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Dates to Remember

January 22	Potluck
January 30	Bulletin deadline
February 3	Board Meeting

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

President Shellie Robertson

Maryanne Reiter

SHELLIE ROBERTSON WAS BORN AND RAISED IN JACKSON, MS, a place where saying ‘it’s flatter than a pancake’ would be a vertical exaggeration. As a kid



she was always playing outside, and if she was anything like she is now, I imagine her being at the center of a gang of kids organizing all the games. Though her family was not real outdoorsy, they did take ‘camping trips’ to the Holiday Inn. Shellie grew up and eventually left Jackson to attend college at the University of West Florida where she studied computer science. The mascot of UWF is an Argonaut, a fitting symbol for a woman who would go on to wander all over the world.

In 1985 Shellie headed for Madison, WI to work at Electronic Data Systems. Wisconsin presented a huge challenge that Shellie never had growing up... snow. When she first was driving in the snow other drivers would swing wide to avoid her after seeing her Florida plates. Finally, with the help of a friend, she learned to drive on snow (and changed her license plates). In Wisconsin she learned to cross country ski, a sport not readily available in Florida. In 1986 she moved to Dallas, TX, then soon left there to go to Atlanta where she continued outdoor adventuring by taking up golf. Golf was one of the few outdoor sports you could do in Atlanta without immediately dying of heat exhaustion. In Atlanta she worked in computing for Time Warner, Coca Cola and finally for Oracle, a company she worked for until her recent retirement. It was also in Atlanta that she met her life partner in 1992.

For her 40th birthday in 2003, Shellie wanted to do something big, something memorable, so she decided to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro, a major step up from her previous outdoor adventures. But there was a problem, how do you train for elevation in Georgia? At most, north Georgia could give her 6,000 feet of elevation—not quite enough for the 19,341 foot peak she wanted to climb. So Shellie went to Colorado to cop some altitude. When she finally reached the top of Kilimanjaro she

(Continued on page 3)

Obituaries

Mary Jane Battin 1927-2015

MARY JANE JOINED THE OBSIDIANS IN 1986 and participated in a total of 36 activities. She was an avid canoeist and went on almost all of the Oregon rivers. She led ten trips for the club, two of which were canoe trips.

She is survived by an extended family.

Editor's Note: A complete obituary can be found in the Nov. 22 issue of The Register-Guard

Alvin 'Kess' Hottle 1928-2015

KESS WENT ON HIS FIRST OBSIDIAN TRIP IN 1994, and went on a total of 20 bus trips. His last trip with the club was in 2014.

He is survived by his wife, two sons and their families.

Editor's Note: A complete obituary can be found in the Nov. 15 issue of The Register-Guard.

Ardys Ringsdorf 1927-2016

ARDYS RINGSORF, A MEMBER SINCE 1986, passed away on January 1, 2016. Over the years Ardys went on lengthy day hikes, such as Green Lakes and Mt. Jefferson Park. She led seven hikes and attended eight summer camps. In 1989 Ardys went on the Alaska Inner Passage trip and would later go on six bus trips. Her last outing with the club was to Sauvie Island in March of last year.

Editor's Note: At the time of this writing no obituary has appeared in The Register-Guard.



Cowell, Cindy
Eugene

Fern, Jaquie
Eugene

King, Michael
Cottage Grove

Moll, Kana
Eugene

Wallace, Barbara
Springfield

Webb, Nancy
Springfield

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

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OBSIDIANS, INC

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405

Website: www.obsidians.org

Board of Directors

Shellie Robertson, President
Laurie Funkhouser, Vice President
David Cooper, Secretary
Stewart Hoeg, Treasurer

John Cooper, Sharon Cutsforth, Pat Esch,
Todd Larsen & Maryanne Reiter.

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

Committee Chairpersons

Byways By Bus..... Sharon Cutsforth
Climbs..... Maryanne Reiter
Concessions TBA
Conservation/SciEd.....John Pegg
Entertainment.. Lana Lindstrom/Judy Ness
Extended Trips..... Lana Lindstrom
Finance..... Stewart Hoeg
Librarian/Historian..... Lenore McManigal
Lodge Building Doug Nelson
Lodge Grounds John Jacobsen
Membership Laurie Funkhouser
Online Wayne Deeter
Publications Lou Maenz
Publicity..... Jan Jacobsen
Safety..... Pat Esch
Summer Camp John Jacobsen
Summer Trips John Cooper
Trail Maintenance Matt Bell
Winter Trips..... Anne Bonine

~OBSIDIAN Bulletin

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The Obsidian Bulletin

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Deadline

for February 2016 Bulletin

Saturday, January 30, 2016

November/December Assembly/Mailing Team

*Assembly & Mail Manager: Lou Maenz
Team: Tom Adamcyk, Sharon Cutsforth,
Clara Emlen, Janet Hall, YuamnHopkins
and Lenore McManigal.*

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*

2016 Officers and Committee Chairs

President:..... Shellie Robertson
Vice President: Laurie Funkhouser
Secretary: David Cooper
Treasurer:..... Stewart Hoeg

2016 Board Members

Matt Bell (thru 2016), Shellie Robertson (thru 2016), Sharon Cutsforth (thru 2017), John Cooper (thru 2017), Pat Esch (thru 2017), David Cooper (thru 2018), Todd Larsen (thru 2018), Maryanne Reiter (thru 2018).

2016 Committee Chairs: Bus Trips: Sharon Cutsforth, Climbs: Maryanne Reiter, Concessions: TBA, Conservation, Science and Education: John Pegg, Entertainment: Lana Lindstrom & Judy Ness, Extended Trips: Lana Lindstrom, Finance: Stewart Hoeg, Lodge Building: Doug Nelson, Lodge Grounds: John Jacobsen, Library/Historian: Lenore McManigal, Membership: Laurie Funkhouser, Online: Wayne Deeter, Publications: Lou Maenz, Publicity: Janet Jacobsen, Safety: Pat Esch, Summer Camp: John Jacobsen, Summer Trips: John Cooper, Trails: Matt Bell, and Winter Trips: Anne Bonine.

SPOTLIGHT ON NEW BOARD MEMBERS

MARYANNE REITER

MARYANNE HAS BEEN AN **OBSIDIAN FOR 15 YEARS** and a respected member of Eugene’s climbing community for even longer. Since joining the Obsidians in 2001, Maryanne has participated in and led numerous mountain and rock climbs as well as played an integral part for many years in the success of our annual Climb School. This year marks Maryanne’s second year as the Climbs Committee chair and she is already in full swing working hard to expand our climbing activities and skill offerings in 2016.

Dave Cooper

Dave Cooper joined the club in 2014 and received his 100 trip patch at the October Annual Meeting. He also received a special “Best One-Way Hike Award” for leading the 17.1-mile McKenzie/Santiam hike. He was just elected the Secretary of the Board and is on the Summer Trip, Trail Maintenance and Ad Hoc Membership Class Review committees. His wife, Carla, has many of her photographs in the *Bulletin* and the Gallery. Carla and Dave hope to have their granddaughter become a junior member this year.

Todd Larsen

Todd’s first outing was trail maintenance the summer of 2010. He became a regular participant in the monthly work parties and soon was a member of the committee. He is also a climb school graduate. For three seasons, Todd has led trail maintenance trips into the Three Sisters Wilderness limited areas. He works with Forest Service rangers to provide on-the-job-training and supervision for volunteers. Last July, he and Matt Bell installed 30 check dams in the upper area of Sunshine Meadow. The year before, he worked for five hours to cut out a large log that had fallen across the trail.

(Shellie continued from page 1)

pulled out a sacred item from her pocket—a bright orange golf ball that had belonged to her father who died in 2002. She contemplated leaving it on top, but being conscious of littering, changed her mind and brought it back with her.

After a few more years in Atlanta, the terrain of the south, unencumbered by topography, was not enough to keep her and so she moved west to be nearer the mountains. At first they were going to move to Breckenridge, CO, but decided to check out Eugene since they heard good things about it. Eugene had what they were looking for, mountains, an ocean, a small city, and of course the Obsidians, though she didn’t know it then. When Shellie arrived here she quickly went up the local mountains. On a climb of South Sister she met a friend of a friend and he got her interested in Eugene Mountain Rescue (EMR). But first she would need more climbing skills and the friend of the friend sug-

gested... you guessed it, the Obsidians Climb School.

