
12 Sun	Maiden Peak Xski D Thompson	683-8942
12 Sun	Siltcoos River/Lagoon Hike Gilman-Garrick	345-5236
18 Sat	Hoodoo Butte/Potato Hill Xski D, Miller	484-4586
18 Sat	Spencer Butte Hike M Sojak	525-1124
19 Sun	Potato Hill, SShoe D Hovis	521-3663
24 Fri	Oregon Photos Vaughn	Potluck
24 Fri	East Eugene Historic Walk Hike Cunningham	344-0486
25 Sat	Diamond Creek Falls SShoe M Pierce	344-1775
25 Sat	Spencer Butte Trail Maintenance Bell	503-884-8829
27 Mon	Mt Tahoma Xski/Snowshoe D Stockdale	767-3668

March

03 Sat	Craig Lake Xski D Sullivan	342-6546
03 Sat	SW Eugene Hills Hike E Ledet	683-2603
04 Sun	Maiden Lake Xski D Pegg	343-0909
10 Sat	Midnight Lake Xski M Funkhouser	206-2303
18 Sun	Lava Lake SShoe M Hovis	521-3663
18 Sun	Fawn Lake Xski D Sinnott	915-0234
18 Sun	Willamette Confluence Hike E Gilman-Garrick	345-5236
24 Sat	Fall Creek Hike M Flashenburg	461-1977
30 Fri	Washington Trail Guide Romano	Potluck
30 Fri	Crater Lake Xski Stockdale	767-3668
31 Sat	Spencer Butte Trail Maintenance Bell	503-884-8829

April

07 Sat	Midnight Lake Xski M Funkhouser	206-2303
08 Sun	Little Nash SShoe D Hovis	521-3663
14 Sat	Sweet Creek Falls Hike E Camp	221-1866
15 Sun	HJ Andrews Forest Hike M Musselwhite	461-3296
27 Fri	Summer Camp Rally Lindstrom	Potluck
27 Fri	Mt. Bailey Backpack SShoe D Hovis	521-3663
28 Sat	Spencer Butte Trail Maintenance Bell	503-884-8829

May

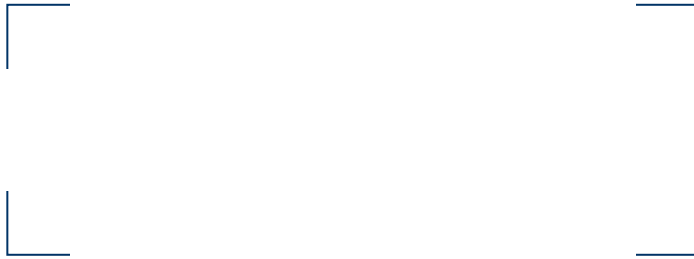
10 May	Owyhee River Raft Trip Ext Trip Esch	338-8280
18 May	Africa Chris Stockdale	Potluck
30 May	Spencer Butte Trail Maintenance Bell	503-884-8829



Winter Solstice on Pisgah—photo by Cindy Rust

(See trip report on page 12)

January 2012



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