

Inside This Issue

Membership Changes 2
 Monthly Programs Resume 3
 Summer Camp 3
 Board Notes 4
 Snowshoeing 9
 Obituaries 12
 Trip Reports 14-17
 Trail Maintenance 17
 Mailbox 18
 Calendar 19

Features by Members

Intro to Snowshoes 1
 Snow and Wayne 5
 Auspicious Bhutan 6
 Pema's Great Progress 7
 Snow Forecasts 10
 Volunteer Vacations 13

Dates to Remember

Jan 4 Board Meeting
 Jan 27 Program—Bill Sullivan

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

Interim "Potluck"
 Programs Resume
 At EWEB
 In January
 See Page 3

Hurray!!!! Construction Begins



THE OBSIDIANS FINALLY RECEIVED a permit from the city on November 22 to begin the lodge's renovation and expansion. A contract was signed with 2G Construction on December 7. They began mobilization the next day. Project completion is scheduled for March 30 with a grand open house to follow shortly thereafter.

The twists and turns of the permitting process have been a frustrating ordeal for the Construction Committee. After a nearly six month delay, they are glad to be back on track. Summer Trips is already planning to have their leaders' meeting in the newly renovated lodge in April. I am sure we are all ready to have the potlucks back where they belong.

—John Jacobsen

Putting Your First Foot Forward ...in Snowshoes!

By Barb Revere and Janet Jacobsen
 Photos by Tom Revere

IS IT TRUE THAT IF ONE CAN WALK, one can snowshoe? For a cross country skier with a closet and pack filled with clothes, gear and the 10 essentials, it is probably true. If one has never ventured forth to enjoy a snowy winter wonderland, renting a pair of snowshoes and heading out into the wilderness might be more uncomfortable than fun. Here are our suggestions on how to get started.

- Google with "snowshoeing tips" for a blizzard of websites. Visit the websites of REI (www.REI.com) and Berg's (www.bergsskishop.com). Make a list of what you need for this adventure.
- Visit outdoor stores like REI, McKenzie Outfitters and Berg's to browse and talk with their helpful staffs. Revise your list of what you need. Gone are the days of mountain man beaver coats and surplus military wool pants. A wide range of choices include Patagonia underwear, North Face fleece jackets, SmartWool socks, Sporthill pants, REI gaiters and more. Visit used sporting goods and clothing stores to see if you can cut costs. *Do not buy cotton!*
- Take a class through Eugene Parks and Recreation or Hoodoo. One can read about snowshoeing techniques on websites, but it's not the same as having an instructor.

AFTER YOU'VE MADE YOUR PURCHASES and rented snowshoes (*for more on*



Barb and first foot.

(Continued on page 8)

Welcome!

New Members

BEARD, PAULA (Active)
2351 Willamette, #3
Eugene, OR 97405
344-5214 paulabeard@yahoo.com

BERGER, MARTHA (Active)
2940 Harris St.
Eugene, OR 97405
344-5657 mlberger54@msn.com

BERKEY, THOMAS (Active)
3445 View Lane
Eugene, OR 97405 New
485-2099 tomberkey@webtv.net

CLARK, SUZANNE (Active)
325 West 37th Ave.
Eugene, OR 97405
686-3113 sclark@uoregon.edu

HALKER, DONNA (Active)
2942 Chandler Ave.
Eugene, OR 97403
302-9496 fhanddh@comcast.net

MYERS, SUE (Active)
901 Brookside Dr.
Eugene, OR 97405
485-8890 bksuemeyers@comcast.net

YOUNGBLOOD, SCOTT (Active)
4590 Old Dillard Rd.
Eugene, OR 97405
686-0109 yblood541@msn.com

Reinstated Members

PROCTOR, BUD (Active)
26297 High Pass Rd.
Junction City, OR 97448
998-3745 budproctor@att.net

WEST, JULIETTE (PAULA) (Active)
2180 Friendly St.
Eugene, OR 97405

ABBOTT, COURTNEY (Active)
2875 Kincaid St.
Eugene, OR 97405
687-8212 cpabbott@teleport.com

Directory Changes

BEALS, JAN
3144 Arrowhead St.
Eugene, OR 97404

ESCH, PATRICIA
1555 Monterey Ave.
Eugene, OR 97401-7280

HILE, EVELYN
2525 Cal Young Rd., #319
Eugene, OR 97401-6475

JOHNSON, ELLEN & STEVEN
1-530-637-1981

From the President

IN MY STATE OF THE CLUB address at the annual meeting I said: "As we approach 78 years as a club, the annual cycle continues, probably in many ways, much like it has through all those years. We schedule, lead and go on trips, we get new members, and unfortunately we lose members. We deal with problems."

And so the cycle continues. As the gavel is passed to Wayne Deeter, I wish him the good fortune as President that I was privileged to have - a hardworking board and committees, trip leaders who led a record number of trips, and the many, many volunteers who make things hum.

Thank you all very much.

John Jacobsen

LADAU, JOSHUA
Santa Fe Institute
1399 Hyde Park Rd.
Santa Fe, NM 87501

MEARES, H GLENN
1080 Patterson, Apt. 506
Eugene, OR 97401-3321
359-9628

MUELLER, JASON
913-1098

REITER, MARYANNE
1679 Barton Dr.
Eugene, OR 97404
521-8472

RODERICK, DAVID & WOODBURY, NOLA

American Embassy Amman
Public Affairs Fellow
APO AE 09892

SHAFFER, RONALD
140 E. Hilliard Ln., #B
Eugene, OR 97404

TRUE, JAN
520-327-3476

WOOD, ROD
P.O. Box 654
Oakridge, OR 97463-0654

CAMP, MARIANNE
mcamp@head-start.lane.or.us

HOLSER, TOM tholser@comcast.net
RITCHIE, SHARON trehugr@comcast.net
SCHERER, CAROL dandmom@yahoo.com
STOCKDALE, CHRISTINE
chrisveryan@yahoo.com

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 Bus Liz Reanier
Climbs Sue Sullivan
Concessions Laurie Funkhouser
Conservation..... Doug Nelson
Entertainment Kathy Hoeg
Extended Trips Lana Lindstrom
Finance..... Ken Kodama
Lodge Building..... Rob Castleberry
Lodge Grounds Max Brown
Librarian/Historian Lenore McManigal
Membership..... Sharon Ritchie
Online Wayne Deeter
Publications Marshall Kandell
Publicity Mary Croson
Safety..... John Pegg
Science & Education Rick Ahrens
Summer Camp Jim Duncan
Summer Trips Sandra Larsen
Trail Maintenance..... Peter Asai
Winter Trips Bill Johnson
Youth..... Andy Jobanek

The OBSIDIAN Bulletin

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

bulletin@obsidians.org

Although email is preferred, submissions can also be sent to:

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

Deadline
for January Bulletin
Saturday, December 31, 2005

Editorial Team
Marshall Kandell, Barb Revere,
Janet and John Jacobsen

Assembly/Mailing Team
For November Bulletin
Mary Bentsen, Yuan Hopkins, Vi Johnson,
Marshall Kandell, Ardys Ringsdorf, Vera
Woolley and Crew Chief Barb Revere

Monthly Programs Resume in January

ALTHOUGH THE LODGE construction work will still keep us out, the Entertainment Committee has announced that regular monthly Obsidian programs will start back up in January . . . but at an alternate location and without the potluck portion of the evening.

"We've reserved one of the large community rooms at EWEB," says committee chair Kathy Hoeg. "It's a lovely meeting space, but having anything more than coffee and cookies would be difficult. So, instead, the schedule will be: 7 p.m. -- socializing and light refreshments ("We'll provide the munchies, no need to bring anything"); and 7:30 -- presentation.

EWEB's community rooms are located in an annex at-

tached to the north end of their headquarters building at 500 E. 4th Avenue. There's plenty of parking available.

"It'll be great to see everybody again!" says Kathy. Here are some of the wonderful presentations planned:

January 27 -- Bill Sullivan will talk about new hikes in the Central Cascades.

February 24 -- Summer Camp Rally.

March 24 -- Sandy and Chuck Reul will tell us about their hiking and cycling trip in Spain.

We hope to be back in the lodge soon, but in the meantime, *see you at EWEB!*

SUMMER CAMP

By Lana Lindstrom

QUESTION: *Why is camp so early this year? Isn't it usually in August?*

ANSWER: Yes, camp is usually in August. However, there's a lot of competition by groups for the Ramblewood Learning Center at Sequim Bay State Park. We requested an extended period of time (so we can run two sessions and accommodate more Obsidians). This was the only 10 consecutive day period we could get. If we didn't take this time period, we would be going elsewhere for camp.

Q. *Will most of the trails at the higher elevations be open?*

A. An Olympic National Park ranger assured us the road to the top of Hurricane Ridge will be open and some of the shorter trails from that visitor center will be accessible. The peaks of some of the longer trails in the area are above 4,500' and quite possibly, depending on the kind of year we have, might have snow on them

Q. *Doesn't western Washington get*



approximately the same weather as western Oregon; that is, lots of rain?

A. Sequim's motto is, "Everything Under the Sun." It gets less rain than L.A., averaging 299 days a year with at least some sunshine. Check out www.visitsun.com or www.olypen.com.

Q. *In past years, there has been limited space for RVs and tent trailers. Is that the case this year?*

A. There should be enough space for all RVs if folks are flexible on which session they attend. There is a length limit of 22' due to tight turns in the group camp area. If your rig is longer, let me know.

Q. *I've heard camp is a real bargain.*

What's the cost?

A. Cost per session for adult Obsidian tents, RVers and children over age 12 is \$185. That includes all fees and taxes and three healthy, hearty all-you-can-eat meals per day. If you want to stay in a shelter, there is an additional fee of \$35 per person for cabins and \$15 for Adirondacks. The base cost for children ages 6-11 is \$92; the surcharge for the shelters is the same as for adults. Children under 6 are free.

In coming months, we'll take a closer look at the accommodations and the unlimited activities in the summer camp area.

Summer Camp 2006
Sequim Bay State Park,
Olympic Peninsula,
Washington

Session 1: Monday, June 26 -
Saturday, July 1

Session 2: Saturday, July 1 -
Thursday, July 6

BOARD NOTES

December 7, 2005

Board members present were John Jacobsen (president), Wayne Deeter (VP), John Pegg, Sheila Ward (treasurer), Marianne Camp, Susan Sullivan, Steve Schriver and Jim Duncan (secretary). Also present were Kathy & Stewart Hoeg, Ed Lichtenstein, Brian Hamilton, Sharon Ritchie, Rick Ahrens, Ken Kodama, Margaret Prentice, Janet Jacobsen, Anne Dhu McLucas, Laurie Funkhouser, Martin Holland-Bak, Judy Newman and George Jobanek. The minutes of the November board meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: The money from one maturing CD was transferred to the checking account to help pay for lodge construction. The Board approved payments to: EWEB, \$72.87; Postmaster (bulk mail), \$100; Insta-Print (Bulletin), \$447; Margaret Prentice (summer trips), \$39.86; Wayne Deeter (online), \$49.90.

