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Dates to Remember

Jan 19	Winter Lodge Cleanup
Jan 22	Eugene - SciEd Tuesday
Jan 25	Sullivan - Potluck
Jan 26	Trail Maintenance
Feb 2	Feb Bulletin Deadline
Feb 6	Board Meeting

Lodge Cleanup Ya'll Come

January 19, 9-noon
Details - Page 10

No Sub-prime Problems Here! Loan Repayment Way Ahead of Schedule

By Stewart Hoeg

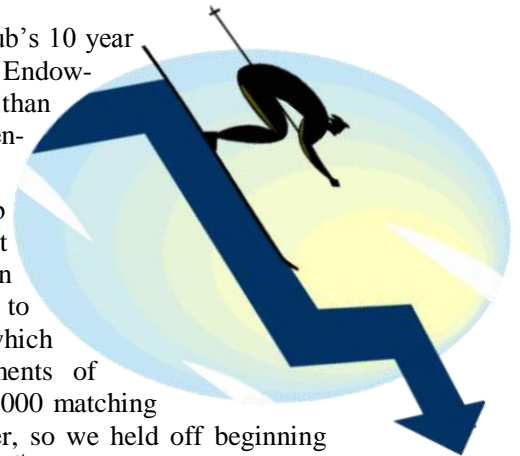
AFTER ONLY 15 MONTHS, the Club's 10 year \$30,000 loan balance from the Endowment Fund has plummeted to less than \$10,000, thanks in large part to the generosity of our members.

On September 30, 2006, the Club borrowed \$30,000 from the Endowment Fund to pay the balance of the cost on the lodge remodeling. The plan was to pay off this balance over 10 years which would have required monthly payments of \$318. However, we already had a \$5,000 matching challenge from an anonymous member, so we held off beginning our repayment schedule until January 1st to see if we couldn't substantially reduce our monthly payments.

THE CHALLENGE WAS a resounding success. Despite accrued interest of \$375 during the 4th quarter of 2006, donations from members, including the \$5,000 anonymous challenge, brought our revised beginning loan balance down to \$16,769 - a 44 % reduction before we began our repayments. This led to a revised monthly payment of \$178.

One year later, due to continued generous donations from members, including a \$1,000 donation from the Bus Committee, our loan to the Endowment Fund has dropped to \$9,163 - an additional one year decline of 44% and a total decline of \$20,837 or 69 % in just 15 months.

That's a lot of numbers, but the bottom line is that our current rate of donations from members, mostly via selecting premium membership contribution options, is on pace to pay off our 10 year loan in just three years. Many thanks for everyone's support. In particular, we would like to recognize our three platinum Members, twenty-one gold members and sixty-five silver members for 2008, listed on Page 6.





Camp Hamilton 2008

HIKING, MOUNTAIN climbing, kayaking, mountain biking, ghost towns, pristine mountain lakes, sawtooth spires, sightseeing, camping with good friends.... Sound appealing? Clear your calendar and plan to spend a week or two (July 19-July 26 and July 26-August 2) in the Sawtooths of Idaho with us at Obsidian Summer Camp.

President's Message:

Really Amazing Obsidians

I HAD THE PLEASURE of attending the Obsidian's Science & Education presentation on December 18th. It featured Norm Benton showing a series of slides from Summer Camps of the 60's. Most of the audience of about two dozen Obsidians had attended many of the Summer Camps in those years. It was nice to hear the shared memories, but what I enjoyed most about the evening was meeting many of the "old timers" who have been members of the club for 40+ years.

One thing that impresses me about the Obsidians is the history associated with the club. I can see it in the photographs and memorabilia on the walls of the Lodge, I can it feel when going through the archives of trip reports and reading entries in summit log books. It especially continued to be a living history for me when I met some of the club's past-presidents from the 60's and others who have been active in the outdoors for so many years.

WHAT REALLY AMAZES me is how many of these long-time Obsidians are still active in the club, helping to keep it running year after year. Of course, I knew that the Obsidians club has been around for a long time, but it wasn't until I began attending Obsidian Board meetings that I realized how many of the long-time members stay active in managing the "business" of the Obsidians. For example, the chair of one com-

mittee had been in that position for four years while another has chaired her committee for sixteen years. There are past-presidents who have served one term, two terms, and even three terms, yet come back each year to chair one or more committees or volunteer as a committee member. This is not to say that the Board and Committees are an old-folks club. On the contrary, in my two years as a Board member, I've seen many newer members step up to take charge of committees and serve on the Board. This "fresh blood" is vital to the continued growth and strength of the club.

It's the 21 standing committees that do so much of the work of making the Obsidians successful, from soliciting speakers and planning the potlucks to arranging winter and summer trips to presenting educational programs. As our immediate past-president John Pegg wrote in his last President's message, "A lot of people do a lot of work for us." What many of you may not have realized is how many of these people do it year after year and decade after decade. I don't have the explanation of why longtime members will volunteer their time selflessly over and over again. Whatever their reasons, I'm sure I speak for the rest of us by saying "Thank you." I'm honored to have an opportunity to join their ranks.

