

**Inside This Issue**

Summer Camp	1
Climb School	1
In Memoriam	2
Carpool Expense Sharing	2
Charitable Donations from IRAs	2
New Members	2
Committee Chairs and Members	3
Premium Members	3
Compass	4
Thank You	4
Climate and Environment	5
Winter Trail Conditions	5
Trip Reports	6-8
Stewardship Opportunities	8
Board Notes	9
Save the Dates	10
Potluck	10
Calendar	11
Game Night!	11
Local Volunteer Opportunities	11
Classified	11
Photo of the Month	12

**Dates to Remember**

February 16	GameNight!
February 24	Potluck
February 24	Bulletin Deadline
March 1	Board Meeting

Current event schedules at:  
[www.obsidians.org](http://www.obsidians.org)

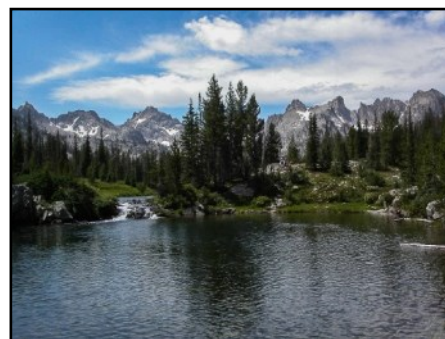
Follow us on Facebook & Instagram:  
[www.facebook.com/theobsidians](http://www.facebook.com/theobsidians)  
[@Eugene\\_obsidians](https://www.instagram.com/Eugene_obsidians)

To submit articles for publication,  
 please send directly to:  
[bulletin@obsidians.org](mailto:bulletin@obsidians.org)

**Summer Camp  
 To Have and Have Not**

*Sue Wolling*

**T**HE LAST FEW **OBSIDIAN SUMMER CAMPS** have been in famous, high profile National Parks—but in 2023, we’re going to the relatively little-known area called the Sawtooth Range. What gives? Why such a *toothless* approach to a Summer Camp destination?



*Photo by Steve Johnson.*

For an answer, we can look to a long-time resident of the Sawtooths area: Ernest Hemingway. OK, granted—one of the reasons he’s such a long-time resident is that he’s buried there. But he really liked the Sawtooths! One of the many books Hemingway wrote is called *To Have and Have Not*, which also became a film in 1944. That phrase captures some of the charms of the Sawtooths—the things it has, and the things it doesn’t have. For instance:

The Sawtooths don’t have one magnificent volcanic peak that dominates the skyline for hundreds of miles, like Mount Rainier—instead they have 57 peaks over 10,000 feet, including a variety of tough climbs. For those of us who are not *a-climb-itized* to high, scary places, there are many miles of hiking trails in and around the mountains.

The Sawtooths don’t have big glaciers any more, like the Obsidians saw at Glacier National Park in 2019—but they used to have them, and as a result there are now over 400 stunning lakes left behind by the receding glaciers.

And while the Sawtooths don’t have the visitor centers, ranger talks and historic lodges of the National Parks, they also don’t have the thousands of tourists who flock to take advantage of those services. If you’re looking for wilderness and the opportunity for solitude in a breathtakingly beautiful mountain setting, this is the camp for you!

So if you have not been to the Sawtooths—well, you **HAVE** to sign up for the 2023 Summer Camp, August 6–12.

Key Dates for Summer Camp:

- March 16 Last day to join the Obsidians to sign up early as a member.
- March 31 Summer Camp Rally/Potluck at the Lodge.
- April 15 Summer Camp registration for members opens at 7:00 AM.
- April 17 Summer Camp registration for nonmembers opens at 7:00 AM.

**Climb School 2023**

*Maryanne Reiter*

**T**HE **OBSIDIANS STARTED OFFERING CLIMB SCHOOL IN 1948** as a way to teach the public how to safely climb on the rocks and snow of the Pacific Northwest—a tradition we continue to this day. The Obsidians, together with Eugene Mountain Rescue, offer the basic mountaineering course each spring. The emphasis of the course is on  
*(Continued on page 4)*

## IN MEMORIAM

### THOMAS RODMAN WOOD 3/9/1934–1/5/2023

ON JANUARY 5, 2023, THOMAS RODMAN WOOD, MD (ROD) passed away at age 88. Rod was born on March 9, 1934, and grew up in Abington, PA. He was an ophthalmologist, and in 1983 Rod relocated to Cottage Grove, OR from California. He was secretary for many years for the Greater Oakridge Area Trail Stewards (GOATS). Rod joined the Obsidians in 2002 and up until 2011 was very active, leading his favorite hike, Mt. Fuji, six times.

*Editor's note: a complete obituary was in the Register-Guard January 13, 2023.*

## Carpool Expense Sharing

*Sue Zeni, Finance Chair*

THE OBSIDIANS HAVE CHANGED THE RECOMMENDED 2023 CARPOOL EXPENSE SHARING to 11 cents per mile. The reimbursement was previously 10 cents per mile. This voluntary payment is for members who volunteer to drive their cars on Obsidian trips. It is also recommended that an additional \$2 per trip be assessed for each rider on snowshoe and ski trips.

The recommended Carpool Expense changed because the IRS increased their mileage reimbursement rates for 2023. The new rate is 65.5 cents/mile, which is three cents higher than the reimbursement rate for the second half of 2022. The Obsidians typically set the mileage reimbursement at 1/6 of the IRS rate. The 1/6 formula assumes that there are four people in the vehicle, and does not reimburse for vehicle wear and tear.

## Charitable Donations From IRAs

*Dave Hawkins and Denise Bean*

HELLO OBSIDIANS—RECENTLY WE RECEIVED A DONATION directly from someone's IRA. Not everyone is aware of the benefits of doing this for tax purposes.

Since the 2018 Tax Act, fewer people itemize deductions due to the increase in standard deductions. This means that you don't always get a tax benefit for your charitable donations.

By gifting directly from your IRA, once age-eligible and especially if you are required to take distributions—the amount you gift is not taxable. It is subtracted from your taxable income even if you don't itemize. This donation can count as part of your RMD (Required Minimum Distribution).