Old Business

Lodge Construction Committee: Brian reported the building permit had been issued and the contract with 2G Construction had been signed just minutes before the board meeting began. Construction will begin next week (!) and should be completed by March 30, 2006. The committee continues to work on finishes, light fixtures, external paving, etc. John noted, with thanks, Brian's efforts in resolving the dry well issue in negotiations with the City of Eugene.

Fundraising Committee: Sharon reported \$67,982 raised for lodge construction & renovation.

New Business

2006 Committee Chairs: President-elect Deeter announced the new committee chairs for 2006: Summer Trips, Margaret Prentice; Climbs, Doug Nelson; Conservation, Judy Newman; Science & Education, John Jacobsen; Finance, Stewart Hoeg. All other committee chairs from 2005 will continue to serve in 2006. The board approved the appointments. Committee chairs should have the membership of their committees ready for approval at the January Board Meeting.

2006 Budget: Ken Kodama presented the preliminary 2006 budget as constructed by John J., Sheila, Stewart and himself. He noted the numbers are estimates and subject to change; and, at this point, expenses will slightly outstrip revenues in 2006. On the "revenue" side, Summer Camp income for 2006 is estimated to be \$1,700 more than the 2005 actual revenue (making the overall 2006 revenue shortfall more significant than it first appears). The transfer to the general fund from Bus Trips is estimated to be \$500 next year (rather than the usual \$1,000). The Finance Committee has raised the estimate for revenue from Summer Trips in 2006 by \$100. Under "expenses," cost-of-living increases are expected in utilities, lodge upkeep, insurance, etc. In addition, increases are incorporated for the Entertainment, Concessions and Membership Committees.

A request from the Entertainment Committee for a capital outlay of \$2000 to purchase a digital projector for the Club was noted by the Finance subcommittee. Although this outlay may be beyond the reach of the 2006 budget, the Board should keep this request in mind as it considers future expenditures of the Club. The finance group also reduced the expense allocations for the Winter Trips, Summer Trips and Safety Committees. Finally, Ken noted that the revenues and expenses for the Extended Trips Fund may be revised at a later date.

In the discussion that followed, it was agreed the board should begin thinking about ways to increase income and/or reduce expenses. On the other hand, it isn't clear at this point whether the estimated shortfall for 2006 simply represents a one-time aberration in the general pattern of revenue vs. expenses of past years. The board was asked to review and consider the preliminary budget and be prepared for approval of a final version in January.

Restricted List: Based on an incident report from Summer Trips, John Pegg recommended an ad hoc Restriction Consideration Committee be appointed to consider placing a nonmember on the restricted list. The board approved and named Pegg, Sharon Ritchie, Sandra Lar-

sen and Susan Sullivan to the new committee.

Nonmember Trip Fees: On behalf of Summer Trips, Janet Jacobsen presented a document asking the board to consider reducing trip fees for nonmembers participating in urban hikes to \$2. Some leaders of urban hikes are uncomfortable charging \$4 for hikes so close to town. The board agreed to consider this issue, along with other fee schedules, at a future time, when a possible increase in membership dues is discussed.

Committee Reports

Summer Trips (Margaret Prentice): 9 trip reports received (52 members, 10 nonmembers, \$98.00 in fees). Wayne noted about 160 trips have been reported this year, a new record.

Publications: John reported 510 November Bulletins printed, 490 mailed at a total cost of \$567.27.

Entertainment (Kathy Hoeg): Monthly presentations will resume in January at the EWEB meeting room. Bill Sullivan will be the speaker in January.

Science/Education: Rick said he'll be giving a revised version of his Antarctica slide show at the Eugene Garden Club; and a talk on skiing in the local area to the Willamette Backcountry Ski Patrol.

Membership (Sharon Ritchie): The board approved seven active membership applications. Total membership is currently 563. Two former members were reinstated. A motion to waive membership fees under the "poor and indigent" provision of the Bylaws for one of these individuals was unanimously approved.

Publicity (Marianne Camp): The Gold Lake Winter Fest is scheduled for Jan. 21, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Volunteers to staff the Obsidians booth are being sought.

Concessions (Laurie Funkhouser): Purchases of \$45.00 were reported.

Online (Wayne Deeter): A form for entering trip reports online has been created. It will be available after approval by the various committees.

Library/Historian: (Lenore McManigal) : All reports are up to date.

Forecast For 2006: Snow and Wayne

WITH HIS TENDENCY to undertake the more demanding outdoors ventures and with a beard to match the wild-est of Oregon's terrains, Wayne Deeter could give one the impression that he is either one of our state's rugged mountain men or, perhaps, the stereotypical Eugene hippie.

As usual, first impressions can be wrong.

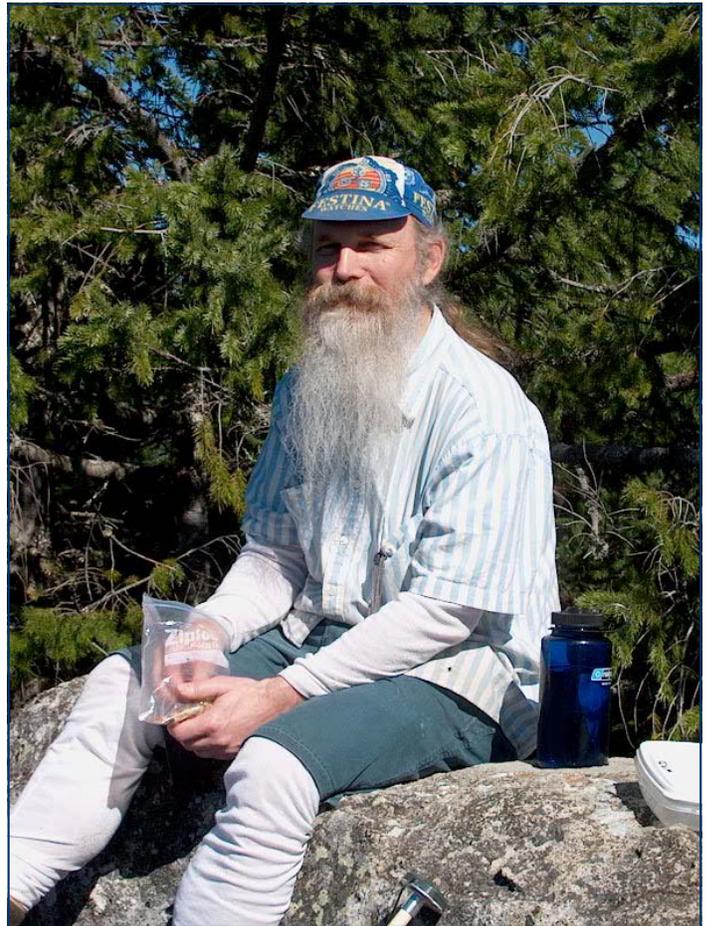
Wayne, who will take over as Obsidian president in January, has a past to match the modern age...a high tech odyssey filled with fortunate opportunities that matched his unique talents.

Now 51, Wayne was born in Burbank, CA, into a transplanted mid-western family and grew up in the rich Goleta Valley farmland near Santa Barbara. While still in high school around 1971, he took an introductory computer systems course and a friend, an assistant professor at UC Santa Barbara, got him involved with the campus's online systems.

(Note: Although Wayne says he wasn't aware of it at the time, the online systems were revolutionary, the creation of the late Glen Culler, who was awarded the national medal of technology, our country's highest technology honor, by President Clinton in 1999 for his pioneering contributions.)

WAYNE SOON FOUND HIMSELF helping graduate students use different computers around the campus. Remember, this was a time when the latest desk technology in most business offices was still the IBM Selectric typewriter!

When the social sciences lab at the University of California at Irvine (UCI) needed someone to administer its new computer system, Wayne's professor friend also linked him up to that opportunity and he jumped at it...and the chance to leave home. He spent four years at UCI and then hooked up with the people at Able Computer Technology (ACT), a hardware company manufacturing replacement boards for minicomputers. He was doing software writing and diagnos-



Wayne on Larison Rock early in 2005

tics until an engineer had him work on micro-coding ("that's what gives interface circuit boards their personality," says Wayne). By using recent technology, the firm was able to make the boards cheaper than the original manufacturers.

(Another Note: Getting too deep into techno-speak runs the risk of turning this story into a foreign language. To get a good idea of where all this could go, check out Wayne's own website, <http://www.deetour.net> where you can find lots

(Continued on page 11)

John Jacobsen re: Wayne Deeter

After an Obsidian hike on Dog Mountain in June 2001, Janet told me about this "interesting" guy, Wayne Deeter, who was on the trip. She thought he would be a good member if he joined. Well, he did join and about a month later I met Wayne on an Obsidian hike to Scott Mountain. He used this great hiking pole on the trip that unscrewed in the middle and became a monopod to support a camera. I asked him where he bought it because I wanted one for myself. He told me he made it. Well, I thought, now here is a talented guy. Anyway, I forgot about buying one, but about a week later the doorbell rang and there was Wayne with a hiking pole/monopod he had built for me. What a nice guy!

Wayne jumped into Obsidian activities with both feet. He hiked and he climbed. Janet invited him to try Summer Camp and he did. He showed up at a board meeting to see what they were all about. At the annual meeting, I presented him with the "New Member of the Year" award for his intense involvement with the club during his first four months as a member. Searching the Obsidian website (Wayne is now webmaster) report page, I find hits for 21 activities that Wayne did between his first hike in June and the end of 2001. There seems to be no let-up in sight. He has been active on many committees and has chaired a couple. And, now, he will be president. Congratulations, and here's to many more active years with the club Wayne.

Auspicious Bhutan

By Blyth Carpenter

RUSS AND I ARE JUST BACK from our fall trip to Bhutan, which included Jane Hackett and Chris Shuraleff. It was a spectacular adventure and, as always, the Obsidians were great travelers. This is an account of the last three days we spent in Bhutan, as well as highlights of the trip with Jane and Chris. The last trip we plan to lead to Bhutan will happen in the spring and we still have several spots open on that trip. *See below.*

THE AUSPICIOUS SPIRIT that surrounded our group travel stayed with Russ and me for our three additional days in Bhutan. And the weather deities swept away all the clouds, providing "severe clear" skies and views of the majestic Himalayas, both at Dochula (pass) and in the air.

