

2015 Climb School

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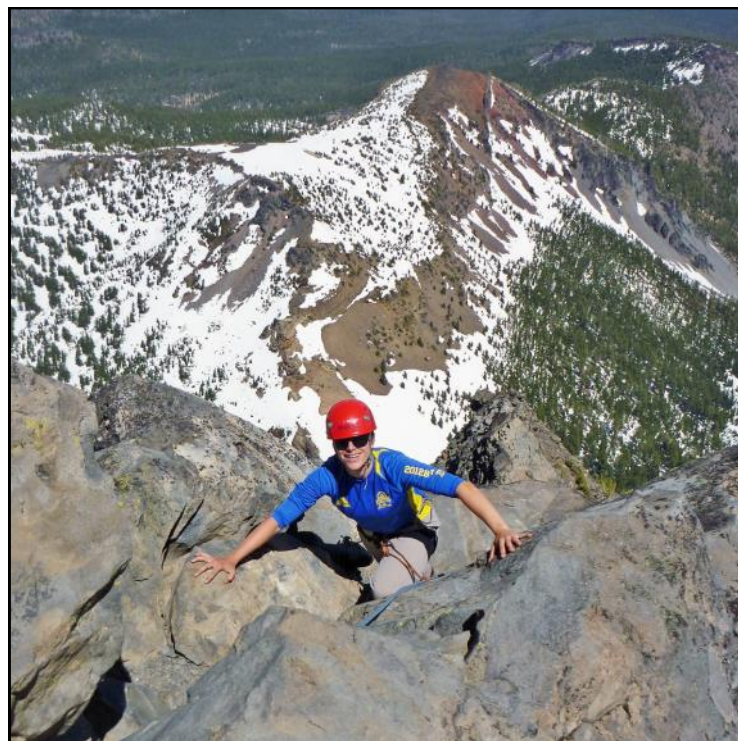
Dates to Remember

| | |
|----------|-------------------|
| March 24 | ExploraTalk |
| March 27 | Potluck |
| March 28 | Bulletin deadline |
| April 1 | Board Meeting |

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

WHETHER YOU DREAM OF THE SOLACE OF CLIMBING REMOTE CRAGS, or of joining the party on Mt. St. Helens Mother's Day climb, we can help you achieve your vision! If you have ever wanted to experience the challenge and thrill of mountain climbing but lacked the skills and confidence to get started, then come take our basic climbing class. We will teach you the skills, pump you up with confidence, and pour on the enthusiasm—because we love climbing and love helping those who want to learn the skills to venture into the mountains.

The Obsidians and Eugene Mountain Rescue will teach the fundamentals of rock and glacier travel in classroom and field sessions of the 2015 Climb School, beginning April 6. We will be on hand to help you learn knots, give you tips for



gear, and to share stories and words of advice. We will also have two field sessions where you will put that classroom material to actual use. For both the classroom and field sessions, we have a high instructor-to-student ratio to really help everyone with the skills. The cost is \$60 for Obsidian members or members of Eugene Mountain Rescue, and \$90 for nonmembers—an amazing deal for an extensive class like this. Following the class, the Obsidians will be hosting graduation climbs for Climb School participants to put some of the new skills into practice. The climb fees for the graduation climbs are not included in the Climb School cost and the locations will be determined as the Obsidian climb schedule is developed. Watch these pages and the website for more information to come.

To learn more contact climbs@observians.org.

Obituary

ROSELLA JONES 1921-2015

FORMER MEMBER, **ROSELLA JONES**, passed away on January 30 after a lingering illness. Rosella joined the Obsidians in 1992 and participated in over 100 bus trips, the last in 2008. A native Oregonian, Rosella graduated from Willamette University and later studied to become a medical technologist, a career she pursued for many years.

She is survived by four children and their families.

Editor's Note: A complete obituary can be found in the February 3rd issue of The Register-Guard

We Need You to Lead a Trip!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WAIT for the Summer Trips Committee to contact you about leading a trip. To see what trips are already scheduled, log in to *Online System Access* and click on *Full Schedule*. Plan your trip(s) and send them to summertrips@obsidians.org. Include name of trip, date, mileage, elevation, difficulty, and driving mileage. Use the same address if you have any questions.

John Cooper Summer Trips Chair

Welcome New Members

Lodeesen, David
367 Hunington Avenue
Eugene, OR 97405
214-709-0352
dmxzx3@sbcglobal.net

Van Winkle, Kimberly
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Eugene, OR 97401
615-686-4402
Kimberly.vanwinkle@gmail.com

THE OBSIDIANS FACEBOOK PAGE www.facebook.com/#!/theobsidians

Just click on the link and start using/viewing today!