- Brian Hamilton



The 2008 Obsidian Bulletin editorial team, from left:

Beth Roy, Stewart Hoeg, Janet Jacobsen, Jean Coberly, John Jacobsen and Barb Revere

OBSIDIANS, INC

P.O. Box 322, Eugene, OR 97440

Website: www.obsidians.org

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President - Brian Hamilton

Vice President - Jim Duncan

Secretary - Laurie Funkhouser

Treasurer - Stewart Hoeg

Wayne Deeter Marshall Kandell

Anne Dhu McLucas Jim Pierce

Barb Revere

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

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Climbs..... Larry Huff

Concessions..... Kathleen Floyd

Conservation..... Juli McGlinsky

Entertainment..... Laurie Funkhouser

Extended Trips..... Jim Duncan

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Science & Education..... Joella Ewing

Summer Camp..... John Jacobsen

Summer Trips..... Barb Revere

Trail Maintenance..... Peter Green

Winter Trips..... Jim Pierce

Youth..... Scott Hovis

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Deadline

for February 2008 Bulletin

Saturday, February 2, 2008

Assembly/Mailing Team

For December Bulletin

Tom Adamcyk, Don Baldwin, LaRee Beckley, John and Lenore McManigal, Julia Richardson, Jan Spellman and Barb Revere, crew chief.

Assembly & Mail Manager..... Lou Maenz

Editorial Team

Writing & Editorial Staff..... Jean Coberly, Janet & John Jacobsen, Barb Revere, Beth Roy

Copy Editors..... Jean Coberly & Beth Roy
Graphics, Design & Desktop Publishing
..... Stewart Hoeg & John Jacobsen

The "Compleat" Truth...Birthdays, Permits...

DOT LELAND'S 90TH BIRTHDAY was January 7th. The Eugene Folklore Society is celebrating the event at their January 12th potluck before an evening of contra dancing. Dot has been a dancing member of this group for over 20 years. She also sings in the Peace Choir and with Memory Tones. Dot has been an Obsidian member since 1971. She has 426 trips in her log, has led 84 trips, received her Ten Peak Award, and is a Princess. Way to go, Dot! Her new address is 350 Pearl, #1812, Eugene 97401.

I RECENTLY GOT a phone call from Nancy Clark Strong of Syracuse, Indiana asking if she could purchase copies of Joe Wilcox's book for her children. Her older brother Jerry Clark died on Mt. McKinley and his name is on the plaque by the Memorial Wall. She told me that her son, Ryan Strong, was in Eugene this past summer and visited the Obsidian Lodge and the Memorial Wall. Ryan (28 years old) lives in Park City, Utah and is an avid rock climber. I told

her to mention to Ryan that if he happens to be in Eugene again that he should try to sign up for one of our club climbs.

NEED A SNO-PARK PERMIT? Since they are issued by the State, you can't purchase them at ranger stations. Eugene outdoor stores such REI, Joe's and Berg's have them. If traveling up highway 58 and you realize that you don't have one, they are available at Rascal's or the Mercantile in Oakridge. Wayne Deeter urges people to purchase one at Gold Lake Sno-Park from the Willamette Backcountry Ski Patrol. Wayne says, "We charge a dollar extra (\$4 for daily, \$21--yes it's gone up \$5 this year--for annual) but it goes to a good cause, so it's well worth the dollar!"

DICK HILDRETH suggested that people check out the monthly Science Pub speakers at Luna (a jazz club located at 30 E. Broadway). The Science Pub is held every second Thursday of the month from 7:00-8:30 pm. Science Pub brings top researchers out of their labs

and into bars and coffee shops to give people a street-level look at cutting-edge research. Portland OMSI, Eugene's Science Factory and U of O Arts and Sciences sponsor the local Science Pub. The speaker for January 10th is UofO volcanologist Kathy Cashman. Contact sciencepub@omsi.edu or call 503-797-4517. The Science Factory's website also has information.

IT TAKES SOME PLANNING and effort to receive the Compleat Obsidian Award. The award is a way to encourage members to become acquainted with all of the club's activities. During a one year period, a member must attend a Potluck, a board meeting, Summer Camp, go on an extended trip, a summer trip, a winter trip, do trail maintenance, a bus trip, and a climb, and finally, serve on a committee and lead an activity.

Although it is not required to receive this award, why not also attend a SciEd Tuesday Meeting or help with lodge and grounds clean up?



DECEMBER POTLUCK REVIEW:

Search and Rescue Offers Life-saving Advice

By Chris Cunningham

AT DECEMBER'S POTLUCK, John Miller, Lane County Search and Rescue Coordinator, offered an astonishingly simple explanation as to why hikers get lost: "They go off the trail (and) get turned around in a heartbeat."

Miller knows whereof he speaks. With a crew of more than 150 volunteers, he leads search and rescue missions that involve missing persons or vehicles, in the county's mountains, forests and rivers. Along with trained community volunteers, search team manpower derives from numerous agencies: the police force, BLM, Coast Guard and U.S. Forest Service, together contributing 220,000 hours annually.

Traveling varied terrains, these teams are always on guard for disturbances in the natural surroundings or out of the ordinary material evidence. Miller says, "Sometimes the message is clear, and the clues are obvious," perhaps something as simple as clothing strewn alongside a trail. Search teams occasionally depend on horses to transport them to remote areas, as in the Xu case, or on dogs to pick up the scents of

drowning victims near riverbanks. Other times, searchers rely heavily on their well-honed navigation and emergency survival skills in combination with radio communications systems. Additionally, CSI (crime scene investigation) technology can assist in and greatly reduce the time required to conduct a search. In fact, not long ago, Miller's team took full advantage of a sensor lens - borrowed from the State of Idaho - that allowed divers to view the darkest depths of the Willamette River, and to locate the victim within 20 minutes. Behind-the-scenes logistics contribute to a search's success as well, particularly the base camps that feed and shelter the teams and their animals.

While hiking on unfamiliar trails, Miller advises Obsidians to "leave clues that are out of order," such as arranging sticks or stones on top of a large rock. As important as, carry the 'Ten Essentials,' and know how to use them. "Having the right tools at the right time" can make the difference in saving a life, Miller says.