After our illustrious group of travelers departed, our friend Sangey Tenzing drove us up the steep road to Songchen Chokor Monastery -- site of our "English Teacher Project." We spent the day interviewing the head lama and also Luke Wagner, the current teacher. Russ and I were relieved and delighted by the apparent success of the program so far. We enjoyed a delicious Bhutanese lunch with several monks and then had a chance to wander around with Luke, photographing both the monastery and the classroom setting for a website we hope will be useful in recruiting future teachers.

Luke's living space is clean and cheerful, with terrific mountain views. The main classroom is an elaborately decorated room with a large "white board" in front of the altar. Plenty of space for the monks to group themselves on colorful rugs for Luke's lessons. We were encouraged.

AT LUNCH, I SAT NEXT to "Tulku," a 16-year-old reincarnate who is the son of Sangey Tenzin and Am Damchae. What a remarkable change from our meeting at dinner a year ago. Tulku's English has improved dramatically and, even more important, he spoke with confidence and a wide smile. During our last visit he covered his mouth with his hand much of the time. We discussed scuba diving (he has been snorkeling in Thailand), movies and his anticipated winter

visit to the Disney complex in Hong Kong with his mother. Tulku meets with Luke for conversation most evenings and his progress is heartening.

We'd invited Luke to join us for a special hike planned by Sonam in central Bhutan (near Wangdi), so we all headed for Thimphu after dinner and then further east the next morning.



Our group with prayer flags flying and "Tiger's Nest" temple in background. Perched on a cliff 2,000 feet over the valley, the temple got its name from the legend that the Guru Rinpoche flew across the mountains to this spot on the back of a tigress.

Our destination was Beyul Langdra Ney -- a valley that begins at the end of the Sha Valley (1 1/2 hour drive over a rocky road to the trailhead). "Beyul" means "hidden treasure valley." "Ney" is a place where an important spirit is thought to live -- often in connection with big rocks and cliffs. This valley is especially sacred in Bhutan because it is believed to be a place where anyone can come in hard times and be protected by the powerful forces of nature. Our goal was to hike to the Langdra Ney Monastery, high above the valley floor.

SO, FOLLOWING SONAM, we climbed...and climbed.

Several Bhutanese came down the trail as we ascended and Sonam reported there was an especially auspicious prayer ceremony going on at the temple. It turned out to be the 49th and final day of prayers for a man who had died in a car accident; so, initially, we were hesitant to enter. But the quick-witted lama invited us in, telling the mourners our appearance must have some Karmic connection to the deceased's past life. We spent an hour observing the most incredible rituals involving the final and most important separation of the soul from the body.

After the ceremony, we were introduced to the son and two daughters of the family, all of whom spoke excellent English. One of the daughters was living in Amsterdam with her Dutch husband, so she was especially eloquent in discussing the importance of the 49 days of prayer ceremonies to prepare the soul for the next life. An emotional and moving day for all of us. It was almost dark by the time we hiked back down to our truck. We all drove back to Thimphu the next day, repacked, spent the evening at Sonam and Dechen's

(Continued on page 7)

Great Progress Report On Pema Chhophyel

(Editor's Note: In the September Bulletin we featured an update on the collegiate life of our fellow Obsidian, Pema Chhophyel, of Bhutan. Pema recently emailed the following letter to his many friends and supporters and has been gracious enough to allow us to share excerpts with you.)

HI EVERYONE!

... I would like to thank everyone for your kind help and support towards my education. I know each of you played your role helping me and now I am quite close to achieving my dream!

...I am doing fine and my life at University of Oregon is great. From dawn to night, I take pride being 'Duck' and (it) never occurred in my mind that green and yellow will be a significant color(s) in my life....I am enjoying my classes and as Bhutanese saying goes, "whether a person ate good meal or not, look on the face and whether a person done a good job or not, look at the result," so I am putting my effort and working hard towards good result.

Before I joined University of Oregon, I danced with both joy and nervousness, but now I am getting my feet on the ground better because my education at Lane prepared all I need. I have no words to express my feelings for Lane and I only can say thousand times...Lane resides in my heart! Truly special place indeed. At university, it was quite difficult to figure out things around huge campus, but my advisors and peers made my life easy every day, particularly in Business School we have great people taking care of us. They are going beyond their limit to help us succeed and to prepare our life for better tomorrow. Now I am quite accustomed to university life -- we have smiles and laughter around Business School....All my classes are superb, although workload is quite heavy (I am doing fine and I shall prevail.)

APART FROM academics, I work for Linguistic Department

as a Language Translation Consultant. In Bhutan, we have several dialects that are spoken, but not written language. My mother tongue, called Kurtoep, is also one language which is not written. Therefore, now I am working with nine Ph.D. students and two professors to make Kurtoep a written language. When they first proposed the idea, I was quite skeptical, but now with the progress that we are making, I think we will be able to achieve impossibles. My folks back in village are still not convinced that this is possible! In a short period of time, we discovered around 900 words. We are working on dictionary and grammar and, eventually, develop a new alphabet....It is fun and exciting to work with professionals who put their heart and soul at work. Most of the students have vast knowledge working with languages and some of them even lived in different parts of the world, simply working in language.

If all goes well, meaning if we can achieve impossibles, this will benefit most linguists around the world and of course the benefit will travel all the way to my little community. My village is quite small but exceptionally unique and beautiful. Most Kurtoep families are unable to communicate with their children due to lack of education. Therefore, if we can create a written language there will be effective communication between parents and children. I can't wait for a day when Kurtoep can put their thoughts in words on page and express their feelings!

I understand most of you are busy, but I really appreciate your time reading my lengthy email. Once again, million thanks for being you! Best Regards,

--Pema Chhophyel

(Since receiving this letter Janet Jacobsen has reported even more good news for Pema. On December 10th, Pema flew from Eugene to Bhutan to begin a long overland journey to his home village. With the support of the linguistics department, Pema is now in his village recording the speech of his friends and relatives. He has not seen his mother in four years. He was taking plenty of UofO souvenirs gifts. He will return to the UofO after the holiday break.)

Highlights of Bhutan

(Continued from page 6)

house cavorting with their cute kids and watching a Bhutanese film. The following morning, we drove to Paro for departure.

THE CLEAR WEATHER followed us and on the flight out of Bhutan we had the most spectacular views of Mt. Everest and her surrounding sisters that we've had on any of our 17 trips. Magnificent peaks of shiny meringue -- without even a wisp of the clouds often the spoilsports of mountain views.

Another blessed visit to the Dragon Kingdom.

Other Highlights

- a group of stimulating, enthusiastic and caring travelers
- furry yaks over the high passes
- prayer ceremony at the temple of Bhutan's most famous shaman or spirit medium
- five black-necked cranes which had arrived two days be-

fore our visit to the Gantey Valley

- a public service project at a primary school featuring earnest and appreciative children
- magical hikes to mountain monasteries
- Bhutanese banquet at the home of Sonam's sister with dancers, music and Bhutanese friends

Spring 2006 Trip to Bhutan

The 2006 spring trip (April 14-30) was intended for alums and parents of the school where I taught for 23 years in the Bay Area. The trip has not been filled, so we are opening it to other adventurers. In addition to our usual opportunities for exploring the splendors of Bhutan, this trip includes: A public service project with the monks of Sonchen Chokhor Monastery; and an opportunity possibly to go inside the newly refurbished and very famous Tiger's Nest or Takstang Monastery. For detailed information see www.natworld.com/bhutan. Interested adventurers should email me (blyth@natworld.com). We need to have a completed trip roster by January 1st.

Putting Your First Foot Forward ...

(Continued from page 1)

snowshoes themselves, see Kristin Hostetter's feature on Page 9), prepare yourself for your first outing. The word we found over and over on websites was "**layering**." We've also had several discussions with Obsidians about winter trips and heard many a story about going on "my first--and only" winter trip. The reasons often were overheating or getting too cold, either because, "I dressed too warmly and got sopping wet in my own sweat;" or "I thought my old (cotton) sweatshirt was just the thing;" or "It was snowing in Eugene. I never expected it to rain in the mountains."

- **Dress in layers.** Most websites suggest three layers: The inner, long underwear layer; the middle insulation layer; and the outer weatherproof layer. All clothing should be wool or synthetic. Wool insulates even if wet and synthetics tend to shed moisture or "wick" it away from the skin. The



Jarl Berg helps fit Barb Revere with her first pair of snowshoes.

middle layer insulates and varies in thickness depending on your expected exertion level. The external layer should be breathable, wind resistant and shed snow and rain.

Remember, layers are effective only if you frequently monitor your physical comfort, stop and "peel" -- or add layers when needed. Some folks adhere to the "*chilly start*" school of layering... they dress lightly anticipating the warmth as they get going on the trail. Some prefer the "*warm start*" method...they stop as soon as needed to peel off layers. Always include a hat and gloves, if only in your pack. We also recommend the "*pack layer*"... extra clothing -- such as a second inner layer top, extra socks, gloves and hat -- in case you are delayed and idle out on the trail. Have enough room in your pack for the outer clothing you remove when you heat up. At lunchtime, it is nice to have dry gloves, dry shirt, jacket and a pad to sit on.

- **Don't forget** sunglasses, goggles, brimmed hat, sunscreen and the 10 essentials you *always* take with you. Check out the "*Are You Prepared for an Obsidian Trip?*" list on the Obsidian website.

- **Food and Water.** If you use a plastic water bladder, take care the hose is not exposed. One Obsidian winter trekker went most of her ski trip "dry" because the water in the hose had frozen. You can buy an insulating sleeve for the hose or keep it tucked inside your pack or clothing. Be sure to take plenty of the same food you like to eat on hikes; you'll burn extra calories as you struggle with your latest sport addiction. A lightweight thermos might be a nice addition to your outdoor gear....*ahh, a cup of steaming hot soup for lunch!*

- **Going Independently?** Take a friend and head for a mountain with a gentle slope. Leave information with someone about your destination in case a search party needs to find you. The Willamette Pass website invites snowshoers to trek safely on the 20 kilometers of groomed and tracked trails surrounding their Nordic Center. Snowshoers should take care not to disturb ski tracks, so ask for directions at the Nordic Center (a Nordic Pass is \$6). If things aren't going so well, you will be

close to the warm lodge and food. Don't head off into the more than 300 acres of ungroomed terrain for a backwoods experience unless you are prepared for *any* emergency ...like spending the night if you are lost or injured. When you feel more comfortable, try



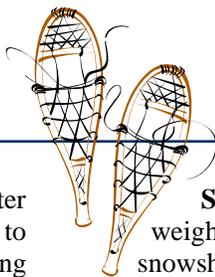
going uphill. Traverse back and forth along the hillside.

