

Inside This Issue

New Members & Changes	2
Potlucks	3
Board Notes	4
President's 2005 Goals	5
Byways by Bus Calendar	8
Tribute to Ray Jensen	9
How About Leading a Hike	11
Obsidian Trail Mix	15
Trip Reports	16-18
Mountaineering Classes	17
Trail Maintenance	19
Features by Members	
Travels With Winnie	7
Wrong in the Woods	14

Dates to Remember

- Feb 19 Cape Mtn. Hike
- Feb 22-23 Eagles 'N More - Bus
- Feb 25 Hiking in Italy - Potluck
- Feb 26 Spencer Butte Trail Maint.
- Feb 27 Arrowhead Lake
- Mar 2 Board Meeting

Mar 3 Construction Meeting

To discuss lodge design alternatives. All members urged to attend this important meeting! Details in Reconstruction story.

Mar 5 Trestle Creek Falls

Detail trip schedules at:
www.obsidians.org or
 Register Guard - Sports - Thursday

The Online Bulletin

A color version of The Obsidian Bulletin is available online at:
www.obsidians.org/bulletin

Lodge Reconstruction Bigger, Better or Both?

FORTY-FOUR OBSIDIANS met at the lodge on January 21st to discuss plans for its reconstruction. The general meeting was led by architects from WBGS Architecture & Planning, the firm chosen by the Obsidian Construction Committee to produce design alternatives. Their goal was to elicit members' views on the future direction of the club in order to support the development of a master plan for the lodge and grounds -- and three architectural options for reconstruction of the lodge. Comments from members were diverse, but broad support was expressed for making better use of the existing space and making the lodge more comfortable. Also, in an informal show of hands, a majority of those voting indicated that they saw no need to expand the lodge now, although that need could arise in the future as club membership grows.

Obsidian President John Jacobsen said the meeting served a useful purpose in giving the team of architects a sense of the organization and the character of its membership. John hopes for a larger turnout at the next meeting, on March 3rd, when members will be able to see and comment on the design alternatives produced by WBGS, as well as cost estimates. The Construction Committee will submit a recommendation to the board, which will make the final decision.

Continued on Page 10

John Cecil Retires Blue Pencil

By Chris Cunningham

LONG-TIME OBSIDIAN BULLETIN editor John Cecil announced last month that after 17 years he is relegating his blue pencil, Exacto knife and glue stick to the wastebasket. Several past presidents applauded his enthusiastic commitment to the publication. They also noted Cecil's many other contributions to the club since he joined in 1973.



JOHN CECIL

It's "remarkable," says Bill Montgomery, who presided over the board in 1994-1995, that "John continued all this work, even after he and his wife moved to Bend. That's a level of dedication and generosity that's really exceptional." Cecil's labor of love included hand-delivering the final copy from Bend to the print shop in Eugene, by Cecil's account, probably 90 times.

Past president (2003-2004) Doug Nelson says, "All those years add up to a truly remarkable labor of love and every Obsidian member has been the beneficiary. In many ways, John came to epitomize that spirit for me," says Nelson, who was impressed early on in his membership with the club's individual and collective spirit of volunteerism.

Continued on Page 13

Welcome!

New Members

DAVID AND SHELLY CALL (Active)
 250 W. Broadway, Apt. 272,
 Eugene 97401
 David: 206-4723
david@davidhcall.com
 Shelly 954-7733
shellycall@comcast.net

David and Shelly lived in Alaska for 38 years, where David worked as a lawyer and Shelly as an office manager and canoe instructor. They moved to Eugene last August after 2 1/2 years full timing in their motor home. They enjoy biking, hiking, canoeing, gardening, travel, gourmet cooking, bridge, music and the arts. David is a member of the Eugene Concert Choir.

KENNETH FRAZER (Active)
 1161 Lorella Ave., Eugene 97401
 915-3883 kfs@cs.uoregon.edu

BARBARA HAGERMAN (Associate)
 27-E Indian Shores, Lincoln City 97367
 (541) 994-9933

Reinstated Members

LOUISE BEHNKE (Active)
 85 Sunset Dr., Eugene 97403-2162
 345-5743

JOSHUA LADAU (Active)
 Sierra Nevada Aquatic Res. Lab., HCR 79
 Box 198, Mammoth Lakes CA 93546
(no new phone, email listed)

JULI MCGLINSKY (Active)
 821 Kelly Lane, Eugene 97404-2716
 461-0408 jmanddg@earthlink.net

Directory Changes

PETER ASAI igneousrok@msn.com
RAY CAVAGNARO, 494 W. 10th Ave.,
 Apt. #306, Eugene 97401

DAVID MORGAN
 15113 76th St. SE, Snohomish, WA
 98290 (425) 802-7911

GERRY ROE
 1311 Classico Court, Salem, OR 97306

STEVE SCHRIVER sschriv@rio.com

Feb 2005 - Membership Statistics

Active	450
Associate	37
Honorary	3
Junior	18
Life	<u>26</u>
TOTAL	534

Deadline March 1 Submission Tips

ALL SUBMISSIONS for the March Bulletin must be received by March 1st.

Although email is preferred, we realize not all members have that option. Indeed, many still lack computers and word processing (*hey, I don't even own a cell phone or CD player!*).

That's OK, we'll still accept typed, handwritten and even etched in stone submissions, which will have to be either mailed to our PO box address or hand delivered. Such items should be received a couple of days before deadline, if possible.

ONE OF THE WONDERS of email is that you can copy and paste any program you use onto the email and we'll be able to work with it at our end. What we can't handle are attachments in anything but WORD.

We can also handle most photos you email to us, but have struggled and failed with a couple. If you are using some exotic photo program (and, to us, most things are exotic), please tell us what the program is so we can either open it or save ourselves lots of time and exasperation trying. We can also scan any photos, art or documents you send in (and can return them to you unharmed afterward).

If you have any technical questions, please ask them. If you have any technical answers, we'd love them even more!
 --Marshall Kandell

Best Wishes for Recovery

We wish Orval Etter, brother of Obsidian Ethel Allen, speedy and full recovery from serious injuries he received in a hit and run accident. Ethel has been active in the club for 10 years. Her brother is a retired U of O professor who was a founder of what has evolved as the Eugene Symphony Orchestra.
 -- Lenore McManigal

Donations

Contingency Fund:
 Juli McGlinsky, \$17
General Fund:
 Joshua Ladau, \$20

OBSIDIANS, INC

P.O. Box 322
 Eugene, OR 97440

Website: www.obsidians.org

Board of Directors

President - John Jacobsen
 Vice President - Wayne Deeter
 Secretary - Jim Duncan
 Treasurer - Sheila Ward
 Mary Croson Sandra Larsen
 John Pegg Steve Schriver
 Susan Sullivan

Board meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month, except August, at the Obsidian Lodge.

Committee Chairpersons

By-Ways By BusLiz Reanier
 Climbs Sue Sullivan
 ConcessionsLaurie Funkhouser
 ConservationDoug Nelson
 Entertainment Kathy Hoeg
 Extended Trips Lana Lindstrom
 FinanceKen Kodama
 Lodge Building.....Rob Castleberry
 Lodge GroundsMax Brown
 Librarian/Historian Lenore McManigal
 Membership..... Sharon Ritchie
 On-Line Wayne Deeter
 Publications Marshall Kandell
 PublicityMary Croson
 Safety..... John Pegg
 Science & EducationRick Ahrens
 Summer CampJim Duncan
 Summer TripsSandra Larsen
 Trail Maintenance..... Peter Asai
 Winter TripsBill Johnson
 Youth.....Andy Jobanek

The OBSIDIAN Bulletin

Published monthly, except August. Submissions accepted through the first of the month. Articles, story ideas, letters to the editor and other editorial submissions may be emailed to:

bulletin@obsidians.org

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The Obsidian Bulletin
 P.O. Box 51424, Eugene, OR 97405

Editorial Team

Marshall Kandell, Chris Cunningham, John Jacobsen, Beth Kodama, Pete Peterson

Assembly/Mailing Team

for January Bulletin
 Rick Ahrens, Mary Bentsen, Bob Dark,
 Yuan Hopkins, Ray Jensen, Marshall Kandell, John & Lenore McManigal,
 Ardys Ringsdorf, Vera Woolley and
 Rose Marie Moffitt, Crew Chief

COMING THIS MONTH

ITALY, ON FOOT!

JOIN TYLER BURGESS as she takes us on a hiking tour of Italy at this month's Obsidians Potluck on Friday, Feb. 25th. Through slides of her 2004 trip, she'll take us on beautiful coastal hikes and lead us along cliff-hanging trails past vineyards and olive groves on Portofino Peninsula, a natural park reserve on Italy's Ligurian Riviera.

We'll follow the life of Italian marble, from hiking around the working quarries of white marble in the Apuan Alps of Tuscany, to climbing the white marble tower of Pisa and strolling Piazzale Michelangelo in Florence, graced by a replica of David, Michelangelo's famous marble sculpture.

WE'LL EXPLORE an Etruscan tomb and hike around the walls of one of the best-preserved medieval towns in Italy, San Gimignano. And step off the tourist path in the hill country of the Mugello region, where the Medici family summered in days long gone, few speak English, the trails are old mule tracks and medieval ruins and shrines abound.

Tyler, leader of our "armchair tour," is an Obsidian who organizes and leads hiking trips in England, Italy and Ireland; and walking tours of Boston, New York City and Washington, D.C. Locally, she offers marathon training,

fitness training classes and workshops, and guided walking tours. Born in the shadow of the Bighorn Mountains of Wyoming, she grew up on a ranch east of Sheridan, where she learned to love being outdoors and working with horses. After raising her own family in Billings, MT, and recently divorced, she moved to Eugene in 1994 at the suggestion of



Tyler and the Carrara marble quarry in the Apuan Alps

her son, a grad student at the University of Oregon.

IN 2000, as a 50-year-old triathlete tired of office jobs, Tyler began the new millennium determined to "walk people into strength and vitality" and started her own business, "Walk With Me." She takes special pride in organizing the

"Walk With Me Marathon," the world's only marathon and half-marathon devoted to walkers. The event benefits Food for Lane County and the American Red Cross

Dinner at 6:30 p.m., the program 7:30. Bring your own plate, cup, utensils and a dish to share. Parking is limited.