OBSIDIANS, INC

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405

Website: www.obsidians.org

Board of Directors

Matt Bell, President
Shellie Roberston, Vice President
Susan Wanser, Secretary
Stewart Hoeg, Treasurer
Don Colgan, John Cooper, Sharon Cutsforth, Pat Esch, Tom Musselwhite, & Elle Weaver

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 | Sharon Cutsforth |
| Climbs | Maryanne Reiter |
| Concessions | Laurie Funkhouser |
| Conservation/SciEd | Tom Musselwhite |
| Entertainment | Susan Wanser |
| Extended Trips | Chris Stockdale |
| Finance | Stewart Hoeg |
| Librarian/Historian | Lenore McManigal |
| Lodge Building | Doug Nelson |
| Lodge Grounds | John Jacobsen |
| Membership | Elle Weaver |
| Online | Wayne Deeter |
| Publications | Lou Maenz |
| Publicity | Jan Jacobsen |
| Safety | Pat Esch |
| Summer Camp | Lana Lindstrom |
| Summer Trips | John Cooper |
| Trail Maintenance | Matt Bell |
| Winter Trips | Anne Bonine |

⁷⁴OBSIDIAN Bulletin

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Published monthly except August and December. Articles, story ideas, letters to the editor and other editorial submissions should be emailed to:

bulletin@obsidians.org

For reprint rights, contact:

The Obsidian Bulletin

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405

Deadline

for April 2015 Bulletin

Saturday, March 28, 2015

February Assembly/Mailing Team

*Assembly & Mail Manager: Lou Maenz
Team: Tom Adamcyk, Don Baldwin, Sharon Cutsforth, Clara Emlen, Yuan Hopkins, Joanne Ledet, Lenore McManigal Margaret Prentice, and Martha Welches.*

Editorial Team

*Writing & Editorial Staff - Bea Fontana, Janet Jacobsen, Joanne Ledet, Lou Maenz and Ethel Weltman
Copy Editors - Ethel Weltman & Nancy White
Graphics Design & Desktop Publishing - Stewart Hoeg*

Ten Peaks Adventures

Roy McCormick

MOST EVERY MOUNTAINEER HAS A NEMESIS PEAK—a mountain that for one reason or another simply eludes them. While attempting to climb the Obsidian ten peaks my nemesis was strangely enough, 8,750 foot Diamond Peak, the lowest and usually considered the easiest of the ten.

I signed up for climb school in the spring of 2005 to hone my climbing skills for an attempt on Mt. Rainier the following June. I enjoyed the class immensely, learned a lot and met some great Obsidians and Eugene Mountain Rescue folks. During the sessions I decided to work on eventually getting the ten peaks patch. My first climb with the club was a graduation climb up Diamond Peak via Pioneer Gulch in decidedly northwest alpine weather. We elected to turn around at the south summit in near white-out conditions.

My next peak was Mt. Hood in May of 2006—a cold, windy and crowded morning that taught me to avoid that



Roy receiving 10 Peak Award from Brian Hamilton.

mountain on weekends!

Mt. Jefferson came up on the schedule on July 13, 2007, led by Wayne Deeter and John Pegg, so I knew I was in good hands. A three-day adventure via the Whitewater Glacier, this was mountaineering at its best—alpine meadows, a high camp, roped glacier travel and a challenging rock climb on typical loose Cascades rock. Unfortunately,

we experienced a traffic jam just below the summit with 12 Mazamas directly ahead of us. A minor injury to their leader left most of our group stuck just below the final pitch (and two members on the summit) while the Mazamas evacuated their leader. It made for a long but ultimately successful climb.

North Sister the following summer was another memorable day in the Cascades with thunder rumbling in the distance above the sweltering August lowlands—and Mazamas again.

Spring 2009 brought another Diamond Peak trip, this time on skis. I was excited but feeling a little under the weather and was unable to complete the climb—another win for my nemesis. Later that summer I completed climbs of Three Fingered Jack and Mt. Washington, two of my favorites.

The 2010 season took me up Mt. Thielsen, led by then club president Brian Hamilton, followed by a late season, full moonset/sunrise climb of Diamond Peak. Finally, success with my nemesis! It was a beautiful morning spent on a peak I had climbed several times before but never with the Obsidians.

South and Middle Sisters were a similar story. I had climbed them several times before but never with the club so I elected to try my hand at leading them. With the help of my victim, *er partner*, Bob Harrison, we had lovely weather for our midweek and crowd-free trips.

Every one of the ten peaks presented different challenges, vistas and most of all adventures with like-minded people—my definition of a good time.

OBSIDIAN THREE PEAK AND TEN PEAK AWARDS

The Three Peak Award goes to members who climb the Three Sisters.

The Ten Peak Award is for climbing:

- Mount Jefferson, 10,497 ft.
- Mt. Washington, 7,802 ft.
- Mount Hood, 11,239 ft.
- Three Fingered Jack, 7,848 ft.
- North Sister, 10,085 ft.
- Middle Sister, 10,047 ft.
- South Sister, 10,358 ft.
- Diamond Peak, 8,750 ft.
- Mt. Thielsen, 9,178 ft.
- Mt. McLoughlin, 9,943 ft.

For more information about qualifications, see the Obsidian Constitution and By Laws, page 8 in Members Only or email climbs@obsidians.org.

Board Notes

By Susan Wanser

President Matt Bell called the meeting to order. Other Board members present were: Don Colgan, Sharon Cutsforth, Pat Esch, Tom Musselwhite, Susan Wanser and Elle Weaver. Also present were: Wayne Deeter, Laurie Funkhouser, Kathy Hoeg, Stewart Hoeg, Janet Jacobsen, John Jacobsen, Lana Lindstrom, Lenore McManigal, Doug Nelson, and Maryanne Reiter. The Board approved the minutes of the February 2015 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 (John Cooper): The committee worked on scheduling trips for April (18 so far) and has started leader recruitment for the rest of the season.

Winter Trips (Anne Bonine): This February Winter Trips had 16 hikes both urban and farther afield, one snowshoe trip, one snowshoe backpack trip to Gold Lake but no Xski trips despite valiant attempts by a few leaders. Sadly there were four cancellations due to lack of snow.