- **Walk gently,** take shorter strides and don't lunge or leap from step to step. The footing will feel inconsistent. A local newspaper photographer with three cameras around his neck fell headfirst in the snow on his first two steps. He did the same thing a few minutes later. He gave up and went back into the lodge for breakfast!

- **Back home,** reevaluate your clothing and gear. You may need to add even more or remove some articles. Decide if you are ready to purchase snowshoes or if you need to rent a few more times. If you enjoyed the experience, sign up for some beginning ski trips with the Obsidians.

And here's a great idea...volunteer to help the Winter Trips Committee schedule a beginning snowshoe trip for the first timers.

Snowshoeing: A Walk in the Park!



By Kristin Hostetter
Special to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer

SKIING ISN'T THE ONLY WAY to enjoy a snowy winter day. And since it takes lots of practice, often years, to master the art of the telemark turn, many people are finding out snowshoeing is a fantastic way to get out into the woods and mountains once summer says good-bye.

Here are some of the benefits:

- If you can walk, you can snowshoe. It takes about five minutes to learn to walk with a slightly wider gait so the decks of the snowshoes can clear one another. Within 10 minutes, you're a pro.

- Snowshoes afford better balance than slippery skis, especially when there's a pack strapped to your back.

- Snowshoes are much more maneuverable than skis. This is a big plus when you're negotiating through thick woods or obstacles.

- A good pair of snowshoes is a whole lot cheaper than a ski package (boots, bindings, skis). Snowshoes range from about \$100 to \$300-plus per pair. But the nice thing is that if you've got a pair of waterproof hiking boots, those will most likely work just fine with your snowshoes.

There are a bunch of nice, insulated snowshoeing boots on the market, which are worth looking into if snowshoeing becomes a regular thing for you.

Hopefully, by now I've persuaded you to try snowshoeing this winter. Many good outdoor shops rent snowshoes, so you can try a couple different brands before you buy. If and when you decide to buy a pair, here are some things to consider:



Kristin Hostetter

SIZE. As a rule of thumb, if you and your pack weigh less than 150 pounds, go with 8-by-25-inch snowshoes (the measurements refer to the dimensions of the shoe). If you weigh 150 to 175 with your pack on, you'll want either 9-by-30s or 8-by-25s, depending on the density of the snow you usually play in. Lighter, more powdery snow requires more flotation, and therefore, a bigger shoe. Folks who are 175 to 200 pounds with a pack should check out 10-by-35s or 9-by-30s, again depending on the snow. And if you're more than 200 pounds, go with 10-by-35s.

BINDINGS. There's a wide array of binding types on the market, ranging from the ratcheting type found on snowboards to straps of webbing with buckles to old-fashioned laces. Before you head out, try your snowshoes on with the boots you're planning to wear. With your gloves or mittens on to check the ease of adjustment, see if you can snugly cinch down the binding. You want the binding snug enough so that your foot doesn't show any lateral or back-and-forth movement, because there's nothing as annoying as stepping right out of your snowshoe and into a four-foot drift, then having to struggle to get the shoe back on your foot.

POLES. These are a key accessory. They'll help you maintain balance and rhythm, plus they'll keep your hands busy and warm in the cold weather. Any old pair of ski or trekking poles will do, so long as they have snow baskets on the ends for flotation.

An outdoors writer for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Kristin was Backpacker Magazine's gear editor for seven years and continues to write for that publication. See:

<http://backpacker.com/experts>

She has generously allowed the Obsidian Bulletin to reprint her Seattle P-I articles.

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.

Oregon Ski/Snow Information Links

<http://web.pdx.edu/~cyjh/orresorts.html>

<http://www.onthesnow.com/OR/skireport.html>

http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/snow/maps/oregon_sitemap.html

<http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/snotel/snooreg.html>

Have a safe trip!

Snow Accumulation vs. Snow on the Ground

By Rich Anselmo

EVER WONDER WHY there is usually less snow at the mountain passes than you thought? Well, besides just bad weather forecasting, there is big difference between the forecast of snow accumulation and how much actually falls and remains on the ground.

“*Snow accumulation*” refers to the amount of snow in a 12-hour period, usually from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., measured hourly, on a one foot square piece of plywood. In other words, snow is measured from 6 a.m. to 7 a.m., noted, then wiped away. It is then measured again from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m., wiped away, all the way until 6 p.m. You add up the individual one hour accumulations to get the snow accumulation. This is the amount announced by the National Weather Service and typically heard or seen in the media or on the web.

“*Snow on the ground*” refers to the depth of new snow, taking into account melting and compacting or being wind driven. Three samples are taken, then averaged near that piece of plywood. Often, the snow on the ground is considerably less than the accumulation (except in cases of very dry snow with high winds.)

There are no predictions for actual snow on the ground. So, a forecast of 5-10 inches may indeed happen, measured hourly, but it doesn't mean there will actually be 5-10 new inches on the ground.

Compounding the Problem

Bureaucrats in Washington divided Oregon into zones for simplifying weather forecasts. Santiam Pass and Willamette Pass are both in the North Cascade Zone. And so is Mt. Hood. Now, we all know there is a major weather difference between Mt. Hood and our local passes, but the North Cascade Zone forecast rarely distinguishes any difference. As a result, the government prediction typically over-forecasts snow accumulations. Mt. Hood's average snow accumulation is almost 600 inches. Willamette Pass is nearly 200 inches. That's just one-third of Mt. Hood's. What to do? Whenever you hear a snow accumulation forecast assume our local passes will receive just one third of the forecasted amount.

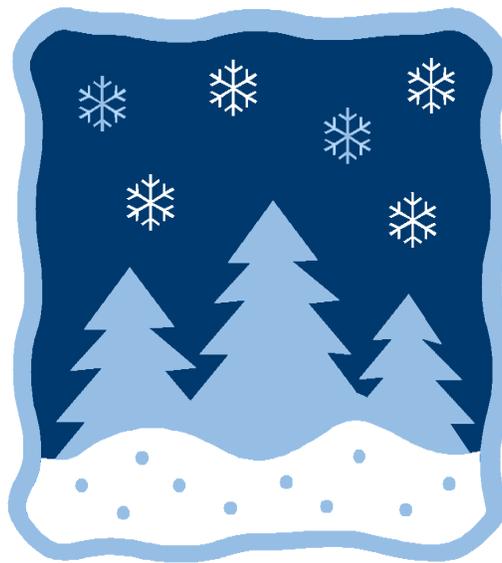
A REALITY CHECK -- As of November 13th, government forecasts have already called for a snow accumulation of 103 inches for Willamette Pass. This is more than 50% of their yearly amount. Last year, the National Weather Service fore-

cast over 500 inches. And for the 2003-2004 season, nearly a world's record in excess of 800 inches! Year after year, after year, the over-forecasting of snow goes on. Why? Because the North Cascade Zone forecast is normally verified using data from Mt. Hood. Crater Lake verifies for the South Cascade Zone forecast. Willamette Pass and Santiam Pass, well, are not normally verifying locations.

So, how much snow accumulation and snow on the ground is really there? Typically, one looks at the Oregon road reports to access snow depth changes; but, frankly, they are not all that reliable. Measuring snowfall is NOT the priority of the Oregon Transportation Department. Keeping the roads passable is. New snowfall accumulations and total on the ground are not routinely updated during storm events. They may be updated during quiet periods. Santiam Pass measurements appear to be more timely.

A BETTER ALTERNATIVE is to access Oregon snowtel sites. These sites are strategically located near many of the ski trails. One site is even en route to Midnight Lake. Do a Google search for “Oregon snowtel” and scroll through the list of sites and data. These gauges can also give false readings during stormy periods, especially in referencing snow on the ground. Wet snow blobs on the electronic ruler can actually render the readings useless. (Note: a couple of snowtel sites are included on this issue's Web Sightings list.)

Then there are the ski areas. Most snowfall measurements are taken at favored (spots that have the greater snowfall) locations on the mountain. A general rule is to take new snowfall totals and divide by two (accounts for the business related snow bias). And, while the snow accumulation forecast for the 2005-2006 winter season does not look that good, we know it's *quality*, not quantity, that counts, right?



Snow Scrooge

*Wintry snow, white and pure, comes in many forms
Flaky, granular, icy and wet are the usual norms
Cherry-flavored in a cone is the form I like the best
And, for my money, you can keep all the rest.*

-- Marshall Jay Kandell

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You

To the following generous donors, for "honoring our past by building for our future."

Donations to the Obsidian Building Fund, September 1 to December 1, 2005

Diamond Pk \$100-\$249 Ray Harris <i>in memory of Betty Harris</i>	Eugene Mountain Rescue	Marsha Brown Fisher, Gayle (Brown) Clady & Norman Brown <i>in memory Don & Jane Brown</i>	Bill & Lois Morse <i>In honor of Paula Vehrs & Mary Millman</i>
---	------------------------	--	--

Fundraising Focus

AS OF DECEMBER 1, we surpassed our Phase 1 fund raising goal of \$50,000 by \$18,205; that is total of \$68,205 donated to our "Honoring Our Past by Building for Our Future" campaign. The appeal included with the membership renewal form produced \$6,224 of the totals listed above. Historically we Obsidians have responded generously when the club needed our help. It is clear the Obsidians are as generous as ever.

Thank you all very much.

Wayne Forecast

(Continued from page 5)

of photos and a link to "arithmetic routines for a Motorola Coldfire processor"-- not the sort of chit-chat one usually hears on an Obsidian hike.)

In 1983, several years after his parents had moved to Elkton, OR, ACT moved its research and development work to the Cottage Grove area, taking Wayne with it. Three years later, there was a split in the company and Wayne was among those who formed The Logical Company (TLC). The firm created obsolete products, says Wayne. "We took old products and redesigned them with new equipment. Just because some things are obsolete doesn't mean people don't need them!"

It was a nice niche and the company did well throughout the '90s, with Wayne a part owner.

IN JUNE 2001, Wayne sold his stock in the company and retired, after holding only three jobs in his lifetime. Almost simultaneously, he joined the Obsidians and just a month or two later attended his first summer camp. He was immediately taken with the social

aspects of the club and the presence of people of all ages.