POTLUCKS

JANUARY REVIEW

Cabins of the World

IT SEEMS MANY FOLKS were scared away by the notices to consider attending just the program at the January 28th potluck. Oh well, that left plenty of goodies and room for those of us who came early expecting crowds and found the parking lot surprisingly empty. However, by 7:30, at least 20 more Obsidians arrived and it was business as usual for the most popular speaker on the Obsidian circuit -- Bill Sullivan, whose first book, *Looking for Coyote*, "the story of his hike across the state, was recently declared one of the 100 most influential books in Oregon.

Bill is a fifth generation Oregonian and a very prolific writer. He updates his guidebooks regularly, re-hiking the trails and adding features, such as wildflower identification and campground listings. Bill's most recent book, *Cabin Fever - Notes from a Part Time Pioneer* is a story of his building a cabin in the Coast Range over a 20-year period. It begins in June 1977, when they packed up all the "stuff" they needed and rowed across the Sahalie River in their newly purchased decrepit rowboat named Earnest. *When we row across the river to start our new cabin, we'll be going in Earnest.* It ends with a 25-year open house anniversary attended by several Obsidians. The book is beautifully illustrated by his wife, Janell Sorensen. It's also a murder mystery, which the Sullivans solve. For this reason, some of the names of places and persons have been changed.

BILL BEGAN BY SHOWING SLIDES of cabins in Oregon. The first was Fort Clatsop, used by the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Then came cabins used by gold miners and, later, silver miners in the 20s. There are about a dozen silver mine cabins in the Wallawas. One near Aneroid Lake,

accommodates backpackers for free -- if you're extra nice to the caretaker. Another famous cabin, which the Obsidians helped to rebuild, is near Hand Lake. The oldest standing cabin, one of the most unusual, is a cupola style lookout tower on top of Black Butte. The most plush is the newest -- the Maiden Peak Cabin behind Rosary Lakes; unlike the others, it's insulated and has doors and windows.

FROM OREGON CABINS, Bill's slide show traveled to cabins in Austria, Italy, Norway and Slovakia. All offer hut-to-hut hiking European style; huts spaced 3-5 miles apart which provide bedding and food, so that you only have to carry clothes. Some of the huts have small rooms which sleep 4-8 persons; many have "mattress camps" -- one very long row of bunks where you can reach over and touch your neighbor. The Italian Dolomites have limestone picket fence mountains where hikers sometimes have to use anchored steel cables to cross steep passes. The High Tatras, part of the Carpathian range in Slovakia, has the cheapest accommodations and the most interesting way to get supplies to the cabins -- male Slovak sherpas carry incredible weight (the record is 220 pounds). The Norway huts aren't staffed. Room and board is paid on the honor system at the hut.

Bill and Janell built their cabin using only pioneer tools: a 5-foot cross cut saw once owned by his grandfather; an axe; and an adze. Total cost for the cabin was \$100. They used no nails, except for the shingles. The two-story addition after the kids were born cost an additional \$100. Bill's dad proudly built the *husicka* (not in Webster's) -- a log privy. Bill's office in a separate building still has a Smith Corona he uses to write his books. *"Cabin Fever"* is a "must read" -- lots of funny, interesting stories and a few sad ones, too. Thanks, Bill, for once again providing a very entertaining evening program for the Obsidians.

--Lana Lindstrom

BOARD NOTES

February 2, 2005

President John Jacobsen called the meeting to order. Other board members present were Wayne Deeter (vice president), Mary Croson, Sandra Larsen, John Pegg, Susan Sullivan, Steve Schriver, Sheila Ward (treasurer), and Jim Duncan (secretary). Also present were Kathy Hoeg, Janet Jacobsen, John and Lenore McManigal, Liz Reanier, Sharon Ritchie, Ken Kodama, Bill Johnson, Max Brown, Bob Huntley, Laurie Funkhouser, Andy and George Jobanek, Rob Castleberry, Marshall Kandell, Doug Nelson, Brian Hamilton and Peter Asai.

The minutes of the January board meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report (Sheila Ward): The treasurer's monthly report was distributed. Five bills were approved for payment.

OLD BUSINESS

Lodge Construction Committee: See story, Page 1.

Annual Meeting: Doug reviewed the issues involved in moving the annual meeting to January each year. After considerable discussion the consensus was to continue holding the Annual Meeting in October and have complete year-end summaries from each committee presented in January.

Organization Expansion: Discussion centered on how the club could help individuals in Coos Bay form their own organization.

Heritage Committee: See story, Page 6

NEW BUSINESS

John asked the Board to think about ways the club could review its programs and committee activities. The issue arose from a recent Finance Committee discussion how the budget-building process, programs and activities should drive the budget.

John noted that the White Oak Pavilion fund raising project had received more than \$2,000 in the name of the Obsidians. This entitles the club to a one-time free use of the Pavilion, which will become available in May.

John received a letter from the Oregon Department of Forestry informing us that the Club's 4 1/2 acres are designated "forest lands." The club is required to pay an \$18 fee for protection from liability in case a fire starts on our property.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Summer Trips (Sandra Larsen): The summer schedule is being assembled.

Winter Trips (Bill Johnson): Six trip reports received (47 members, 19 nonmember, \$123 in fees).

Climbs (Sue Sullivan): The committee will meet early in February to organize the schedule for the year.

Trails (Peter Asai): The committee (John Cooper, Jim Duncan, and Peter Asai) met in January to discuss future trail maintenance activities. The collaboration between the City of Eugene and the Obsidians to maintain trails on Spencer Butte continues to be a success. Peter has been in contact with Northwest Youth Corps and the Middle Fork Ranger District about continuing projects in the National Forest. He has also requested that the Summer Trips Committee set aside National Trails Day, June 4th, exclusively for trail maintenance trips.

By-Ways by Bus (Liz Reanier): See story and schedule, Page 8

Summer Camp (Jim Duncan): See story, Page 9

Extended Trips (Lana Lindstrom): John reported that there are no trips on the calendar at this time.

Youth (Andy Jobanek): The committee met in January to discuss possible trips (which may be followed by pizza). Announcements about the Obsidians and the Youth Committee will be made in all the local high school to drum up interest.

Conservation (Doug Nelson): The board approved adding Rob

Castleberry to the committee. See story, Page 6. Doug also showed a large aerial photograph of the Willamette National Forest that was offered to the club on the condition that we display it.

Publications (Marshall Kandell): The January Bulletin, the final edition edited by John Cecil, consisted of 12 pages (520 copies printed, 444 mailed, \$419.80 total cost). The new editorial team has assumed responsibility for publication. Several changes will be made: As can be seen in this edition of the publication.

Entertainment (Kathy Hoeg): Attendance at the January potluck was 60 for dinner, 82 for the program, with \$78 in fees collected. The question of having a potluck at the annual meeting in October was discussed. There is no requirement for a potluck and the suggestion that it be a dessert meeting won nodding agreement.

Science/Education (Rick Ahrens): John reported that Rick's Antarctica slide show in January was well attended.

Membership (Sharon Ritchie): Four applications for membership were received (3 active, 1 associate) and approved by the board. Total membership is 534.

Publicity (Mary Croson): The new committee consists of Bob Huntley, Janet Jacobsen, Rick Ahrens, and Mary Croson.

Concessions (Laurie Funkhouser): No sales were reported for January.

Online (Wayne Deeter): Trip reports back through 1976 are now on line.

Finance (Ken Kodama): The committee met to discuss cash flow issues related to lodge reconstruction, and our policy of investing in equity funds. The committee also reviewed its audit policy. It was agreed that annual audits provide a useful cross-checking procedure and should be continued, but that it was not necessary to audit each account every year.

Because the Finance Committee's responsibility for producing the annual budget is not covered in the by-laws, the committee will draft appropriate language to cover this function and present it to the Board.

Library/Historian (Lenore McManigal): All reports have been recorded. The lodge will be in use on Feb. 3, 23, 25 and 27.

Lodge Buildings (Rob Castleberry): Rob expressed growing appreciation for Max's efforts in the past in keeping the Lodge clean and warm.

Lodge Grounds (Max Brown): Nothing new at this time.

Safety (John Pegg): The safety committee is developing its agenda for the year.

Mary Millman

OBSIDIAN Mary Millman died Jan. 7th of kidney failure at the age of 90. She made her first trip with the club when she was 71 and went on 242 hikes, 13 bus trips and 6 summer camps ...often hiking every week during summers.

Born in Podili, S. India on April 27, 1914, she married Owen Booth in 1937 and, after he died, married Arthur Millman in 1975. A graduate of Wellesley College, she earned a masters in library science from Drexel College. She worked as an executive secretary and librarian at Cheyney College and the University of Arizona.

Mary enjoyed writing, reading, hiking, traveling and nature. Survivors include her husband, twin daughters, two sisters and a grandchild.

Service will be Feb. 13 at 2 p.m. at Eugene Friends Meeting, 2274 Onyx St., Eugene.

John Jacobsen Discusses His Goals as Board President

By Pete Peterson

ATTRACTING NEW MEMBERS while also satisfying the 575 Obsidians on the rolls simply requires doing what the club does so well, says John Jacobsen, 2005 president of the board of directors. "Just provide good activities" -- climbs, hikes, By-Ways by Bus, summer camp, snow shoeing, cross country skiing, potlucks, presentations -- "and they will come."

And when they experience with other Obsidians the mountains, lakes, waterways and the coast, "They gain an appreciation and want to protect and preserve it. We don't require people to have any philosophy on preservation, but I think simply being in the outdoors is one of the best ways to gain that appreciation."

THAT'S HOW IT HAPPENED for Jacobsen, beginning with his first climbs in the early 1980s, followed by hikes at summer camp. After he married active member Janet in 1983, she -- and the enjoyment of the activities -- "dragged me in," and over the years he's served twice as president



John and Janet Jacobsen

and chaired or worked on most of the club's 21 standing committees.

"John has allocated a huge amount of his time and energy to the Obsidians," says Doug Nelson, outgoing board president. "He's exceptional in that way. We all want to give to the club, but John seems to have more energy than most."

Jacobsen acknowledges that point. Because of the friends he's made and the ideals of the organization, "It's the only social club I've ever belonged to."

To keep it lively and appealing to others, he intends to consult with board members and past presidents while pursuing three main goals for 2005:

Continued On Next Page

BIO BRIEF

John Jacobsen, 57, was born and raised in North Dakota and has lived in Eugene since 1982. An independent computer consultant, he is the sole proprietor of Jacobsen Software Designs (although he does more consulting than designing currently, working a lot with schools). He and Janet, the other half of this Obsidian dynamic duo, met while both were traveling in Denmark and married in 1983.