In 2010 Shellie became involved with EMR as a way to expand her skill set and give back to the community and also attended Climb School to get more mountaineering skills. At the same time she became an Obsidian as a way to go on climbs and meet more climbers. She has been a great resource for Climb School with her climbing skills and her superhuman organizational powers. She has also helped modernize the Obsidians by starting a Facebook page for the group in 2013 and has been an Obsidian Board member since 2014. Her vision for her upcoming presidency is to work on attracting youth to the group as well as expand outdoor offerings and bring in new leaders. Having been on several mountains and ridiculously long runs with Shellie, I can attest she is strong, driven, and has a devilish sense of humor—the perfect combination for a president.

December Board Notes

By Susan Wanser

President Matt Bell called the meeting to order. Other Board members present: John Cooper, Sharon Cutsforth, Pat Esch, Laurie Funkhouser, Shellie Robertson, Susan Wanser and Elle Weaver. Also present were: Carla Cooper, Dave Cooper, Wayne Deeter, Kathy Hoeg, Stewart Hoeg, John Jacobsen, Todd Larsen, Lana Lindstrom, Doug Nelson, Maryanne Reiter, and Chris Stockdale.

The Board approved the minutes of the November 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): There were 170 scheduled Summer Trips. Of these 143 were completed. Participants totaled 1066 members and 185 nonmembers.

Winter Trips (Anne Bonine): Winter trips hosted nine hiking trips in November. Seventy-eight members and two nonmembers participated. Hoping for snow!

Climbs (Maryanne Reiter): The Climbs Committee held a 2016 kickoff meeting on Nov 12. We started planning for the 2016 Climb School as well as finishing up 2015 business such as finalizing gear purchases.

Trail Maintenance (Matthew Bell): There was one outing this past month in Spencer Butte Park cleaning the main trailhead, cleaning drainage and picking up litter along the Main Trail. There were ten participants: eight members and two nonmembers.

Summer Camp (John Jacobsen): A Summer Camp Committee meeting was held November 10 for planning the 2016 Summer Camp.

Extended Trips (Chris Stockdale): The Committee held its annual meeting on November 23. It was agreed that we would increase reimbursement for motel costs for scouting trips. The Committee will be actively recruiting new leaders for the 2016 season and will be mentoring any such leader if requested. The ET Leader's Manual is being revised and should be available in early December.

Publications (Lou Maenz): 208 November *Bulletins* were mailed.

Entertainment (Susan Wanser): We had 54 attendees at the November potluck.

Membership (Elle Weaver): Currently there are 480 total members. Many thanks to Bill Montgomery and Beki Ries-Montgomery who renewed as Life Members. As of December 1, approximately 84% of our members have renewed or have replied that they (25) are not renewing. Several who have renewed have written notes thanking all the volunteers who help make the Club run and offer a variety of trips.

Concessions (Laurie Funkhouser): Concessions was present at the November potluck with a wonderfully decorated tree promoting stocking stuffers!

Online (Wayne Deeter): There are now 6,277 photos in 429 albums in the Obsidian photo gallery. From our Facebook Page maintainers (Shellie and Marci): We now have 437 people following the Obsidian page.

Finance (Stewart Hoeg): The finance committee met on November 18 and prepared the preliminary budget for 2016 to be presented at the December board meeting.

Library/Historian (Lenore McManigal): All of the hikes, trips etc. from the November Bulletin have been recorded.

Lodge Building (Doug Nelson): One Lodge rental agreement for a private party on Dec 12. Thanks to John Jacobsen for obtaining and installing new exterior lighting fixtures (motion sensitive) on the building's north east corner next to the steps.

Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): With the help of Jim Whitfield, we have cleared out leaves, needles and debris from the drives and parking areas around the Lodge grounds a couple times this month – a big job every fall. Clara Emlen came by on her own a couple times to clear ivy/blackberries and other cleanup chores. Thanks to Jim and Clara.

Ad Hoc Membership (Laurie Funkhouser): Laurie is seeking Board approval for David Cooper, Janet Jacobsen and John Jacobsen as members of the Ad Hoc Membership Committee, joining Sharon Cutsforth and Laurie Funkhouser on this committee.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board approved all applicants for new membership.

The Board approved David Cooper, Janet Jacobsen and John Jacobsen as new members of the Ad Hoc Membership Committee.

Laurie Funkhouser was approved as a member of the Summer Camp Committee.

The Board approved the following committee chairs: By-Ways by Bus: Sharon Cutsforth, Climbs: Maryanne Reiter, Conservation, Science and Education: John Pegg, Entertainment: Lana Lindstrom and Judy Ness, Extended Trips: Lana Lindstrom, Finance: Stewart Hoeg, Lodge Building: Doug Nelson, Lodge Grounds: John Jacobsen, Librarian/Historian: Lenore McManigal, Membership: Laurie Funkhouser, Online: Wayne Deeter, Publications: Lou Maenz, Publicity: Janet Jacobsen, Safety: Pat Esch, Summer Camp: John Jacobsen, Summer Trips: John Cooper, Trail Maintenance: Matt Bell and Winter Trips: Anne Bonine.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Stewart Hoeg presented the preliminary 2016 budget. The Board will vote on the budget at the January meeting. Committee Chairs will present their committee members for approval at the January Board meeting. The chairs are encouraged to reach out to new members and others who are not currently on the committee to enhance participation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

January Board Notes

January 6, 2016

By Dave Cooper

President Shellie Robertson called the meeting to order. Other Board members present: Matt Bell, David Cooper, John Cooper, Sharon Cutsforth, Pat Esch, Laurie Funkhouser, Todd Larsen, and Maryanne Reiter. Also present were: Wayne Deeter, Kathy Hoeg, Stewart Hoeg, Janet Jacobsen, John Jacobsen, Lana Lindstrom, Lenore McManigal, Doug Nelson, John Pegg and Carla Cooper.

The Board approved the minutes of the December 2015 meeting.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Action items review

- Doug Nelson will get quotes on lodge plumbing upgrades and adding a grounds sprinkler system.
- John Jacobsen will be getting bids this summer on dealing with dead and dying trees on the lodge grounds.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Summer Trips (John Cooper): Proposed members are Janet Jacobsen, Mike Smith, David Cooper, Lana Lindstrom, Judy Terry, Lyndell Wilken, Joella Ewing, Jan Anselmo, Kathy Randall, and John Cooper (chair).

Winter Trips (Anne Bonine): December winter trips: 16 hikes & two xski trips--193 members, 18 nonmembers. Proposed members are John Cooper, Judy Terry, Elle Weaver and Anne Bonine (chair).

Climbs (Maryanne Reiter): Proposed members are Wayne Deeter, Alex Ellis, Brian Hamilton, Marci Hansen, Danni Harris, Marge Huseman, Juli McGlinsky, Doug Nelson, Shellie Robertson, Dalen Willhite, and Maryanne Reiter (chair).

Trail Maintenance (Matthew Bell): Quite uncharacteristically there were not one but two outings in December. We cleaned the long causeway on Amazon Headwaters trail, improved drainage and cleaned bridges along the Ridgeline Trail. Proposed committee members are Dan Gilmore, Clara Emlen, Todd Larsen, Dave Cooper and Matt Bell (chair).

Highways and Byways By Bus (Sharon Cutsforth): Bus trips had an enjoyable and successful year in 2015, our finances are well in the black and we look forward to more good trips in 2016. We ask Board approval for the following people on the Bus Committee: Tom Adamcyk, Rick Ahrens, Ethel Allen, Bill Arthur, Barbara Beard, Paul Beard, Mary Lee Cheadle, Ray Jensen, Verna Kocken, Lenore McManigal, Barbara Payne, Don Payne, Judy Phelps, Liz Reanier, Janet Spielman, Richard Spielman, Mary Ellen West, and Sharon Cutsforth (chair).

Summer Camp (John Jacobsen): Preparations for Camp Robertson are ongoing. We expect to open the camp for online signup in March. Summer Camp Committee members have previously been approved by the Board.

Extended Trips (Lana Lindstrom): Proposed members are Jim Duncan, Pat Esch, Chris Shuraleff, Chris Stockdale, Nancy Whitfield, and Lana Lindstrom (chair).

Conservation, Science, & Education (John Pegg): Proposed

members are Dave Predeek, Joella Ewing, Mike Smith, Shirley Cameron, David Strutin, Brian and Liz Vollmer-Buhl, Roy McCormick, and John Pegg (chair).

Entertainment (Judy Ness & Lana Lindstrom): Proposed members are Joella Ewing, Laurie Funkhouser, Judy Garwood, Kathy Hoeg, Yuan Hopkins, Mary Livingston, Meg Stewart-Smith, Susan Wanser, and Judy Ness and Lana Lindstrom (co-chairs).