Although he had explored the back forty around his family's Goleta Valley home, hiked the San Juan Trail in the Santa Ana Mountains while at UCI and always had a thing for bicycles (*in 1994 he started commuting to work by bike, in '95 he biked down to Ashland and took a frame building course at the United Bicycle Institute and has built four or five bikes himself*), he never considered himself a real outdoors person. That all changed following his retirement. He plunged enthusiastically into Obsidian activities, as well as getting involved with the Willamette Backcountry Ski Patrol, of which he is now patrol director (and maintains their websites, www.wbsp.org and www.nsp-orregion.org).

Before he retired, Wayne resisted all efforts to get him into management positions. Even with the computer companies, he says decisions were reached by consensus. Now, he'll have at least three meetings a month -- two ski patrol meetings, the Obsidian board meeting and more club committee meetings than he can shake his beard at.

QUITE A CHANGE for a man who is

admittedly a somewhat shy introvert, whose nature is often revealed by a nervous laugh preceding responses to questions. Wayne dove, however, with full commitment into all aspects of Obsidian life. He has become the godfather of our website, constantly improving it and adding vital organizational functions and features. As if making up for all the lost years of yore, he combs Obsidian history, bringing the past back to life by recapturing old trip reports, Bulletins, photos and documents.

As president, Wayne will likely find the present and future of the club will occupy more of his time than the past. However, Wayne has always been single, which probably explains how he has been able to devote so much time to both work and play.

Finally, getting back to the beard. First impressions are often misleading and the questions we hesitate to ask often lead to the simplest of answers. When he was 16 years old, his high school dropped its dress code and Wayne hasn't shaved since.

-- Marshall Jay Kandell

Ed Harms

FLAGS FLEW AT HALF-STAFF in memory of Ed Harms, a former Springfield mayor, longtime city attorney and former Obsidian who died on Nov. 12. He was 81.

Born Sept. 21, 1924, in Roseburg, Harms moved to Eugene as a child and graduated from Eugene High School in 1941. He served in the navy in World War II and graduated from UofO law school in 1949. Harms was elected to the Springfield City Council in 1950 and served as mayor from 1952 until 1960.

He was best known locally as Springfield's city attorney, a position he held from 1964 until 1992. Other public entities, including Lane Community College and the Springfield Utility Board, also hired Harms to handle their legal affairs in the 1960s and 1970s. He served 11 years on the state Environmental Quality Commission and 10 years on the state Board of Higher Education. He was a founding member of the board of directors of McKenzie-Willamette Hospital and an adjunct professor at the law school.

Harms began climbing with the Obsidians in 1966 and became Chief "Legal Eagle" in 1967...our 162nd chief. He also earned the 10-peak award. He made 15 climbs with the club and led nine climbs.

Harms is survived by his wife, Pat, and three daughters.

Jean Stevenson Lafferty

JEAN STEVENSON LAFFERTY died on Oct. 17 at the age of 90. Jean was born Sept. 11, 1915, in Portland to Angeline Williams and Donald McCornack Stevenson. She married Paul Raymond Lafferty in Portland on Nov. 4, 1939. In 1933, the year she graduated from Portland's Jefferson High School, she was Queen of the Portland Rose Festival. She graduated from the UofO in 1937 with a liberal arts degree and was a member of Delta Delta Delta Sorority, following in the footsteps of her mother, who had pin #1 from the sorority's Oregon chapter.

Jean and Paul Lafferty founded Eugene Freezing and Storage Company

and Sno Temp Cold Storage of Albany. Her sons Michael and Peter and grandson Jason now operate the business. Jean was an avid tennis player and an excellent skier. She biked with friends through the San Juan Islands and hiked and climbed many of the mountains in the Three Sisters area with her husband. She was a member of the Eugene Welfare League (now Junior League), Sacred Heart Medical Center Foundation Board of Directors, a charter member of the Sister Theodore Marie Society and a member of Central Presbyterian Church.

Jean is survived by two sons and their wives (Peter and Joanie Lafferty of Harrisburg and Michael and Cookie Lafferty of Eugene); six grandchildren; two brothers; and a sister. She was preceded in death by a son, David, in 1965; her husband, Paul; and two brothers, Donald and Bruce Stevenson. Memorial contributions may be made to Volunteers In Medicine, 3321 West 11th Avenue, Eugene, OR 97402.

Obsidian Historian Lenore McManigal reports that Paul Lafferty was the more active club member, climbing and leading many mountain trips and becoming the 28th Obsidian Chief in 1933. Jean and Paul climbed both the North and Middle Sister on Aug. 25, 1940; and on July 19, 1949, she again climbed Middle Sister, with Paul leading the climb. Her last year as an Obsidian member was in 1991.

Beatrice LeFevre

OBSIDIAN LIFE MEMBER Beatrice M. LeFevre died Nov. 17 of age-related causes at the age of 96.

"Bea joined the club in 1965," reports club historian Lenore McManigal, "and was very active for many years. She attended five summer camps. The last 18 years of her membership, her activities included taking many bus trips, 32 in all. Her last trip was in 1995 to the upper McKenzie Valley."

She was born May 27, 1909, in Minneapolis, to Jacob and Amalie Brenckle Boll. She married William Davis in 1932. They later divorced. Bea received a bachelor's degree in biology from Downer College in Milwaukee in

1931, a master's degree in mycology from North Dakota Agricultural College and a fellowship as a graduate assistant at the University of Nebraska.

She started her career as a secondary teacher in 1949, moved to Creswell in 1956, taught at Creswell High School for many years and taught classes for visually handicapped students in the Eugene School District before retiring. She taught Spanish at Campbell Senior Center and also taught adult literacy classes. She belonged to and led nature studies at Mount Pisgah Arboretum. An avid bird watcher, she belonged to the Eugene Audubon Society.

Survivors include a son, William Davis of Creswell; three daughters, Willa Alvord of Eugene, Madelon Taylor of Lyle, WA., and Lucy Davis of The Dalles; 16 grandchildren; 36 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Obsidians or Mt. Pisgah Arboretum.

Dawn Newsom

DAWN NEWSOM died at her Olympia, WA, home after a long bout with ovarian cancer on November 26, 2005. She, her husband Keith and his mother, Frances Newsom (a long time member and princess), are all Obsidians.

Dawn was born June 29, 1941, in Kodiak, Alaska, to Harold Frederick and Janet (Whalen) MacDonald. She spent her early childhood in Kodiak, moving in 1958 to Seattle where she graduated from Roosevelt High in 1960; and from the University of Washington in 1964 with a BS in home economics. She and Stephen Keith Newsom were married in Seattle on September 25, 1965. In 1970, they moved to Olympia.

"Many of us came to know Dawn through summer camp," says John Jacobsen. "Keith went to his first summer camp in the mid-50s and was active in the club at that time. Keith brought Dawn to her first summer camp in 2001. Her prowess at dishwashing and concern for cleanliness became legendary. She soon joined the

(Continued on page 16)

Volunteer Vacations and Service Trips

By Anne Bonine

DO YOU HAVE LOTS of energy? Do you have lots of free time? Do you want to contribute to the environment? Do you want to work outdoors in wonderful settings? Try a "Volunteer Vacation" or "Service Trip."

I've worked with four different organizations over the last three years and had great experiences. I don't rough it. I only pick "vacations" offering car camping or dormitory arrangements. No backpacking for me! I carefully check the degree of difficulty factor, which is determined by the terrain and worksite, as well as the nature of the project. Be aware of the descriptive words: easy, moderate, difficult, strenuous and *challenging*!!

My first adventure was July 2002 with the Wilderness Volunteers (www.WildernessVolunteers.org). Our project was salmon stream restoration on Mount Hood. The setting was a golf course on the flanks of Mt. Hood. A salmon spawning stream had been filled in to make the golf course, but the new owners wanted to return that stream to its original condition. The Forest Service agreed and, with backhoes, shovels and many volunteer hours, the stream was dredged, rerouted and "prepared" for salmon. We planted willows to improve the riparian area; placed boulders, creating salmon "ladders;" and pulled noxious, invasive weeds. It was relaxing, easy and although "civilized," a lovely setting. We worked a total of four days and had two hiking days with our leader. We car-pooled from our campground to the worksite each morning. Our team had 2 leaders, 10 volunteers and a Forest Service supervisor. The food was provided by the leaders, but we all had cooking chores. The week cost about \$230.

MY NEXT ADVENTURES were in July 2003 and 2004 with the American Hiking Society (www.AmericanHiking.org). This was an ongoing *Rails to Trails* project in the Cascades east of Seattle. We worked on a section of the Iron Goat Trail, named for the old Great Northern Railway line. Our accommodations were in the Seattle Mountaineers Lodge at Stevens Pass, with dormitories and a full kitchen. I helped build a small bridge and, the second year, filled in a swampy area and built viewpoints. Each morning we car-pooled and then hiked into the worksite. I enjoyed this project because I learned some technical building skills. We worked four days and had a free day on our own. The basic cost was \$130, but we also paid the cook \$50 for food.

This summer, I worked in early August with the Sierra Club (www.SierraClub.org/outings/national/service.asp). Our project was fire suppression around the historic Clair Tappan Lodge near Truckee, CA. We stayed in dormitories in the lodge and ate in the dining room. Because our project was on private property we didn't need a Forest Service advisor, just two Sierra Club leaders. We limbed trees; cleared brush; raked acres of debris and fed everything into a chipper. We worked four days, although some were short enough to hike in the late afternoons or evenings, which was a welcome break. On our day off there were several leader led hikes to



Ann Bonine, center, holding survey rod. Beginning stages of building a low bridge. Goat Trail, Steven's Pass, WA, July 2003, with the American Hiking Society.

choose from. This "vacation" cost about \$400, but it was because of the accommodations and gourmet food.

MY LAST TRIP THIS SUMMER was in late August with the Continental Divide Trail Alliance (<http://www.cdtrail.org/>) on the east side of Glacier National Park. We had a group campsite and a cook for five of the six evening meals. Breakfast and lunch were our responsibility. Our project was rebuilding a section of trail and was labeled as "strenuous" in the catalog. I didn't pay enough attention to that label...it was *exhausting*! Every day we hiked steeply uphill for two miles and then hauled rocks in canvas bags; dragged long, heavy logs; and did lots of shovel work. I was wiped out at the end of each day and knew I had picked too difficult a project. The scenery was spectacular, everyone was very encouraging and the constant state of alertness for grizzlies added the extra adrenalin I needed to keep going. This trip was free and maybe the "cost" was the fact we worked five straight days.

Each of my experiences was wonderful and challenging. I just checked each website and they all have their 2006 projects listed. Now I can browse and decide which "vacations" to take next year.