Making of a True Believer

HAVING TURNED BACK because of looming storm clouds, the 11-member Obsidian team was descending the North Sister in mid-July 1983 when leader Glenn Meares fell down an avalanche chute -- a steep, 75-foot gully. In his trip report, Meares says he was attempting to cross around the chute in a few big strides, but his right crampon had become balled with snow and before he could make an adjustment, "I was airborne, feet first and backwards to the slope."

Without a rope to hold him back and unable to self-arrest, his speed accelerated as he slammed into rocks and ice before finally sliding to a stop. "The full impact had been taken by my backside and (helmeted) head. I was not in any pain. I just laid there listening to the others working their way to me." But he was nauseous; his breathing was shallow -- the onset of shock, he wrote.

For John Jacobsen, a new member on the outing, the teamwork that followed made a lasting impact on his next 20 years of climbing. "Climbing is not something easily or safely done alone," he says. Rather, Obsidian teams of knowledgeable, resourceful climbers -- many who have completed the club's climbing school -- can make it as safe as possible.

AS THUNDER BOOMED OVERHEAD, climbing mates made their way down to Meares. "Once Glenn was out of shock, our ice axes were humming," Jacobsen says. They pulled him up the steep incline, but seeing that Meares' left ankle could not bear weight, two team members went ahead for help. In wind-driven snow and rain, the remaining eight devised what Meares observed as "several innovative procedures in getting me off the mountain and back to base camp." Tom Donnelly belayed by rope to Jacobsen, who in turn steadied Meares from behind and kept taut a rope secured to Meares' waist sling. Meares then took short steps down the uneven gravel ridge, using his ice axes like crutches.

Jacobsen says when they reached the slick surface of Collier Glacier; they rigged up a kind of sled using an Ensolite pad, Gortex jacket, rain pants and a rope harness. Jacobsen went first in the slippery descent, guiding the sled on a long tether while three climbers pulled back on the ropes, braking with their axes in the quick descent.

BY 8 P.M., SIX HOURS AFTER Meares had dropped down the chute; his physically and emotionally drained team was making him comfortable for the night. Next morning, an Air Force para-rescue unit flew him by helicopter to the hospital in Bend to heal from torn ligaments, cuts and abrasions. He wrote, "I am very lucky, not only to be alive, but to have had so many wonderful and beautiful people touch my life, and that's what it's all about."

The challenging experience resonated the same way in Jacobsen's mind. He says he's a true believer in the basic ideas of the club -- to provide mutual support during planned activities in the wilderness, enjoy the outdoors and share the experiences with wonderful people.

-- Pete Peterson

Presidential Goals

Continued From Previous Page

Maintain the Outdoor Activities Schedule

THE CLUB WILL SUSTAIN its successful events while exploring new trips. “The challenge is always getting people to lead,” says Jacobsen. “It’s circular. A good activities schedule depends on good leaders and volunteers.” He encourages all members to attend board meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at the lodge. “That’s when (and where) the club takes care of business, but it’s also where good ideas come from.”

Maintain Club Growth

Noting the club’s steady growth over the last six years, the president reports that the average Obsidian is 62, that 33 percent of our members work full time, and that 54 percent describe themselves as retired. “While we remain a mature club, 16 percent are 50 and younger.”

It’s obvious to Jacobsen that if the club can spread the word about its philosophy and history of enjoyable activities, then membership numbers will continue to climb. When the Register-Guard gave the organization a big spread in 2003, the 75th anniversary year, inquiries and

new memberships shot up. “We just have to find innovative ways to get our name out into the community.” He says the organization must be welcoming to members of all political persuasions.

“**FOR ONE THING**, we’re a non-profit organization and there are limits to what we can do. My simple solution: We will have no limitations on education (about the environment, use of public lands, etc.), but we can’t tell people how to vote, think or to write their congressional representatives. Our Bulletin and website are good for presenting information ...we just (officially) need to maintain that middle ground.”

Develop a Step-by-Step Plan for Lodge Repair

Last year, members tore down the lodge entryway because of dry rot. Water had seeped into the structure since its addition to the lodge in 1970. “We now have the option of simply replacing the demolished entry and storage areas, as well as doing some remodeling, or even an expansion to the lodge,” says Jacobsen. “Depending on the level of repair and expansion, we may need to raise funds, either from member donations or a loan. We currently are on track to move to construction by early summer, with completion expected by September.”

Conservation Committee

THIS YEAR’S CONSERVATION COMMITTEE met for the first time in late January. Four committee members plus our board president were in attendance. We spent some time getting to know each other, then discussed ideas for directions and activities for our committee for the coming year.

It was agreed that we could best serve the club and its membership by focusing primarily on local conservation issues. To this end, we would like to use the *Bulletin* and the web page to present pertinent articles and information. We would also like to organize conservation themed hikes or other outings, host discussion groups and perhaps facilitate presentations to the membership.

To further these activities the Conservation Committee would ask and encourage our membership to keep us informed about current conservation issues in our area. If you would like to bring something to the committee’s attention, please feel free to call or e-mail Doug Nelson, committee chair.

THE COMMITTEE would like to remind our members of the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference to be held at the U of O Law School March 3-6. The PIELC includes, “panels, workshops and presentations addressing the entire spectrum of environmental law and advocacy.” According to committee member George Hermach, “These conferences are world class events. Obsidians should attend.” More information is available at: www.pielc.org.

The Conservation Committee plans to host a Northwest Earth Institute discussion course titled, “*Discovering A Sense Of Place.*” The discussion group will consist of 8 to 12 participants and meet weekly for eight weeks. An introductory presentation for all interested Obsidians and friends will be held at the lodge on Tuesday, March 1st at 6:30 p.m. Contact Doug Nelson (746-6774) for more information. -- Doug Nelson

Framing Project

WES PROUTY has built 18 picture frames for our lodge’s historical display and sent them to Peter Graham. After Rick Ahrens writes the historical label for each of the photographs, Peter will then have the gigantic project of measuring, matting and assembling each photograph. Everyone is looking forward to the display. It will happen!

Expenses for New Year’s Eve Party at Belknap Springs - Dec. 31, 1936

Transportation, 1 cent per mile	
Club fee (entertainment and three meals)	\$2.00
Double Room in Hotel (everything furnished)	.75
Cabins for four (furnish own bedding) per person	.50
Swim (suit & towel furnished)	.35
Swim (above not furnished)	.20

Travels with Winnie

By Richard Hughes and Lana Lindstrom

WHAT BETTER WAY to test a relationship than to travel across the United States in a small RV (21' Toyota Winnebago) for three and a half months? It was a fun trip with no snafus (*whew, we passed the test!*). We traveled the northern route, mostly I-90 going east and the southern route, I-8, returning home...and, 11,000 miles later, here are some of our thoughts and observations.

- **OUR FAVORITE PLACES** (in no particular order): Niagara Falls (after all, it was our honeymoon); Kitty Hawk, N.C.; Caribbean cruise; Black Hills, S.D.; International Spy Museum, Washington, DC; Civil Rights Museum in Memphis; Ellis Island & Statue of Liberty; San Antonio; and San Luis Obispo.

- There's no place like home, specifically, Eugene/Springfield. This area has the best of everything - proximity to beautiful beaches, mountains, waterfalls, hiking, biking, and very friendly "natives".
- There are very few places with no noise and/or light pollution.
- We're pretty sure that the same train followed us everywhere, sounding its presence just as we were falling asleep. Back in Eugene, we hear it from our house, 3 miles from the tracks, at 10:30 p.m.
- The US grows an amazing amount of soy and corn, both for human and stock consumption, and it's not just in the mid-west. It's used in diverse products like candy, salad dressing, syrup, paint, plastics, and soap. No wonder we saw thousands of fields from Oregon to North Carolina.
- Many towns look the same due to the ubiquitous box stores and fast food restaurants -Wal-Mart and McDonald's lead the charge. We confess to using both of them: the former for basic items (and once to camp in their parking lot - never again), and the latter for their clean restrooms.
- The level of security in Federal facilities is the latest Full Employment Act. Sometimes it was much more intense than the airlines - we had to remove our watches and belts (surprisingly, no one dropped their drawers), as well as fanny packs, coats, cameras, etc. At the Federal

- Reserve Building in Philadelphia, we were "sniffed" for explosives while standing in a "Beam Me Up Scotty" vacuum chamber.
- The folks in the South, particularly in Louisiana Cajun country tawk funny. When asking for directions, it wasn't until we saw the restaurant that we realized that Aaaw-hop was a familiar place. Y'allcomebaknow!

- The best bargain of the trip was a National Parks affiliated bath house in Hot Springs, Arkansas. For \$42 apiece, we each got a whirlpool soak, steam, wrap and massage; it was a very relaxing 1 ½ hours.

- Each of us can make the world a better place to live, no matter how big or small our contribution. Mt. Rushmore and Crazy Horse monuments were created because of two individuals' visions and persistence.

WHAT WOULD WE DO differently next time? Hard to say. We were away from home a long time, but we barely scratched the surface, and we felt that we were constantly moving. Winnie was great because we could camp in remote places and prepare most of our meals, but we ditched her

outside most major cities and stayed in motels instead. Staying with friends and family allowed us to escape our small quarters. Yes, we'd do a similar trip again.

But for right now, we're very content to camp out in the front room and watch the travel channel!



Lana Lindstrom & Richard Hughes

Obsidian Princesses to Meet

THE OBSIDIAN PRINCESSES will meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m., Thursday, March 3rd, Terese's Place, 650 Main St., Springfield. The program will be a visit to the Springfield Museum to view "*The Fabulous Fifties*" exhibit. Lenore McManigal and Janet Jacobsen are in charge of the arrangements.

To be an Obsidian Princess, you must climb the Three Sisters on official Obsidian climbs (each peak is above 10,000 feet). At the 1929 Summer Camp, held in a meadow on Hinton Creek near the South Sister, Florence Ogden Sims (*Princess Blue Waters*) was initiated. Her climb of the North sister during this camp qualified her for the honor of becoming our first "princess."

Highways & Byways by Bus Rally Feb. 27th

BRING YOUR CALENDAR AND CHECKBOOK and be ready to sign up for this year's exciting bus trips. The 2005 *Highways and Byways by Bus Rally* will be held at 1 p.m. on Sunday, February 27, at the Obsidian Lodge. There will be refreshments and the full rally sheet will be available. This will be a 2004 reunion and 2005 kickoff. Feel free to bring friends.