To make a QCD (Qualified Charitable Deduction) donation to the Obsidians, contact your IRA administrator and instruct them to send your check made payable to Obsidians: PO Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405. Be sure that they include your name and address along with the check so we can provide you a timely acknowledgement of your gift.

Thank you!

## Welcome New Members!

**Cheryl Flavin**  
Cheshire, OR 97419

**Larry Myers**  
Cheshire, OR 97419

**Irene Fries**  
Deer Lodge, MT 59722

**Thomas Newman**  
Eugene, OR 97405

## OBSIDIANS

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405

Website: [www.obsidians.org](http://www.obsidians.org)

### Officers & Board of Directors

Dave Hawkins, President  
Denise Bean, Vice President  
Angie Ruzicka, Secretary  
Laura Osinga, Treasurer  
Russ Davies, Jean Harris, Maryanne Reiter,  
Jorry Rolfe, Denise Rubenstein

*Board meetings are held at 6:00 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

Bus (Interim) ..... Jim Northrop  
Climbs (Interim) ..... Maryanne Reiter  
Concessions ..... Carla Cooper  
Conservation/SciEd ..... J. Rolfe/A. Ruzicka  
Entertainment ..... Ane McKee  
Extended Trips ..... Lana Lindstrom  
Finance ..... Susan Zeni  
Lodge Building ..... Dave Cooper  
Lodge Grounds (Interim) ..... Jim Northrop  
Librarian/Historian ..... Lenore McManigal  
Membership ..... Diane Schechter  
Online (Interim) ..... Marci Hansen  
Publications ..... Lou Maenz  
Publicity ..... Marci Hansen  
Safety ..... Lyndell Wilken  
Stewardship ..... Jorry Rolfe/Darko Sojak  
Summer Camp ..... Lana Lindstrom  
Summer Trips ..... Dave Cooper  
Winter Trips ..... Dave Cooper

## The OBSIDIAN Bulletin

© 2023

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

[bulletin@obsidians.org](mailto:bulletin@obsidians.org)

For reprint rights, contact:

**The Obsidian Bulletin**

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405

**Deadline**  
for March Bulletin  
Friday, February 24, 2023

### Editorial Team

*Writing & Editorial Staff:*  
Janet Jacobsen, Lou Maenz

*Copy Editors:*  
Ethel Weltman, Karen Yoerger

*Graphics Design & Desktop Publishing:*  
Carla Cooper, Bea Fontana, Stewart Hoeg

### Assembly/Mailing Team

*Manager:* Lou Maenz  
*Assistant Manager:* Nancy Raymond  
*Pickup Assistant:* Clara Emlen  
*Team:* Tom Adamcyk, Pat Bean,  
Don Baldwin, Yuan Hopkins,  
Barbara Schomaker.



# Thank you for supporting the Obsidians!

## 2023 Committee Chairs and Members

**Bus Trips (Jim Northrop - interim):** Judy Adamcyk, Tom Adamcyk, Denise Bean, Barbara Beard, Paul Beard, Marcia Claypool, Pat Cleall, Sharon Cutsforth, Joella Ewing, Judy Garwood, Sheridan Gates, Whitney Gould, Dave Hawkins (Committee Treasurer), Sandra Larsen, Diana Masarie, Vern Marsonette, Evelyn Nagy

**Climbs (Maryanne Reiter):** Marci Hansen, Danni Harris, Jen Marlow, Juli McGlinsky, Meg McNabb, DeWayde Perry, Scott Timms

**Concessions (Carla Cooper):** Keiko Bryan, Fred Crafts, Marti Gerdes, Anne Hollander, Carol Margart, Chris Shuraleff, Nancy Whitfield

**Conservation/SciEd (Jorry Rolfe and Angie Ruzicka):** Joanna Alexander, Maryanne Reiter, Dave Strutin

**Entertainment (Ane McKee):** Dave Cooper, Joella Ewing, Alison Hennes, Lana Lindstrom, Diana Masarie, June Miller, Evelyn Nagy, Pam Swisher, Ron Swisher, Susan Wanser

**Extended Trips (Lana Lindstrom):** Jean Harris, Daphne James, Emily Rice, Chris Shuraleff, Diane Schechter

**Finance (Susan Zeni):** Pam Caples, Dave Hawkins, Stewart Hoeg, Lana Lindstrom, Laura Osinga

**Lodge Building (Dave Cooper):** Fred Crafts, Clara Emlen, Marti Gerdes, Nancy Giammatteo, Steve Johnson, Patty Keane, Michael King, Sandra Larson, Vern Marsonette, Margot McDonnell, Doug Nelson, Cat Nelson, Nancy Whitfield

**Lodge Grounds (Jim Northrop - interim):** Dave Cooper, Clara Emlen, Doug Nelson

**Librarian/Historian (Lenore McManigal):** Bert Ewing, Bea Fontana, Janet Jacobsen

**Membership (Diane Schechter):** Alison Hennes, Brenda Kameenui, Diane Longcore, Carla Lyon, Carol Margart, Helen Martz, Emily Rice, Diane Schechter, Dorothy van Winkle

**Online/Webmaster (Marci Hansen):** Jim Blick, Robert Erikson, Theo Glick

**Publications/Bulletin (Lou Maenz):** *Editorial Team:* Carla Cooper, Bea Fontana, Stewart Hoeg, Janet Jacobsen, Ethel Weltman, Karen Yoerger, *Assembly/Mailing Team:* Tom Adamcyk, Joanna Alexander, Don Baldwin, Patricia Bean, Clara Emlen, Sara Henley, Yuan Hopkins, Judy Newman, Nancy Raymond, Barbara Schomaker

**Publicity (Marci Hansen)**

**Safety (Lyndell Wilken):** Dave Cooper (Summer and Winter Trips Rep), Maryanne Reiter (Climbs), Jim Northrop (Bus Trips), John Hegg (At Large), Mike Smith (At Large)