Climbs (Maryanne Reiter): The Climbs Committee opened the online registration for Basic Climb School on Feb 15 and it filled by March 2. The limit was 24 students. We also have recruited sufficient volunteers to help with the classes and field sessions. The committee continues to recruit leaders for climbs in the upcoming season. We also have a committee member who has volunteered to redo the Climbs webpage.

Trail Maintenance (Matthew Bell): There was one this past month in Spencer Butte Park. We worked to clean the main trailhead and clean drainage and pick up litter along the Main and Tie trails.

Highways and Byways By Bus (Sharon Cutsforth): There was a good turnout for the Bus Rally February 22; we estimate 45-50 people attended. Signups for all trips are off to a good start. The next trip on April 7 and 8 will be an overnight to Bandon. We appreciated having the Concessions Committee displaying their great Obsidian merchandise at the Rally.

Extended Trips (Chris Stockdale): Both Deer Creek Center and Orcas Island extended trips are filled with wait lists.

Conservation, Science, & Education (Tom Musselwhite): February's ExploraTalk on Solar Eclipses by Mike Smith was attended by 24 people.

Publication (Lou Maenz): We mailed bulletins and address books to all members, including those who are online subscribers.

Entertainment (Susan Wanser): Fifty-five people attended Lana's presentation about her experience as a volunteer at the Sochi Olympics.

Membership (Elle Weaver): Currently there are 446 total members.

Publicity (Janet Jacobsen): We continue to work on attaching a banner to the tent in time for the Earth Day Celebration Sat-

urday, April 18 at EWEB's River Edge Plaza. We continue to update the Y Bulletin Board. Darko Sojak posts the Monthly Calendar flyers at REI and other places. Thanks to the committee chairs for keeping the website current.

Concessions (Laurie Funkhouser): Due to a flexible, enthusiastic crew, Concessions was present at the Bus Rally, ExploraTalk and Potluck. The recent arrival of new notecards contributed to the sales.

Online (Wayne Deeter): There are now 4,339 photos in 308 albums in the Obsidian photo gallery. At the end of February, we had 338 followers. In February we had 113 *likes* to our posts, which is a new record and we had 16 people share our posts, which is also a new record.

Library/Historian (Lenore McManigal): Janet Jacobsen is organizing a framed Bryan Ryan interpretive collage that would display his trip log, skiing and sketching photo and brief bio. Bert Ewing will help with historic photos and Peter Graham will help with collage display and framing. All of the activities listed in the *February 2015 Bulletin* have been recorded.

Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): We had one routine spruce-up of the Obsidian grounds in February before the Bus Rally/ExploraTalk/Potluck week.

Safety (Pat Esch): Lyndell Wilken and I checked and restocked the Y First Aid Kits and the two from Climbs. The Safety Committee had their annual meeting and went over the new Safety Manual and discussed in depth the section on dealing with complaints and incidents.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board approved all applicants for new membership.

Roberta Chord was approved as a new member of the Membership Committee.

The Board approved the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to implement the Cavagnaro and Scherer donation art projects and other items in the Scherer Room and Lodge.

OPEN DISCUSSION

The Board discussed the possibility of using PayPal to receive payments. Concessions is the sole committee expressing interest at this time, and this topic will be discussed further at a future meeting.

Phillip Richardson, who works for the city of Eugene, discussed the current draft of the Eugene Trails Plan. Phillip wants written input about the Trails Plan by March 15, but will welcome the input after that date as well. His email address is Phillip.S.Richardson@ci.eugene.or.us.

John Jacobsen presented an impressive handout detailing *Obsidian Membership, Activity, Participation and Leadership Trends*. This will be further discussed at future meetings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Board meeting will be on April 1 at 6:00 PM. The meeting adjourned for food at Elk Horn Brewery.

Trip Reports & Other Activities



Hikes

North Bank Deer Preserve

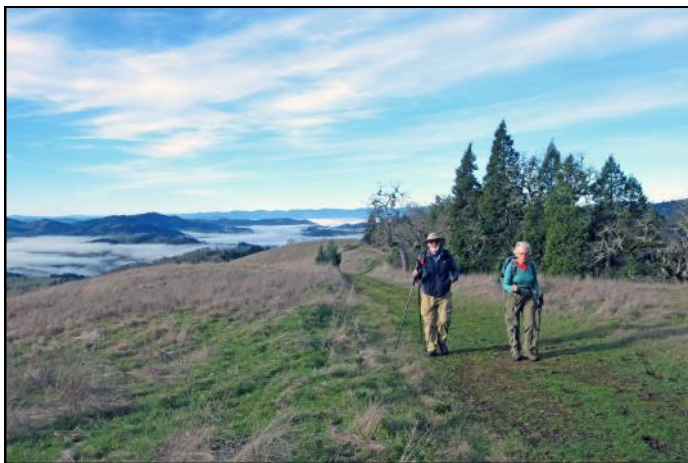
January 25, 2015

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Photographer: Darko Sojak

Hike: 8 miles, 1,800 ft. (Moderate)

WE QUICKLY HIKE OUT OF THE FOG for a sunny ridgeline hike over open rolling hills, oak savannas



and meadows with 360-degree panoramic views of the foothills and the Umpqua River winding through the valley. The four hikers who had never been to the North Bank were impressed. A slight detour (leader's mistake) gave us a rare sighting of the Columbian deer. Who would have thought we could have a spring hike in January? It was 66 degrees when we stopped for lunch. We left the LCC parking lot at 8:00 AM, started hiking at 9:15 and were back at the cars around 1:45 PM. Members: Barbara Gunther, Janet Jacobsen, Holger Krentz, Darko Sojak, Fumiyo Tao, Barbara Theus.