The following is a listing of this year's trips, although some have not been finalized as of press time. For more information, contact Bus Trips Committee Chair Liz Reanier at 687-1925.

- **EAGLES 'N MORE (Feb. 22-23)** – This trip is filled, with names taken for wait list only.
- **SNOOPIN' AROUND SPRINGFIELD & EUGENE (March 23)** -- You will go places you probably don't know about...tour the Washburn District, historic homes and the remodeled Natural History Museum on the U of O campus. Enjoy a sit-down lunch at a special place.
- **HISTORIC 1840S HOMES IN OREGON CITY (April 20)** – We'll tour the homes and have a sit-down lunch in one. We'll also visit the interpretive center above the falls and the historic cemetery.
- **GLIDE WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL 'N MORE (April 23)** – There will be a hike and flower search at Susan Creek Falls, followed by the festival and further flower viewing in the afternoon.
- **BIRDS AROUND THE EUGENE AREA (May 12)** -- Led by Rick Ahrens to his favorite recent bird spotting areas – which may include Fern Ridge, Checkermallow, Delta Ponds, Alton Baker and Wm. Findley Wildlife Refuge.
- **RHODIES, COVERED BRIDGES & MURALS (May 17)** -- We'll travel through Marcola, Sweethome, Stayton to Silver Creek Falls, checking out the flowers, bridges and murals along the way. Following a catered BBQ lunch by the Beards at Silver Creek Falls, we'll return by back roads.
- **JOHN DAY FOSSIL BEDS, EASTERN OREGON BACK ROADS (June 6 – 10)** – First, we'll see the latest additions at the High Desert Museum; then, on to the Crooked River Canyon, the new interpretive center at Sheep Rock, travel the back roads into Baker City, tour the town and stay at the historic hotel. Next day, the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center and over the mountains to Walla Walla. The final day, we'll follow the Columbia Gorge, stopping to see the Lewis and Clark equipment exhibit at the museum in the Dalles.
- **WILDLIFE SAFARI 'N MORE ANIMALS (June 22)** – This is always fun, especially with Rick along to fill in the details. We also plan an educational program, lunch, tour the animals again...and then on to other fun with animals.
- **MT. SHASTA, MT. LASSEN NATIONAL PARK & REDDING (July 6-9)** -- We'll travel the Volcanic Legacy Highway *past* Crater Lake (*sorry!*) into Northern California, stopping to really search out the Mt. Shasta recreational area. Day 2, we'll follow the scenic highway east and south into the Mt. Lassen park area and into Redding. A focal point in Redding will be the Sun Dial Bridge. Scenic highways in Oregon will lead us home.
- **BUTTERFLIES, BIG K RANCH, KING ESTATE WINERY (July 15)** – That says it all!
- **HARRISON HOT SPRINGS (Aug. 15-19)** – This trip is filled, names taken for wait list only.
- **CASCADES LAKE HIGHWAY (Sept. 8)** – A leisurely trip up the McKenzie, Clear Lake cutoff into Sisters and Bend and the Cascades Lakes Highway; then home via Willamette Pass.
- **ANNUAL SALMON BAKE AT DEPOE BAY (Sept. 17)** – A real festival! Shop, enjoy the festivities, watch the salmon bake and have lunch before seeing the sights along highway 101 on the way home.
- **MT. ST. HELENS AND SURROUNDING AREA (Oct. 4-5)** – We'll explore around Kelso and on Day 2, take in the mountain (details depending upon whether the mountain approves!).
- **FALL COLOR: WILLAMETTE VALLEY & SOUTH (Oct. 18)** – First, the U of O campus, then on to the Cottage Grove/Dorena Lake area; lunch at Baker Bay; then Tolley's in Oakland for ice cream; then to Sutherlin and back via Elkton and Drain.
- **EVERGREEN AIR MUSEUM & SPIRIT MOUNTAIN (Nov. 10)** – Drive to Basket Slough, then Spirit Mountain for an early lunch in the Coyote Café. Then it'll be the air museum, where we can walk through the Spruce Goose.
- **OREGON HISTORICAL CENTER/LEWIS & CLARK TRAVELING EXHIBIT (Dec. 1)** – This is a tentative date, subject to confirmation and notice.
- **HOLIDAY LIGHTS, WILDLIFE SAFARI & ROSEBURG (Dec. 13)** -- After a 1 p.m. departure, we'll travel to Wildlife Safari and enjoy the displays before a sit-down dinner. Then we'll be off to Roseburg's River Forks Park for the Rotarians lighted drive-through of Christmas traditions. Home by 9:30 p.m.

Ray Jensen Steps Down as Bus Chair

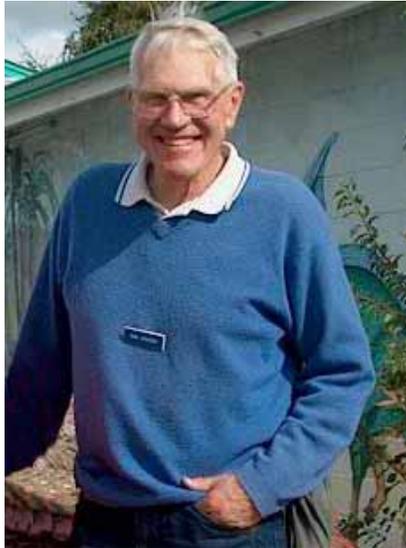
(EDITOR'S NOTE: Just as John Cecil has ended a distinguished stint as Bulletin editor, so has Ray Jensen retired as chair of the Bus Committee. New chair Liz Reanier pays tribute to his long and valued service.)

RAY JENSEN recently retired as chair of the Bus Committee, leaving quite a legacy, although he remains active and leading trips. On Feb. 9th, he became an octogenarian. Congratulations, Ray!

Ray is the guru of the committee. His name and bus trips are synonymous. A real team player, he relied on his trip leaders' and riders' strengths – frequently calling on Ewart Baldwin (another long time Oregon resident, geologist and miner) to share jewels of wisdom.

The two are famous for taking us on back roads and to the historical wonders of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana. We other leaders have a hard time finding places they have not been. Every so often, we succeed, getting their same response: "How have I missed this?" Drivers often shudder imagining where they might have to drive, but still vie for the job.

SINCE RAY'S retirement from the lumber industry, he has had more time for his lifetime interests of history and music; and the Obsidians have become his life (hikes, summer camp, trips). Of course, family comes first. His wife and daughter join us from time to time. When you don't find Ray at home he is most likely researching a trip. Wherever he goes, he looks. That's why, with his interest in Lewis and Clark and summer camps, he has executed three legendary Montana trips. Polk County and Portland are two other areas of interest.



RAY JENSEN

Ray is emphatic about scouting trips; so, when we were near the Portland Rose Gardens, he was very frustrated because construction that hadn't been there the week before, disrupted our trip. Of course, he had the driver backing out of the mess and we were on an alternate route in no time. Guess that is his biggest frustration. My biggest frustration with him is that his desk is clean and his files in order!

DURING HIS TENURE he has respected traditions, but has made major strides to modernize our schedule of trips, raised our ridership, been a great mentor of others wanting to lead trips, varied the activities we share and realized the need to market our trips because several other groups in the area also provide trips. I can assure you once one goes on ours, you know they are the best

I think Ray does the equivalent of three hikes to our one because he is always checking up on the least experienced hikers (even when he has a sweep).

OBSIDIAN HATS are off to you, Ray, for all the wonderful trips you've helped make possible for riders who no longer travel much alone. You have raised the

quality of life for many. I know the trips have given me a whole new family of friends and you care for one and all of us.

We will try to keep up the schedule of quality programs you have built. I know you have plans for Washington, D.C., this spring and working with the Lewis and Clark Celebration activities. You are also listed as a leader for trips, so we can keep an eye on you! -- Liz Reanier

New Approach to Summer Camp

A SUMMER CAMP Committee has been formed. Members include Rick Ahrens, Bob Dark, Wayne Deeter, Peter and Kitson Graham, Janet Jacobsen, Ken Kodama, Lana Lindstrom, Sharon Ritchie, and Jim Duncan (chair).

At its first meeting on January 31, the committee agreed that in order to provide continuity in scheduling summer camps, certain structural and operational changes in the committee needed to be made. The committee will become a true standing committee; it will schedule and arrange summer camps two to three years into the future, rather than simply serving as a working committee for a single year's summer camp. In addition, the committee chair will become a separate position from that of summer camp leader. The primary responsibilities of the committee will be to scout out and select sites for summer camps, recruit a leader for the year's summer camp, assist the leader in identifying and recruiting key individuals for the summer camp, and provide all necessary support for the camp leader. These changes in the committee's structure and mission may require minor changes in the by-laws. The committee will work on wording to this effect to present to the board.

THERE WILL BE NO SUMMER CAMP IN 2005. Because the committee was formed late in the year, we feel there is simply not adequate time to put a summer camp in place this year. Our efforts will go towards insuring summer camps take place in 2006 and beyond. We will be scouting potential sites this summer and we will identify summer camp leaders. We will also address certain internal committee issues, including how to budget for capital expenses for summer camp, the fee structure, lottery selection process, the advantages of having two-week camps, etc. Club members should feel free to contact any member of the committee if they have ideas or issues about summer camp that they would like to see the committee address.

-- Jim Duncan

Lodge Reconstruction

Continued from Page 1

Where We're Going

The meeting was part of an ongoing process to guide reconstruction of the lodge, after demolition of the entryway. The aim was to gather ideas about near and long term use of the lodge and grounds and about the future of the club to guide WBGS. It is important that decisions made now not limit future options.

IN KEEPING WITH THIS, Harriet Cherry of WBGS urged people to take a long-range view and think about how they see the club using the lodge and the property as a whole, not only now but in 5, 10 or 15 years. Although the lodge is filled to capacity during a few events, most of those present felt the size is adequate for now. But the club is expanding and may outgrow the lodge in 5 to 10 years. Any changes to the lodge and grounds should be designed so they don't rule out expansion.

The second half of the meeting focused on specific improvements. Broad support was expressed for a separate storage building for summer camp and other equipment; and better insulation, heating, lighting, acoustics and traffic flow. There is no need to upgrade the kitchen, but it could be relocated in order to use space better. The possibility of moving the main entrance was discussed. Members want to keep the natural, undeveloped look of the grounds and the rustic look of the lodge; improve access to the lodge; and use "green" materials where possible. There was no clear consensus about the future use of the climbing wall.