EIGHT TICKETS TO THE LAND

Story & Photos By Chris Stockdale

BHUTAN, A SMALL Himalayan kingdom that is also known as Druk Yul, “the land of the thunder dragon”, is an enticing destination for anyone who likes to visit the less touristy areas of the world. So when Sam Miller recruited a few friends to head off there for trekking and touring, I didn’t hesitate to sign on.

Sam and a friend, Joel Narva, worked closely with Obsidian Pema Chhophyel and his friend, Sonam Jatso, who owns Insiders’ Bhutan travel company. They put together an exciting itinerary for us that would include 8 days of trekking in the mountains and several days of sightseeing. We went mid-October as that is considered to be the optimal time of year for good weather in the mountains. A group of friends, 3 of whom are Obsidians - Larry Dunlap, Bill McWhorter and myself, plus Dave Cohen, Bob Smythe, and Ron Thorkildsen, from Utah, joined Sam and Joel.

The only downside of travel to Bhutan is the length of the journey to get there. We chose to break it in Bangkok, spending two nights and a day there that allowed us to take a city tour to see some of the more famous sights. Very early the next morning we boarded Druk Air, the Royal Bhutanese Airline, which is the only airline that flies into Paro, the only airport in Bhutan. The approach to the airport is interesting, to say the least! Because the whole country is mountainous, and Paro is at 7500’, the pilot has to weave his way down through the steeply sided valleys, so that passengers looking out the windows get the feeling they could almost touch some of those ridges. No wonder the planes don’t fly in bad weather!

SONAM JAMTSHU, who was our guide for the whole trip, and Tashi, our driver, greeted us upon arrival. From that moment on, we barely had time to relax. After settling into our rooms at the Holiday Home Hotel, we were whisked off on the first of many sight-

seeing jaunts.

Our first full day in Bhutan was spent hiking up to the fabled Taktsang Temple (Tiger’s Nest). Its name is derived from the legend of Guru Rinpoche who flew on a tigress’s back and reached the spot in the 7th century. He meditated in a cave there before converting the population of the Paro valley to Buddhism. Although the temple burned down in the late 1990’s, it has been completely rebuilt and it is hard to believe it is not the original temple. It’s a beautiful hike up, fairly strenu-

ing 3 course dinners, digging the much-used toilet tent, and waking us in the morning with more hot tea. All we had to carry during the day was our own daypack and whatever we felt we needed for the day’s hike. Another trained guide, Tenzin, joined Sonam; in all, we had 10 people looking after us.

THE FIRST TWO DAYS were relatively easy, although as we gained altitude, the “easy” became less obvious. We set off along a road that dropped into the valley surrounded by golden rice fields with the farmers in the mid-



Back from left: Ron, Dave, Bob, Larry, Chris; front: Bill, Sam, and Joel. Jichu Drayke in background.

ous, but with views across the golden rice paddies of the Paro valley. We were allowed into the temple, although no cameras can be taken inside. This hike helped acclimate us to the coming trek that would eventually take us up to nearly 16,000’.

Our excitement grew on the drive to the start of our trek as we got our first view of the snow capped peak of Jhomolhari, the ‘star’ of the trek. Trekking in Bhutan was relatively luxurious. Our gear was carried by a herd of horses and mules; cooks and helpers looked after our every need, from erecting the tents, bringing hot tea and cookies as we came into camp, to cook-

dle of harvest. The route followed the raging torrents of the Paro Chhu River, one that would make almost any kayaker think twice before tackling. We hiked through a small town with a small school; the kids were outside at recess, all dressed in their national costume. They completely ignored the foreigners as our cameras clicked away – so different from children in many other Asian countries where you are pestered for “baksheesh” everywhere you go. (Bhutan discourages giving gifts to individual children but encourages giving them to teachers for later distribution.) We followed the river to

(Continued on page 5)

OF THE THUNDER DRAGON

(Continued from page 4)

an army post where we had to stop while the guide had the trekking permit checked. This is the last stop before Tibet, so everybody going past must check in. Our first campsite was right by the river where we were surprised when the horses and mules were turned loose for the night. Apparently they rarely wander off (although branches were used to block the trail either side of the campground.) It was also interesting that when the animals were loaded and en route, none of them were haltered and led; they just seem to know the routine.

We woke to clear skies and had a beautiful hike along the river, with fall colors against backdrops of snow covered mountainsides. This turned into

Dog. Apparently many of these dogs, of which there are thousands throughout Bhutan, are almost feral (very few have owners), but those on the trekking routes fare well thanks to all the food scraps left by the trekkers. The Bhutanese crews also seem to care about the animals.

That night we heard that dreaded sound – the pitter-patter of raindrops on the tent. But by dawn the rain had passed and we arose to misty covered mountains that slowly cleared in the sunshine to display spectacular scenes of rugged slopes and summits.

DOG WAS STILL WITH US – I'm not sure where he spent the night. I gave him a tummy rub, which surprised him, and then delighted him. He sank into a near coma. We had another day of

they are not exactly friendly. Finally we arrived at the Jangothang camp area at 13,100 feet, touted as the most spectacular camping area in the whole country as it is at the base of Jhomolhari. When we arrived it started snowing and we saw absolutely nothing of the famed mountain. This is a big camp area that we shared with several other trekking groups. We settled in for two nights here as the trekking companies feel it is a place where the lowlanders need to spend a fair amount of time acclimating to the altitude before tackling the higher elevations.