**Stewardship (Jorry Rolfe & Darko Sojak):** Matt Bell, Dave Cooper, Jim Northrop, Angie Ruzicka, Lyndell Wilken

**Summer Camp (Lana Lindstrom):** Pam Caples, Dave Hawkins, Steve Johnson (Camp Boss), Angie Ruzicka, Sue Wolling

**Summer Trips (Dave Cooper):** Julie Barnes, Buzz Blumm, Jane Hackett, Paul Hamilton, Michael King, Gary Lape, John Miller, June Miller, Michael Moffitt, Darian Morray, Stephanie Pflaster, Michael Smith

**Winter Trips (Dave Cooper):** Julie Barnes, Jane Hackett, Darian Morray, Gordon Sayre, Mike Smith, David Strutin



## 2022/23 Premium Members

**Platinum Members (\$200 or more)**  
Hildreth, Dick  
Anonymous

Lyon, Carla  
McDonnell,  
Margot

Wolters, Kris  
Yoerger, Karen

Claypool, Marcia  
Cooper, Carla  
Cooper, David  
Crim, Jennifer  
Curtis, Alan

Kay, Jane  
Kay, Peter  
Lowder, Bill  
Martz, Helen  
Masarie, Diana

Rusow, Karla  
Sandburg, Doug  
Sayre, Gordon  
Stewart Smith,  
Meg

**Gold Members (\$100-199)**  
Bean, Denise  
Chambers, Emeline  
Coots, Kay  
Dinn, Diana  
Dinn, James  
Duncan, Sharon  
Dunlap, Larry  
Fontana, Bea  
Hanson, Vicky  
Harris, Jean  
Keim, Frank  
Landes, Michael

McIvor, Andrew  
McNabb, Meg  
Moore, Caroline  
Morray, Darian  
Morray, Karen  
Newlove, Natalie  
Northrop, Jim  
Parramore, Ken  
Raymond, Nancy  
Shirk, Velma  
Smith, Mike  
Strutin, David  
Terry, Judy  
Thompson, Harold  
Whitfield, Nancy  
Wolling, Sue

**Silver Members (\$50-99)**  
Adams, Steve  
Aspegren, Bill  
Aten, Barbara  
Baldwin, Don  
Barnes, Jennifer  
Barr, Marsha  
Baskett, Martin  
BeBout, Michael  
Blumm, Buzz  
Bradley, Joan  
Brown, Ben  
Carver, Deb  
Chamness, Dan  
Christensen, Dan

Dame, Wendy  
Doerr, Don  
Eubanks, Charla  
Ewing, Joella  
Firth, Leah  
Garwood, Judy  
Gates, Sheridan  
Glover, Elizabeth  
Gran, Eric  
Harvey, Sylvia  
Hoeg, Kathy  
Hoeg, Stewart  
Hovis, Scott  
Kameenui, Brenda

McCoy, Verlean  
McGlinsky, Juli  
Meredith, David  
Milliman, Greg  
Moffitt, Michael  
Morgan, Boyd  
Morgan, Natalie  
Payne, Don  
Pegg, John  
Prouty, Wes  
Reinhard, David  
Riggs, Judy  
Romoser, Ruth  
Rundle, Tom

Sundt, Richard  
Swisher, Pamela  
Swisher, Ron  
Urquhart, Lindsay  
Van Liefde, Lisa  
White, Nancy



# Compass

Mike Smith

**E**LEVEN PM, SOMEWHERE ON THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF ISLE ROYALE, the national park island in Lake Superior, part of Michigan, but closer to both Minnesota and Ontario.

It's cloudy and dark, but the rain and wind have stopped, and I hope my Maglite will keep working. I have seven miles to go to Windigo, where I can camp, unless my light quits and I have to camp on the trail. Three hours earlier, I had been lying supine on my bag, almost dozing, shoes off, when I heard a few thumps outside the tent. One more thump, I told myself, and I'm going out there to see what is going on.

Thump.

I put on my shoes, opened the screen and looked in front of me. Nothing. I crawled out, stood up, and turned around. Twelve feet away, separated only by air, was an adult wolf.

*Oh. My. God.* I said. What I was seeing had for decades been at the top of 'The List' of things I wanted to see. But like this? The wolf and I stared at each other, and he slowly circled the campsite for the next three minutes, looking up at my hung pack on a nearby tree. His jumping at it was perhaps the thump I heard. Then, suddenly, he was gone.

I intellectually knew there was no documented case of a healthy adult wolf attacking an adult person. That's fine to know, but it means little should one be ten trail miles from the nearest other person, where there was no way whatsoever to communicate. No way I would stay put; I packed up and shortly before sunset under an overcast sky was back on the trail. I thought on this May night, it might be light enough in the woods, but not when overcast. The trail was easy to follow at first, and I only had to worry about moose that might bed down near it. I made decent time despite my having already hiked ten miles and now doing another ten, rather than sleeping. I admit to occasionally turning around and looking behind me.

I approached a large jackstraw of logs in the middle of the trail and started to pick my way around. I kept going until I finally found the trail again and started hiking normally. A few minutes later, something didn't feel right. I'm analytical to say the least, and while I don't pooh-pooh gut feelings, I like to have hard evidence. Then again, this evening, I went with my gut and got out of that campsite. What I was feeling now was every bit as disquieting.

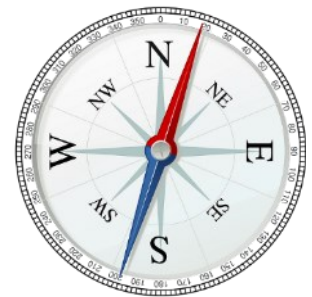
*Am I going back the way I came?*

I generally have good trail sense, but I have become turned around before, and I was now seriously concerned, so much so that I stopped, took off the pack, opened the pocket where I had a compass, something that I have almost *never* used on the trail. I took the compass out, didn't worry about the declination, held it away from me in the direction I was now going, shone the light on it and asked one question: am I facing SW or NE?

The direction was SW. I had turned around.