The WBGS team members -- Cherry, Ray Dodson and Tony Baron -- also reported what they had learned about code constraints. Our land is outside the Eugene city limits, but inside the urban growth boundary. This means we need a city building permit and must abide by city land-use codes. We will be able to continue using the existing system for handling sewage.

Where We Came From

THE CURRENT PLANNING and reconstruction process began in late-April 2004 with an open meeting to share views on the club's future and, in relation to that, to discuss how the club's contingency and endowment funds should be used. Participants drew up an ambitious but unprioritized wish list, mainly related to the lodge; and decided, as a first step, to have the lodge inspected by a professional to assess its condition.

Tom Moore of National Property Inspections found that the lodge was in generally good shape, but that moisture seemed to have penetrated the walls of the entryway. Further checking by club members revealed wood rot so serious the entryway at ground level, as well as the storeroom

above it, were considered unsafe and traffic was immediately restricted. The concrete-slab roof of the entryway fortunately stayed in place while a group of brave volunteers moved everything out of the second-floor storeroom.

The entryway, incidentally, was not part of the original lodge. The main building was designed in 1960 by then-president Tom Taylor and dedicated in 1963. A contractor did the framing, but the finish work was done by volunteers. The entryway room was added later, along with the stone climbing wall, a memorial to Mark McLaughlin and Jerry Clark -- two Obsidian climbers who died in 1967 in a storm on Mt. McKinley.

UNLIKE THE MAIN LODGE, with its steeply pitched roof, the entryway had a sturdy flat roof to allow climbers to stand on it. This design, combined with Oregon weather, may have led to the wood rot that doomed the entryway.

In October, the Obsidian board created a Construction Committee, now consisting of John Jacobsen (chair), Rob Castleberry, Jim Duncan, Brian Hamilton, Kathy Hoeg, Bill Johnson, Ken Kodama, Doug Nelson, Liz Reanier and Sue Sullivan. After reviewing bids, the committee hired Greg Payne Construction and, in December, Payne tore down the entryway and hauled away the debris. At the committee's request, he left the climbing wall intact -- permitting a reconstruction design that incorporates the wall. If the club

decides to have the wall removed, the contract with Payne includes an option for us to have him do this.

NEXT, THE COMMITTEE decided to get the help of an architect or designer in order to reduce the risk of overlooking some significant and not-so-obvious design choices for the lodge. The committee felt that, whatever the design outcome, the product would be improved by the heavy involvement and participation of professionals. After interviewing several local firms, the committee selected WBGS. Committee members were impressed by the firm's competence, experience in working with groups and imaginative design solutions. WBGS architects designed the renovated USDA ranger station on the McKenzie Highway, with its beautiful entrance.

WBGS has been hired to draw up a master plan for use of the lodge and grounds and three architectural designs, bearing in mind the club's financial situation. The design options will range from simple replacement using the same footprint, to an ambitious expansion of the lodge anticipating increased use of the lodge. Also, realizing that support from the club's members is vital to success of the project, the committee has asked WBGS to play a large role in getting Obsidian members involved, in both identifying needs and selecting a design. The January 21st meeting was their first step in that direction. A week later, they also attended the Jan. 25th potluck to see how the lodge was on a busy night.

--Reported by Beth and Ken Kodama

Thursday, March 3, 6:30 P.M.
Important Construction Meeting
Members are urged to attend this meeting at the Lodge to help choose a renovation or expansion plan and funding option for the Obsidian Lodge.

There's Still Time to Offer to Lead a Hike

IN THE PAST MONTH, the Summer Trips Committee has called or e-mailed around 150 members, asking them to lead trips sometime from April through November. Leading a trip has many rewards, but the best one is helping members and non-members enjoy the out-of-doors. Sandra Larsen, who chairs the committee, has worked hard recruiting callers, organizing the call lists and cheering for a full and varied schedule.

If you haven't led a trip for a long time or if this would be your first time, consider an "A" trip or co-leading. There are many members and non-members who enjoy slower, easier hikes. Sandra and Janet Jacobsen are happy to sign up co-leaders for trips. We need urban hikes, coastal hikes, history hikes, whale watching, botany hikes, "death marches," exploratory trips, great views... and just having a good time trips.

CONSIDER LEADING a hike near the Belknap Springs area and then taking a swim...or leading the same hike in different seasons to observe the changes. For our club to be healthy, we need a robust schedule of around 150 hikes. That takes around 90 leaders.

The Obsidian website's trip reports is an amazing resource for selecting a hike and a date. Reports go back many years and one can learn when mosquitoes, snow levels, hot weather and poison oak are at their best...or worst, for that matter. Bill Sullivan's books are full of great hikes we've never done. If you decide to lead a hike you haven't done before, schedule it well ahead so you have plenty of time to scout it out.

For a working schedule, go to: www.obsidians.org/strip. It is an easy way to find out what trips we need and when. We need to have the schedule finalized by the last week in February. We realize it's difficult to set a date so far in the future, but your trip can be rescheduled if necessary. Our website helps keep the schedule up-to-date. If you want to lead a trip and have not been asked, contact Sandra Larsen at 687-2589 or Margaret Prentice at 687-5850; or email summertrips@obsidians.org.

There will be a leaders meeting Tuesday evening, April 5th.
--Janet Jacobsen

Looking for a Hike to Lead?

THE SUMMER HIKING schedule needs the old standbys as well as some new hikes. Some of the following hikes have not been led for some time. Many can be adjusted to several levels of difficulty. For background information on the hikes, you can consult Bill Sullivan's books, past hike reports on the Obsidians website, national forest

websites or just put the name in a search engine and see what you get.

"A" Hikes

Clear Lake, Heceta Head, Sweet Creek Falls, Tahkenitch Creek, French Pete Creek, Erma Bell Lakes, Shotgun Creek, Brice Creek, Fuji Mountain, River Walk in town, Gillespie Butte, Fall Creek, Matthieu Lakes, Proxy Falls/ Linton Lake, Row River Trail, Alsea Falls, Hand Lake Shelter, Belknap Springs, Santiam Wagon Road, North Umpqua Falls, Newport's lighthouses, Multnomah Falls

"B" Hikes

North Fork Smith River, McDonald Forest, Marys Peak, Little Belknap Crater, Smith Rock, Ridgeline Trail, Phantom Bridge, Bend Lava Caves, Larison Rock, Crater Lake Hikes, Opal Creek

"C" Hikes

Cowhorn Mt., Mary's Peak, Rockpile Lake, Substitute Point, Irish Mountain, Sawtooth Mountain, Jefferson Park

Letters to the Editor

Interesting, exciting, humorous, and lively are the words I would use to capture the mood of the January 21st meeting on lodge reconstruction and our future needs. The architect did a great job of eliciting and enticing us to share our comments about what we liked and didn't like about the lodge. She encouraged us to share our dreams.

In Obsidian tradition, the serious and funny comments bantered back and forth. I know I went to the meeting with some priorities, but I left knowing there were a multitude of opinions and options. Comments about the floor being too cold, the chairs too hard, the air too stale and the lights too glaring brought forth many laughs. Everyone agreed that it is impressive when one drives down the isolated road and sees the rustic lodge and the climbing wall in a quiet forested setting.

I laughed a lot! I changed my mind lots! I left thinking we really needed the climbing wall, a handicapped bathroom, an accessible paved path to the lodge and a cozy, warm place for committee meetings, a better media/sound system and more room for potlucks. I couldn't remember what I thought was so important at the beginning of the meeting. It was wonderful that so many people attended and shared. I was glad it would be the architect and the construction committee that would wrestle with all of these diverse issues.

I am convinced that the people who originally built the lodge would be happy about our discussion at the meeting. They might be wondering about our complaint that the chairs are too hard. After all, the Obsidians got their name because the members felt they were as hard as obsidian. Perhaps the Concessions Committee could consider renting cushions at potlucks.

I can't wait to attend the next meeting.

-- Janet Jacobsen

Obsidian Bulletin Baton Passed On

By Marshall Jay Kandell

AFTER 17 LONG LAPS, John Cecil has passed on the baton for editing the Obsidian Bulletin to a new editorial team. Now, it's our turn to run with it as long as we can.

On the team with me are Beth Kodama, Chris Cunningham, Pete Peterson and John Jacobsen. Anyone else wanting to jump onboard will be more than welcome, especially those with editorial or desktop publishing experience.

Most of the changes you will notice will be due to the switch to new technological capabilities. For example, information, articles and photographs can now be emailed into the Bulletin. And the completed product can be emailed to the printer.

A KEY ACCOMPLISHMENT is our ability to reproduce the Bulletin on our website, in full color and with live links to other resources. This will expand our "circulation" immensely at no additional cost.

This is a work in progress. It will take us quite a while to figure out the best blend of old and new, giving the publication a modern look while honoring the history and traditions of the organization. We are also trying to define each of our roles on the team and how we can best

combine our varying outlooks on style and format (while John tries to figure out how to make our ideas work technologically).

EACH OF YOU has a role to play in the Bulletin's future, as well. We look forward to and need your feedback and participation. Tell us what you like and what you don't. Send us your ideas for articles (better yet, send us articles); write letters to the editor; respond to our quizzes and games (however silly); help us bring your love of the outdoors into print.

We want the Bulletin to also be an open forum for all issues and causes relevant to our purpose and mission. We will clearly identify and separate "opinion" from official Obsidian policy and position. If you disagree with an article, please write one of your own. When possible, we will run opposing viewpoints side-by-side.

We want to make the Bulletin visually attractive and fill its pages with interesting, informative, entertaining and provocative content that will make you want to read it from cover to cover. It's a big challenge...one we take on in the hope we can produce a publication that will do honor to the many years of service, dedication and professionalism by John Cecil.

One Book – Two Reviews

From the Sidelines:

A Personal History of The Institute of Molecular Biology at the University of Oregon 2004
by Lotte Streisinger: (2204 Univ. of Oregon Press)

WHY WOULD an Obsidian want to read about the birth of the Institute of Molecular Biology (IMB) at the University of Oregon? Aaron Novick, an Obsidian member, took the role of founding director for the Institute in 1959. The other three "Founding Fathers" were Frank Stahl, George Streisinger and Sidney Bernhard, all of whom but Stahl have died.

My first memory of Aaron is at the summer camp at the Elkhorn Mountains in 1991. My nephew, David, was about 9-years-old. While he and Aaron were washing dishes, David told Aaron that he missed a few spots. Aaron immediately did a better job of washing dishes. Someone remarked that David was scolding a famous scientist. Aaron was known for his work at Los Alamos in the 1940s and then for his efforts for arms control.