TRIP REPORTS & OTHER ACTIVITIES



Hikes

Matthieu Lakes

September 18, 2005

Leader: Kathy Riddle

6 miles, 800 ft ("B")

IF THERE WAS A PERFECT day for a hike I would say this was the day. The weather was sunny with beautiful clear skies and we had fantastic views of the Sisters, Mt. Jefferson and Mt. Washington, just to name a few. The trail was packed down so we had little dust and no mosquitoes. I want to thank our hikers for making this a great hike: John Agnew, Marsha Barr, Barbara Morgan, Carol Petty, Barb Revere, Kathy Riddle and nonmembers Kyle Burns and Mary Livingston.

Tire Mountain

October 10, 2005

Leader: Chris Cunningham

7.6 mi., 500 ft. ("B")

NINE OF US WALKED along the Tire Mountain trail on this perfectly sunlit day. Long gone were the terrain's renowned wild flowers; in their place, fall's golden foliage -- a lovely contrast against old growth trees, wild rhodies and lush ferns. Diamond Peak, Mount Bachelor and Hills Creek Reservoir were in clear view for all to savor. After a leisurely lunch, we climbed to the top, where a lookout tower once stood atop a tree. Joining Chris Cunningham were Anne Bonine, Pat Esch, Marcia Cutler, Paul Flashenberg, Yuan Hopkins, Sherwood Jefferies, Pete Peterson and Barb Revere.

Smith Rock

October 15, 2005

Leader: Becky Lipton

6 miles ("B")

OUR PLAN TO HIKE Drift Creek in the pouring rain was overwhelmingly overturned in favor of hiking over Smith Rock on the dry desert plateau northeast

of Redmond. A beautiful alternative to a rainy coastal hike, we had mostly blue skies, gorgeous views of the high desert from the top of Smith Rock and close-ups of the river and colored rock cliffs that were covered with rock climbers. Hikers were Walt Dolliver, John Lee, Becky Lipton, Evelyn Nagy, Donna Petty and nonmember Sheila Daughtry.

Umpqua Dunes

October 23, 2005

Leader: Bob Huntley

7 miles, 100 ft ("B")

WE DROVE THROUGH Florence to the John Dellenback trailhead in Coos County. We began in the dunes through a light fog, but after awhile the clouds lifted enough so we could see the "tree island" which marks the route. The fourth post north of the "island" marks the trail entrance to the tunnels through the thick greenery of the foredune forest. We had lunch as soon as we got to the beach and saw a sea lion as we walked south on the beach. Its fur was sleek and, other than being dead, it appeared to be in excellent condition and showed no signs of trauma. The Ten Mile River area has changed a lot since I last saw it. At least 1/4 mile of foredune has been washed away and there is a lagoon where none existed before. We angled northwest across the dunes and with a little difficulty managed to find the trail into the forest. When we got back to the cars we were dismayed to find Barb Revere's had been broken into. Someone had smashed the driver's window and taken a bag containing a change of clothes. The *#&%" lowlife! Members Bob Huntley, Nancy Whitfield, Anne Bonine, Daphne James, Joanne Ledet, Barb Revere, Margot Fetz, Barb Bruns and Courtney Abbott were accompanied by soon-to-be members Marian and Les Brod.

Amazon Headwaters/ Ridgeline

October 29, 2005

**Co-Leaders: Janet (reporting) &
John Jacobsen**

5 miles, 400 ft. ("A")

DID 29 SIGN UP for this trip because the starting time was 9 a.m.? Because it was

in town? Because it is a new trail? Several people walked to our meeting place at the end of West Amazon and two people arrived via LTD bus. *Only* 24 of us started up the Amazon Headwaters Trail, with John in the lead. Sharon Ritchie positioned herself in the middle of the group, while Janet was the sweep. The lower part of the trail, not yet graveled, was muddy and slippery. Fortunately, the upper part of the new trail has been graveled. Jake of Dept. of Human Services and Chris from Parks and Rec were supervising a group of teenagers moving gravel. Their hard work was much appreciated.

At the Fox Hollow trailhead, Nola decided to walk down to Donald to catch a bus back to town. Shelly and David Call caught up with us there, so we actually made a net gain. I apologized to the Calls for my directions.

We continued on the Ridgeline Trail to Dillard Road. It was challenging to fix our location on the trail signboard. At that point, Judith Thompson headed down Dillard to her nearby home. Back to 24 hikers, we took the lower Ridgeline trail designated for bikers and met many runners and dogs. John offered to take a splinter group down a more direct and steeper trail. There were no volunteers! Near the end of the trail, we met a runner who had parked her car on 52nd and Wilamette. She needed directions! John did his best.

All of us enjoyed the fall colors on this beautiful forested trail. Thanks to everyone who shared in this experience. It was Marti Berger's fourth trip and Joyce Saunder's third, so we hope to see them as new members. Other nonmembers were Tom Berkley, Tara McMahon, Paul Seeman and Judith Thompson. Members were Joan Abel, Anne Bonine, Barb Bruns, Shelly and David Call, Daniele Delaby, Maggie Gontrum, Tom Gould, Janet and John Jacobsen, Vicki Levine, Dick and Rosemarie Moffitt, Margaret Prentice, Kathy Riddle, Sharon Ritchie, Ruth Romoser, Nola Shurtleff, Julie Snell and Chuck Wager.

Ridgeline Trail
November 6, 2005
Co-Leaders: Janet Jacobsen
(reporting), Barb Revere
7 miles, 500 ft. ("B")

BARB REVERE, Janet Hall and I left two vehicles at the Spring Blvd. trailhead and then met the other seven hikers at SEHS. It was a quick drive to the trailhead at Blanton Road, where we began our hike. After Saturday's blustery storm, we had surprisingly pleasant overcast weather. Near Willamette, we took a short walk up to an open meadow for a view of Spencer Butte. The enticing smells of bacon and pancakes drifted from a house on the other side of the meadow. Our group increased by one when Marcia Cutler caught up with us. The storm left the trail a bit muddy and littered with branches (we tried to pick up as many as we could). We crossed Willamette, Fox Hollow and went on to Dillard.



Can we get there from here?

Janet Jacobsen & group contemplating.

Janet Hall told us about meeting some scientists on the trail who were looking for vole nests high in the trees. Alas, we did not find any voles. As we walked down Dillard to the parking lot, prepared to make the steep and muddy ascent of Baldy, it started to rain and we scrambled for our raincoats. When Marcia's leg began to hurt, I decided to bag the summit of Baldy and take the safe trail around Baldy to the open pasture and over to Spring. Dick Hildreth and Marcia took the short trail down to Old Dillard to wait for us. Some hikers had left items in the vehicles at Blanton, so while Janet Hall drove one group back to SEHS, the rest of us took a ride to Blanton first, also picking up Marcia and waving good-bye to Dick, who wanted to walk back. It was helpful to have a co-leader to assist with the car shuttle, the sweep and offer support. We hope to lead it again so more people can enjoy the long stretch of the Ridgeline Trail. Hikers were: Marcia

Cutler, Jane Hackett, Janet Hall, Dick Hildreth, Bob Huntley, Sherwood Jefferies, Janet Jacobsen, Nola Nelson, Carol Petty, Barb Revere and Nancy Whitfield.

Lost Creek
November 12, 2005
Leader: Rebecca Hansen
9-10 miles ("B")

IT WAS A COOL MORNING with the promise of rain as we arrived at the trailhead. With no sign it's easy to miss. Reaching the trail junction we found three to four inches of snow; hard to see footing and foggy, but not raining yet. We climbed the rock, but nothing to see. I looked south to find Bohemia, but nothing but a big black hole...spooky. Back at the junction there's still time to climb Mt. June (which got its name from Elijah Bristow because the snow on her top is in the month of June). The rain upon us has mostly been the melt of snow and ice off the trees. The maple trees were turning a golden yellow. On the way up we had picked a few chanterelle mushrooms, stashing them under a log to be picked up later. But we could not stop looking for or picking more mushrooms. About a quarter mile from the end of the hike, off in the distance, a lone coyote could be heard. By the time we were out we had gathered about three gallons of mushrooms. The men divided the mushrooms, had a short lesson on bad mushrooms, joked about the mushrooms we kept (poisonous?). A great trip with easygoing company -- Rob Castleberry, Larry Dunlap, Rebecca Hansen and Dave Schlessinger.

Eel Creek
Sunday, November 13
Leader: Jane Hackett
Reporter: Janet Jacobsen
6 miles, 100ft. ("B")

OUR CARLOAD of five planned to meet Sherwood Jefferies and Birgitte Williams at 9:30 at the Oregon Dunes NRA Visitor Center in Reedsport. At 9:40, we left a note for Birgitte and six of us headed south to the Eel Creek trailhead. I did this hike in 1976 and 1987 and remembered the blustery wind and blowing sand. To my surprise, the weather was quite pleasant, with just a bit of rain and no wind. For 2 1/2 miles, we walked through the dunes with the background noise of the ocean. Three people were

lucky enough to see a porcupine. Jane turned off on the upper trail through the deflation plain to the beach. At last! We had our first view of the ocean! After lunch, we hiked back on the beach and caught the lower trail through the deflation plain. This was a much wetter trail, with water in some places over our boots. We had a coffee stop at Old Town in Florence and were back in Eugene around 5. Nonmember Bob Freed joined members Pat Esch, Jane Hackett, Janet Jacobsen, Sherwood Jefferies and Royal Murdock.

North Shasta Loop
November 16, 2005
Leader: Ruth Romoser
5 miles ("B")

SEVEN HIKERS really enjoyed views of Eugene atop North Shasta Loop. We also saw two deer. We walked down Agate Street and chugged over to the Pioneer Cemetery; then up Onyx and back to Amazon Community Center. This was a "perfect" urban hike -- nice views without rain, ice or mud. Some hikers expressed an interest in going thru the cemetery again. Hikers were Barb Revere, Dick Hildreth, Giselle Garrity, Barbara Morgan and nonmembers Tom Berkey and Joe Neal.

Larison Creek
November 19, 2005
Leader: Anne Dhu McLucas
10.4 miles, 700 feet ("B")

WE LEFT EUGENE shrouded in fog, five of us packed into one car, and headed up Highway 58 to find a beautiful sunny day for our hike through the woods along Larison Creek. Larison Cove was disappointingly empty, but we had the amusement of watching a pickup stuck in the mud (by the end of the hike there were three "helpers," all spinning their wheels -- a new form of weekend entertainment?). After the cove, we hiked along the beautiful, clear creek, stopping for lunch in a spot of sunshine on a mossy bank. We returned to Eugene and the fog, a happy group: Anne Bonine, Sherwood Jefferies, Anne Dhu McLucas, Nancy Whitfield and Nancy Andrew, a nonmember on her fourth qualifying hike.