Dorris Ranch/Clearwater Park

January 26, 2015

Leader: Ruth Romoser

Hike: 8 miles, 0 ft. (Easy)

HIKERS ENJOYED WALKING TO CLEARWATER PARK and back on January 26. The fog lifted and the day was nice and sunny. We enjoyed great views of the Willamette River and a special treat watching herons. This was a perfect morning hike! Members: Ruth Romoser. Nonmembers: Karen Rich.

Amazon Headwaters/Spencer Butte

January 28, 2015 through February 11, 2015

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 6.2 miles, 1,530 ft. (Moderate)

THE HIKERS BY DATE WERE: JANUARY 28—Members: David Cooper, Barbara Gunther, Janet Jacobsen, Bill McWhorter, Craig Molitor, Caroline Moore, Jorry Rolfe, Tom Rundle, Mike Smith. Nonmembers: Hilary Fisher. **FEBRUARY 4**—Members: David Cooper, Barbara Gunther, Janet Jacobsen, Caroline Moore, Jorry Rolfe, Tom Rundle, Mike Smith. Nonmembers: David Lodeesen, Hilary Fisher. **FEBRUARY 11**—Members: David Cooper, Hilary Fisher, Janet Jacobsen, Craig Molitor, Jorry Rolfe, Rick Sanford, Art Skach, Mike Smith, Barbara Theus. Nonmembers: David Lodeesen.

North Bank Deer Preserve

January 30, 2015

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Photographer: Carla Cooper

Hike: 8 miles, 1,900 ft. (Moderate)

I PROMISED SUNSHINE, but instead we hiked into heavy fog thus celebrating Lana's birthday without a view. It was a fast group and we were back at the cars by 1:30 PM. At last we could see the ridgeline. Thanks to Carla Cooper's excellent eyesight, her passengers spotted an elk herd grazing alongside I-5. Members: Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Richard Hughes, Janet Jacobsen, Lana Lindstrom, Jorry Rolfe, Tom Rundle, Barbara Theus.



Gwynn Creek/ Cape Perpetua

February 1, 2015

Leader: Mike Smith

Hike: 8.8 miles, 1,800 ft. (Moderate)

GOOD GROUP OF NINE OF US WENT OVER TO CAPE PERPETUA, with a nice rain on the way over. Once in the woods, the

rain gear was quickly shed as we climbed about 1,000 feet to the Gwynn Creek trail junction. We had lunch on the OCT, overlooking the ocean. Given the time of day, we opted for Devil's Churn and spent some time there. It was mid-tide, but the wind was whipping the waves, and there was a really nice spray from time to time. We welcomed two guests, Liam and Kathy, both of whom fit in just great with the group. For those traveling on US 101, there is a 200-yard stretch of one-lane road with minimal waits at the traffic light. The area that is being repaired is not at all where any of us thought it would be—it's on a flat stretch with no major hills nearby. In any case, the road is fine except for that spot. Members: Rob Boese, Keiko Bryan, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Janet Jacobsen, Holger Krentz, Mike Smith. Nonmembers: Liam Beckman, Kathy Randall.

Mt. Pisgah Sunset/Groundhog Day

February 2, 2015

Leader & Photographer: Mark Hougardy

Hike: 3 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

FIVE OBSIDIANS HIKED TO THE TOP OF MOUNT PISGAH to celebrate Groundhog Day. The weather forecast was for an afternoon of drenching rain; instead, the sky had cleared and offered a patchwork of clouds. The temperature was in the upper 40s as we began our ascent. The cool temperatures and sun hinted that spring was in the air, very unusual weather for early February. Halfway to the summit, the sun appeared low on the horizon giving everything within our gaze a soft and warm glow. Not far off, the confluence of the Middle and Coast Forks of the Willamette River was swollen from the recent rains. Arriving at the pedestal, everyone was welcomed by Thorin, the groundhog. Hikers on this annual event are always guaranteed to see a groundhog, real or otherwise! Looking east, a near full moon was quickly rising; in the western sky, the sun was diving past clouds



creating an orange-colored horizon. The hikers enjoyed this magnificent view while munching on chocolate and getting in a few laughs with the groundhog. The evening light and clouds did not allow the groundhog to see his shadow. Folklore for Groundhog Day states that if the sky is cloudy when the groundhog emerges, he will not see his shadow and

spring will come early. With the fantastic weather that day, it was hard to argue. Before we departed, the groundhog dove into its backpack burrow, ready for next year's hike. Members: Rob Castleberry, Mark Hougardy, Janet Jacobsen, Tom Rundle, Darko Sojak.

River/Campus Loop

February 6, 2015

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 5.2 miles, (Easy)

AFTER A PLEASANT TWO-HOUR WALK in steady rain, we decided we were too wet to take advantage of the first Friday free admission at the Art Museum. Members: May Fogg, Janet Jacobsen, Tom Rundle.