This book is about Aaron as a person and as a scientist. Those of us who knew him through Obsidian hikes will find it a fascinating read.

-- Janet Jacobsen

THE IMB has an intriguing history and was founded by persons who many Obsidians knew/know personally; one particularly important participant in this legacy was Aaron Novick, who many of us recall as a philosophical skiing and hiking companion.

Lotte Streisinger has written an intriguing historical/biographical sketch of the Institute and its founders. She has included biographical chapters on the founders and their philosophies; and references to words of university presidents and the outreach impact of these persons on the Eugene community, from the vote on EWEB's proposal in 1968 to construct nuclear power plants to a complete reversal of this idea by the community in 1970. Reference is made to the origins of the Farmer's Market and the Saturday Market.

An epilogue by Tom Hager, as well as the "Attitude About Science and Principles for the IMB" chapter give much insight to the persona of our Obsidian friend.

-- Vi Johnson

John Cecil Retires

Continued from Page 1

BEN JEFFRIES USED TO DELIVER hike reports to Cecil before John and Maggie moved to Bend. "That gave me the opportunity to see his work as it was in progress. Once he was in Bend, he even typeset my president's letters and special reports," says Jeffries, who was president in 1997. "I found John to be dedicated -- a gentleman, in how he carried out his function."

Cecil's enthusiasm for the Bulletin was unwavering, says past president Sharon Ritchie. For her first official act as board president in 1992, Ritchie recalls bringing "an appropriately decorated cake and ice cream to the meeting" to celebrate the Bulletin's 55th birthday. "John was, for once, speechless," remembers Ritchie.

CURRENT BOARD

PRESIDENT John Jacobsen, who also served as president in 1988 and 2001, recalls Cecil's leadership on the trail. "My first recollection of John was back in the early 80s when I first began doing things with the Obsidians. He led a hike every Wednesday. I went along from time to time. The pace John set was incredible."

Janet Jacobsen, president in 1993, has long admired Cecil's unflinching commitment to environment and conservation. "I think one of John's goals was to remind the members of our mission and objectives," writes Janet. "Frequently, he published a reminder to protect as well as enjoy the environment. He is a strong believer in conservation."

CECIL WAS NO ROOKIE. He brought decades of typesetting experience to his work as Bulletin editor. In fact, the native of Brighton, England, began his career in the print industry in the early '40s, at the tender age of 14. His father encouraged John, who had dropped out of school, to learn a trade. The young man accepted a position as a production assistant at the Brighton Herald. "I loved the work," says Cecil, who needed little convincing to sign a 7-year apprenticeship contract to certify him as a professional typesetter.

After his apprenticeship, Cecil put his skills to use while satisfying his yen to explore the world. He left his family home on the English Channel to work for a newspaper in Northern Rhodesia, where he met his wife Maggie, who was employed as a government aide. Several years later, the couple decided to return to their homeland. However, their stay proved but an interlude: In 1968, Cecil accepted employment as a typesetter in Montpelier, VT. Following a brief stay in the northeast and a short stint in Texas, Cecil jumped at the chance to work at The Register-Guard in Eugene. From then, Oregon was home to the Cecils and their three sons.

HIS 22 YEARS AT THE REGISTER-GUARD was "an excellent experience," Cecil says. That, and his love of the outdoors, convinced him, "The Northwest is the best place in America." From the start, Cecil was imbued with all the

qualities of an Obsidian. And, so far reaching was the influence of the club on his life that he quit smoking in order to enjoy fully the benefits of fresh air and stronger lung capacity.

Cecil's long-term friendship with the Obsidians bloomed with his first hike in 1973. Shortly after, he began to lead hikes to Mount Bailey. He and his son Pete, also an Obsidian, became immersed with trail maintenance projects at Hardesty Mountain, Deception Creek Bridge and Rebel Rock-Rebel Creek, to name a few. He also participated on committees,

most notably as trip chair, and served in 1984 as president. In 1988, Cecil volunteered to paste-up and edit the Bulletin at home on his professional typesetter's light table.

BEFORE CECIL RETIRED from The Register-Guard in 1992, he helped the paper enter the era of computer-generated design. "All the linotypes went to Brazil. I stayed on and they retrained us," says Cecil. Reflecting on this monumental transition, Cecil says, "It used to be more fun. The end result is the same, but the process isn't as interesting." Yet, "I always said I would work for

50 years" as a typesetter, "and that's what I did."

Soon after Maggie's retirement from Peace Health in 1993, the couple moved to Bend, built a home that provides spectacular views of Broken Top and South Sister. In 2002, Cecil was awarded his 300-trip patch upon his descent from the Matthieu Lake trail. Twelve of his outings were climbs, including South and Middle Sisters, Mount Hood and Mount Shasta, when "it still had a lot of snow." Cecil admits that "not doing North Sister," is a lingering regret.

ALTHOUGH CECIL ISN'T PARTICIPATING in group hikes these days, he takes daily walks with his Airedale terrier and occasional forays around Clear Lake and along the McKenzie River Trail. Without the responsibility of the Bulletin, Cecil plans to spend more time building and maintaining his radio-controlled motor boats; doing finish work on his son Pete's house in Bend; traveling to Idaho to visit with his two other sons and four grandchildren; and to England to see his elder brother and three younger sisters.

"I'VE REALLY ENJOYED IT," Cecil says with his charming, ever-present British accent, of his years with the Bulletin. "I hope it goes on good."

This story wouldn't be complete without our outgoing editor reflecting once more on the Obsidian mission. Cecil believes it's time again to dedicate specific weekends solely to trail maintenance. There's no greater way to build community, Cecil says.

Costs aside, Cecil says his biggest challenge publishing the newsletter was getting copy in on time. People outside the print industry don't seem to take deadlines very seriously, Cecil explains.

We know Cecil took deadlines seriously, because he didn't miss even one in his 17-year Bulletin career!



John Cecil and One of His Radio Controlled Boats.

What Went Wrong in the Woods?

By Ann-Marie Askew

IN JUNE 1970, MY HUSBAND, KIDS AND I moved onto 13 hilly acres in Northern California that we called “*The Land*.” We stored most of our belongings in a friend’s garage and only brought bedding and mattresses, kitchenware, some clothes and toys, and an oily army surplus tent. We lacked a phone, electricity, access to water -- and a house.

Dense manzanita thickets partially enshrouded the remains of 15-year-old logging roads and adolescent redwood saplings encircled their parent stumps, competing for space with madrone and tan oak. However, we knew the redwood forest would rejuvenate, becoming more beautiful and valuable over time.

THAT SUMMER, we slept under the stars, cooked over an open fire, fetched water from a neighbor’s year-round spring in five-gallon plastic containers, and dug a new privy every month. Making it through the winter would be dependent on the success of our summer projects -- digging a well and building a small cabin.

Chuck was a part-time social worker at Mendocino State Hospital, commuting 50 miles over the coastal range in our VW camper on Wednesday mornings, returning Friday evenings. The rest of the week he studied “build your own” books and started construction of a 10x18-foot cabin without the use of power tools.

Several hours a day, I twisted a hand auger into the earth where a water witcher professed we’d find water near the surface. But 25 feet down -- its full extension -- the auger came up bone dry.

ALTHOUGH BY THE END of summer we didn’t have a well, we did have a one-room cabin with a loft. Our furnishings included a 1930s-era wood cook stove, a propane refrigerator, and kitchen cabinets recycled from a dented Sunstream trailer. When it got dark, we played board games and read by kerosene lamp.

That September, we enrolled our son in a one-room schoolhouse where he was the only third grader. Our preschool daughter accompanied me to the Headstart nine miles down the road, where I worked as a part-time cook.

LATER THAT FALL a scruffy well driller parked his rig on “*The Land*” with the understanding that we’d provide meals and pay him \$10 per foot when he reached water. The “chug-chug” of his gasoline-powered drill echoed through the hills and, on rainy days, he worked under a faded beach umbrella. When asked about progress, he’d mumble, “Should be any day now . . . any day.” However, he and his rig disappeared while we were visiting family at Christmastime and we never saw him again. He left us with three flat tires, some empty sardine

tins -- and a “free” 160-foot deep, 12-inch round, waterless well.

Although we didn’t have water by spring, we planted vegetable seeds on a sunny, sloping hillside and constructed a deer fence out of saplings thinned from redwood rings. We mounted two 55-gallon oil drums on the bed of our Studebaker pickup that we filled at a neighbor’s spring. Then we drove to the top of our garden and gravity-fed the water into dikes between the vegetable rows, successfully growing tomatoes, corn, potatoes, peas, beans, squash, lettuce, spinach, carrots and sunflowers.

BUT TWO NEW OBSTACLES surfaced at summer’s end: the county building inspector served notice to vacate our code-defying cabin; and Governor Reagan planned to close Mendocino State Hospital. So we planned to look for work in the Bay Area, where we’d live for a few years and save money before returning to develop “*The Land*.”

Instead, one mid-September morning, Chuck left as unexpectedly as the well driller.

The kids and I also left, staying with friends until I found an office job and apartment in San Francisco. Chuck bought out my share of our community property, but never returned to develop “*The Land*.” It was sold when he died about 10 years ago. I recently paid a visit to the new owners, who proudly showed off the glorious home they built at our cabin site, surrounded by now tall redwood trees.

Although I don’t regret the 15 bittersweet months I spent in the woods as a naive homesteader, 35 years later, I’m content to take day hikes -- returning at night to a real house with plumbing and electricity.

What Do Your Dues Do?

EVER WONDERED where your \$20 membership fees go and what happens to the trip fees collected each year. Well, Obsidian treasurer and board member Sheila Ward has provided this brief explanation of what happened to your money. A total of 523 members paid dues in 2004. This \$20 put into the general fund and each of your trip fees covered the following proportion costs:

Accountant Fees	0.96	Historian	0.04
Administration	0.40	Membership	0.64
Climbs	0.02	Property Tax	4.11
Concessions	2.78*	Publications	9.00
Entertainment	0.38	Summer Trips	0.61
Fees, Dues	0.72	Winter Trips	0.52
Income Tax	0.61	Utilities	3.20
Insurance	2.49	Online	<u>0.42</u>
		Grand Total	\$26.90

*Unusual expense of buying stock; e.g. mugs

As you can see, your dues alone do not cover all operating costs. The other large expense this year -- \$4,197.50 as of December 31, 2004 for the lodge work -- has come from trip fees collected and interest earned on investments.