Membership (Laurie Funkhouser): Proposed members are Judy Sinnott, Diane Schechter, Roberta Chord, John Jacobsen, Carla Lyon, Betty Grant, and Laurie Funkhouser (chair).

Publicity (Janet Jacobsen): Proposed members are Carla Cooper, Elizabeth Glover, Mary Hamilton, Brian Hamilton, Mark Hougardy, John Jacobsen, Darko Sojak, Jorry Rolfe and Janet Jacobsen (chair).

Concessions: (A chair is needed) Proposed members are Patricia MacAfee, Pat Bean, Keiko Bryan, Darlene Mancuso, Laurie Funkhouser, and Janet Hall.

Online (Wayne Deeter): There are now 6,459 photos in 4,445 albums in the Obsidian photo gallery. Proposed Online Committee members for 2016 are: Jan Anselmo, Marci Hansen, John Jacobsen, Shellie Robertson, and Wayne Deeter (chair).

Finance (Stewart Hoeg): Proposed members are Barb Bruns, Dan Christensen, Don Doerr, Dave Hawkins, Lana Lindstrom, and Stewart Hoeg.

Library/Historian (Lenore McManigal): Proposed committee is Janet Jacobsen and Lenore McManigal (chair).

Lodge Building (Doug Nelson): Proposed members for the Lodge Committee are Brian Hamilton, John Jacobsen, Cat Nelson, and Doug Nelson (chair).

Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): I request Board approval for the following Grounds Committee for 2016: Clara Emlen, Doug Nelson, and Jim Whitfield.

Safety (Pat Esch): Proposed members are Anne Bonine, Winter Trips rep. Sharon Cutsforth, Bus Trips rep. Maryanne Reiter, Climbs rep. Judy Terry, Summer Trips rep. Lyndell Wilken, At Large rep. Pat Esch, (chair)

Ad Hoc Memberships Class Review (Laurie Funkhouser): A meeting was held at the Lodge. A general agreement for the revisions to the Constitution was reached. No follow-up meeting currently is scheduled but anticipate meeting before the February Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board approved the 2016 budget.

All Committee reports were approved.

All Committee membership proposals for 2016 were approved.

OPEN DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Currently looking for someone to chair the Concessions Committee. Contact Laurie if interested.
- Discussed the Committee Annual Summary Reports as to their purpose, timing and scope. Held as an action item.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Board meeting will be on Feb 3. at 6:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned for food at East 19th Street Cafe.

Trip Reports & Other Activities



Trail Maintenance

Spencer Butte
October 31, 2015
Leader: Matthew Bell
Photographer: Pat Soussan
Trail Maintenance: 2 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

FOR THIS MONTH'S OUTING we continued to work on the Amazon Headwaters Trail. Our group of unflappable volunteers showed up ready to work in spite of the threats of rain and wind gusts. We were rewarded with relatively mild weather for the duration of our outing. Roberta, Autumn, and Clara painted the kiosk to apply an even coat over its entirety



because someone had done a hasty job of painting over some graffiti. The rest of our group hiked down the trail to start the necessary but daunting task of cleaning the wooden bridges and causeways. After some brief instructions we broke into three groups of three and began the laborious task of using snake-tongued weeders to clean the gaps between the board, using shovels and putty knives to scrape off moss, and brooms to sweep off gravel, leaves and mud. We were able to completely clean all but the longest causeway. Cleaning it remains to be tackled another day. Members: Matthew Bell, Roberta Chord, David Cooper, Autumn Edwards, Clara Emlen, Laurie Funkhouser, Dan Gilmore, Janet Jacobsen, Todd Larsen, David Lodeesen, Dave Predeck, Pat Soussan.

Spencer Butte
November 28, 2015
Leader: Matthew Bell
Photographer: Pat Soussan
Trail Maintenance: 2 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

DUE TO THE COLD WEATHER, our project for the month changed from planting salvaged plants on the summit to independently clearing drainage features (culverts, ditches, and roll-

ing drain dips) along the Main Trail. Clara Emlen immaculately cleaned the trailhead stairs. The rest of our group of Thanksgiving-surviving trail work volunteers met at the main parking lot



and hiked up to the summit clearing drainage along the way. At the sunny but cold and breezy summit, we enjoyed the views of snow-covered Cascade peaks before hiking back down picking up garbage along the way and clearing any drainage we had skipped on the way up. Members: Matthew Bell, Oliver Bell, David Cooper, Clara Emlen, Dan Gilmore, David Lodeesen, Dave Predeck, Pat Soussan. Nonmembers: Cindy Cowell, Derek Linoberg.



Climbs

Broken Top (Smith Rock)
October 3, 2015
Leader: Danneille Harris
Climb: 17 miles, 3,900 ft. (Difficult)

THE WAY-YUCKIER-THAN-FORECAST WEATHER started before we even left the Green Lakes trailhead with blowing snow. We reached our planned base camp on the west flank of Broken Top to find one-plus inches of snow on the ground with more falling and 35-40 mph winds. Given the weather and low summit odds, our group voted to put our packs right back on and hike back to the cars. We then traveled to Smith Rock where we enjoyed a good night's sleep and a fantastic day of rock climbing on Sunday. Not quite what we had planned, but nice people willing to be flexible made this *Un-Broken Top* trip a great success. Members: Ted Glick, Danneille Harris. Nonmembers: Jason Arnold-Burke, Kana Moll, Kellie Green.



Ski Trips

Midnight Lake

December 19, 2015

Leader: John Cooper

Xski: 6 miles, 600 ft. (Moderate)

THERE WAS PLENTY OF SOFT WHITE SNOW to make for a good day of skiing. Before we knew it, we were at Midnight Lake, where we took a break. Then on to Bechtel Shelter for lunch. Even the ski out on the road was enjoyable. It was great to be out with good company away from the hubbub of Christmas. Members: John Cooper, Sue Wolling. Nonmembers: Marcia Karnesky, Jacquie Fern.



Backpacks

Broken Top via Tam McArthur Rim

September 5, 2015

Leader & photographer: Becky Lipton

Backpack: 12 miles, 1,800 ft. (Difficult)

FALL BACKPACK TRIPS just seem to encounter so much more adventure than peak season trips. The weather is often changing, and a storm front had been breaking the drought all week, leaving the Three Sisters and Broken Top glistening with new powder and low drifts of snow along the trail and on the



road up to the Tam McArthur Rim trailhead. Adventures began very soon, as the group became separated less than an hour up the trail, when the leader mistook a side trail for the primary trail, and the last half of the group walked right past the first half who were enthralled with taking pictures of the view of those spar-

ling peaks. It only took two hours of our own variety of search and rescue to re-connect the two halves of our group, after both halves deciding that we were likely going to have two separate weekend outings. I guess we would have needed to write two trip reports for that. An hour after regrouping, we left the safety of Tam McArthur Rim trail and began picking our way down steep and trail-less boulder fields, towards our base camp destination, a small, hidden lake with a lovely view of Broken Top and South Sister. One person fell while maneuvering through that rough country. After band-aides were placed (uh-oh incident report needed?), we were on our way again. The second day we discovered that the lovely lake that we had been drinking from, was full of dead salamanders and dead fish (oh-no a second incident report?), likely due to the heat from our excessively hot summer depleting the oxygen from the shallow water. The only thing to do at that point was to pray that our water filters would protect us from harm and then prepare for our day hike up the north flank of Broken Top. After hours of picking our way up and through boulder fields, topping one false summit after another, we finally arrived at the ridge crest with spectacular close-up views of the brilliant red and magenta volcanic walls of Broken Top, overlooking glaciers and their lakes, the Three Sisters and looking down the valley to Park Meadow. What a reward for our efforts! Mostly we had sun overhead, but heavy banks of storm clouds continued to threaten from the west all weekend, occasionally spilling over the high peaks and milling overhead, making us grateful for our warm clothing. Temperatures dropped into the high 20s both nights, creating heavy ice along the edges of our lake and in our water bottles. On the third day, we packed up and found our way once again up boulder fields through trial and error, then returned via Tam McArthur Rim trail to our cars. What an adventure! And well away from the crowds. Members: Mari Baldwin, Becky Lipton, Laura Osinga, Kathy Randall, Tom Rundle.