Gathering Winter Mushrooms

February 7, 2015

Leader: Harriet Kelly, Asst: Judy Ness

Photographer: Jimmy Murphy

Hike: 4 miles, (Easy)

FOURTEEN MUSHROOM ENTHUSIASTS started up the Hardesty Mountain Trail around 9:30 AM on a wet Saturday morning to explore the trailside for winter mushrooms. The



variety of fungi was abundant for the time of year. We were rewarded almost immediately with Russell Jones spotting a cluster of the elusive and highly prized black trumpet mushroom, a close relative to the fall chanterelle. They are difficult to see on the forest floor, and are considered an exquisite edible. Our leader, Harriet Kelly identified the various species located by participants, and talked about mushroom safety and picking etiquette. The forest trail up to Crale Creek Road (approximately 1.5+ miles from the Hardesty Mountain parking lot) was intended as an educational orientation to the forest fungi and their environment. Large examples of *Elfin Saddles* were found and our leader revealed they contained a similar chemistry as rocket fuel and are usually not eaten. Other inedible species were examined and their properties discussed. And, we had several opportunities to gather the common edible *Yellow Foot* also known as the winter chanterelle. After gathering at the road for a quick lunch and a vigorous little rain shower, we walked for about 1/2 mile up the trail to an area that had an abundance

of edibles. The group scattered and picked what they wished for personal use. A popular fall species called *Hedgehogs* were less prevalent than the *Yellow Foot*, but highly sought after for their excellent flavor. The hunters were scattered away from the trail and located each other with whistle communication. At one point, a small group of hunters became slightly disoriented and were whistled back to the main trail by call and response whistle work: a good lesson for all. We had quite a few pictures to share on the web site. Note: Mushroom hunting has a protocol for identification and use that involves self-study and mentoring by a fungi expert or knowledgeable person. The Cascade Mycological Society in Eugene offers the education, programs, and community to help you explore this fascinating resource and enjoy it safely. cascademyco.org/ The US Forest Service requires everyone to get a personal mushroom picking permit before grabbing a basket and heading for the woods. Drop by any ranger district office for your free permit for personal use quantities. Members: Betty Grant, Harriet Kelly, Judy Ness, Jorry Rolfe, Randy Sinnott, Darko Sojak. Nonmembers: James Lavagnino, Jimmy Murphy, Russell Jones, Michael Heidelberg, Katharina Jones, Simona Braun, Jeremy Lavagnino, Simon Venter.

Fall Creek

February 8, 2015

Leader: Jane Hackett

Hike: 5 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

WE MISSED THE RAIN AND THERE WAS NO SUN, but we had a nice hike. This section of the Fall Creek trail stays right along the creek. At this time of year, the creek is running full. You are hiking through an old burn so you see the water and rock formations that are usually buried behind the trees. The forest service has placed a sign to identify the Native American site, Slick Creek Cave. There are history boards and a staircase built to the mouth of the cave. We chose to stay along the trail to Bedrock Campground, instead of following it away from the creek and up into the trees. After returning to the car for lunch, we went on to hike back into trees toward Dolly Varden Trailhead. We went about 1/2 mile and ran into four to five fallen trees across the trail. Then it started to rain and it seemed a good time to go home. Members: Jane Hackett, Debbie Krakauer, Brian Popowsky, Dave Predeek. Nonmembers: Matias Torres.

Eagle's Rest

February 8, 2015

Leader & Photographer: Mike Smith

Hike: 13.5 miles, 2,500 ft. (Difficult)

I ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED THIS HIKE IN JANUARY, but cold weather (remember that?) and likely ice would have made this hike very difficult, so I waited. We started at the Hardesty Trailhead and took the right turn to Eagle's Rest. There was a lot of high water in the streams, but we managed to stay dry, although not free of mud. The trail goes up and down for about four miles, coming to a road and the upper trailhead at about 4.7 miles. We reached Ash Swale and met

up with another group of Obsidians out for the day.



We then went to the top, taking the steep climb from the road up to a good view of Mt. June, Sawtooth and Hardesty. After lunch, we took a group picture and started down, just as it began to rain and two groups of people were starting to come up from the road at the bottom of the last climb. The rain was light, and we decided to walk down Goodman Creek Road from the upper trailhead, avoiding the mud and the slick trail. On the way down, we saw several nice waterfalls that weren't visible when I hiked it last spring. It's a prettier hike than I remembered, and everybody stayed together and made the leader's job really easy. This is a long hike from Highway 58. It is a lot of up and down and 1,500 feet vertical over the last four miles up, so it's a good workout. The last stretch is steep, but not like Mt. June. Good way to spend a Sunday. Members: David Cooper, Barbara Gunther, Mike Smith, Barbara Theus.



SnowShoe Trips

Salt Creek/Diamond Creek

February 7, 2015

Leader: Scott Hovis

Snowshoe: 3.5 miles, 300 ft. (Moderate)

THERE WAS NO SNOW so the trip turned into a hike instead of a snowshoe trip. It was nice none the less. No snow allowed us to see more waterfalls and the white rabbit! I was surprised how many large groups there were on this rainy day. We noticed several NW Youth Corp vans in the parking lot. Lunch was below the Diamond Creek Falls, which are usually hard to get to. We ate in a large indentation. Please don't trust any guard railings. They are getting rotten and dangerous. Members: Keiko Bryan, Roberta Chord, Scott Hovis.