In the morning, the weather played games with us, with the wind blowing a little of the cloud cover away from Jhomolhari before blowing it right back again. But we did get some views. Several of us opted for another strenuous hike, climbing up one of the hills close to camp to give us even more spectacular views. The others decided to stay lower, following the valley toward the base of Jhomolhari. The views from the upper trail were incredible; we saw many birds including the Himalayan Griffin, creating great excitement for Bill McWhorter, one half of our Bill & Bob, the Birding Boys duo. Sam, Larry and Sonam went even higher while the rest of us said enough and found our way back down. We were probably close to 14,500' at the time we split up. On the way down, we had a wonderful encounter with a herd of the Bhutanese blue sheep (which seem to be neither blue nor sheep).

THE NEXT MORNING we awoke to an awe inspiring view of Jhomolhari without clouds. Our day's trek started up the opposite side of the valley from where we camped, with a steep, switchbacking trail that led into a wide, U-shaped glacial valley. This valley led us to the Tshophu lakes, a spectacular pair of alpine-type lakes, with views behind us of Jhomolhari and Jichu Drayke, another magnificent snow-covered peak. We could look ahead, though, and see an intimidating view of

(Continued on page 6)



Chris at High Pass.

quite a strenuous day, even though the altitude gain wasn't more than about 2500 feet, but because the route was rough and we encountered a lot of up and down trail walking. Lunch was a surprise as we found that the cooking crew had prepared a hot lunch before leaving camp, and had carried it in heatproof containers so that we enjoyed rice, veggies and hot tea at midday. Along the way we had been adopted by one of the local dogs; we named him

gorgeous scenery as we hiked into wider valleys that were mostly above tree line, but all the way following the Paro Chhu River. We sometimes came across isolated houses, making us wonder how people survive so far from any kind of so-called civilization. To our amazement, some houses way up in this part of the country sported solar panels and an occasional TV satellite dish. We started seeing many yaks, keeping our distance, as we understood

LAND OF THE THUNDER DRAGON

(Continued from page 5)

our trail, wending its way up and up and up towards SNOW!

THE ALTITUDE was beginning to slow some of us down, but everybody hiked his or her own pace. We always had one of the experienced guides staying back as trail sweep, so we never worried about losing one of our group. The climb was indeed strenuous, and the lunch break was more than welcome, although it was in a cold, windy open area. From there we had the challenge of climbing up to just under 16,000' at the Bhonte-La Pass. Luckily the snow was very thin on the trail and caused us no problems. It was incredibly windy and cold and we all piled on every piece of clothing we had carried with us, wishing we had brought more instead of letting the horses carry it. Prayer flags were everywhere, especially in places such as these passes. Once over the top, the trail plunged down, down and down until we reached our next camp beside a river. This had been an extremely tough hiking day covering about 12 miles with 2500' gain and more than 3000' loss. The camp was close to some houses, and local people selling handicrafts came by.

The weather from here on was disappointing; we woke to foggy and cloudy skies. Our trekking path took us up through a rhododendron forest that afforded us great views down into

the valley where we had camped, but the distant peaks were soon lost to sight. We had another tough day, with



Well equipped guide.

a climb up to another pass at 14,400. Some of us found this to be a bit harder than the previous one, perhaps because of cumulative tiredness. Another trekking group was tackling the slope at the same time – their members were from

Germany, Austria and Italy. We were amazed and delighted to be serenaded at the top by members of this group singing some German songs. They were having a great time!

Another short, steep trail led us down to that night's campsite in a wide valley with a few uninhabited yak herders' houses. The weather continued to be cold, foggy and damp, so our sleeping bags that night were very welcome. The biggest challenge was finding the toilet tent in the thick fog after dark.

OUR NEXT DAY'S TRAIL led us up yet another steep climb, but then turned into a wonderful ridgeline trail with little elevation change, and great views down (again, the clouds obscured any peaks). Then the trail started dropping down and down; the temperature got warmer, more flowers were spotted and although we knew we were out of the really spectacular surroundings, I don't think many of us complained about that warm sun.

Our last camp of the trek was a surprise, as we set up tents in the front yard of a shop. To our delight, we were able to buy beer and celebrated our great time in the mountains. It was warm enough in the morning to eat breakfast 'al fresco' before heading off along the same route we followed on our way in.

The big worry when we got on our bus to go back to our hotel was whether there would be enough hot water for 8 dirty trekkers. (There was!)

To be continued...

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

Donations returned with membership renewals through January 1, 2008 for repayment of the Endowment Fund loan are greatly appreciated.

2008 Platinum Members: Mathew Bell, Joe Lowry and Jim Pierce.

2008 Gold Members: John and Lenore McManigal, Barb & Tom Revere, Janet & John Jacobsen, Jim & Sharon Duncan, Kathy & Stewart Hoeg, Rich Peevers, Sharon Ritchie, Max Brown, Harold Busby, Lin Pierce, John Young, Elizabeth Reanier, Glenn Meares, Julie Dorland, Joan Bradley and Michael Landes.

2008 Silver Members: Jack O'Donnell, Mary Ellen West, Chris Cunningham, Pe-

ter Peterson, Donald Bievenue, Carol Scherer, Lana Lindstrom, Richard Hughes, Shirley Cameron, Deborah Carver, John Pegg, Don Hunter, Rose Mary Etter, Chuck Wagar, Marjorie Jackson, Susan Wolling, David Meredith, Shirley Froyd, Daphne James, Stephen Brander, Patrice McCaffrey, Susan Carey, Ann and Ed Lichtenstein, Margot Fetz, Douglas Nelson, Ardys Ringsdorf, Ron Unger, Sharon Cutsforth, Tom Cook, Larry Dunlap, Jeannette Forsman, Bep Fontana, Cath-

erine Jones, Ellen & Steven Johnson, Anne Bonine, Anne Dhu McLucas, Jim Gillette, Carol Petty, Velma Shirk, Nancy Whitfield, Dallas & John Cole, Colleen Milliman, Dan Christensen, Dick Snyder, Scott Hovis, Charles Durham, Roy McCormick, Bill Buskirk, Effie Neth, Jim and Kathleen Floyd, Verna Kocken, Ken Unger, Natalie Newlove, Darlene Mancuso, John & Lisa Manotti, Birgitte Williams, Don Doerr, Wendy Dame, Keith & Gayle Newsom, and Richard Heinzkill.