I put the compass away, turned around, and started hiking again. Sure enough, I soon reached the blowdown, this time more carefully finding the trail continuing northeast. At 1:30 AM I arrived at Windigo, pitching my tent on the lawn at the Ranger station. When I awoke a few hours later, I was 50 yards from an empty three-sided shelter.

See you on the trail. Bring a compass.



## *(Climb School, Continued from page 1)*

basic skills to climb rock and steep snow. This course is not meant to train people to lead groups on rock or glaciers but rather to be a safe team member.

The 2023 course consists of four classroom sessions and two field sessions covering introduction to rock climbing and snow skills. Students must be 16 or older to participate; but will need a parent or guardian signature if under 18. Those between 13 and 16 may participate if accompanied by a parent or responsible adult who is also enrolled in the course. The cost of the class is \$155 for nonmembers and \$120 for Obsidian members and Eugene Mountain Rescue volunteers. The Obsidians club provides all ropes, anchors and group gear needed for the field sessions. We strongly encourage students to purchase their own harnesses and other personal gear, but have some harnesses to loan out in case they are unable to do so. We also have the following personal gear available if needed: helmets, prusik loops, belay devices, and locking carabiners.

Obsidian members and Eugene Mountain Rescue volunteers may preregister for the course by emailing Maryanne Reiter at [mreiter1959@gmail.com](mailto:mreiter1959@gmail.com). Open registration begins February 20, 2023.

Please contact Maryanne Reiter, Chair of the Obsidians Climbs Committee for more details.

## THANK YOU

*Darko Sojak*

**K**UDOS AND THANK YOU FOR ROLLING UP YOUR SLEEVES and taking an active part in the Obsidians Blood Drive this January.

As of this writing, 17 pints of Obsidians blood have been collected in January. Final numbers and a complete list of donors will be in the March *Bulletin*.



## Oregon Climate: 2023 Assessment Now Available

Jorry Rolfe

**T**HE SIXTH OREGON CLIMATE ASSESSMENT REPORT CAME OUT IN EARLY JANUARY (online at <https://oregonstate.app.box.com/s/flkcz3xp7vgf4groe0jbitdjkbisizl>).

The Climate Change Research Institute (CCRI) in Corvallis writes it every other year, so this report is the first one since the heat dome in 2021. Most of the information is under two sections labeled Natural Hazards and Adaptation Sectors. Here are some of the report's highlights from this 249-page document:

**Heat, drought and wildfires:** We will experience more intense summer heat waves and continue to have hotter autumn weather. The researchers noted more days were hotter and nights warmer between 2011–2020 than between 1951–2010. Droughts have grown in numbers, extent, and severity since 2003, and more of Oregon was burned by wildfires. Survey results show we are concerned about the effects of wildfire smoke (and the simultaneous surface ozone) on our personal health; this may be generating a seasonal surge in health care demand much like winter's seasonal surge in the flu. If the levels of greenhouse gas emissions do not change, our temperatures are projected to go up five degrees Fahrenheit by the 2050s and 8.2 degrees by the 2080s.

**Rain, snow and water:** More precipitation will fall as rain than snow. It will increase in winter, in both quantity and number of events. Researchers state that the fast pace of arctic

warming may be helping to cause our dryness (and heat) in both summer and autumn. Less water will be available—of particular concern for farmers and those in the timber industry. Since the middle of the last century, 20 of our glaciers have disappeared—not one remains in the Wallowas. Since 1993 glacier retreat accelerated, partly due to human-caused climate change.

**Wind:** Winter wind speeds are predicted to increase in Western Oregon. However during summer and autumn the rate of strong winds from the East are predicted to decrease a bit.

**Incentives and resilience:** Financial inducements could encourage the sequestration of carbon by landowners. Harnessed wave and offshore wind energy are encouraged as opportunities for the economy and jobs. Tribal communities, experiencing more stress, are displaying resilience by responding to climate change in various ways. Many Oregonians, when surveyed, expressed a preference for taking a variety of actions to securing their lives, and supported policies to advance climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Finally, as the CCRI director, Erica Fleishman, states, “Oregon is a leader in climate response strategies and worker protections... We hope this assessment will support the state's ongoing efforts to advance climate equity and evidence-based investments in adaptation and mitigation.”

---

## Willamette Pass Winter Trail And Shelter Conditions

Lyndell Wilken

Willamette Pass Winter Trail and Shelter Coordinator

**T**HE 2023 SNOWSHOE AND SKI SEASON AT WILLAMETTE PASS will get into full swing as snow accumulates. Winter volunteers have been out on the trails checking diamonds and winter signs, clearing away downed trees and overhanging branches. The Cedar Creek fire delayed much of the winter trail and shelter maintenance, but thanks to dedicated volunteers and help from the Forest Service most of the 80-mile trail system and six shelters are ready for winter guests. Here is the latest report on the conditions and availability of the trails and shelter.

- Waldo Road is closed at the 6-mile marker, which is at the Shadow Bay turnoff.
- Waldo Shelter and the trail leading to the shelter is closed for the season.
- All other winter trails and shelters on the Willamette Pass winter recreation map are open.
- Fuji Shelter is open but there is no wood this season.
- Maiden Peak cabin will not have solar lights because batteries were removed during the fire, and given their weight and an early snowfall the Forest Service was not able to return them. There are currently three battery powered lanterns in the cabin. There is a limited supply of wood.
- The Salt Creek Falls road down to the winter trailheads will not be plowed by ODOT this season due to a lack of personnel, so expect to park at the Salt Creek downhill sledding area. The parking can be very crowded on weekends and holidays. This adds two miles to the Salt Creek/Diamond Creek Trail.

Volunteers will work through this season changing the trail into the Maiden Peak Cabin from the Gold Lake Road to the PCT with blue reflective diamonds. Many people end up traveling to the shelter after dark and installing reflective diamonds will help in finding the cabin when wearing a headlamp.