Obsidian Upcoming



**Birding in Coastal Areas
around Old Town Bandon**
April 7–8 (Tues–Wed)
Leader: Sharon Cutsforth
Cost: \$166 (\$170 nonmembers)

Reservations & checks: Judy Phelps, 726-0118

THERE IS STILL SPACE AVAILABLE ON THIS FUN TRIP to explore Old Town Bandon and look for birds along the Coquille River wetlands. Our coffee stop will be the rest area north of Roseburg, then heading west on Hwy. 42 is quite a scenic drive. From the city of Coquille to Hwy. 101 we will follow the Coquille River with opportunities to see birds in the wetlands. In the Bandon area we plan to visit the Bandon Marsh Wildlife Refuge, Bullard's Beach State Park, and Coquille Point—these all offer opportunities to see shore and water birds. Old Town Bandon is a center for art galleries, unique shops and a variety of food places. Its compact location right on the waterfront is easy to explore on foot, and there is lots of outdoor seating along the boardwalk. If we are lucky, we might even spot some whales along the coastline. You can bring a sack lunch and eat in the glass enclosed picnic shelter or try one of the many food places. On Wednesday we will head north on Hwy. 101, stopping at the Mill Casino for lunch (your cost). The boardwalk behind the casino is another great place to see water birds. Our route home will take us inland via Hwy. 38 at Reedsport. Perhaps we will see the elk at Dean Creek viewing area. We should arrive home around 6:00 PM.

Overnight lodging will be at Sunset Oceanfront Lodging (347-2453). All rooms have microwaves and small refrigerators. A light continental breakfast is included (suggest bringing fruit to supplement). Lord Bennett's Restaurant is on site for dinner (your cost), menu and prices similar to McGraths.

Things to bring: rain jackets, binoculars, good walking shoes, a sack lunch (if you want).

A Day At The Zoo

May 12 (Tuesday)

Leader: Judy Phelps

Cost: Members \$60(Nonmembers \$62)

Reservations & checks: Barbara Payne, 746-1964

NEWS FROM THE OREGON ZOO—a major transformation is under way. Thanks to public support the zoo's vision for a better future for wildlife is taking shape, with nearly half the zoo grounds getting an upgrade. The recently completed three-story Condors of the Columbia aviary includes an elevated viewing area offering visitors a rare up-close look at these massive birds—the largest in North America. Work is progressing on Elephant Lands; this world-class habitat will provide the entire herd great health and welfare, along with

opportunities to make their own choices. When completed, visitors will discover these graceful giants moving through meadows, hills, mud wallows and pools. The Encounter Habitat is already complete. See the elephants in their new digs adjacent to the concert lawn while watching construction crews hoist, dump, excavate and pour their way to an exceptional elephant habitat. Two young orangutans, Kumar and Bob, both recent arrivals, had their first outdoor meet-up at the zoo's Red Ape Reserve. The other resident orangutan, Inji, at 55, is the oldest Oregon Zoo resident and one of the oldest orangutans in the world. Come along to see these exhibits and all the rest of the zoo residents. Admission is included in the trip cost. There will be time for a leisurely tour of the grounds and to have lunch at one of several food places. If you want to bring a sack lunch, you will need to take it with you when we enter, as the bus will not be parked close to the entrance. We will leave Shopko at 8:00, have a coffee break at Santiam rest area, enjoy some hours at the zoo and be home by 6:00 PM—maybe even work in an ice cream stop on the way home.

Exploring Wildwood Recreation Area & Salmon River

Date: June 30 (Tuesday)

Leaders: Paul & Barbara Beard

Cost: \$48 (\$50 nonmembers) Mary Lee Cheadle 689-1085

More Food IV

Date: July 16 (Thursday)

Leader: Mary Ellen West

Cost: \$50 (\$52 nonmembers) Janet Speelman 344-3019

Fun at Yellowstone & Jackson Hole

Date: Sept 13 -19 (Sunday - Saturday)

Leader: Sharon Cutsforth

Cost: \$1,124 (\$1,138 non) Barbara Payne 746-1964

Fall Color-North Santiam & Breitenbush Rivers

Date: Oct 8 (Thursday)

Leaders: Paul and Barbara Beard

Cost: \$48 (\$50 nonmembers) Mary Lee Cheadle 689-1085

Christmas Party at the Lodge

Date: Dec 3 (Thursday) 2–4 PM

Desserts and entertainment

Contact: Liz Reanier 687-1925

Cost: \$1 (at the door)

Bus trip information is also available on the Obsidians home page: www.obsidians.org

Contact information at: bustrips@obsidians.org
Sharon Cutsforth, Bus Committee Chair, 746-4929

Other Organizations Upcoming



**MOUNT PISGAH
ARBORETUM**

Mt. Pisgah Arboretum New Guide Orientation

Thu, March 12 or Tue, March 31, 6:30–8:00 PM

IN SPRING AND FALL OF EACH YEAR Mount Pisgah Arboretum offers a free training program for volunteers interested in becoming nature guides for elementary school children in our community. The goal of this program is to make the students' classroom science education come alive out on the trails, and reconnect them to the natural world. Orientation location: Wayne Morse Family Farm on Crest Dr. in Eugene. (Other trainings will be held at the Arboretum.)

To RSVP or for more details, contact Jenny Laxton, 747-1504 or education@mountpisgaharboretum.org

Early Spring Bird Walk

Sun, March 15, 8:00–10:30 AM

Join Nature Guides **Chris Roth and Julia Siporin** for another monthly bird walk intended for people with all levels of birding experience. We'll use vocalizations, habitat, and behavior clues for identification of our spring and year-round residents. Come discover the Arboretum's avian diversity. Please bring binoculars. Option to continue the walk until noon for those who are interested. Rain or shine. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center. \$5, members free.