OBITUARY

William J. Prentice Jr. 1922-2007

A PRIVATE FAMILY CELEBRATION of life was held at the home of William (Bill) J. Prentice, Jr. of Eugene who died on December 7th at Sacred Heart Hospital of multiple myeloma at age 85.

Bill was born in Lakewood, OH on June 22nd, 1922 to William & Gertrude (Rauscher) Prentice. He graduated from Oak Park High School, Oak Park, IL in 1940, and from the University of Illinois in 1944, with highest honors in Ceramic Engineering. While at University, he joined ROTC and trained at Annapolis for four months. He served in the U.S. Navy as Lt. JG from 1943 to 1946.

In 1952, Bill married Evaree Buffin of Lexington, KY. Evaree passed away in 1961. In 1963, he married Margaret Reid of Willoughby, OH. His entire working career was spent with General Electric Company in a number of positions in Lexington, KY, Bridgeville, PA and Cleveland, OH. He specialized in glass technology and manufacturing related to the lighting industry.



Bill was active in Scouting, both as a Boy Scout, during which time he attended the first Boy Scout Jamboree in Washington, DC, and later as a member of his son's Boy Scout Committee.

Following his retirement, Bill volunteered with Habitat for Humanity and the AARP Tax-Aide Program. In 1991, he and his wife Margaret moved to Eugene where they enjoyed a variety of outdoor activities. They traveled extensively, frequently with Elderhostel and in their RV.

Bill's wife, Margaret; son Richard J. Prentice, of Hailey, ID; daughter, Carolyn Novinsky of San Diego, CA; two grandchildren; and a brother Donald of Portland survive him. Brother Gordon preceded him in death.

Bill Prentice joined the Obsidians in 1994. He did 65 trips and 3 bus trips. He led 3 trips. He enjoyed the potlucks and the two baseball outings. He was a faithful volunteer on the Bulletin assembly team and lodge projects. His last hike was with Margaret on the McKenzie River Trail.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS' EVENTS

Mount Pisgah

All Events take place at Mount Pisgah Arboretum.

Drawing Birds - Sunday, Jan. 27, 1-4pm. Create your own beautiful avian artwork with natural science illustrator Kris Kirkeby! Study plumage, pattern and form as you learn basic drawing technique with layered colored pencil. Draw from study-mounted birds. Pre-registration required; call (541) 747-1504 to sign up. Fee: \$20 (\$15 MPA members).

Pine Needle Basketry - Saturday, Feb. 9, 10am - 3pm. Learn history, techniques, and skills for creating your own beautiful basket with Pam Roberts, talented local crafter and instructor. Materials provided. Pre-registration required; call (541) 747-1504 to sign up. Fee: \$30/\$25 MPA members.

Singles' Hike - Sunday, Feb. 10, noon-2pm. Cold, wet, and wonderful...check out Mount Pisgah in winter on

this popular hike led by Susan DeHart. Warm up with hot drinks and snacks after the hike. Meet at the Mount Pisgah Arboretum Visitor Center, rain or shine. Call (541) 747-1504 to RSVP. Fee: \$5 (MPA members free!).

Lichen Walk - Saturday, Feb. 16, 1-3pm. After the leaves fall, trees remain draped in green with many different species of lichens. Come explore these unique organisms on a fascinating walk with local expert Daphne Stone. Meet at the Mount Pisgah Arboretum Visitor Center, rain or shine. \$5; MPA members free. Limit 20. Call (541) 747-1504 to RSVP.

Nearby Nature

Meet outside the Park Host Residence in Alton Baker Park (between dog run and community gardens), \$2/person or \$5/family. Pre-registration suggested, 687-9699.

COZY CRITTERS - Saturday, January 26, 10 am-noon. Learn how animals

stay warm in winter. Also enjoy a family-paced hike, a snack, and a visit from a costumed Kinder Critter.

RAH! RAH! RODENTS! - Saturday, February 23, 10 am-noon. Discover and uncover the underground lives of moles, beavers, and gophers. Enjoy a family-paced hike, a snack, a craft, and a visit from a costumed Kinder Critter!

McKenzie River Trust

Join the McKenzie River Trust on February 2, 2008, 9am-1pm on Green Island to plant 12,500 trees in one morning! This event is part of an on-going effort to restore Green Island to a dynamic and critical floodplain habitat. This event will be full of fun, mud, free coffee and snacks and the knowledge that you helped restore a local ecologically important environment. Please RSVP to Katie Mader at katie@mckenzieriver.org or (541) 345-2799. Details: <http://mckenzieriver.org>

TRIP REPORTS & OTHER ACTIVITIES



Trail Maintenance

Spencer Butte Trail
November 24, 2007
Leader: Peter Green

A RECORD NUMBER of volunteers turned out for the Saturday, November 24, trail maintenance day. Our group of 11 plus two from the city met at 10am at the Cline St. "trailhead," where we had the pleasure of a tutorial delivered by Dave Predeek about the species we would be planting.

After Dave's presentation we set out to plant the following: three elderberries, four starflower false Solomon's seal, four trillium, four big leaf maples, six red osier dogwoods, six snowberries, 12 large false Solomon's seal, 12 Hookers fairy bells, 12 woodland strawberries, 16 fringe cups, and 16 red columbine.