# TRIP REPORTS



## Eleventh Annual New Year's Day Hikes to Spencer Butte

January 1, 2023

Leaders: Mike Smith, Janet Jacobsen, David Cooper  
Photographer: Carla Cooper

**T**HREE GROUPS OF HIKERS departed from the Martin St. (Mike), Willamette St. (Janet), and Spencer Butte (David) Trailheads. It was a foggy morning, but we didn't care because we were all busy with conversation, snacks, and gathering for photo ops. Ane McKee gave a toast encouraging all of us to participate in 2023 Obsidian activities. Thanks to everyone who shared snacks and just made it a piece of cake for the leaders.



*Ane McKee offers a toast to 2023.*

## Hendricks Park to Natural History Museum

January 6, 2023

Leader: Steve Adey

Hike: 8 miles, 300 ft. (Moderate)

**NINE OF US MET AT 8:30 ON A SURPRISINGLY SUNNY MORNING.** We briefly discussed common resident ducks when we encountered them. We finished around 11:00. Most skipped the museum, and those of us who went in found it quite

crowded. Members: Steve Adey, Mari Baldwin, Kathie Carpenter, Holger Krentz, Denise Rubenstein, Sandra Sigris, Janice Silvestri, Dorothy van Winkle, Peggy Wright.

## Hendricks Park Aerobic

January 13, 2023

Leader: Steve Adey

Hike: 2.3 miles, (Moderate)

**THREE OF US WALKED UP AND DOWN FOR A WHILE IN LIGHT RAIN.** We got some good exercise and then had the remainder of the morning for other things. Members: Steve Adey, Lisa Marks, Evelyn Nagy.

## Get Acquainted / Ribbon Trail

January 14, 2023

Leader: Dorothy van Winkle

Hike: 2.5 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

**FOUR GUESTS AND SIX MEMBERS DODGED THE RAIN** and had a great hike to and through Hendricks Park. The viburnum was in full, sweet scent, a harbinger of spring. Some members had not been to the Lodge before and they were quite impressed. We talked about the upcoming potluck with Bill Sullivan as the guest speaker. Members: Marguerite Cooney, Eva Mogart, Jorry Rolfe, Marie Stringer, Sam Tracer, Dorothy van Winkle. Nonmembers: Delia Rasella, Kelly Henry, Shelley Tinkham, Lisa Pittenger.

## Thurston Hills Rain Wander

January 14, 2023

Leader: Darko Sojak

Assistant Leader: Holger Krentz

Hike: 6.4 miles, 780 ft. (Moderate)

**A GREAT PARTY, GOOD TRAILS, AND A GENEROUS SKY** made today enjoyable. We did the 6.4-mile lollipop hike from Quartz Park to the top of the basalt outcrops at the Thurston Hills Natural Area. The group lunch at the new Mexican restaurant in Springfield was very good. Members: Heidi Anderson, Whitney Gould, Gwyneth Iredale Krentz, Angie Ruzicka, Holger, Darko Sojak. Nonmembers: Kiki Hines.

## Amazon Headwaters / Ridgeline Trail / Spencer Butte Hikes

Hikes: 6.2–6.8 miles, 1,350–1,530 ft. (Moderate)

Various Leaders

June Miller: 1/4 20 Members

David Cooper: 1/11 15 Members, 1 Nonmember

Janet Jacobsen: 1/18 13 Members, 1/21 7 Members

Darian Morray: 1/25 12 Members, 1 Nonmember

## Blanton Ridge Hikes

Hike: 8.5 miles, 1,740 ft. (Moderate)

Leader, Tommy Young: 1/3 9 Members, 1/10 7 Members, 1/17 7 Members, 1/24 5 Members

## Mt. Pisgah Hikes

Hike: 3.5–6.5 miles, 1,000–1,400 ft. (Moderate)

Various Leaders

Janet Jacobsen: 1/6 9 Members, 1 Nonmember, 1/14 10 Members

David Hawkins: 1/20 11 Members



## Ski Trips

### **Eagle View Ridge**

**January 15, 2023**

**Leader: Harold Thompson**

**Xski: 10 miles, 1,600 ft. (Difficult)**

**F**OUR SKIERS LEFT CRESCENT LAKE SNO-PARK AT 9:15 AM under cloudy skies, with just a 1/2" of new snow atop a crunchy base. Weather was variable throughout the day with blustery winds and occasional snow showers. Our goal was the 6,400' high point on Eagle View Ridge, my name for the ridge north of Fawn and Stag Lakes. From the east side of Fawn Lake, we headed northwest towards the ridge, and ascended it via the east end using skins as the slope increased. We arrived at the high point at 1:00 PM and hunkered down in the trees out of the wind for lunch. A few inches of fresh snow at this elevation made for a pleasant descent off of the ridge. We were back at the car by 4:00 PM with a bit of clearing sky to end our day. Members: Lubos Hubata-Vacek, Sam Miller, Harold Thompson. Nonmembers: Larry Winiarski.

### **Redtop Mountain**

**January 22, 2023**

**Leader: Gordon Sayre**

**Assistant Leader: Harold Thompson**

**Xski: 8 miles, 2,100 ft. (Difficult)**

**THE ANNUAL REDTOP MOUNTAIN SKI TRIP WAS A GREAT SUCCESS.** My research in the archives shows that Obsidians first skied down Redtop in 1940 during one of the snow train excursions to Crescent Lake. This time, two cars drove on slippery roads to the Crescent Lake Sno-Park next to the new railroad maintenance depot. We were the only party of skiers on the mountain that day. Four to five inches of fresh snow at the base increased to nearly a foot at the summit, where we arrived after three hours of steady climbing. Clear skies, light wind, and amazing views enhanced our lunch break. We skied back down the same route, enjoying excellent turns. It was the best of the Oregon Cascades backcountry. Members: Lubos Hubata-Vacek, Sam Miller, Gordon Sayre, Harold Thompson. Nonmembers: Danneille Harris, Julie Polhemus, Larry Winiarski.