Lost Coast-Sinkyone Wilderness

October 4, 2015

Leader: Scott Hovis

Photographer: David Lodeeson

Backpack: 25 miles, 500 ft. (Difficult)

SIX OBSIDIANS LEFT EUGENE AT 7:00 AM on Sunday for the long 365-mile drive to the Lost Coast Sinkyone Wilderness in Northern California. Ten hours later we would meet another nonmember (John Gaiser), who drove up from the San Francisco area, at the visitor center where we parked our vehicles for our week-long backpack, camping, and hiking adventure. The drive was uneventful except for the final three or four miles on a poorly maintained road to the visitor center. Luckily, all our vehicles were equipped with 4WD because this final stretch of road is steep, rut-filled, narrow, rocky, and not suitable for the average sedan. This probably explains why this destination is so under-utilized and not your typical tourist site. Since we had less than two hours before sunset, we quickly donned our backpacks, and the eight of us hiked north on the Lost Coast Trail about a mile to Jones Beach Camp, where we would set up our basecamp for the next two nights. Everything went smoothly as we pitched our tents, filtered water from a nearby creek, made our evening meals, and hung our food and garbage out of the reach of possible bears. We enjoyed a campfire for a while, but retired early under a clear starlit sky as the ocean waves crashed against the rocks below the cliff. Our first morning, we awoke to some fog that would burn off shortly. After breakfast, we grabbed our day-packs or lightened our backpacks and hiked north to see what this deserted coast had to offer. We hiked the Lost Coast Trail on

the cliffs, which were a couple of hundred feet above the beach for a couple of miles then followed a smaller trail east that took us up a creek canyon. The trail got rougher and fainter as we traveled and we soon realized that we were on nothing more than a game trail (probably an elk trail). We backtracked, crossed the creek on rocks and found a trail up to a ridgeline that overlooked the ocean from five or six hundred feet above. As we climbed, we spooked a black-tailed doe and fawn. We stopped here for about an hour as we ate lunch and meditated on this quiet vista. After we had become fully attuned to the nature around us, we quietly descended this blissful perch and started our trek back to camp. About halfway back, Tom, who was leading, signaled us to stop. On the trail ahead was a mature elk cow that gave out a shriek-like call when she saw us. Almost immediately, a loud bellowing bugle was heard and a very large bull elk came crashing through the brush from the steep hill to our side. The bull elk stood on the trail in front of us and we all panicked. He was huge, likely over 1,000 pounds with an intimidating full antler rack. What could we do if he charged us? He bugled again and soon about a dozen or more elk cows with their young crossed the trail before us to the meadow below. We stayed frozen in our tracks as we watched this unfold before us. The bull elk climbed to higher ground just above us and watched us closely as we very quietly moved along the trail to de-escalate this encounter. What an experience! On we hiked to our basecamp, where we enjoyed the last of the afternoon sun and got ready for evening. The night stars were in full splendor again as our campfire roared. We enjoyed listening to Nikki as she explained the many constellations above. Nikki is an avid follower of astronomy and a member of the Eugene Astronomical Society. Tuesday we awoke to engage in our typical morning ritual. We then packed up our tents and gear for a four-mile hike to our next basecamp at Bear Harbor. We passed by the visitor center, where our vehicles were parked and loaded up with more food and unloaded some gear we had thought we might need, but didn't. The campsite at Bear Harbor is below the cliffs and only 75 yards off the beach. The campsites were smaller, so we had to set up four tents in one place and the other four tents about 100 yards away. We had a nearby creek to filter water from and there was an outhouse about 150 yards away. We spent the remainder of the day exploring the beach and ridge-line over Bear Harbor. That evening brought a spectacular sunset, which we followed up with a beach campfire. Wednesday morning, we headed out for a long nine-mile out and back hike further south to Wheeler Camp and Wheeler Beach. The trail was up and down with lots of elevation gain. Part of the trail was through an ancient Redwood grove with these trees often seven or eight feet in diameter. At Wheeler Camp and Beach, we explored the rock formation and caves that are revealed at low tide. Tom is a graduate-level geologist and gave us a detailed lesson on the intricate and complicated formations in this coastal region. We also explored the site of an old homestead that must have been 100 years old. We trekked back to Bear Harbor, kind of beat and tired, and John, Nikki, and Dave decided to take a quick swim in the ocean. Later we made our dinner, enjoyed another fantastic sunset, and gathered for a group campfire. Thursday was a kickback day for all of us. We explored the area alone or in small groups. We walked miles of beach at low tide, climbed the nearby ridge-lines, or just hung out at camp and napped or read. Later in the afternoon, another herd of elk started cruising through our campsite. This herd was very docile and the bull elk was not threatening at all. In fact, we had to shoo them away from our tents because they were grazing right next to them. Scott led a few of us up the trail to gather firewood and came across a cougar that quickly bolted up a steep hill and was gone in a flash. Soon it was dinner time

followed by a fine group campfire to put a lid on another day in this remote wilderness. Friday we slept in and had a lazy



breakfast before packing up and hiking back to the visitor center. We reached the visitor center in the early afternoon and set up camp there in the barn. Five of us would sleep in the barn for our final night, while three of us pitched our tents at a nearby site. We spent the afternoon visiting the small museum at the visitor center and chatting with the staff volunteer, who lives out here off the grid. This region of the California coast has an interesting history. In the mid-1800s, sailing ships would anchor in the natural harbors and go ashore to harvest tannin oak bark for the leather tanneries in San Francisco. Later, the timber and lumber industries sprang up and after the 1906 earthquake in San Francisco, redwood was extensively harvested along this coast to rebuild the city. Conservation efforts starting in the 1960s eventually began to protect much of this area and the state took over control shortly after turning this into a wilderness preserve. Later in the day, trip leader Scott led John, Dave, and the other Scott down a steep cliff using ropes to get to an isolated section of beach. They then walked a couple of miles of narrow beach to find an easier way back up the cliffs as the tide started coming in. Beach access is not very easy along most of the Lost Coast. That evening we had our final campfire and also an award ceremony to give Tom Rundle his Obsidian 100 patch for completing 100 hikes. Saturday morning we packed up, said our goodbyes to John as he departed for San Francisco, and the rest of us started the long trip back to Eugene. I want to say that we had excellent weather for early October here on the coast. Most days were sunny with temps rising to about 70 and nights were between 50 and 55 degrees. There was no rain, but some mornings the fog was very wet until it burned off. Firewood was a little scarce, water was plentiful in creeks, even though this is the driest time of year just before the rainy season sets in. The ocean is cold for swimming and you wouldn't want to stay in very long. Food needs to be in a bear canister or hung high from a tree branch because there are black bear here. We never saw a bear, but did come across fresh bear tracks on the beach on two occasions. This is a fee area and you must self-pay in a lock box, so you will need cash., There is nothing to buy out here so you need to bring all your supplies and you must haul out all of your garbage. Most campsites have a primitive outhouse that actually has toilet paper. Campsites cannot be reserved, it's strictly first come, first serve. There are only a few total campsites in the whole area, but we only saw two other people camping the whole time we were here. There is no phone or cellphone coverage here. It's highly advisable to have a 4WD vehicle if you plan to come here and the road in is very iffy at best. Members: Keiko Bryan, Nikki Frank, Scott Hovis, David Lodeesen, Tom Rundle, Fumiyo Tao. Nonmembers: Scott Elstad.



Hikes

Jefferson Park and Beyond

September 27, 2015

Leader: Becky Lipton

Photographer: Ernst Schwintzer

Hike: 15 miles, 2,600 ft. (Difficult)

EIGHT EAGER HIKERS HIT THE TRAIL with high energy and high expectations and completed the climb to the PCT ridge above Jeff Park in a speedy three hours. The weather was



perfect, cool and sunny. The lakes were blue, the ground cover flaming red in the lakes basin. We all enjoyed the views of Mt. Jefferson and Mt. Hood from the ridge before descending. Members: Lubos Hubata-Vacek, Becky Lipton, David Lodeesen, Ernst Schwintzer, David Strutin, Elle Weaver. Nonmembers: Roy Ward, Catherine Poulsen.