With the large turnout our work only took about two hours, after which time we all enjoyed snacks and coffee provided by the city. Thanks to all who

attended. Our next trail maintenance day will be January 26th in the new year. Participants included members Matt Bell, Rob Castleberry, Wayne Deeter, Peter Green, Larry Huff, Janet Jacobson, Gary Kirk, Juli McGlinsky, Dave Predeek, Pat Soussan, nonmember, Monica Green and two city helpers, Lorna and Jason.



Hikes

North Bend Sand Spit
December 2, 2007
Leader: Jim Pierce
1 mile, 25 ft. (Easy)

THE FORECAST of 70 mph winds and rain reduced the hardy hikers from nine to three. We correctly decided that hiking the 4-5 miles on the beach with high winds and surf was not prudent. I'll reschedule the hike to the New Carissa shipwreck another time. Instead, we went to watch the waves and feel the wind at the overlooks

along the coast up to Yachats and Cape Perpetua.

The gale force winds blew me down several times, and with the rain it felt like we were being sand-blasted. It was a wonderful display of the power of the ocean and her partners, the wind and sand. Enjoying the blustery day were non-member Charlene Pierce, member Kaushik Vaidyanathan, and Leader Jim Pierce.



Snow Shoe Trips

Gold Lake/Odell Overview
December 22, 2007
Leader: Scott Hovis
3 miles, 300 ft. (Moderate)

KNEE-DEEP POWDER snow met us at the trailhead. Since the powder was on top of a small base, it made for a lot of "holes" we had to dig out of when we went off trail. The parking lot had a fair amount of cars but the large selection of trails disburbed enough people so that it didn't feel crowded.

I learned that if you forget your snow park pass you can get one at Rascal's in Oakridge. Our two cars with 4-wheel traction had no problems but the third car needed to put on chains. The Westview shelter is stocked with plenty of wood for the stove. Don't forget to sign in and out at the warming hut in the parking lot.

Participants included members Jane Allen, Carol Anderson, Mari Baldwin, Paul Flashenberg, Scott Hovis, Barb Revere, Pat Soussan, Charley Wright and Leslie Wright.



November trail maintenance crew: Larry kneeling; first row from left: Peter, Monica, Janet, Matt, Pat, Rob & Juli; back: Wayne, Dave, & Rob

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BOARD NOTES

January 2, 2008

By Laurie Funkhouser, Secretary

President Brian Hamilton called the meeting to order. Board present: Jim Duncan, Stewart Hoeg, Laurie Funkhouser, Wayne Deeter, Marshall Kandell, Jim Pierce and Barb Revere. Others present: Larry Huff, Kathy Hoeg, Lenore McManigal, Doug Nelson, John Jacobsen, and Julie Dorland.

Treasurer's Report: Approved payment of outstanding bills.

OLD BUSINESS

By-Law Change: Allocation of Previous Year's Earnings: Make annual recommendation to the Board for allocation of previous years' earnings including interest income and dividends and cash flow from operations among the General, Contingency and Endowment Funds. Passed.

By-Law Changes Life Member Fees: Dues "Life Members shall pay a single dues payment of four hundred dollars (\$400) to be allocated to the Contingency Fund. Life Members..." Passed.

Committee Chairs: Approved Kathleen Floyd to Chair the Concession Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the 2008 Budget: The proposed Budget for 2008: \$24,340.00 Revenue - \$20,040.00 Expenses.

Presentation of Committee Members for Approval: Approved all Committee Members presented in the Committee Reports which follow.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Summer Trips (Barb Revere): For 2007 156 trips were completed, 47 trips canceled with 954 members and 235 nonmembers.

Committee members approved: Ann-Marie Askew, Anne Bonine, Sharon Duncan, Paul Flashenberg, Kathleen Floyd, Mary Hamilton, Sam Houston, Janet Jacobsen, Karla Rusow, Pat Soussan, Barb Revere.

Winter Trips (Jim Pierce): 49 trips on the schedule - 4 trips have been completed with 27 participants (26 members and 1 non-member) for a total of \$31.00 in fees.

Climbs (Larry Huff): Committee Members approved: Doug Nelson, Wayne Deeter, Sue Sullivan, George Baitinger, Peter Green and Larry Huff.

Summer Camp (John Jacobsen): Plans are moving forward for Camp Hamilton. Committee Members approved: Stephen Brander, Melody Clarkson, Jim Duncan, Scott Hovis, John Jacobsen, Lana Lindstrom and Sharon Ritchie.

Extended Trips (Jim Duncan): Committee Members approved: Jim Duncan, Lana Lindstrom, Sharon Ritchie.

Membership (Julie Dorland): Current membership is 539. Committee Members approved: Shirley Froyd, Sharon Ritchie, Joan Ledet, John Jacobsen, Julie Dorland.

Publications (TBA): Published 11 issues of the newsletter for a total of 4500 copies. Committee Members approved: Beth Roy, Jean Coberly, Phyllis Fisher, Bea Fontana, Stewart Hoeg, Janet Jacobsen, John Jacobsen, Lou Maenz and Barb Revere.

Entertainment (Laurie Funkhouser): Committee Members approved: Anne Bonine, Effie Neth, Elle Weaver, George Jeffcott, Kathleen and Jim Floyd, Kathy Hoeg, Lana Lindstrom, LaRee Beckley, Lyn Gilman-Garrick, Mary Morrison, Patrice McCaffrey, Sachiko Iwasaki, Stephen Brander, Sue Wolling and Laurie Funkhouser.

Science & Education (Joella Ewing): 1960's Summer Camps show was attended by 23 participants.

Online (Wayne Deeter): A list of Obsidian e-mail addresses provided. Committee Members approved: Wayne Deeter and John Jacobsen.