Byways By Bus

Evergreen Air Museum

November 10, 2005

Leaders: Ray Jensen & Ben Jeffries

AT THIS WORLD CLASS facility we were treated to a truly outstanding presentation by our guide/docent Major Bill Sleeper (USAF ret.), a pilot who served from 1943 to 1969, WWII to Vietnam. Bill began our walk-through at the replica of the 1903 Wright Brothers aircraft, next to the Blackbird -- the SR-71 spy plane from the cold war that was capable of Mach-3 speed and 80,000' heights. On to various planes of the WWII era and finally to the centerpiece, the Hughes Flying Boat, which we were able to enter. He related highlights and sidelights at each display and captured our full attention. His was an easy style of communication; only when he told us about his brush with death upon ejection from a flaming P-38 did he choke up a bit.

We were awestruck by the immensity of the Titan II ICBM, also a recent addition. All riders enjoyed a wonderful two hours at the museum.

TO RECAP the other daily activities :

Fortunately, the weather was sunny and invigorating for our morning coffee break at Camp Adair, where there are monuments to the four divisions that trained there during WWII. Nearby, we viewed varieties of exotic pheasant, all in cages. This part of a 2,000-acre complex is used for pheasant research and other wildlife usages. We then went to Baskett Slough NWR, where we saw a few migrating geese and spotted a bald eagle vigilantly expecting his next meal. Our lunch was at the Coyote Café in Spirit Mountain Casino (a great meal for all).

At 1 p.m., we reboarded the bus and went through the reservation. Ewart

(Baldwin) pointed out Spirit Mountain itself, which he climbed when he mapped the Grand Ronde quadrangle some 50 years ago. After the air museum, we returned in wet weather, with driver Allan Foss bringing us home at 5:45 through heavy traffic and in the early gloom of night.

Riders were: Nonmembers Judy and Tom Adamcyk, Muriel Bible, Sharon Cutsworth, Sheri Lawrence and John Schreiner; and members Ethel Allen, Ewart Baldwin, Mary Bridgeman, Mary Lee Cheadle, Connie Dooley, Bette Hack, Dora Harris, Mary Ann and Tom Holser, Ben Jeffries, Ray and Jean Jensen, Rosella Jones, Verna Kocken, Mary Lemons, John and Lenore McManigal, Barbara and Don Payne, Liz Reanier, Pauline Sievers, Julie Snell, Nancy Schreiner, Dick and Janet Speelman and Vera Woolley.



Backpacks

Rogue River Trail

June 3-5, 2005

Leader: Ken Horton
42 miles ("C")

THREE HEARTY SOULS decided to brave the wild and scenic section of the Rogue River Trail for three days. Starting from the downstream trailhead at Foster Bar after a 2.5 hour shuttle, Ken Horton, Becky Lipton and Evelyn Nagy set out in high spirits. Starting from the far end of the trail facilitates a much shorter drive back to Eugene on the last day when you're already tired.

The first part of the trail meanders through cow pastures and isn't terribly exciting from a scenery standpoint, but it's far superior to being inside!

Once through the pastures and the more recent section of the trail, Flora

Dell Creek --with its beautiful waterfall - is a cool refuge from the southern Oregon heat. After a quick break and replenishing our water, we passed Clay Hill Lodge, followed by the USFS guard station at Brushy Bar. A few miles later we come upon Paradise Bar Lodge, complete with its small herd of cattle and landing strip. Finally, after 13 miles or so, we hit our first campsite...Blossom Bar, which is named for the wild azaleas that bloom there. It also happens to be one of the tougher riffles on the river and, thus, offers good raft watching. After dinner and utilizing the handy bear box, we retired to our tents.

Day two consisted of some of the best scenery on the river...Mule Creek Canyon. Unfortunately, this is also the hottest part of the trail. After several riffles like the Coffeepot and Stair Creek, we came out of the canyon and passed by Mule Creek guard station and Marial Lodge. From the lodge we have to stay on the road for a couple of miles until we hit the Rogue River Ranch...another trail oasis with nice lawns, picnic tables, a swimming hole (if you can

brave the temperature) and a museum. We had snacks and a water break while Evelyn and Becky checked out the museum and the other historic buildings on the site. We hiked another nine miles to our second campsite at Meadow Creek.

Day three dawned and the mileage was showing. We were all a little sore, but looking forward to the day and getting back to hot showers. The day also brought intermittent rain. We passed Horseshoe Bend, Black Bar Lodge, Bronco Creek, Russian Creek and the popular Whiskey Creek day hike destination with its historic cabin. Rainie Falls, a 15-20 ft. waterfall, is about two weary miles from the trailhead at Grave Creek and our awaiting shuttle. Congratulations to everyone for trekking 41 miles in three days and to my father for providing shuttle services.

Dawn Newsom

(Continued from page 12)

Obsidians and, as is often the case with capable people, was quickly swept into a "responsible person" position (you aren't going to believe this...heading up dish-washing!). She and Keith were able to come to three camps before her health

prevented her from attending. Her last camp was in the Wallows. Janet and I remember Dawn for her enthusiasm, her positive outlook and her perpetual smile."

Dawn was the consummate volunteer, helping with UNICEF, AFS, Olympia Junior Programs and the Washington Center for the Performing Arts. She is

survived by her husband; her brother Roger MacDonald and Roger's wife Barbara; and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

At Dawn's request, there was no service. In memoriam please donate to your favorite charity. Keith can be reached at: 417 Rogers St. SW, Olympia, WA 98502.

Trail Maintenance -- We're Making a Difference



By Peter Asai

OVER THE PAST YEAR, Obsidians volunteers have provided a notable effort to improve the trails in Spencer Butte Park. With guidance and equipment from Eugene City Parks, Obsidians volunteers and others have: upgraded trails; recovered and replanted unwanted side trails; cleared back overgrowth; removed an old dysfunctional bridge and replaced it with a native stone culvert; replaced signage; removed non-native species; and replaced a decaying boardwalk with a lower maintenance, longer lasting raised gravel walkway.

According to City Parks Trails Supervisor Matt McRae, "90% of the trail work done in the park this past year has been provided by the Obsidians." Several Obsidian trail "engineers" recently had an enthusiastic discussion with Matt about the prospect of sorting out the trail mess that exists above the tree line toward the summit. Beginning in January, the Trail Maintenance

Committee proposes to focus our efforts with the city on creating a clearly visible and easily navigable main trail from the tree line to the summit. We hope to be able to reduce the degradation of the terrain caused by the confusion of paths off the summit, as well as improve the safety of hikers seeking the way down.

This is an excellent opportunity for Obsidians to gain increased visibility as hiking trail

preservers and improvers, as well as users. The committee hopes that in addition to our current core of diehards many more

members will come out for our monthly outing and contribute to this effort. All levels of physical capacity are needed, from snipping back overgrowth to pick and shovel work.

ON NOVEMBER 5TH, Obsidians Rick Ahrens, Peter Asai, Max Brown, Dave Predeek, Larry Dunlap and nonmember Scott Youngblood met at Spencer Butte Park with Matt McRae and divided into two groups to do trail brushing and culvert cleaning on the Ridgeline Trail. The weather was overcast, but temperatures quite hospitable. While it seemed to rain off and on during the morning, the forest canopy kept things to a barely perceptible drizzle. We focused on cutting back overgrowth and removing non-native species.



Book Review:

"Deadly" Reading, But Not Dull

Living Among Tombstones: Life in a Country Cemetery, by Shannon Applegate.

HER PROVOCATIVE title complies with the first rule of advertising: "Attract attention!"

Although not a sequel to "*Skookum*," this newly published book builds on the heritage of Oregon's "First Family" -- the Applegates.

Her extensive research on the beliefs and attitudes of many cultures, ancient and contemporary, about death and burial practices is presented with understanding... sometimes with sadness, sometimes with humor.

Based on Shannon's duties as sexton, much is revealed

about herself as well as about the local people and their activities. Also, she brings in episodes from far-away places such as Bosnia and Mexico to illustrate her message.

Of special concern to Obsidians, we learn more about some people we have known: her father, Colonel Rex; her talented cousin Susan; mother Edie; brother Rexito; and her close friend Esther Stutsman, who is a direct descendent of Chief Halo of the Yoncallas.

A sentence on page 295 jumped off the page to me: "I learned about the community of the living, from the community of the dead." These words summarize the book.

-- Ray Jensen

WE GOT YOUR EMAIL about member renewal so we just sent our checks to you all the way from Amman, Jordan...our new home for the next one or two years. I am teaching here at Jordan Applied University as an English language fellow upgrading English language teaching in Jordan.

So...we would like to go to summer camp if there is one this year, as well. We will miss most meetings from this part of the world, but last weekend -- before the nasty bombing attack occurred in our own backyard, so to speak -- we were hiking in Wadi Rum and Petra, the old hangouts of Lawrence of Arabia plus civilizations dating back a few thousand years, give or take a few hundred on either end.

Our new address is: David Roderick and Nola Woodbury, American Embassy, Amman, Public Affairs Fellow, APO AE 09892. Please do not put Jordan down in the address as this is an Army Post Office Box...and we can receive the Obsidian Bulletin since it goes first to the post office in the states. We'd love to receive emails or messages from Obsidian members so inclined. davidsan3639@hotmail.com. Happy adventures to all.

-- David Roderick

I APPRECIATED the article by Kristin Hostetter in the October Bulletin. It reminds me of my early climbing days in Tacoma, when I fell in with a bunch of rogue rock climbers who mocked the stodgy Seattle Mountaineers and their *10 Essentials*. We claimed there was only one essential: toilet paper.

Well, 40 plus years later I would add only two items to that. I think there are only three true essentials for the northwest outdoorsman: toilet paper, mosquito repellent and space blanket.

The other 10 are very good to bring along, but these three will deal with the most common exigencies. Strangely, none of these are on the big 10 list. Only the third is truly an emergency item for survival: the space blanket will get you through the worst, from sudden storms to being lost and benighted. The first two are likely to be needed on almost every trip. Woe to those who forget them. Keep 'em all in one pouch of your pack, always.

-- David Wagner

THANK YOU FOR the interesting review of the pamphlet about preserving the Three Sisters Wilderness. It's important for me to remember that these places I sometimes take for granted are there because of the untiring efforts of dedicated people, people like ourselves who took it upon themselves to do something important, something that needed to be done. I would like to acknowledge and thank those Obsidians present and past who were involved in this effort, by name. Thank you to Don Hunter, Ewart Baldwin, Ken and Robin Lodewick, Frances Newsom, Mike Stahl, Lois Schreiner, Ruth and Karl Onthank, Clair Cooley, Virginia and Gene Sebring, Baynard and Ellen McConahy. You and others who stood and acted for the Three Sisters Wilderness are my heroes.

