



Inside This Issue

| | |
|---------------------------|------|
| President's Message | 2 |
| Obituary | 2 |
| Board Notes | 4 |
| Trip Reports & Activities | 5-8 |
| Upcoming | 8-11 |
| Calendar | 11 |
| Features | |
| Our New President | 1 |
| Leaders: Thank You! | 2 |
| New Years Past | 3 |
| Picture of the Month | 12 |

Dates to Remember

| | |
|--------|----------------------------|
| Dec 17 | Gift of Life (See Page 11) |
| Dec 19 | Bhutan - Potluck |
| Jan 3 | Jan Bulletin Deadline |
| Jan 7 | Board Meeting |

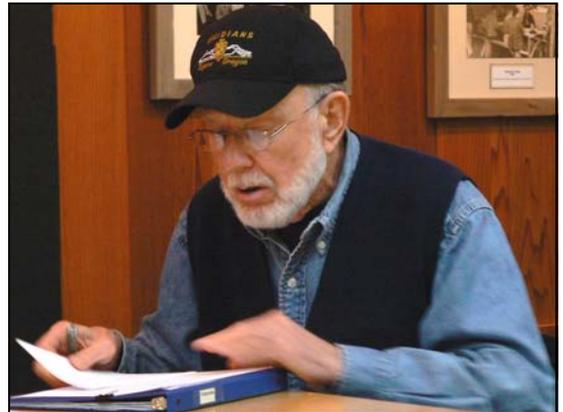
Camp Ishi
Summer Camp 2009
 It's happening.
 See Page 10

President Elect Jim Duncan:

**Promises of a Year
 Of "Dynamic Blandness!"**

By Marshall Jay Kandell

SINCE THE ADMINISTRATION OF JOHN JACOBSEN, who has never been accused of shyness, we have had a series of quiet, mild mannered presidents (Wayne Deeter, John Pegg, Brian Hamilton), but newly elected Obsidian board president Jim Duncan promises "change" (who hasn't in this election year?). An admittedly private person, Jim promises 2009 will be a year of "dynamic blandness."



Don't believe it! Jim has already been talking it up with key club members and past presidents and gathered the incoming board and others for brainstorming sessions aimed at revitalizing and possibly reorganizing many of our committees, creating more fertile ground for the development of new club leaders and creating more opportunities for new members to become more productively involved in the organization's activities.

So, who is this modest fellow who has assumed the reins of our 81-year-young club?

James L. Duncan, 71 this month, was born and raised in West Plains, a small town in southern Missouri. He attended Drury College in Springfield, MO. Of all his credentials, this one is significant because it was at Drury that he met Sharon, who has been his wife for the past 45 years.

He then enrolled in dental school in St. Louis and was awarded his DDS. If that's a surprise to his fellow Obsidians, it's because he didn't pursue a dental practice. Along the way to his degree he discovered a greater interest in scientific research. And, so, after he and Sharon married in 1963, they moved to Seattle, where Jim studied microbiology in grad school at the University of Washington (oh my, a Husky!).

Now armed with a Ph.D., Jim took a position as a microbiology professor at Northwestern University Medical School in Chicago, teaching medical, dental and graduate students and engaging in research on pathogenic (disease causing) bacteria. Do a literature search and you can discover a treasure trove of research papers published by Dr. Duncan. Understanding them, however, is not for the layman. For example, you might try digging into the fascinating "Properties of a Hemolysin Produced by Group B Streptococci."

To fully appreciate the valuable application of such research to affairs Obsidian, you need only attend one of Jim's hand washing demonstrations at summer camp or ask him about why blue green algae (which often closes Oregon lakes and streams) isn't algae. There's nothing bland about Jim's fervor on that topic!