Finance (Stewart Hoeg): Committee Members approved: Stewart Hoeg, Lana Lindstrom, John Jacobsen, Liz Reanier and Dan Christensen.

Library/Historian (Lenore McManigal): All reports have been recorded. Later this month, Lenore and Janet will be doing the annual trips count.

Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): A small Lodge Grounds work party took place on December 14. Committee Members approved: Pat Adams, Rick Ahrens, Max Brown, Jim Floyd, John Jacobsen, Brenda Kameenui, Gary Kirk, Darlene Mancuso, Doug Nelson, Effie Neth, John Pegg, Dave Predeek, Martha Welches and Janet Winter.

Safety (Doug Nelson): No report at this time but will be soliciting committee members, one each, from Winter Trips and Summer Trips.

Olympic Trials (Marshall Kandell): Committee meeting Thursday, Jan. 10, followed by an orientation for trip leaders and others interested in getting involved in the planning, promotion and guest relations. Committee Members approved: Marshall Kandell, chair; Dan Christensen, co-chair; Wayne Deeter; Carolyn & Cork Higgins; Dick Hildreth; Janet & John Jacobsen; Anne Dhu McLucas; Sam Miller; Ruth Romoser; Suzy Hess, Jerry Wojcik, Elle Weaver, Charles Durham and Walt Dolliver.

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**Ski
Trips**

**Waldo Lake Road
December 12, 2007
Leader: Janet Jacobsen
5 miles, 0 ft. (Easy)**

THE TRIP ORIGINALLY scheduled for Gold Lake on Tuesday, Dec. 4, was plagued with problems. Ten people signed up but with only one driver, Jane Hackett, I had to limit the trip to four people. Then the trip was canceled due to rain at the pass. Rescheduled for the 12th, with unpredictable weather, cancellations, and still only one driver, the trip forecast was gloomy. Only two of us (Jane Hackett and myself) ended up driving up Highway 58 to check out the

snow. The road conditions were not bad but we did have to make our way around an accident (a burned out truck was all that remained).

We decided to ski up the Waldo Lake road. The snow was packed with enough somewhat fresh snow for us to have a quiet uphill ski and a gentle downhill run. There were some glimpses of sun that warmed up the day. We were glad to be out skiing!

Thanks to Jane for driving!

AT THE LODGE



POTLUCK

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25:

"HIKING IN EUROPE" With Bill Sullivan

FOR OUR JANUARY POTLUCK meeting we again welcome author, Obsidian member, and hiking guru Bill Sullivan who will take us on Europe's most interesting and least known hiking trails, from Greece and the Pyrenees to Norway and the Alps. We'll learn what to expect at a Slovakian "hut," where to launch a tour of the Orkneys, and where to stay on the active volcanic island of Stromboli. As always, Bill will spice his lecture with anecdotes about local history, wildflowers, and outdoor lore. The show also features areas that serve as settings in his new adventure mystery, The Case of Einstein's Violin. Bill is the author of a dozen books, including the immensely popular "100 Hikes" series of Oregon trail guides.

**Friday, January 25, 2008 Obsidian Lodge
Potluck, 6:30 p.m. Program, 7:30 p.m.**

Bring your favorite potluck dish to share...along with your own plates, utensils and cups...plus \$1 to help cover club expenses. Parking at the Lodge can be crowded. Please consider carpooling.



Gargellen, Austria - Photo by Bill Sullivan

SCI ED TUESDAY - JANUARY 22:



Where'd Eugene Come From?



IN THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS a group of local scientists has been making some fascinating discoveries about the origin of the unique soil found in the Willamette Valley. It is this soil that makes the West Eugene Wetlands habitat what it is today.

Join Liz Myers of the West Eugene Wet-

lands Education Center at the Lodge Tuesday, Jan. 22, at 7 p.m. as she presents a program on the newest theory that relates the wetlands to a very famous Oregon landmark. Her slide presentation, entitled "From Mountains to Meadowlarks" will provide you with new information about what nurtures Willamette Valley flora and fauna.

Let It Snow, Let It Snow...

THERE IS PLENTY of snow in the mountains...finally. How about leading your favorite ski or snowshoe outing? Just figure what you want to lead and send an email to:

wintertrips@obsidians.org.

That is all there is to it. Oh, yes, you will want to put up a sign-up sheet too :-)

If you are not leading a trip, but want to go on one, check out the trip schedule at the Obsidians website. New trips are being added all through the season.

Jim Pierce - Winter Trips Chair

Winter Lodge Cleanup Party

Saturday, January 19, 9-noon

IT'S TIME ONCE AGAIN to knock down the cobwebs, sweep & mop the floors, and chase the dust bunnies out from the corners of the Lodge. We had very few volunteers at the last work party on September 22, so we have some catching up to do! Please make plans to spend an hour or two to help spruce up the Lodge before our January potluck. If you'll bring the elbow grease, we will provide the rest of the cleaning supplies. For information, call Brian Hamilton, Lodge Building Chair, 343-6550.

UPCOMING

Barb's Sampler:

A Buffet of Winter Treats

Sat., Jan. 19 – Trapper Creek – S'Shoe, moderate. For snowshoeing into the mountains above the west bay of Odell Lake and along one of its tributaries, join leader Paul Flashenberg on this 4-mile trip with 300 ft. of climbing. Carving deep in to the woods – the creek never looks better than in winter: large rocks hide under pillowy white hats contrasting with the clear, blue-black and icy water. The trail is not marked for snow travel, but just follow the creek out of the groomed ski trails of Shelter Cove Resort for a lovely day out.