## Snowshoe Trips

### **Odell Overlook**

**January 11, 2023**

**Leader: Scott Hovis**

**Assistant Leader: Ane McKee**

**SShoe: 3.5 miles, 400 ft. (Moderate)**

**T**HE SNOWSHOE TRIP TO ODELL OVERLOOK BEGAN AT THE GOLD LAKE SNO-PARK with a light snowfall that kept the trees beautifully dusted. We made a brief stop at the Westview Shelter and then went up to Odell Overlook. We

could make out part of Odell Lake through the snowy fog, but the wind made our stay brief. We looped back to Westview Shelter for lunch and then headed back to our cars. Some of us stopped at the DQ in Oakridge and eliminated any calorie burn we might have accomplished. A fun time was had by all! Members: Mari Baldwin, Kathie Carpenter, Annie Chan, Patricia Esch, Elizabeth Grant, Jean Harris, Nancy Hoecker, Scott Hovis, Jane Leng, Lisa Marks, Ane McKee, David Morris, Sandra Sigrist, Bill Wacknov. Nonmembers: Angie Snyder.

### **Marilyn Lakes / Gold Lake**

**January 16, 2023**

**Leader: Lisa Van Liefde**

**SShoe: 6 miles, 450 ft. (Moderate)**

**A BEAUTIFUL, SUNNY SNOWSHOE-HIKE TODAY!** We had two hikers who had not visited Gold Lake before, and all enjoyed the great weather and company. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Annie Chan, Whitney Gould, Steven Johnson, Valerie Metcalfe, Michael Myers, Lisa Van Liefde, Dorothy van Winkle. Nonmembers: Kiki Hines.

### **Ray Benson**

**January 20, 2023**

**Leader & Photographer: Steven Johnson**

**SShoe: 6.5 miles, 300 ft. (Moderate)**

**AFTER WAITING WEEKS FOR THE WEATHER TO CLEAR ENOUGH TO GO SNOWSHOEING,** we finally got a chance on January 20th. We left the fog in Eugene to head up to Ray Benson Sno-Park, where we were greeted by a sunny and eventually warm day. With six inches of powder, the snow conditions were perfect. We took the North Loop trail to North Blowout Shelter and, as it was so nice, we continued on past Circle Lake to Island Junction Shelter where we had our lunch and enjoyed the sunshine. We took the fire road back to our vehicles and made a stop at Takoda's for dinner on the way home. Members: Marguerite Cooney, Lorraine Cuevas, Robert Eriksen, Steven Johnson, Holger Krentz, Jane Leng, Lynn Meacham, Michael Myers, Angie Ruzicka, Signe Wright.



*Snowshoers with Three Fingred Jack in the background.*



## Stewardship

### Amazon Creek Tree Planting

January 21, 2023

Leader: Jorry Rolfe

Photographer: Darko Sojak

Work Party: 1 mile (Easy)

**E**IGHT OBSIDIANS TEAMED UP WITH CITY STAFF and other community volunteers (40 in all) to plant 150 trees along the Amazon Creek in southeast Eugene. There was a variety of native trees and shrubs like chokecherry and casca-ra. We were given tools to clear the grass and dig the holes. The city supplied mulch and will water the trees for the next three years as they hopefully grow strong, tall, and straight! This is part of a multiple-year project to provide shade along the creek. Look for another planting opportunity in February to complete the line of trees on the west side. Members: Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Gwyneth Iredale, Barbara Orsi, Jorry Rolfe, Karla Rusow, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak.

*Top: City of Eugene Parks and Open Space team explaining how to plant the trees.*

*Bottom: Jorry removes sod with a hoedad.*



## Volunteer for an Obsidian Stewardship Project! Saturday Morning, February 25



### Amazon Creek Work Party

**PLEASE PITCH IN** on our second Amazon Creek work party. Together with Southeast Eugene neighbors we will plant and mulch trees along the Amazon Parkway from Fox Hollow to Snell. The stretch is just ½ mile long, but we'll have tons of fun. **Darko Sojak**



### Ridgeline Trail Maintenance

**JOIN US TO CONTINUE PLANTING** native plants near the Blanton Trailhead. The last Saturday of each month we work with Eugene Parks and Open Space on a project to improve the Ridgeline Trail System. Our Club schedules over 100 Ridgeline hikes—it is rewarding to do our part to keep the trails in good shape. **Matt Bell**

Sign up online for details  
If questions, email [stewardship@obsidians.org](mailto:stewardship@obsidians.org)



# JANUARY BOARD NOTES

## From Minutes by Angie Ruzicka January 4, 2023

President Dave Hawkins called the meeting to order. Board members present: Jean Harris, Denise Bean, Laura Osinga, Jorry Rolfe, Maryanne Reiter, Denise Rubenstein, and Angie Ruzicka. Others present: Carla Cooper, Dave Cooper, Marci Hansen, Lana Lindstrom, Jim Northrop, Lindell Wilken.

The Board approved the minutes for December, 2022 presented by Denise Rubenstein.

**Treasurer's Report (Laura Osinga):** Laura reviewed the year-to-date income and expenses as well as the balance sheet. The Board approved the bills. **Financial Statement Highlights:** The \$20,000 increase in December to the Capital & Contingency Fund is due to a *very* generous (tax deductible!!) donation from a member. Between membership dues and contributions we brought in \$22,000 more income than expected. The remainder of the difference in our actual income vs. the budget is due to a realized gain from selling investments to pay for the website. Expenses were \$34,000 higher than budgeted due mainly to the cost of the website, insurance (paid up front for 3 years of coverage on one policy), increased building maintenance, and property taxes.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Finance (Susan Zeni):** A proposed 2023 Budget and a Corporate Resolution for revised signing authority for the Obsidian General Fund checking account and Vanguard accounts will be presented at the Board meeting. **Budget:** The budget has been revised as per input from committee members. Please note that Donations have been moved down to the Capital Account portion of the budget and that the budget has an approximately \$5,000 loss.