Amazon Headwaters/Spencer Butte October 28, 2015 through December 23, 2015

Leaders: Janet Jacobsen, David Cooper

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

THE HIKERS BY DATE WERE: **OCTOBER 28**—Members: Jennifer Baer, David Cooper, Hilary Fisher, Barbara Gunther, Janet Jacobsen, David Lodeesen, Marlene Malone, Caroline Moore, Art Skach, Mike Smith, Tommy Young. Nonmembers: Darian Morray. **NOVEMBER 4**—Members: Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Hilary Fisher, Barbara Gunther, Janet Jacobsen, Lana Lindstrom, David Lodeesen, Marlene Malone, Caroline Moore, Darian Morray, Anita Pierce, Tom Rundle, Art Skach, Mike Smith, Nancy Whitfield. Nonmembers: Michael King, Steven Koester. **NOVEMBER 11**—Members: Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Hilary Fisher, Barbara Gunther, Janet Jacobsen, David Lodeesen, Carla Lyon, Toresa Martell, Caroline Moore, Mike Smith, Nancy Whitfield, Tommy Young. Nonmembers: Nancy Webb, Kelly Casad. **NOVEMBER 18**—Members: David Cooper, Hilary Fisher, Barbara Gunther, Janet Jacobsen, Lana Lindstrom, David Lodeesen, Carla Lyon, Marlene Malone, Caroline Moore, David Reinhard, Art Skach, Mike Smith, Nancy Whitfield, Tommy Young. Nonmembers: Michael King. **NOVEMBER 25**—Members: Carla Cooper, David Cooper, David

Lodeesen, Caroline Moore, Tom Rundle, Mike Smith. **DECEMBER 2**—Members: Mari Baldwin, David Cooper, Barbara Gunther, Janet Jacobsen, Lana Lindstrom, David Lodeesen, Marlene Malone, Caroline Moore, Darian Morray, David Reinhard, Tom Rundle, Art Skach, Mike Smith, Nancy Whitfield, Tommy Young. Nonmembers: Reed DeGolier. **DECEMBER 9**—Members: David Cooper, Barbara Gunther, Janet Jacobsen, Lana Lindstrom, David Lodeesen, Marlene Malone, Caroline Moore, Darian Morray, Jorry Rolfe, Tom Rundle, Mike Smith. Nonmembers: Michael King, Steven Koester. **DECEMBER 16**—Members: Mari Baldwin, David Cooper, Barbara Gunther, Janet Jacobsen, David Lodeesen, Carla Lyon, Marlene Malone, Caroline Moore, David Reinhard, Jorry Rolfe, Tom Rundle, Mike Smith, Tommy Young. Nonmembers: Blue Wesley. **DECEMBER 23**—Members: David Cooper, Barbara Gunther, Christiane Hougardy, Janet Jacobsen, Lana Lindstrom, David Lodeesen, Carla Lyon, Marlene Malone, Caroline Moore, Jorry Rolfe, David Strutin, Fumiyo Tao, Tommy Young. Nonmembers: Nancy Hoecker.

Springfield Mural Walk

October 30, 2015

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Photographer: Carla Cooper

Hike: 4 miles, 0 ft. (Easy)

UMBRELLAS SOON DISAPPEARED after we started walking from Dorris Ranch to downtown Springfield. We stopped at Cemetery Park on our way to the Springfield Depot Visitor



Information Center to watch a short video of how the Homer Simpson mural was made. Walking along the downtown streets, made more festive with Halloween costumes, we discovered one mural after another including our favorites: Ken Kesey, Oregon Trail, and the Moderns. We wandered through the City Hall and the Emerald Art Center. Springfield resident Evelyn Nagy took us on a quick tour of the historic district before we had a leisurely lunch at Planktown. We didn't have enough time to have a coffee and muffin break at the 100 Mile Bakery in The Sprout or

to check out the Elvis impersonator at Addi's Diner. We were back at our cars around 1:15. Members: Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Hilary Fisher, Janet Jacobsen, David Lodeesen, Marlene Malone, Evelyn Nagy, Anita Pierce, Leslie Wright, Tommy Young. Nonmembers: Charles Wright, Randall Klopp.

Crescent Mountain

November 1, 2015

Leader: Mike Smith

Hike: 10 miles, 2,200 ft. (Moderate)

WELL, THIS WAS AN INTERESTING DAY. We had a forecast of showers following the rain Saturday night. I was concerned more about the wind we might have, but five of us set out. With all our rain gear on we became quite warm after the climb out of Maude Creek. It was raining steadily with streams in the trail. As we broke out into the first small meadow, I began wondering if we would complete the whole hike, or if any of us really wanted to. While waiting for others, Art Skach, who had been in front, came back and said it was snowing further up the trail. We kept going, saw the snow, and then took one last break in the trees, as the trail switch-backed up through the first big meadow. The wind was strong through the trees. I considered that 800 feet higher, the wind would be stronger. Plus, we were all wet—still warm, but all wet, and we would be completely exposed the last mile and a half to the top. Nobody objected to the idea that perhaps we ought to turn around and return. It was a good move. We had a nice hike and a good workout. Art has Crescent Mountain moved to his bucket list. The author is more chastened about weather in Oregon's high country (showers, steady rain, 15 - 35 mph winds, treating rain gear means treating the bottoms as well as the top, having lunch is a great way to get colder, and the top of the mountain will still be there next time we try). Final note: a pair of young women drove up in a large Chevy and announced they were going to the top. We told them they might have difficulty, but they were bound and determined to have an adventure. One had sneakers and no boots, figuring that plastic bags would be enough. They weren't about to be dissuaded by such things as running water and small ponds in the trail, so we wished them well and left. Members: Janet Jacobsen, David Lodeesen, Art Skach, Mike Smith, David Strutin.

Ridgeline Trail

November 7, 2015

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 6.2 miles, 900 ft. (Moderate)

THE LUMINOUS YELLOW FALL FOLIAGE OVERHEAD contrasted with the large fading leaves on the trail. With the rain holding off, we had unexpected pleasant weather for our two-hour hike. Thanks to the six drivers who made the car shuttle work flawlessly. Members: Keiko Bryan, David Cooper, May Fogg, David Hawkins, Janet Jacobsen, Jonathan Jost, David Lodeesen, Marlene Malone, Darian Morray, Mike Smith, Lynn Stearney, David Strutin. Nonmembers: Karen Morray.

Ribbon Trail/ Hendricks Park

November 17, 2015

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 4.5 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

THE FIRST STOP WAS THE OBSIDIAN LODGE where we spent 15 minutes attaching *return* labels on the books in the new book-

shelf. After completing the Ribbon Trail loop, and since it was a pleasant fall morning, we explored the Hendricks Park trails including Oak Knoll. Total time was 2.5 hours. Members: Jane Hackett, Janet Jacobsen, David Lodeesen, Ruth Romoser.

Larison Rock

November 20, 2015

Leader: Mike Smith

Photographer: David Lodeesen

Hike: 8.6 miles, 2,400 ft. (Difficult)

THIS WAS A NICE WAY TO END THE FIRST 25 TRIPS I HAVE LED. We got a good start and were at the trailhead by 9:00 on a partly foggy day. A lot of water was flowing in the Middle Fork, and it was good to see streams on the trail flowing as well. We saw where the *Disciples of Dirt* had used log poles that had been stacked back a year ago. There is a series of hairpin turns for bikes, mild switchbacks for hikers, and we got to Larison Rock in just under two hours. The distance from the upper road to the rock is 200 yards as the crow flies, but a lot longer on the



ground. We saw plenty of fog with a few breaks below us, but warm sunshine above us. After lunch, we started down, everybody noticing how much colder it seemed to be. This is a great hike, and with a good group—a pleasant way to spend the day. It isn't far from Eugene, and it's a fine workout, too. Members: David Cooper, Janet Jacobsen, Daphne James, Lana Lindstrom, David Lodeesen, Darian Morray, Tom Rundle, Randy Sinnott, Mike Smith, David Strutin. Nonmembers: Steven Koester.

Dorris Ranch

November 21, 2015

Leader: Jane Hackett

Hike: 8 miles, 0 ft. (Easy)

THREE SIGNED UP FOR THIS HIKE and three more volunteered and showed up at the trailhead. Foggy and cold at the start, the Middle Fork was moving fast. I was surprised at the number of families, pets, runners and bikers that were using this path. Holger saw a couple of hunters with shotguns on an island in the middle of the river. I thought that was strange considering how close it was to the trail. On the way back, the fog lifted and beautiful bright sunshine and blue sky appeared along with three or four bangs from the shotgun. Members: May Fogg, Jane Hackett, Janet Jacobsen, Holger Krentz, Becky Lipton, David Lodeesen.