-- Anne Hollander

I NEGLECTED MY RENEWAL notice, but as you'll note from my address, I've moved from Bandon to Las Vegas. The move was necessitated by my need to resume gainful employment in the electric utility industry.... I did not want to disappear without a parting "good-bye." With the job hunting, moving and getting into the new work-flow, I've been quite challenged this

past year.

As I recall, I joined the Obsidians in 1995 and had the challenge and satisfaction of participating in and leading many climbs; as well as being anointed Chief "Big Wind" (for various reasons!). The distance between Bandon and Eugene was a manageable obstacle. Now, however, I'm clearly out of the zone. It took Doug Nelson and me about 17

hours of nonstop team driving to make it to our trans-Death Valley hike and climb in 2001.

Sin City lies yet another two hours away.

For this reason, I'll not be renewing my membership, although I did make a parting gesture in the way of a donation to your problematical clubhouse remodeling effort. I would also appreciate it if you'd make some mention of my "passing" in your newsletter, as I wish to say 'farewell to all, and to wish my fellow Obsidians many more years of safe and inspiring climbs'!

As the Obsidian rock climbing faction knows, Las Vegas is the town nearest Red Rocks Canyon...a 24-mile, 40-minute drive from my apartment. Vegas lies on an alluvial fan spread out from the base of the Spring Mountains to the west where Red Rocks is located. This town is at an elevation of 2,300,' but you quickly rise to over 4,000' at the base of these mountains or in the high desert valleys to the north. These areas are prone to snow storms and there are pullouts along these desert highways for chaining-up. I found this rather odd, as I was coming down here in July when it was over 90 degrees out there! These mountains top out at a bit over 11,000' with some impressive 1,000'+ walls of limestone, marble or sandstone. There's a ponderosa pine ecological zone up there that reminds me of Sisters, as well as a lodge and ski resort at about 7,600'. At that elevation it appears they get about 5'-8' of snow and have to plow the road.... I purchased a Red Rocks annual pass and trail run up there a couple times a month. The mixed juniper, pine and thorny cacti plant association -- set amidst the purple, red and cream colored rock formations -- is quite scenic, but much different from the lower Cascades. It's tough for me to run at 4,000' to 5,800,' but the open vistas in the more arid locations remind me of the world above timberline in our climbs of the Sisters and Jefferson.

So far, I've only hiked up Mt. Griffith, a little over 11,000.' I met a guy up there spreading a bit of Hunter S Thompson's ashes (well, this *is* Las Vegas!). That hike was in late August. Now, there is snow up there.... Most weekday mornings I run a six-mile loop on The Strip, just before dawn. It's well lit with glitz, *verrry* expensive lighted fountains with Roman and Italian sculpture, palm tree landscaping and always entertaining! A couple of weeks ago it was Halloween party weekend and the sights were particularly entertaining! My run loops south from the Flamingo down to that famous "Welcome to Las Vegas" sign. Quite a contrast from a deserted Bandon beach! On the beach I'd worry about tripping over a hauled-out sleeping sea lion and getting bit. Here, it's getting run over by Bulgarian cabbies or falling on broken booze bottles!!

-- Christopher S. Miller

(Editor's Note: Due to space limitations, we had to severely shorten Chris's letter. For more on his new life in Las Vegas and the jokes we couldn't print, you can contact him at may02@csm.tc.)

New Local Field Guides

LOOKING FOR THE perfect gift for that naturalist on your list? Or do you have an affinity for “things that fly?” Here are some suggestions from Rick Ahrens.

Dragonflies of the Willamette Valley, Oregon: A Beginner's Guide, by Steve Gordon and Cary Kerst (brand new - Dec. 2005). Proceeds go to the Willamette Resources and Education Network

Butterflies of Lane County (3rd edition, updated June 2005), compiled by Marta Makarushka. Proceeds go to the local chapter of the North American Butterfly Assn.

Birds of the Willamette Valley Region by Harry Nehls, et al. (2004). Not the best field guide, but a good coffee table book to acquaint yourself with local birds and their habits.

And Rick urges us to remember to support your local independent bookstore!

Bulletin Classifieds

For Sale

(2) TREK road bikes, sizes 50 CM & 56 CM, model 2120 – carbon. \$400 each. Rich Anselmo 782-2369

Companion(s) Wanted

My plans are to bicycle camp from Eugene to Sequim Summer Camp. Companion(s) wanted. Contact Chuck Wagar at 543-1489.

Help Wanted

Have desktop publishing expertise? Would you like to get some? No pay, but we're an equal opportunity employer! Contact the Publications Committee at: bulletin@obsidians.org.

Books Needed

The SCAR Jasper Mountain Center library needs local identification books on butterflies, snakes, birds, wildflowers, frogs and trees. This small library serves around 40 students. The center is located in a rural setting and many of their science projects involve the outdoors. If you have any books to donate, please contact Janet Jacobsen at 343-8030 or jbjacobsen@aol.com.

Obsidian Goodies

T-shirts, \$10 (no matter design or size); sweatshirt, \$15; cap, \$15; mug or tumbler, \$10; whistle, \$3. Contact: Laurie at 206-2303 or funkhouser@callatg.com.

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

Obsidian Calendar

December

17 Sat – **Gold Lake**, S'Shoe 3m **AdvBeg**, S.Hovis (345-7788)
28 Wed – **Mystery ski trip**, X-Ski 8m **Int**, W.Deeter(942-0824)

January

1 Sun - **Spencer Butte**, 4.4 m **B**, J. Jacobsen (343-8030)
1 Sun - **Maiden Peak**, X-Ski 13m **Adv**, B.Burnett (753-1535)
1 Sun - **Tahkenitch Dunes loop**, 6.5m **B**, S.Ward (686-5679)
2 Mon - **Gold Lake Shelter**, X-Ski 4m **Beg**, B.Hamilton (343-6550)
7 Sat - **Midnight Lake**, X-Ski 6m **AdvBeg**, S.Larsen (687-2589)
7 Sat - **Redtop Mountain**, X-Ski 8m **Adv**, S.Sullivan (342-6546)
8 Sun - **Midnight LK**, X-Ski 6m **AdvBeg**, Funkhouser (206-2303)
8 Sun - **Redtop Mountain**, X-Ski 8m **Adv**, G.Sayre (345-2370)
14 Sat - **Salt Creek Falls**, S'Shoe 4m **Beg**, B.Bruns (485-7285)
14 Sat - **Square Lk/Jack Mdws**, X-Ski **Adv**, Slipp (503-582-1100)
15 Sun - **Midnight Lk/Bechtel Sh**, S'Shoe **Int**, Renkert (485-5217)
15 Sun - **Sand Mountain crct**, X-Ski 9m **Adv**, Miller (484-4586)
18 Wed - **Amazon Headwaters Tr**, 4m **A**, M.Prentice (687-5850)
18 Wed - **Ridgeline Trail**, 4m **A**, M.Prentice
19 Thu – **Willamette Pass**, D'Hill, P.Mathes (485-1356)
21 Sat – **Abernethy Road**, X-Ski 10m **Adv**, B.Johnson (746-1513)
21 Sat – **To be announced**, X-Ski, S.Larsen (687-2589)
22 Sun – **Redtop Mountain**, X-Ski 8m **Adv**, J.Hegg (484-0619)
25 Wed – **South Shasta Loop**, 4m **A**, R.Romoser (726-8154)
27 Fri – **New Hikes in the Central Cascades--Bill Sullivan**
28 Sat – **Marilyn Lakes**, S'Shoe 4m **AdvBeg**, S.Hovis (345-7788)
28 Sat – **Salt Creek Falls**, S'Shoe 4m **Beg**, S.Hoeg (484-6196)
29 Sun – **Midnight Lake**, X-Ski 6m **AdvBeg**, D.Jeffcott
29 Sun – **Rosary Lakes**, X-Ski 7m **Int**, D.McCarty (342-6962)

February

4 Sat – **Bechtel Shelter**, S'Shoe 4m **Beg**, M.Camp (221-1866)
4 Sat – **Fuji Shelter**, S'Shoe 11m **Adv**, S.Hovis (345-7788)
5 Sun – **Fawn Lake**, X-Ski 7m **Int**, B.Huntley (687-1823)
11 Sat – **Gold Lake**, S'Shoe 4m **Beg**, S.Hoeg (484-6196)
11 Sat – **Hobbit Trail/Heceta Head**, 6m **B**, A.Askew (687-1659)
11 Sat – **Maxwell Bt/Lost Lk**, X-Ski 11m, Slipp (503-582-1100)
11 Sat – **Salt Creek Falls**, S'Shoe 4m **Beg**, S.Hoeg
12 Sun – **Fawn Lake**, X-Ski 7m **Int**, D.Jeffcott
18 Sat – **Maiden Peak**, X-Ski 12m **Adv**, H.Thompson (683-8942)
18 Sat – **Square Lake**, X-Ski 5m **Int**, J.Pegg (343-0909)
19 Sun – **Gold Bt**, X-Ski 8m **Adv**, KMcManigal (503-635-9973)
21 Tue – **To be announced**, S'Shoe **Int**, G.Roe (1-503-316-5064)
22 Wed – **Spirit and Moon Falls**, 5m **A**, W.Deeter (942-0824)
24 Fri – **Summer Camp Rally**
25 Sat – **Sardine Butte**, X-Ski 8m **Adv**, B.Hoyland (338-9881)
25 Sat – **W Eugene Wetlands**, 6m **A**, C.Cunningham (344-0486)
26 Sun – **Berley Lakes**, X-Ski 8m **Int**, J.Mowat (342-6546)

Help the Building Fund By Buying a Calendar

TYLER BURGESS is offering to donate \$5 to the Obsidians building fund for every purchase of one of her "Walk With Me" calendars (see www.walk-with-me.com/Products/products.htm). The calendar features 12 mapped and illustrated walks in Eugene/Springfield. Calendars are \$11.95, including free shipping. The donation must be requested at time of purchase. The offer will be good through January.



Photos by Debbie Hickey of Colorado Springs

Hikers going up the famous Sha Valley in Bhutan, known as the Hanging Gardens of Sha. This is a grain growing area. The scarecrows are made from ghos, or traditional dress of men. See feature page 6.



OBSIDIANS, INC.
P.O. BOX 322
EUGENE, OR 97440
www.obsidians.org

OBSIDIANS, INC. IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

PRESORTED STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
EUGENE, OR
PERMIT 803

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



December 2005