**Proposal for the Board:** 2023 mileage rate of 11 cents/mile. This is 1/6th of the IRS 2023 rate of 65.5 cents/mile.

**Librarian/Historian (Lenore McManigal):** Gordon Sayre arranged for Bert Ewing, Bea Fontana, and Janet Jacobsen to view the Obsidian archival material in Special Collections at the Knight Library. This includes summit books, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings and Board minutes. Of particular interest were newspaper clippings about the Obsidian Ski Club/ Ski Laufers with information needed for a future *Bulletin* article. They were allowed to use their phones to take photos. Lenore and Janet transferred log sheets of members who did not renew to the inactive log books. We hope for renewals so we can reverse the process.

**Membership (Diane Schechter):** Total membership = 426. We have four new members: Cheryl Flavin, Irene Fries, Larry Myers, Thomas Newman.

**Safety (Lyndell Wilken):** The AED was checked. A first aid kit was given to the Stewardship Committee. In addition, the Bus Committee, Trail Maintenance and Summer Camp have first aid kits.

**Stewardship (Jorry Rolfe & Darko Sojak):** In December, a cheerful group removed blackberry bushes and cut 15 dead conifers at Green Island, the nearby McKenzie River Trust

property. This new year brings a unique request: Darko is asking us to consider donating blood in honor of Nada, his mother, this month. Sign up online at [obsidians.org](https://obsidians.org) and then contact Bloodwork Northwest. What a worthy and generous way to contribute and create a sense of belonging in our community! Look for two tree planting activities in SE Eugene: We are partnering with the City of Eugene staff to plant and mulch trees on the west side of Amazon Creek. They supply all the tools and supplies needed.

**Winter Trips (Dave Cooper):** With the holidays and changing weather, the number of trips dropped to 18 in December. The winter trips committee will be looking over the leader guide and other supporting documents now that the Policies and Practices have been updated. There's clearly some updating that must be done.

## OLD BUSINESS

- Report on web design project (Marci Hansen): Marci and Dave Cooper met with owner of Revolution before Christmas. Revolution continues to work on the site specifically related to interacting with the member database. Marci is consulting with tech people from Obsidians over the next couple of weeks to get their input. There is a possibility of additional costs to complete the project and there will also be monthly costs for maintaining the site once it is live. Revolution does not offer maintenance services so we will need to develop a plan.
- Review & approve the 2023 budget (Sue Zeni): Need to approve the general fund budget, Sue will make updates and send out and board will vote via e-mail.
- Strategic Planning update (Maryanne Reiter): The committee continues to work on the sections related to diversity, internal goals, and how we function administratively as well as working on developing processes for archiving activities, both physical and digital.

## NEW BUSINESS

- Reviewed & approved 2023 committee members.
- Reviewed & approved 2023 Obsidian mileage rate recommended by Finance Committee.
- Obsidian-NOLS WMI partnership: Maryanne was approached by an instructor from NOLS about partnering on a Wilderness First Responder class at the Lodge. We could make a small amount of money as well as provide an opportunity for Obsidian trip leaders to receive training.

## OPEN AGENDA ITEMS

After the work on Policies and Procedures there is a need to review potential by-law changes so that they will be ready for the membership voting in June. The board will discuss further in February.

## ADJOURNMENT

## Save the Dates

### Crater Lake SS/XC Sunday–Tuesday, April 2–4, 2023 Leader: Lana Lindstrom

**W**E WILL BE STAYING IN TWO HOUSES AT UNION CREEK RESORT. Rooms will be shared; 8 persons in each deluxe vacation home. Members can sign up starting Monday, February 13, 7 AM. Nonmembers can sign up starting February 15. Weather dependent, on the way to our lodging, we will xc ski or snowshoe in the Willamette Pass area. On April 3, we'll drive up to Crater Lake and hopefully have stunning views of the lake while skiing or snowshoeing. On the last day, we may hike along the Rogue River near Prospect or do another snow activity. Breakfasts and lunches on your own (coffee provided). The two dinners will be potluck. The cost is \$115 for members. Within five days of signing up, mail a check payable to the Obsidians to Lana Lindstrom, PO Box 5506, Eugene, OR 97405. Cancellation: no refund unless someone takes your place. A pre-trip meeting will be organized in late March.



### Waterfalls and Wildflowers in the Columbia Gorge May 2–4, 2023

Leader: Chris Shuraleff  
Assistant Leader: Jane Hackett

**HAVE YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO EXPLORE THE WATERFALLS IN THE COLUMBIA GORGE**, see the view from Angels Rest, or hike Dog Mountain, but just haven't found the energy to plan an overnight trip?

Come join fellow Obsidians for three days and two nights at the beautiful Menucha Retreat and Conference Center ([www.menucha.org](http://www.menucha.org)), which sits on a bluff above the Columbia River in Corbett. We will be staying in two houses on the property with single beds for all who desire. Bedding, towels and meals included for \$230 for members and \$235 nonmembers.

Pre-trip meeting will be held at the Lodge, Tuesday April 25 at 6 PM, when various hikes, car pooling, and rooms will be addressed. Sign up starts at 7 AM, Friday, March 10 for members, and Monday, March 13 for nonmembers. Within five days of signing up, send a check payable to Obsidians to Chris Shuraleff, 34790 Matthew Rd, Eugene 97405. The payment is nonrefundable unless your place is filled by someone else. If you require an Alternate Dietary Request Form, please check out one on their website, print, fill out, and send check (as this is an added fee) at least three weeks before we go.



POTLUCK

**Friday, February 24, 2023, 6:30 PM**

### THINK SNOW! A presentation by Jarl Berg

**A**N EXPERT IN NORDIC AND TELEMAR SKIING, Jarl Berg will give a presentation of Obsidian history focusing on winter activities. Growing up in Eugene as a Berg, a name considered by some to be synonymous with winter fun, Jarl began skiing when he was four, and hasn't stopped finding ways to slide on snow. Whether he's downhill skiing, telemark skiing, or snowboarding, he's always THINKING SNOW!