Turkey Trimming

November 27, 2015

Leader: Lana Lindstrom

Hike: 7.5 miles, 750 ft. (Moderate)

IT WAS A VERY BRISK MORNING, 25 degrees at 9:30, and not a cloud in the sky. The first hill was just minutes away and participants were quickly shedding layers of clothes. The hoar frost outlining leaves was just stunning, and fortunately, the streets were not icy. We walked up and down the South Hills in twos and threes and traded walking partners periodically. The drawback to this hike is the lack of bathroom facilities, but this year, there were two *Bucks* along the way which were much appreciated! We were back to the cars in 3.5 hours—a good workout, particularly for those of us who had overindulged the previous day! Members: Carla Cooper, David Cooper, David Hawkins, Yuan Hopkins, Richard Hughes, Ruthy Kanagy, Holger Krentz, Lana Lindstrom, David Lodeesen, David Reinhard, Tom Rundle, Diane Schechter, Chris Shuraleff, Mike Smith, Lyndell Wilken.

Ash Swale Shelter

November 29, 2015

Leader: David Cooper

Photographer: David Lodeeson

Hike: 14 miles, 2,400 ft. (Difficult)

BRRR! A COLD, DRY PERIOD GAVE US A BEAUTIFUL FROSTY HIKE. With morning lows in town staying about 20 for several



days, we ventured to a little higher elevation to tramp up icy trails. Many have experienced this trail when it was wet and muddy. Today the trail was in good shape despite a few slippery, icy spots. The photographers in our group took a lot of pictures of the frosty white scenery. The group decided to go past our original goal of the shelter. After a quick lunch there, we climbed on up to Eagles Rest. Sunshine and clear views were our reward. To the west, we could spot Spencer Butte. Looking to the east past Hardesty, it was possible to pick out Mount Yoran. Well worth the extra mileage and elevation gain. Members: Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Ann Kloos, Becky Lipton, David Lodeesen, Brian Popowsky, Kathy Randall, Tom Rundle, David Strutin, Fumiyo Tao. Nonmembers: Roy Ward, Catherine Poulsen.

Mt. Pisgah/Find The Bench

November 30, 2015

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 6 miles, 500 ft. (Easy)

DRESSED FOR THE COLD, we enjoyed crunching along on the

frozen trails looking for benches. We followed the river to the South Meadow and then headed back to the Water Garden, the South Boundary Trail, the Zigzag Trail and Incense Trail. Some had never hiked the trails and were surprised at the number of benches. The new replacement bench for Dorothy and Clarence Scherer, long-time Obsidians, has a beautiful view. The unique quotes on the benches prompted us to share our reflections about life and death. The two-hour hike including the Swing Trail was a fun way to start the week. Members: Roberta Chord, Patricia Esch, Margaret Essenberg, Janet Jacobsen, David Lodeesen, Janice Smith, Mike Smith, Pat Sossan, Nancy Whitfield.

River/Campus Walk

December 4, 2015

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 5.2 miles, 0 ft. (Easy)

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME FOR **MICHAEL HEIDELBERG** and Marlene Malone to explore the campus and they asked questions that we could not answer. While standing below the busts of John von Newman and James Clerk Maxwell and his demon, Tom Rundle wowed us with a description of their scientific accomplishments. We stopped at Autzen Stadium to check out the Heismann Trophy and then picked up speed to follow the canal to the I-5 bridge returning along the river. It was a three-hour amiable amble. Six of us stayed to eat lunch and stroll through the art museum. Members: May Fogg, Jane Hackett, Michael Heidelberg, Janet Jacobsen, Marlene Malone, Helen Martz, Ruth Romoser, Tom Rundle, Susan Sanazaro.

Cummins Creek/Cape Perpetua Area

December 6, 2015

Leader: Mike Smith

Hike: 10 miles, 1,300 ft. (Moderate)

I THINK A LOT OF US WONDERED WHETHER THIS TRIP WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA during an active weather pattern, but we got to Cape Perpetua at 9:40 with a lot of wind high over us. The trail was in good shape and we got to the lunch spot, eating in the shelter of trees overlooking the view to Cummins Ridge to the south, rather than eating out in the open. Coming back, the trail was quite wet, with one stream crossing that wasn't there a year ago, and a lot of water coming off the rocks and flowing on the trail. The descent was much more slippery than usual. We were passed by a trail runner from Yachats, who seemed quite interested in the Obsidians. We got back to the cars at 2:00. A couple of notes: One, I suggest the Forest Pass be placed on the dashboard during the drive out to the trailhead. Three experienced drivers forgot to put it up on their rearview mirror. Two, the construction on 101 is just north of Sea Lion Caves. There is a short stretch of a one-lane road with two flaggers. On Sunday, the wait was only a minute. Members: Barbara Gunther, Jennifer Haynes, Janet Jacobsen, Daphne James, Becky Lipton, David Lodeesen, Caroline Moore, Tom Rundle, Mike Smith, David Strutin. Nonmembers: Roy Ward.

Stocking Stuffer Hike and Lunch

December 15, 2015

Leader: Janet Jacobsen Asst.: Joella Ewing

Photographer: Carla Cooper

Hike: 3 miles, 200 ft. (Easy)

AFTER DAYS OF HEAVY RAIN, I could not believe that Joella and I scheduled the hike and lunch event on a sunny day—perfect

for 31 members to hike on the Ribbon Trail to Hendricks Park. With the help of a donation from the women's canoe/kayak trip last fall, we were able to give 166 pairs of socks for the Egan Warming Centers. Special guests were the trail maintenance crew (Matt Bell, Mike Smith, and Dave Cooper), who cleaned



out 133 cracks on one of the Amazon Headwaters bridges while we were hiking. The lodge was warm with a glowing fire when we returned from the hike to feast on beef stew, clam chowder, beer cheese, Turkish red lentil, and butternut squash soups along with rustic bread, salads and yummy desserts. Many sampled each of the soups. There was lots of visiting and smiles as people caught up on the latest news and met new members. It was a group effort to clean the lodge and wash the dishes. Patty MacAfee took the left over bread to feed the homeless spending the night at her church and Joella took the soup to the homeless camp. So many people remarked that they didn't want to miss this event next year. Members: Mari Baldwin, Patricia Bean, Anne Bonine, Carla Cooper, Sharon Cutsforth, Sharon Duncan, Clara Emlen, Patricia Esch, Joella Ewing, May Fogg, Betty Grant, Jane Hackett, Yuan Hopkins, Mark Hougardy, Janet Jacobsen, John Jacobsen, Mary Livingston, David Lodeesen, Patricia MacAfee, Marlene Malone, Helen Martz, Evelyn Nagy, Effie Neth, Carol Petty, Jorry Rolfe, Ruth Romoser, Barbara Schomaker, Mike Smith, Sam Tracer, Nancy Whitfield, Sue Wolling.

McDonald Forest

December 18, 2015

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Photographer: Holger Krentz

Hike: 7.4 miles, 2,000 ft. (Difficult)

RAIN PANTS WERE DISCARDED soon after we started up Dan's Trail to Dimple Hill at 1,495 feet. Clouds obscured the view so



we headed down through a myriad of confusing intersections to connect with the trail up to Chip Ross Park, where we found the perfect bench and view. We celebrated Darian's birthday, made even more special with his wife's blast brownies. Karen and Darian are Corvallis natives and were able to shed light on the landscape changes through the years. The contact sheet/cellphone came in handy to solve an intersection mix-up. For ten of the hikers, the exploratory hike was the first time to check out the trail system. Members: David Cooper, Janet Jacobsen, Ellen Johnson, Steven Johnson, Holger Krentz, David Lodeesen, Darian Morray, Jorry Rolfe, Art Skach, Mike Smith. Nonmembers: Karen Morray, Steven Koester.

Fall Creek

December 19, 2015

Leader: Jane Hackett

Photographer: Carla Cooper

Hike: 7.5 miles, 700 ft. (Moderate)

GOOD DAY FOR A HIKE WITH NO RAIN. The forest was drippy, the trail muddy and the creek was full and fast. We noted that if the creek was higher there would be one or two places on the



trail that would be under water. One side creek bridge appeared close to having water run over it rather than under it. We found a place in the sun for lunch. Great day. Members: Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Jane Hackett, David Lodeesen, Brian Popowsky, Susan Sanazaro, Nancy Whitfield.

Mt. Pisgah/ Winter Solstice

December 21, 2015

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

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

CLOUDS PREVENTED US FROM A SOLSTICE SUNSET, but we had a great time. Someone from the Noon Runners group placed a battery-operated candle on the pedestal for us to share the warmth of thoughts of longer days ahead. After the hike, seven of us including our two guests, met at Pegasus Pizza for four kinds of veggie pizzas. It was a fun event! We did miss the 14 members who canceled. Members: Marsha Barr, Mike Bullington, Jim Duncan, Sharon Duncan, Anne Hollander, Christiane Hougardy, Mark Hougardy, Janet Jacobsen, Lana Lindstrom, Jorry Rolfe, Randy Sinnott, Mike Smith. Nonmembers: Melodee Soczek, Jill Zavidowsky.