Early Spring Wildflower Walk

Sat, March 21, 10 AM–12 PM

Join Arboretum Assistant Site Manager **August Jackson** for an engaging look at the Arboretum's early spring wildflowers. Learn the identification and natural history of up to 20 native wildflowers. Perfect for beginning and intermediate plant enthusiasts. Leave with a greater understanding and appreciation of the Willamette Valley's native flora, and learn the keys to identifying some of Oregon's most common plant families. Rain or shine. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center. \$5, members free.

The Art of Nature Photography

Sun, March 22 and 29, 1–3 PM

JOIN NATURE PHOTOGRAPHER **DAVE STONE** for this popular 2-day workshop. Learn to express your love for and connection to the natural world through photography. The workshop emphasizes composition, with a minimal discussion of the technical aspects of camera operation. Bring

your camera (point & shoot up to digital SLR), fully charged battery, empty memory card and a tripod if you have one. Members: \$25, nonmembers: \$30. Registration required. Call 747-3817 to register.

Nature's Slimy Creatures

Sat, March 28, 10 AM–12 PM

SLUGS, SNAILS, WORMS AND MORE! On this walk for families, learn about the lives of our slimy friends here at the Arboretum with Education Coordinator Jenny Laxton. These greatly underappreciated creatures are more fascinating than you've ever imagined. Finish the walk by creating some slime of your own to take home. Rain or shine. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center. Members \$5 per family, nonmembers \$8 per family.

Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah



**Friends of
Buford Park
& Mt. Pisgah**

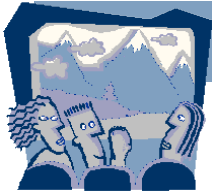
Saturday, March 14, 10 AM–12 PM

JOIN **CHAZ DUTOIT**, Friends of Buford Park Board President, for a morning tour of Turtle Flats, a 63-acre floodplain where the Coast Fork and Middle Fork of the Willamette River come together. The Friends are in the process of purchasing and restoring the area. Come see the old gravel ponds which now are home to river otter, western pond turtles, waterfowl and the willow wetlands where migratory songbirds flock. Turtle Flats is extremely important because it connects two key parcels that provide conservation and recreation benefits to our community—Glassbar Island, owned by Oregon State Parks, and Willamette Confluence Preserve, owned by The Nature Conservancy. You'll learn about the cooperative efforts of the Friends and these two organizations to transform their adjoining parcels into a vibrant community amenity where fish and wildlife thrive and where people can enjoy nature. The pace of this tour will be leisurely. However, to enjoy this tour, you must be able to walk comfortably over old gravel roads for approximately two miles and stand on your feet for two hours. As a reminder, no pets are allowed on the tour.

Registration is required. Directions will be provided with registration. Register here: <http://tinyurl.com/mgclzvu>

For more info contact: volunteer@bufordpark.org

At The Lodge



POTLUCK

Cycle Touring:

You Never Know What's Around The Corner

Friday March 27 at 6:30 PM

STORMY GIVEN AND TODD RICHARDS, two college graduates from Oregon State University, set out to explore their country after getting rid of everything they owned except what they would pack on their bicycles. Thinking that they had a degree in one hand, and life possibly figured out in the other, their route would include cycling over 20,000 miles in 1.5 years. Hotels and restaurants were not on the itinerary, but instead, gaining experiential learning and testing their desire to explore the United States which *was* within their budget.

Come listen to their story and how the trip turned out; it didn't end like a fairy tale, but that's because these two authors are not done writing!



March Potluck

Friday, March 27, 2015

Social hour 6 PM, 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.



ExploraTalkTuesday

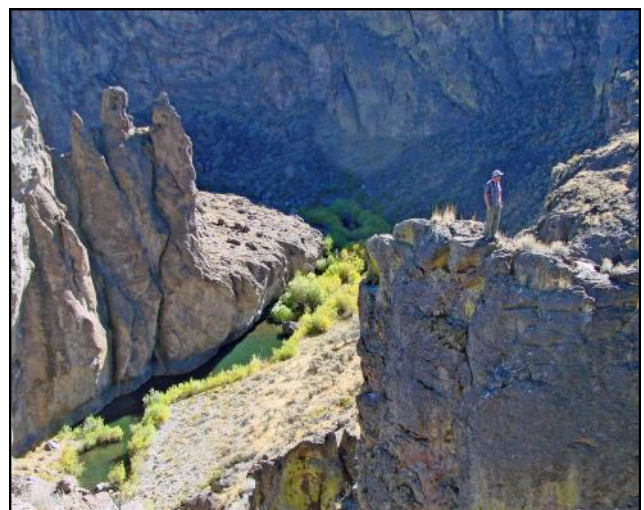
March 24 at 7 PM

Monitoring Unprotected Areas In Owyhee Country

MEMBER DAVE PREDEEK will discuss his experiences as a member of an Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) field trip last October to monitor wilderness characteristics in areas not yet protected with Wilderness status. The program will begin at 7 PM at the Lodge on Tuesday, March 24.

The ONDA has been at the forefront of the movement to put Oregon's largest remaining road-less areas under the protection of the Federal Wilderness System. The Owyhee River basin covers more than 11,000 square miles and is specified by the ONDA as a prize wilderness candidate. Dave's expedition studied and photographed abandoned roads, and checked for cattle and wildlife use of the area in an effort to establish its wilderness qualifications.