The Duncans resided in the Chicago until his retirement in 2000. After exploring the Pacific Northwest for a suitable location to grow new roots, they chose Eugene,

(Continued on page 3)

President's Message:

Reflections

AS THE YEAR 2008 ENDS, it seems natural to reflect on the past 12 months and to also look forward to the year ahead. Having served as an Obsidian Board member for three years and as club president for 2008, I recall the old adage that you get out of life (or any endeavor, for that matter) what you put into it. I feel like I have gotten so much more out of the Obsidians by being involved in various areas of the club, and I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to volunteer. I am also grateful for all the help given by the scores of other volunteers ranging from Board members, committees, and individual trip leaders.

Looking ahead to 2009, I am confident that our new president Jim Duncan and the incoming Board will keep the club moving in a positive direction. Being familiar with Jim's work on committees and the Board, I'm also sure that he will not be afraid of making changes to areas of the club that are not working as well as they should.

As we look forward to the New Year, remember that running a club as large as ours takes time and effort. Please consider how you can help and remember that the more you put into the Obsidians and your outdoor pursuits, the more you will get out of them.

Brian Hamilton

OBITUARY

Mary Jean Bentsen

June 28, 1929 - November 19, 2008

MARY JEAN BENTSEN died Nov. 19 of age-related causes. She was 79. A memorial service was held Nov. 23, at First United Methodist Church.

She was born June 29, 1929, in Eugene to William and Ethel Murray Porter. She married Richard Bentsen on July 17, 1949, in Eugene. She earned a bachelor's degree in education. She was a homemaker. Survivors include her husband; two daughters, Christine Dixon of Eugene, and Judy Munoz of Seattle; three sons, Dan and Louis, both of Springfield, and Joe of Bend; and three grandchildren.

Mary and her husband Richard joined the club in 1989 and soon became active members. Mary went on 44 bus trips, the last one being to Wolf Haven and NW Trek in Washington in May of 2007. Mary attended five summer camps, the last one was the Sawtooths in 2000. Mary also led 6 hikes to Matthieu Lakes. Mary had many talents. Her moving interpretation of a woman homesteader from The Jump-Off Creek play at the Elkhorn Summer camp is a poignant memory of Mary's gentle ways.

*Thank You
For a Great Season*

THE 2008 SUMMER TRIPS SEASON just came to an end and we thought we'd feel relief to pass on the responsibility to the next Summer Trips Committee, but what we feel most is gratitude -- to all 76 leaders: for sending in your trips on your own and not waiting for us to call; for making your commitments in February -- to lead in October; for putting on the rain gear; for explaining, yet again, why we always take raingear -- even when the sun is shining; for making all newcomers feel welcome; for handing out membership forms; for waiting for the late hiker; for carrying the first aid kit; for leading again next year -- we know most of you will. We appreciate your dedication to the club and its objectives. From the 2008 Summer Trips Committee, you have our sincerest thanks.

- Barb Revere, Summer Trips Chair

OBSIDIANS, INC

P.O. Box 322, Eugene, OR 97440

Website: www.obsidians.org

Board of Directors

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.

Committee Chairpersons

Byways-By-Bus.....Liz Reanier
Climbs Larry Huff
Concessions Kathleen Floyd
Conservation..... Juli McGlinsky
Entertainment Laurie Funkhouser
Extended Trips..... Jim Duncan
FinanceStewart Hoeg
Lodge Building Brian Hamilton
Lodge Grounds John Jacobsen
Librarian/HistorianLenore McManigal
MembershipJulie Dorland
OnlineWayne Deeter
Publications
Publicity..... Ann Dhu McLucas
Safety..... Doug Nelson
Science & Education..... Joella Ewing
Summer Camp John Jacobsen
Summer TripsBarb Revere
Trail Maintenance.....Peter Green
Winter Trips.....Jim Pierce
Youth.....Scott Hovis

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Deadline

for January 2009 Bulletin

Saturday, January 3, 2009

Assembly/Mailing Team

For November Bulletin

Assembly & Mail Manager Lou Maenz
Assembly Team ...Don Baldwin, Yuan Hopkins, John & Lenore McManigal

Editorial Team

Writing & Editorial Staff Jean Coberly, Janet & John Jacobsen, Barb Revere, Beth Roy
Copy Editors.... Jean Coberly & Beth Roy
Graphics, Design & Desktop PublishingStewart Hoeg & John Jacobsen

New Year's Parties in Years' Past

By Janet Jacobsen

THE FIRST OBSIDIAN NEWSLETTER, Vol 1, #1 on December 21, 1936, was a special New Year's Edition previewing the 1937 New Year's party at Belknap Springs. The seven-year-old Obsidian club was already full of spirit and energy. A two-day New Year's Party up the McKenzie River was an annual event. In previous years, the event was held at the Lewis Cabin. (Check out the photographs at the lodge.)