Obsidians Hike to Support Climate Solutions

Becky Lipton

THIRTY OBSIDIANS AND GUESTS joined 400 other local people of all ages on Saturday, November 28, to march for climate solutions. We were part of a huge mobilization of people that weekend, where 2,000 climate marches all over the planet kicked off the UN climate talks in Paris which began November 30.

After hearing from Mayor Piercy, some youth from Our Children's Trust, and several other dignitaries, the group marched to Alton Baker Park, where we transformed from a giant oil drop to a life affirming sunflower.



2015 Christmas Party at the Lodge

GOOD FOOD, GOOD FRIENDS, GOOD MUSIC AND A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL! On Thursday, December 3, forty-eight people gathered at the Obsidian Lodge for the Bus Trips Christmas Party. There were desserts of every variety to sample along with coffee and punch. The food table centerpiece was a small Christmas tree very cleverly decorated with Obsidian items courtesy of the Concessions Committee. We were entertained with music and song by the Big Foot Lane string band which includes fellow Obsidian Don Baldwin. Don plays the mandolin and sings like Elvis. Following this music we took a break to raffle off the lovely poinsettias, mini Christmas trees and assorted other gift type items. Next on the schedule was entertainment by Obsidians Barbara, Paul and Paula Beard on electronic keyboard, hand bells and flute. They always



give an enjoyable performance, including some Christmas music. Thanks to all who came to share this fun afternoon with us, and special thanks to Holger Krentz for taking pictures.



Upcoming

Portland Overnight Excursion

Date: March 21-22, 2016

Leader: Lana Lindstrom

Cost: \$38 members, \$43 nonmembers

NEEDED A BIG CITY FIX? Interested in walking across the brand new pedestrian/bike only bridge in Portland? Or perhaps OMSI is calling you! Join us on a fun two-day excursion to Portland.

We will take a bus there and return by train. The plan is to walk a loop along the river, including the new Tilikum Crossing bridge; explore Pittock Mansion and Washington Park; and visit OMSI, Powell's, more hiking, or whatever else folks want to do.

Cost includes the accommodations and breakfast. It does NOT include transportation (approximately \$40), lunch or dinner, admission to museums, or MAX costs.

Accommodations: Dorm rooms at the centrally located NW Portland Hostel (18th & Glisan). Linens and breakfast are included. We have two rooms, one with six bunk beds and the other with eight. Bathrooms are across the hall.

Registration: This trip will go online Thursday, January 14. Members will have preference for 48 hours. Within five days of registering, mail a check for \$38 (members) or \$43 (nonmembers) payable to the Obsidians, to Lana Lindstrom, PO Box 5506, Eugene, OR 97405. Limit: 14 fun-loving participants.

Cancellations: If you cancel prior to February 20, you will receive a full refund. Otherwise, you will forfeit the entire cost unless someone takes your place.

Menucha Extended Trip

Date: May 4-6, 2016

Leaders: Helen Martz and Jim Duncan

Cost: \$175 members, \$180 nonmembers

EARLY MAY SHOULD BE A GREAT TIME TO GO HIKING in the Columbia River Gorge amidst waterfalls and wildflowers, with spectacular views of the Gorge. Join the Obsidians on this popular extended trip. As usual, we will stay at the Menucha Retreat and Conference Center, located just off historic old Columbia River Highway in Corbett, Oregon, about 25 miles east of Portland. Menucha is perfectly situated on a bluff overlooking the Columbia River and is convenient to a number of outstanding hikes, including Angels Rest, Larch Mountain Crater, Eagle Creek, Dog Mountain, Beacon Rock and Rodney Falls, and many more.

Our group will be staying in the two best houses (Beam House and Lindsay House) on the Menucha grounds. Lindsay House will accommodate seven people (two shared bathrooms), and Beam House can accommodate twelve people (three shared bathrooms). There are comfortable meeting areas with kitchenette and refrigerator in each house.

The dining room is located in Wright Hall, originally the country home of the Julius Meier family (of Meier & Frank fame). Our trip includes six meals, from dinner on Wednesday evening to lunch on Friday; lunches on Thursday and Friday will be sack lunches to give us more time for hiking in the area.

The trip is limited to 17 participants. The cost is \$175 for members, \$180 for nonmembers—preference will be given to members. Sign up online, and within five days mail your check

for the full amount (payable to Obsidians) to Helen Martz, 1311 Arcadia Drive, Eugene 97401. If you want to share a room with someone, include that information along with your check. There will be a pre-trip meeting in April.

Online signups will start on January 9 for members only, with nonmembers able to sign up on January 16. There will be no refunds after April 1 unless your spot is filled.

Questions? Contact Helen at 345-6229, macmartz@yahoo.com or Jim at 343-8079, jameslduncan@prodigy.net

2016 Summer Camp: The Ruby Mountains

Date: Jul 30-Aug 5, 2016

Leader: John Jacobsen

Cost: TBA

THE RUBY MOUNTAINS, the site of the Obsidian's 2016 Summer Camp, Camp Robertson, were misnamed by soldiers exploring the area in the late 1800s when they mistook the garnets they found for rubies. The Rubies, referred to by some as the Alps of Nevada, are a collection of glacier carved peaks with U-shaped valleys in northeastern Nevada. In the Rubies you can find 25 lovely alpine lakes and 50 peaks above 10,000 feet, including 14 above 11,000 feet with the 11,387-foot Ruby Dome claiming top honors. The Lamoille Canyon takes us into the heart of these spectacular mountains and up that canyon is where our camp will be located along Lamoille Creek.

So is there anything to do around there? Well, you might take a hike! The closest and easiest to access hikes leave from trailheads at the end of the Lamoille Scenic Byway, about six miles above our camp. From there a number of hikes take off, going south along the Ruby Crest Trail or north toward Island Lake. The trail to Right Fork Canyon up to Goat Lake begins in camp. A very easy nature trail is found just a couple miles above camp. For the more adventuresome (and fit) a climb of Ruby Dome would be something to consider. Here are a few websites you can check out to get a feel for what is available in the area:

- www.rubymountains.net
- www.backpackingintherubymountains.info/trailinfo/trailinfo.html
- www.summitpost.org/ruby-mountains/288999

If you think you might like to take a break from hiking for a day (or two), there are other options in the area such as the Northeastern Nevada Museum in Elko, or the California Trail Historic Interpretive Center, ten miles west of Elko. A drive around the Ruby Mountains could include a stop at the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge for a little birding—this might be the trip to take after an arduous day hiking the Rubies in search of the elusive Himalayan snowcock. For gamblers in the bunch, Elko has plenty of casinos. Seeking regional cuisine, and willing to forgo the great camp food, you might check out some of the local Basque restaurants. Northern Nevada is the nation's largest gold producer and some of the area mines offer free mine tours. I am sure if you do a bit of creative Googling you will turn up a lot of other interesting things to see and do in this unique place.

So mark your calendars for Camp Robertson from July 30–August 5, 2016 at the Lions Camp Lamoille. We are still number crunching and trying to close in on costs, but hope to announce camp fees and more details in the February Obsidian *Bulletin*.

2016 Bus Trips Primer

Sharon Cutsforth

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US on our bus trips in 2016. Sit back and let Obsidian leaders take you away from big cities and freeways to explore Oregon's curiosities and spectacular scenery via backroads and mountain highways. You will learn about and explore the natural areas and rural communities, while making new friends with similar interests. The Bus Committee is busy finalizing trip details for the coming year. We feel we have planned a good variety of destinations and fun things to do. Why not try out a bus trip this year if you have never gone on one?

As we travel, we like to include bits of history and geology of the areas we visit. Trips this year will include: a wildlife park, bird watching, another *More Food* trip (always popular), an important Willamette Valley historic site, a new maritime museum and aquarium, a Hood River apple orchard, and a special Christmas activity. Our extended trip will take us down the Oregon Coast with a focus on lighthouses along the way.

At a recent Obsidian function I was asked some interesting questions that I would like to share.

Are the buses you use like school buses? No, we charter a luxury motor coach and professional driver, usually from MTR Western here in Eugene. The buses are spacious, clean, and comfortable, and offer excellent views of the countryside. They have an onboard restroom. The drivers are friendly, courteous and helpful, and enjoy driving Obsidian bus trips—they join right in on the fun.