Anyone who loves snow, whether being out in it or appreciating it from a cozy lodge, **this presentation is a can't miss!**



**Potluck**  
Friday, February 24, 2023  
Obsidian Lodge  
Social 6:05 PM  
Potluck 6:30 PM, Program 7:30 PM

*Bring your favorite potluck dish to share along with your own plates, utensils, and cups to be washed at home.*

# OBSIDIAN CALENDAR

## February

7 Tue Marilyn Lakes SShoe **D** .....Hovis 731-3412  
 7 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M** ..... Rolfe 206-9501  
 8 Wed Amazon Hdwtrs/Spencer Butte Hike **M** .. Smith 520-488-9569  
 11 Sat Get Acquainted/Ribbon Trail Hike **E**..... van Winkle 485-7416  
 11 Sat Oregon's Birthday (early) Hike **M**.....Jacobsen 206-1251  
 13 Mon Rock Climbing Anchor Skills ..... Reiter 521-8472  
 14 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M** ....Jacobsen 206-1251  
 15 Wed Amazon Hdwtrs/Spencer Butte Hike **M** ..... Rolfe 206-9501  
 16 Thu GameNight! ..... McKee 554-1364  
 17 Fri Pisgah East Side Loop Hike **M** ..... Hawkins 505-0119  
 21 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M** ..... Rolfe 206-9501  
 22 Wed Amazon Hdwtrs/Spencer Butte Hike **M** ..... Morray 953-5679  
 23 Thu Potato Hill SShoe **D**.....Hovis 731-3412  
 24 Fri Potluck ..... McKee 554-1364  
 25 Sat Amazon Creek WrkPrty **E** ..... Sojak 799-9199  
 25 Sat Blanton Planting TriMnt **M** ..... Bell 503-884-8829  
 28 Tue Shelter Cove SShoe **E**..... Shuraleff 954-4474  
 28 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M** ....Jacobsen 206-1251

## March

1 Wed Amazon Hdwtrs/Spencer Butte Hike **M** ..... Yoerger 510-2832  
 7 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M** ..... Rolfe 206-9501

8 Wed Amazon Hdwtrs Hike **M**..... Rubenstein 248-514-5092  
 11 Sat Get Acquainted/Ribbon Trail Hike **E**.....van Winkle 485-7416  
 13 Mon Basic Mountaineering Course ..... Reiter 521-8472  
 14 Tue GameNight! .....Anson 228-8722  
 14 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M**.....Jacobsen 206-1251  
 15Wed Amazon Hdwtrs/Spencer Butte Hike **M**..... Clifford 915-5434  
 18 Sat Three Lakes Loop Xski **D** ..... Miller 484-4586  
 21 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M**..... Rolfe 206-9501  
 22 Wed Amazon Hdwtrs/Spencer Butte Hike **M**... Smith 520-488-9569  
 25 Sat Trail Maintenance **M** ..... Bell 503-884-8829  
 28 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M**..... Rolfe 206-9501  
 29 Wed Amazon Hdwtrs Hike **M**..... Rubenstein 248-514-5092

## April

2 Sun Crater Lake SS/XC ExtTrp **M**..... Lindstrom 683-1409  
 13 Thu GameNight! ..... McKee 554-1364  
 22 Sat Spring Beach Clean Up WrkPrty **E**..... Sojak 799-9199  
 29 Sat Trail Maintenance **M** ..... Bell 503-884-8829

## May

2 Tue Columbia Gorge Hiking ExtTrp **M**..... Shuraleff 954-4474

**FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION about our activities, visit the Obsidians website: [www.obsidians.org](http://www.obsidians.org)**



**T**HE WORD IS OUT that GameNight! at the Obsidian Lodge is a ton of fun! Come join us each month to play games and share in the fun and laughter. We have a variety of games on hand, but feel free to bring your favorite ones, as well.

We play from 4:30 to 7:30 PM, but the day of the week may change to accommodate people's schedules, so check the Obsidian Activity list each month. Arrive at 4:30 or show up any time after you get off work. Bring snacks to share, your own non-alcoholic beverage, and, of course, your enthusiasm!!!

### Local Volunteer SciEd Opportunity

**WHAT:** Volunteering as a Nature Guide

**WHERE:** Mount Pisgah Arboretum

**WHEN:** This Spring and Summer; orientation March 20

**HOW:** After being trained in local ecology, teaching techniques, and nature topics, and after shadowing walks, you will be leading groups of elementary school-aged children on field trips at the Arboretum. Then your typical commitment will be one two-hour tour per week.

Contact: Sara Spoden, 741-4110  
[education@mountpisgaharboretum.org](mailto:education@mountpisgaharboretum.org)

### For Sale

Used Les Schwab diamond  
 pattern design tire chains, 1540S  
 I have a Honda Accord car and these fit  
 \$15  
 Sandra, 687-2589

Dear Obsidians,

**WHOLE EARTH NATURE SCHOOL IS A 501C3 ORGANIZATION** that has been providing outdoor education to students from pre-K through high school in the Eugene/Springfield area since 2009. Our programs teach wilderness skills, botany, and environmental education in an imaginative and fun curriculum designed to put children at the center of their own learning, cultivate a passion for discovery, and to deepen their personal and social well-being. Our ultimate goal is to provide our students with the right balance of freedom and support to inspire them to become their best self.

We feel that our mission is extremely aligned with the values of the Obsidians. We'd love to have support from your members, be it in person as a volunteer at some of our programs, serving on our board of directors, sharing our programs with your family and friends, or joining us at events or as a donor. Please reach out to us at [contactus@wholeearth.org](mailto:contactus@wholeearth.org) or visit our website at [wholeearth.org](http://wholeearth.org) to learn more and find ways to engage and support.

Sincerely,  
 Joe Ramagli  
 Development and Outreach Director



**OBSIDIANS**  
**P.O. BOX 51510**  
**EUGENE, OR 97405**

OBSIDIANS IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORTED STANDARD  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
EUGENE, OR  
PERMIT 803

February 2023



*See the Odell Overlook trip report on page 7.  
Photo by Ane McKee.*

ENJOY the photos in color! ONLINE *Bulletin* at [www.obsidians.org](http://www.obsidians.org)