A Growl in the Wild!

WE DIDN'T KNOW what to make of it, or, quite frankly, what to do. My wife, Chris Cunningham and I were hiking single-file, following the trail to North Matthieu Lake off Highway 242 on a windy, snowy Saturday in September when a strange, low groan stopped our forward movement.

"It was just the trees rubbing together," I told Chris while looking to our left at the dense thicket about 100 feet



away. But before we took another step, the call came again -- louder, with a guttural, bass vibrato. Definitely not the sound of trees conversing. Definitely scary! Then a third grumbling roar was followed by a pathetic, high-pitched

squeaking or crying. It sounded like dinner time, and we really didn't want an invitation to join the feast. Perhaps out of ignorance, we moved ahead quickly, but quietly, past the thicket.

"**JUST CARRY A PISTOL** next time and scare it off," said my outdoors-loving brother in a phone call. But what are non-pistol packing hikers like us to do if a bear or cougar crosses our path? We'd like to know *your* best answer.

Would you:

- A. Roll over and play dead.
- B. Climb a tree to escape.
- C. Whistle or scream loudly, wildly.
- D. Remain still to keep the animal calm.
- E. Make yourself appear very large to frighten the animal.
- F. Growl back.
- G. Run like hell!

Have you had sightings or confrontations with scary critters while hiking? Tell us about them. Send an email with your story to bulletin@obsidian.org or mail it to Bulletin, P.O. Box 51424, Eugene 97405.

And check next month's Bulletin for all the answers!

Pete Peterson

From Obsidian Bulletin - March 1945

"Today the hearts of our members are in the mountains of Italy, along with the hearts of relatives of the men of the Mountain Division. It is there that our own mountaineers climb and ski no longer for pleasure or in training but in the grim struggle of kill or be killed. Many members of the Obsidians and other Federation clubs of the Pacific Coast help make up this division."

Winter Web Sightings

<http://www.tripcheck.com/>

THE OREGON Department of Transportation offers this handy website, which provides up-to-the-moment road conditions on the state's major highways, including construction reports, weather conditions, alternate routes and even a trip mileage calculator. A particularly fascinating feature is the use of 130 strategically placed web cams that allow you to see the road conditions for yourself. A great tool for those planning to head for the hills for snow play or travel. You can also get road condition information on the phone by dialing 511 in Oregon and (503) 588-2941 if you're outside the state.

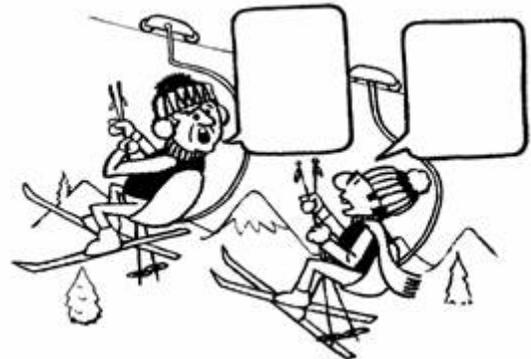
<http://www.cot.net/~n6mrx/ares/road.html>

YOU WANT road conditions and web cams? This site will give you a huge selection of sources for Oregon and California, along with occasional siren sound effects. The Northern California Road Cams link will offer dozens of current highway views.

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/>

GOING NORTH? Here's the website of the Washington State Department of Transportation, also offering lots of web cams.

Have a safe trip!



What are they saying to each other?

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE to win a prize (we'll figure out what later). Just tell us what is causing unhappiness between these two skiers (obviously not Obsidians). What are they saying to each other? Send your best, funniest suggestions to: bulletin@obsidians.org -- or by regular mail to Bulletin Submittals, P.O. Box 51424, Eugene, OR 97405. Winner(s) will be determined by those Bulletin staffers with the best senses of humor!



Climbs

Mt. Jefferson

July 31-Aug 1, 2004

Climb Leader: Christopher S. Miller

THIS WAS A RARELY DONE west side climb of the Milk Creek West Ridge route. Approach was via USFS Road 750. This unimproved gravel road allowed us to drive 2.5 miles up the Red Creek drainage, directly to the boundary of the Jefferson Wilderness. From here, an easy ¾ mile cross-country hike, with but a single 600' elevation gain got us to the PCT in 45 minutes. This x-c route was under a full forest canopy, through almost no brush. Another nine minutes on the PCT and we were at the start of the Milk Creek climber's trail. This cut 2½ miles and an additional 600' climb off the usual USFS trail approaches.

This climber's "trail," in the bottom of the Milk Creek Canyon, was the most hazardous portion of this climb! There was no trail for the most part. We just followed the edges of the stream bank. Unfortunately, increasing glacial melt water flows late in the day submerge much of these banks! The creek has cut a near vertical-walled notch into the rotten volcanic bedrock, and punctuated this

with three major waterfall obstacles. Above this canyon cut are steep side slopes of entirely loose ash, sand, rubble and boulders. Based on the piles of fresh mud, boulders and large shattered logs, rainfall events cause lethal debris avalanches into



this canyon. We soon determined that rock helmets were necessary; as, even under our dry weather conditions, the walls were spitting rocks at us. The area is actively eroding, as was evidenced by one of the rubble ledges we had to traverse to surmount a 30' waterfall. By the following evening it had partially collapsed into the plunge pool below, making for a very scary descent.

About a half-mile up this route we encountered snow and ice bridging across the canyon from wall to wall. As we continued on, the ice layer got progressively thicker. The stream-carved ice cave under this ice sheet also got progressively bigger and became more of a hazard. Judging from the collapsed ceiling holes, we were well advised to stick to the sides of the canyon!



SURMOUNTING THE WATERFALLS was particularly time consuming and hazardous. There were no good belay anchors to be found at any of these waterfall sites. Getting around them required climbing up out of the canyon cut, sometimes on a thin layer of rubble overlying the ice bridge we'd been walking on top of. We then faced a traverse on steep unconsolidated rubble slopes above the waterfall plunge pool.

Including rest breaks and route finding problems, it took us nearly 4½ hours to advance less than two miles up this canyon to our base camp! For the last half of this distance we were walking on the lower lobe of the Milk Creek Glacier with its attendant hazards, added to the rockfall risk from the canyon walls towering above us. A repeat of this climber's trail route is **NOT RECOMMENDED!** I suggest a subsequent climbing party attempt a ridge crest route along the north rim of this canyon. It will entail more elevation gain and loss to base camp, but this alternative is possibly faster and definitely safer.

ALTHOUGH THE MILK CREEK climbing routes are described as having "serious rockfall and avalanche hazard," the ridge route we chose could not be notably hazardous in either respect. Having been explicitly forewarned of the grave hazards of this venture, we chose this route by consensus, only after viewing the alternatives from base camp! Both of the adjacent glacial ravine routes (North and South Milk Cr. Glacier lobes) were melted out for the season. They were obviously very hazardous due to steep ice and exposed rock, waterfall cliffs, and frequent rockfall. Keeping on the crest of our chosen ridge route avoided these hazards all the way up to where all these routes converge on that steep, exposed snowfield below the summit block.

Our 6,200' base camp was at the bottom of this ridge, adjacent to the north fork of Milk Creek just above the waterfall where it enters the south fork. We began our summit assault

Continued on Next Page

PHOTOS: (top right) Brian Hamilton, Greg Milliman and Greg Zupansic on summit of Mt. Jefferson; (left) Greg Zupansic, Brian Hamilton, & Greg Milliman ascending the first snow chute.

Mt. Jefferson Climb Report

Continued from Previous Page

from here at 12:15 a.m. Commencing our climb up the ridge under a full moon, with excellent conditions: clear, dry, 68°, and east wind at 5mph.

THE CRUX OF THIS RIDGE ROUTE was encountered at 8,000' elevation in the form of a 15' high, undercut, rock buttress. To stay on the ridge crest you must surmount this wall with a couple of class 5.0 moves. On our nighttime ascent, I chose to not climb this, as I didn't know if we would just be "treeing" ourselves on a gendarme. However, abandoning our ridge crest for its south (right hand) slope led us onto a nightmarish traverse of ever more narrow and outward sloping ledges overhanging the south lobe of the Milk Creek Glacier. The last ledge was much like the Crawl on Three-Fingered Jack! Only after negotiating this were we able to find a route back up onto the ridge crest. *Do not repeat this mistake!* Surmount the buttress head-on and stay on the ridge crest!

We continued up this ridge to 9,100', just below a set of large gendarmes. From this point, we ventured out onto the 45°-50° snow slopes below the summit. Due to the steepness, exposure without a safe run-out, and soft snow, this was a stressful ¼ to ½-mile climb up to the base of the NW face of the summit block. Some class 4 rock climbing, with a couple of class 5.0 moves got us on the summit, without necessity of a rope, at 7:50 a.m., 7:35 hours above base camp.

We started down climbing the summit rock at 9 a.m. By this time, the sun and warm weather had further softened the snowfield below. We had to down climb this snowfield

“...abandoning our ridge crest for its south slope led us onto a nightmarish traverse of ever more narrow and outward sloping ledges overhanging the south lobe of Milk Creek Glacier.”

stepping backward into the foot holes we'd kicked on the way up. This took about 1½ hours and was much worse than the ascent! We got back onto the rock ridge at 11:45 a.m. (*hail Mary!!*) and had an uneventful hike and class 3 climb back down this ridge to the aforementioned buttress. Descending this 15' drop would have been easier using our rope, but a few words of encouragement, and pointers as to footholds, sufficed. We arrived back in base camp at 3:45 p.m., pretty much wasted from this 6:45 hour descent!

CONSENSUS WAS TO GET HOME that evening. So, at 6 p.m., with a rainstorm threatening, we resumed our hike down from base camp, back through that horrible canyon, cross-country through the woods, and on out to the truck. The water in the canyon was now wall to wall in certain places, with no dry “beach” to walk on. Coming upon these waterfalls from the upstream side gave us a truly appalling view of just how large those hollows in the ice really were. In one spot it appeared that it was more of an ice bridge spanning the canyon than a glacier with a stream carved tunnel in it! This is perhaps a semantic

Basic Mountaineering Classes Begin March 31

THE OBSIDIANS, in cooperation with Eugene Parks and Recreation and Eugene Mountain Rescue, are again offering classes in Basic Mountaineering, which cover the fundamentals of glacier travel and rock climbing in a mountain setting. Completion gives one the skills necessary to participate in Obsidian climbs.