Do you drive all night? No, we have lodging reserved in advance, usually stopping for the night by 6 PM. Considering we are on the road at 8:00 AM everyone is ready to stop by then. We choose mid-priced lodging, such as Best Western, Quality Inn, etc. Roommates are chosen in advance, the motels have our room list in advance so check-in usually goes smoothly. As we travel we try to have a short rest break every couple hours so riders can stretch their legs a bit.

Since Bus Trips don't do online sign up, how does one sign up for the trips? The Bus Committee publishes a full description of each year's trips which includes the name and phone number of the trip registration person. Simply call the registration person. They can also answer questions about the trip. Trip descriptions are posted on the Obsidian website and we have printed schedules available at the Lodge. Bus trip schedules can be obtained by contacting anyone on the committee. We also include a list of bus trip guidelines that explain much about the process.

Where do you meet the bus? Bus trips load at Shopko on Coburg Road near the Park & Ride area (south of the summer time garden center). We generally load soon after 7:30 AM and plan to be on the road by 8:00 AM. We aim to be home by 6 PM or soon after.

I've heard you just sit and ride all day on bus trips, is that true? No, we plan a variety of stops into each trip with some opportunities for short walks—this varies from trip to trip. Often our lodging will be in an area that will allow for early morning and evening walks. We strive to find a balance between walking time and being considerate of our riders who are less mobile.

We invite you to attend the annual Bus Rally at the Lodge on Sunday, February 21, 2016, 2–4 PM. Leaders will present details about their trips. You will have an opportunity to ask questions and sign up for trips that interest you. Of course, refreshments will be served! Payment for day trips is usually due 2–3 weeks prior to the trip. For overnight or extended trips a payment schedule will be included in the trip description. If you have other questions please feel free to contact me: Sharon Cutsforth, skcutsforth@comcast.net or 746-4929, or any other Bus Committee member. Watch for more information on the bus trips schedule in the February *Bulletin*.

Mt. Pisgah Arboretum

Life Among the Mosses Walk Sun, January 17, 2016, 10 AM–12 PM

This is our annual celebration of the little folks of the plant world. Botanist David Wagner will tell moss stories and weave lichen yarns to help us understand the elfin world of mosses, liverworts, and lichens. Rain or shine. Meet at the Arboretum's Visitor Center. Don't forget your parking pass. Fee: \$5, Members free.

Winter Bird Walk Sun, January 24, 2016, 8:30–10:00 AM

Join 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 winter 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. Don't forget your parking pass. \$5, Members free.

Jenny Laxton
Education Program Coordinator
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www.MountPisgahArboretum.org

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For Sale:

Headwear that can be worn as a neck-warmer, a balaclava, a stocking hat, a head band and many other uses. Excellent for many activities like bike riding, because it fits easily under a helmet, or for camping in cool weather when you want to keep your face and neck warm without being totally hidden in your sleeping bag. I can make them in many other colors/patterns including solid colors if you prefer. \$15. Call Susan at 998-3947 or email smwanser@gmail.com



For Sale:

ATOMIC Pro Race 6'18 Skis with bindings, 53" \$50

Contact Darko Sojak
darchey@comcast.net



2015 FWOC Annual Conference

Shirley Cameron

WHERE CAN OBSIDIANS meet members of other Western outdoor clubs and learn about their activities? At the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, which held its 2015 conference at the Menucha Retreat Center overlooking the Columbia Gorge.

A bonus—the Trails Club of Oregon invited attendees to spend the night on the eve of the conference at their Nesika Lodge overlooking the Gorge. It is reached by a scenic four mile trail starting at Multnomah Falls. Nesika is a stone and log structure built mainly by club members. It is the place where the idea of the FWOC was formed. Founding members brought stones from their area for the fireplace.

Innovative conservation was the theme of the conference. Topics included:

The Historic Columbia River Highway project—*Remember, Restore, Reconnect*—bicycling on stretches of the historic highway. There has been a 35-year effort of the Friends of the Columbia Gorge to protect special places. The Columbia Gorge is sixth among 133 International Scenic Areas. Protecting also means insuring public safety. Sadly, there are two coal terminals—Portland/Longview and Bellingham—which create big open piles of coal, and air pollution, including mercury. There is an urgent need to prevent more terminals.

We were treated to the Columbia River Treaty Round Table documentary: *Paddling with Purpose Up the River for People and Salmon* in canoes made from five cedar logs. Canada, the U.S. and the tribes participated in the treaty talks.

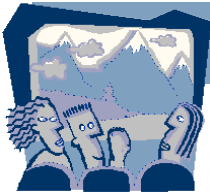
Other topics:

- Grassroots environmental groups in national public lands.
- The 30th anniversary of the Northwest Youth Corps stewardship and the Public Lands Service Coalition.
- National Religious Coalition on Creation Care—an ecumenical approach to presenting conservation positions to government agency staff in Washington, DC.
- The importance of an Urban Natural Forest to the residents of the city.
- The author of *Fight to Win* shared wisdom for young conservationists and gave his observation of youth at the Wilderness 50 conference.

The last morning of the conference is always devoted to discussion and voting on the resolutions proposed by the clubs. This year there were ten resolutions submitted and some lively discussion took place. Information on the resolutions passed is sent to each member club.

All in all, it was a meaningful and fun weekend.

At The Lodge



POTLUCK

Friday January 22 at 6:30 PM

Skiing Denali's Shadow

NO SNOW IN OREGON? Go to Alaska! That's what Obsidians Lana Lindstrom, Lyndell Wilken, Sue Wolling, and their friend Jean Snuggs did last March. They skied and snowshoed near Denali National Park for four days. Then they traveled by train to Fairbanks in order to view the Aurora Borealis. Lana will share slides of their amazing experiences at the program following the potluck.



January Potluck
Friday, January 22, 2016
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.

Obsidian Calendar

January

- 9 Sat **McDowell Creek Falls Hike** E Jacobsen 206-1251
- 9 Sat **Marilyn Lakes Loop Xski** E Hamilton 343-6550
- 10 Sun **Rosary Lakes Xski** M Cooper 344-8517
- 10 Sun **Blanton Rd./Spencer Butte Hike** M Cooper 868-5427
- 13 Wed **Spencer Butte Hike** M Smith 357-5208
- 14 Thu **River Path North Hike** E Cooper..... 868-5427
- 16 Sat **Circle Lake Loop Xski** D Wolling..... 345-2110
- 17 Sun **Gwynn Creek Perpetua Hike** M Smith 357-5208
- 20 Wed **Spencer Butte Hike** M Rundle 915-4623
- 22 Fri **Skiing Denali's Shadow** **Potluck**
- 24 Sun **North Bank Deer Preserve Hike** M Sojak..... 525-1124
- 27 Wed **Spencer Butte Hike** M Smith 357-5208
- 30 Sat **Odell Overlook SShoe** E Cooper..... 344-8517
- 31 Sun **Full Ridgeline Out/Back Hike** D Cooper..... 868-5427

February

- 2 Tue **Groundhog Day Hike** Hike E Jacobsen 206-1251
- 3 Wed **Spencer Butte Hike** M Smith 357-5208
- 6 Sat **Booth Lake Loop Xski** D Hamilton..... 343-6550
- 10 Wed **Spencer Butte Hike** M Lodeesen..... 214-709-0352
- 14 Sun **Oregon's Birthday Hike** Hike E Jacobsen..... 206-1251
- 17 Wed **Spencer Butte Hike** M Smith 357-5208
- 24 Wed **Spencer Butte Hike** M Jacobsen..... 206-1251
- 26 Fri **Hikes in Eastern Oregon** **Potluck**
- 27 Sat **Sand Mountain Plateau Xski** D Miller..... 484-4586

March

- 2 Wed **Spencer Butte Hike** M Morray.....953-5679
- 6 Sun **Redtop Mountain Xski** D Sayre345-2370
- 9 Wed **Spencer Butte Hike** M Cooper.....868-5427
- 13 Sun **Arrowhead Lake Xski** D Cooper.....344-8517
- 16 Wed **Spencer Butte Hike** M Lindstrom683-1409
- 21 Mon **Portland Exploration** M Lindstr om683-1409
- 23 Wed **Spencer Butte Hike** M Lodeesen 214-709-0352
- 25 Fri **Hiking Kilimanjaro** **Potluck**
- 30 Wed **Spencer Butte Hike** M TBA

May

- 4 Wed **Hiking the Columbia Gorge** Ext Trp Martz345-6229



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January 2016



Nonmembers on Sinkyone backpack trip (See report on page 7) Photo by David Lodeeson