Sun., Jan. 20– Rosary Lakes – X-Ski, difficult. Located on the southern flank of Maiden Peak, Rosary Lakes is one of the loveliest areas of the Willamette Pass. Heading north on the Pacific Crest Trail, this trip climbs 800 ft., but the ride down and the cameo views of Odell Lake and Diamond Peak are well worth the work. You'll be gliding through Ponderosa pine forests and viewing Pulpit Rock at Middle Rosary Lake on this 7-miler led by Sue Wolling. Note: You can do the same trip with leader Brian Hamilton on Sat., Feb. 9th.

Sat., Jan. 26 – Heceta Head Loop from Washburne Park – Hike, easy. This perennial favorite can be hiked all year long and includes beach, headland, lighthouse and wooded trail, complete with beaver pond. Ann-Marie Askew leads this trip of 6 miles and 800 ft. elevation gain. Join her and gain an appreciation of the coast in the wintertime: high headlands in swirling fog, famed Heceta Head Lighthouse, tide-pools, dense spruce forest and other wondrous sights await you.

Sun., Feb. 27 – Fuji Shelter – X-Ski, difficult. Leader Laurie Funkhouser states: "The route of the trip may depend on the conditions of the snow. If it is not-so-good snow, I plan to take the short route by parking at Salt Creek Falls and going up primarily on road – steady climb but great downhill on the way back. If it is better snow, we'll drive up the entry to Waldo and traverse the ridge to reach the Shelter. If it is a really nice day we'll go in on Gold Lake, cross Waldo entrance and continue to the Shelter – for a much longer trip. My recollection is that you are rewarded with a panoramic view of the Willamette Valley with peeking peaks and not a very busy trail." You and your equipment should be in good shape and ready for anything.

Sun., Feb. 3 – Midnight Lake – X-Ski, moderate. Glen Svendsen leads this 6-mi, 600 ft. trip skiing on unplowed road and trails. You'll start in Gold Lake Sno-Park and head first to Pengra Pass, and then take the PCT to Midnight Lake. From the lake you make a loop that includes Bechtel Shelter before returning to the sno-park. Many people visit this sno-park, but it rarely seems too crowded due to the variety of routes that can be taken. While you are there visit the ski patrol shelter, where there's always a warm smile and a hot woodstove. Information and sno-park maps are also available

there. Note: You can take a similar trip, albeit on snowshoes, in the same area with leader Marianne Camp on Sat., Feb. 19.

Thurs., Feb. 7 – Row River Trail – Hike, longer-moderate. This is an easy hike, not much elevation change, but long (10 miles) and on pavement, as it's a Rails-to-Trails route. You'll walk along the shore of Dorena Lake most of the way. Leader Sandra Larsen says that athletic shoes are okay for this trip, but please note the distance. This is a close in hike just a little east of Cottage Grove and a good one to get to know. In the warmer season, it's an easy bike ride, too.

Sun., Feb. 10 – Paulina Lake – X-Ski, moderate. I've only been to Newberry National Monument in summer, but here's a quote from a 1981 Obsidian X-Ski trip report: "Approximately two hours of uphill skiing allowed our very congenial group to have lunch in the sun at Paulina Lake while enjoying a million dollar view of Paulina Peak, the partially frozen Paulina Lake and the huge obsidian flows." The distance 7 miles, elevation gain 1130 ft. Led by Bea Fontana.

Fri., Feb. 15 – Eugene Wetlands – Walk, easy. If you don't like driving the icy roads of our winter Cascades, here is an in town hike led by Chris Cunningham in the beautiful West Eugene Wetlands. If you don't know all the different areas that are included in our patchwork of wetlands, you'll enjoy this 5-mile exploration over flat terrain. Some of the walking is on pavement and some is on probably muddy trails. Wear appropriate footwear.

Obsidian Calendar

January

19 Sat – Winter Lodge Cleanup, B.Hamilton	343-6550
19 Sat – Trapper Creek, S'Shoe, Flashenberg	461-1977
19 Sat – Bechtel Shelter, S'Shoe 4m 750' E, M.Camp	
22 Tue – Where Eugene Came From	SciEd Tuesday
20 Sun – Rosary Lakes, X-Ski, M, S. Wolling.....	345-2110
25 Fri – European Hiking—Sullivan.....	Potluck
25 Fri – N Shasta Loop B, 5m E, R.Romoser.....	726-8154
26 Sat – Heceta Head Loop, 6m 800' M, A.Askew	687-1659
26 Sat – Potato Hill, S'Shoe 5m M, S.Hovis.....	345-7788
26 Sat – Spencer Butte, Trail Maintenance, P.Green.....	510-1151
26 Sat – Walker Mtn, X-Ski 10m D, K.McManigal.....	503-635-9973
27 Sun – Fuji Shelter, X-Ski 8m 1500' D, Funkhouser....	206-2303
27 Sun – Lakeview Mountain, X-Ski, D, Hegg	484-0619

February

2 Sat – Diamond Creek Falls, X-Ski, 'E, Pierce	344-1775
3 Sun – Midnight Lake, X-Ski, M, Svendsen.....	342-6497
5 Tue – Maiden Peak Cabin, X-Ski, D, L.Wilken.....	343-3080
7 Thu – Row River Trail, 10.6m 200' D, S.Larsen.....	687-2589
9 Sat – Rosary Lakes, X-Ski, M, B.Hamilton.....	343-6550
10 Sun – Little Odell Butte, X-Ski 9m, Funkhouser	206-2303
10 Sun – Paulina Lake, X-Ski, B.Fontana	
15 Fri – Eugene Wetlands, 5m E, C.Cunningham	344-0486
22 Fri – Polar Bears in Manitoba—McManigal	Potluck



Tshophu Lake in Bhutan - See story on Page 4 - Photo by Chris Stockdale



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