There will be a session covering basic rock techniques on March 31 at 6:30 p.m. at the Obsidian Lodge. The rock field trip sessions are scheduled for April 2 or 3. The glacier travel classroom session is on April 14, with the snow field trip on April 16.

THE SNOW FIELD TRIP will be out of town and participants will be given the opportunity to carpool. There will be one or two climbs offered preferentially to the participants in the class (that is, the participants will have first opportunity to sign up for these climbs). These are not included in the course fee.

Call Eugene Parks and Recreation (the Riverhouse) at 682-5329 to sign up, or for more information.

About a dozen people are needed to assist with the instruction. People assisting should have completed the class in the past or have climb leading experience in the mountains. If you are interested in helping with the class sessions or field trips, contact Sue Sullivan.

way out! We cleared the last waterfall as we were enveloped in complete darkness, and by 9:30 p.m. we staggered out onto the PCT (and a few more “*hail Mary's*”).

It took us two hours to retrace that 45-minute cross-country forest stretch back to the truck, finally arriving there at midnight. The moon wasn't yet up and terrain features weren't nearly as obvious in total darkness. GPS was only sporadically useful due to the canopy overhead, but it did provide an occasional confirmation of our progress. Mostly, we relied on map and compass. We would send one of our party ahead, and then, observing his headlamp beam, shout “*left*” or “*right*” to direct him back onto our desired traverse line.

We drove back down Red Creek and cut back to the Pamela Lake TH where the other vehicles were parked. After transferring gear we set out for our homes at 1 a.m. on Monday. At this point we had been climbing and hiking with full packs for 25 hours. The other party members drove the two hours back to Eugene. But as I had a 4½-hour drive to get home, I opted to pull off for a nap at Nimrod. All things considered, this was a rather challenging climb, and an adventure in which we were blessed with safe passage.

-- Christopher S. Miller

Online report with additional pictures at:

<http://www.obsidians.org/reports/reports/2004/c073103.htm>



Winter Hikes

McKenzie River Trail

November 10, 2004

Leader: Margaret Prentice

DESPITE THE FACT this winter hike was scheduled too early to get into the newspapers, there were some takers. Fortunately, people do check the Obsidian bulletin board at the Y and the website.

It was another foggy day with promises of light rain showers, but five eager Obsidians squeezed into the van and away we went.

Eventually, we left the fog behind; the sky was overcast all day, but we did see the Sisters, albeit hazily.

As planned, we parked at the ranger station, crossed the highway and were on our way, following the trail alongside the McKenzie. It felt good to be out in the woods and there were no showers, so hiking conditions were good. There were still some leaves, mostly yellow, on the deciduous trees, lots of fungi around and many plants on the under story were gradually dying back.

The only wildlife we saw was one squirrel. Twice, we heard a bird. We enjoyed a leisurely lunch by Lost Creek before retracing our steps. It was a very pleasant day, except for the drone of helicopters for a good part of the way. Dick saw they were removing logs – a rare 10-day operation we learned at the ranger station.

Hikers were Daniele Delaby, Dick Hildreth, Marshall Kandell, Margaret Prentice and Barbara Shoemaker.

Spencer Butte

January 1, 2005

Leader: Andy Jobanek

ANDY JOBANEK (a junior at SEHS) led a hike up Spencer Butte on New Year's Day. It was snowing as we

neared the summit. We celebrated the new year with sparkling apple cider toasts. Someone asked what Obsidians usually did on New Year's Day. We knew a hike up Spencer Butte used to be a tradition. Back home, I called Rick Ahrens, our esteemed historian, and then I checked the records on our website. Rick said the first new year's outing was 1927/28 at the McKenzie Hotel. They skied and snowshoed at Lost Creek Ranch. Beginning in 1928, for around 10 years or so, they held their parties at the Lewis Cabin up the McKenzie; many people attended these events. One year, they went to McCredie Hot Springs Hotel. There are also records that they held parties at the Belknap Lodge.

-- Janet Jacobsen

Oregon Dunes Overlook To Tahkenitch Creek

December 18, 2004

Leader: Michelle Tambellini

I WAS ORIGINALLY scheduled to lead a snowshoe trip to Westview Shelter. Weather and snow conditions haven't been the greatest for this activity. The week before two Obsidian friends and I scouted out the trail. The snow was very slushy and it was drizzling. We were the only ones there that day. We turned around after snow-shoeing in a couple of miles. The weather didn't improve and my trip changed to a coastal hike, instead. Eight of us met at SEHS on a cloudy day. As we got closer to the coast the weather got better and better! Upon arrival at Oregon Dunes Overlook, it was beautiful and felt like spring! It was so warm I immediately took off my coat. It has been months since I felt air this warm. We followed the trail and markers out to the beach and, WOW, what beauty! There were no other hikers so we had the entire beach to ourselves.

WE WALKED SOUTH towards Tahkenitch Creek (our lunch destination). Two hikers decided to

wade in the water. The weather was just perfect and the sun felt so good. After lunch, we hiked back through the dunes and over the tree islands. The trail is easier to follow with the large markers.

We had a great view of Tahkenitch Creek from a "dune overlook." We reluctantly arrived back to our cars leaving this beautiful area behind. On our trip back we stopped at Alpha Bit for a meal. The hikers this beautiful day were: Daniele Delaby, Anne Hollander, Yuan Hopkins, Annie Hubbard, Peter Matscalek, Craig Renkert, Sheila Ward and Michelle Tambellini.

North & South Shasta Loops + Woodson Street

December 5, 2004

Leader: Marshall Kandell

FOR THE FIRST TIME since I've been leading this urban hike, it didn't pour. A few minutes after getting home, however, the heavens opened up with heavy rain and hail. During the hike, however, it was sunglasses weather.

Starting at Firland and Spring, we followed Woodson Street along the city/county border, enjoying the fine view of LCC and Mt. Pisgah made possible by the fir forest that disappeared a couple of years ago.

On the uphill approach back to Spring we saw a vineyard that wasn't there on our spring hike. Lots of conversation and occasional critical commentary resulted from our walk past the mansions on Spring, before heading down South Shasta Loop to Dillard and back up the always challenging North Shasta Loop.

There were 15 signed up, but 3 cancelled and 7 (mostly non-members) were no-shows. On the hike were: Suzanne Steussy (a former member back in Eugene after eight years in Portland), Dick Hildreth, Jim and Sharon Duncan and Marshall Kandell.

Trail Maintenance

Spencer Butte Project Continues

OVER THE PAST 67 YEARS, Spencer Butte Park has been a monument to the commitment of many individuals and organizations determined to promote and preserve this exceptional natural feature. It continues to be in need of restoration and improvement. Thanks to the vision and efforts of Wayne Deeter and John Cooper, the Trail Maintenance Committee has enjoyed a renaissance through collaboration with the Eugene Parks & Open Space Department. Because the city does not have the resources alone to tackle much of the needed maintenance, the Trail Maintenance Committee is providing volunteer support for this much used and under appreciated resource.

With direction and equipment provided by Eugene Parks, this collaborative effort has focused on Spencer Butte trails since October, 2004. The consistent interest and turnout for these monthly trail maintenance outings has been exceptionally gratifying for the committee. Since beginning the project, 23 people have participated in trail maintenance outings, held one weekend a month. Ugly and degraded side trails have been eliminated and replanted, trail drainage upgraded, tread surface improved, overgrowth removed and signage restored. There is much, much more needing to be done. It is hoped by the committee that more Obsidians will consider joining us to enhance the quality of trail conditions in the park and enjoy the amazing transformations that take place each time we meet.

--Peter Asai

*The next trail maintenance project day is
Saturday, February 26, 1-5 p.m.
Meet at the west parking lot at Spencer Butte.*

Spencer Butte Trail Maintenance January 22, 2005

THE OBSIDIANS continued their collaborative trail maintenance project with the Eugene Parks Dept. at Spencer Butte Park. The weather gods, having been propitiated by the sacrifice of an albino cheeseburger, gave us yet another beautiful day for our fourth trail maintenance outing. A group of 11 dedicated souls, including Parks Dept. staffers Matt McRae and Brennan; non-Obsidians Joe Geil, Gregory Wobbe and Scott Youngblood; and Obsidians Jim Duncan, John Jacobsen, John Cooper, Rick Ahrens, Joanne Ledet, Sue Wolling and Peter Asai met at 8:30 at the Spencer Butte west parking lot, gathered tools and fervor and headed out.

Some members elected to engage in brushing, clearing and drainage upkeep along the northern trail area off 52nd and Willamette. Others proceeded to the Ridgeline tie trail about ¼ up the main trail and just below the meadow junction.

There, the group tackled a notorious soggy bog in the middle of the trail. Last month, the trail maintenance group removed the wooden bridge over the bog, an earlier ultimately futile effort to deal with this muck gap. Rock from the surrounding area was collected and with the awesome technology of power wheel-barrow, much gravel was moved from a lower site to the boggy area.

Under the skillful and inspirational direction of McRae, the group constructed a magnificent stone culvert and trail retaining wall worthy of Machu Picchu. This work is expected to provide a neatly permanent solution to this former trouble spot. All agreed it was an educational and personally rewarding experience to produce a lasting improvement of this much used trail. Although forced to skirt the work site, appreciation rained upon the workers from grateful hikers.

-- Peter Asai

Spencer Butte December 12, 2004 Leader: John Cooper

A JOINT OBSIDIAN and City of Eugene work party set out to dismantle the old bridge and walkway located on the tie-in trail north of the junction to the Ridgeline Trail. With much sawing and hacking, the bridge came apart and was hauled down the trail a mile by wheelbarrows to be picked up later by the city.

Two huge stepping stones were put in place as a temporary measure for hikers to use to get through this wet and muddy area. In addition, two directional signs were replaced by new ones covered by Plexiglas. KMTR did a short piece on the work being done on the Butte; Peter Asai was interviewed. Participants were John Cooper, Peter, Jason Chan, Joe Geil, Shaun Cook and Miguel Villada; along with Matt McRae from the Parks Department.



BIRTHDAY HIKE – Each New Year's Day, on her birthday, Sheila Ward (fourth from right) leads a hike on the coast. Wind, rain and hail prevented an earlier ceremony attempt; but back at the trailhead, candles topped cupcakes provided by new members Shelly and David Call and the hearty hikers sang their birthday wishes to Sheila.



*Never mind the rain, snow, hail and threatening skies...
these hearty Obsidians found the New Year's Day hike at Tahkenitch Dunes invigorating fun.*



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