Joella Ewing



Upcoming

SOLVE Beach Cleanup

GRAB YOUR GRABBERS AND SIFTERS, reusable collecting bags and rubber gloves to join SOLVE's beach cleanup on Saturday, March 28 and celebrate 30 years of cleanup events. Your efforts will help protect people, wildlife and coastal economies, and keep our state beautiful. Last year 4,800 volunteers cleared over 48,000 pounds of debris from 45 cleanup sites along the Oregon Coast.

We'll leave here at 8 AM for our cleanup site at Washburn State Park just north of Florence. When we finish at 1 PM, those who wish will proceed to the Bridgewater Restaurant in Old Town Florence for one of their delicious lunches.

Joella Ewing, Trip leader

Leadership Orientation and Summer Trips Kick Off

April 22, 6:30 PM

FOR ALL SUMMER TRIP LEADERS AND FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT LEADING OBSIDIAN TRIPS, come to the Leadership Orientation and Summer Trips Kick-Off night at the Lodge. Start off with a power bar tasting and dessert. The program will include short presentations on leadership skills, how to use the computer online system, and first aid. A raffle for a door prize and Obsidian whistles will be held. Good deals on first aid kits will be offered.

Stay Current with the Website's *Coming Up* Calendar!

FOURTEEN TRIPS WERE ADDED after the February *Bulletin* went to press. Leaders have been watching the weather and adding trips where needed on the schedule. Don't be the disappointed person who laments, "I didn't know it was on the schedule or I would have signed up."

ANNOUNCEMENT TO ALL NEW MEMBERS

**Come to the Potluck:
March 27, 2015
Visit Concessions
Collect an Obsidian Whistle**

Obsidian Calendar

March

| | | | |
|--------|------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 11 Wed | Spencer Butte Hike | M Jacobsen | 343-8030 |
| 13 Fri | Water Treatment tours | Hike Hougardy | 505-7031 |
| 14 Sat | Sweet Creek Falls Hike | E Jacobsen | 343-8030 |
| 18 Wed | Spencer Butte Hike | M Jacobsen | 343-8030 |
| 22 Sun | Sand Mountain Xski | D Sayre | 515-9450 |
| 24 Tue | Wilderness Inventory | ExploraTalk | |
| 27 Fri | Campus River Loop Hike | E Jacobsen | 343-8030 |
| 27 Fri | Cycling Touring | Potluck | |
| 28 Sat | Trail Maintenance | M Bell | 503-884-8829 |
| 29 Sun | Hardesty Mountain Hike | D Smith | 357-5208 |

April

| | | | |
|--------|---------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1 Wed | Spencer Butte Hike | M Jacobsen | 343-8030 |
| 3 Fri | Ridgeline Hike | D Cooper | 868-5427 |
| 4 Sat | Findley Wildlife (Ahrens) Hike | E Hackett | 953-7046 |
| 6 Mon | Basic Mountaineering Course | Reiter | 521-8472 |
| 7 Tue | Old Town Bandon Birding | Bus Cutsforth | 746-4929 |
| 10 Fri | Mt. Pisgah Hike | M Lindstrom | 683-1409 |
| 11 Apr | Yachats to Walport Hike | M Jacobsen | 343-8030 |
| 12 Sun | Marys Peak Hike | M Smith | 357-5208 |
| 12 Sun | Talking Stones Hike | E Hackett | 953-7046 |
| 15 Wed | Spencer Butte Hike | M Jacobsen | 343-8030 |
| 18 Sat | Goodman Creek Hike | M Hackett | 953-7046 |
| 18 Sat | Angel's Rest Hike | M Pierce | 206-902-7326 |
| 19 Sun | Eagle Creek Hike | M Pierce | 206-902-7326 |
| 22 Wed | Spencer Butte Hike | M Jacobsen | 343-8030 |
| 22 Wed | Summer Leadership Class | Cooper | 344-8517 |
| 23 Thu | Bike/Birding Wetlands | E Montgomery | 688-7025 |
| 24 Fri | John Muir Trail | Potluck | |
| 24 Fri | Full Ridgeline Out /Back Hike | D Cooper | 868-5427 |
| 25 Sat | Brice Creek/ Trestle Falls Hike | D Wilken | 343-3080 |
| 26 Sun | Patterson Mountain Hike | E Hackett | 953-7046 |
| 28 Tue | Back Country Denali | ExplorTalk | |
| 29 Wed | Spencer Butte Hike | M Jacobsen | 343-8030 |

May

| | | | |
|--------|---------------------------|------------|--------------|
| 8 Fri | Deer Creek Center Ext Trp | Stockdale | 767-3668 |
| 12 Tue | A Day at the Zoo | Bus Phelps | 726-0118 |
| 15 Fri | Maikey Lopera | Potluck | |
| 27 Wed | Spencer Butte Trl Mnt | M Bell | 503-884-8829 |

June

| | | | |
|--------|---------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| 6 Sat | National Trails/Ridgeline | M Bell | 503-884-8829 |
| 20 Sat | Orcas Island, San Juans | Lindstrom | 683-1409 |
| 24 Wed | Spencer Butte Trl Mnt | M Bell | 503-884-8829 |
| 30 Tue | Wildwood Rec Area | Bus Beard | 994-2337 |

July

| | | | |
|--------|-----------------------|----------|--------------|
| 16 Thu | More Food IV | Bus West | 343-5492 |
| 29 Wed | Spencer Butte Trl Mnt | M Bell | 503-884-8829 |



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March 2015



Photo by Carla Cooper on the 2nd Anniversary of Janet's Wednesday Spencer Butte Hikes