Highlights from 1937-1941

The 1937 New Year's jamboree at Belknap Springs will include dancing, stunts, and the biggest and snappiest liar's contest. New Year's Day activities will include skiing at a location to be determined by snow conditions, also swimming at the Belknap tank. The annual turkey dinner will be served at the hotel, which is steam heated, adding greatly to the comfort of all. The Management requests that there be no "hobbs" (hobnailed boots).

Accommodations for eighty-five are assured. Obsidians and Ski Club members are to sign at Hendershott's Gun Store. Come prepared to enter all events and help the committee make this the best outing of the year.

Expenses of the weekend will include:

- Transportation of 1-cent per mile
- Club Fee (entertainment and 3 meals) \$2.00
- Double room in hotel (everything furnished) \$.75
- Swim (suit & towel fur.) \$.50
- Swim (above not fur.) \$.20

1938 New Year's Party at the Belknap Springs Hotel was a big party with 100 people attending. The event began December 30th with some swimming until 3:00 a.m. "One party dove off the hotel roof and missed the tank and landed in the McKenzie River and had to swim across and this happened

when the cooks were already up preparing breakfast. Dec. 31: All were on deck for wonderful breakfast, fruit, hot cakes, sausage, eggs. Etc. Breakfast over, we all drove to Frog Camp and skied to Hand Lake where the races were held." The New Year's night party lasted until 2:00 a.m. New Year's Day was another day of skiing.

1939 New Year's Party at Belknap Springs Hotel began with "A midnight lunch of hot chocolate, coffee and sandwiches sustained the crowd until they retired. Another day of skiing, dancing, swimming, and eating, ended the party, and it was only 363 days until the next Obsidian New Year's party."

1940 New Year's Party at Belknap was held at the CCC Camp with 60 members attending. The price for entire weekend was \$3.00 and the turkey dinner was \$1.50. Activities included a hog calling contest, polka contest, dancing, and skiing at Sand Hill.

1941 New Year's Party was held at the CCC Camp. (near the McKenzie Ranger Station). Fox trots, polkas and schottisches, liar's contest, turkey dinner, and skiing were on the agenda.

1942 New Year's Party was held in town at the River Road Club "Gas rationing, barricaded snow playgrounds...made us cancel our annual New Year trek to the McKenzie country." Eighteen members were already serving in the Armed Forces.

How are 2009 Obsidians celebrating New Year's?

They probably are watching it on TV(EST) and retiring early! Don't give up hope! The "annual" New Year's Day Tahkenitch Dunes hike will be led by Stewart Hoeg. Janet Jacobsen will lead a Spencer Butte hike. No hog calling contest or turkey dinner for these hikers!

Dynamic Blandness

(Continued from page 1)

moved here in 2001 and, within a month, became Obsidians.

Since joining the club, the Duncans have been actively involved in just about all phases of the club's activities. In fact, Jim earned the Compleat Obsidian award this year, given to members who have participated in every category of trip activity in a single year. In all, Jim has 152 trips (and still counting) of all sorts to his credit.

He's attended seven summer camps and chaired the Summer Camp Committee and led that project's reorganization. He's in his second term as a board member, having served as board secretary during his first three-year stint. In addition, he's chaired the Extended Trips Committee and served on the Summer Trips Committee and the Lodge Reconstruction Committee.

As if we don't keep him busy enough, Jim also has been a Food for Lane County volunteer; a docent at the U of O Museum of Natural and Cultural History, and, currently is devot-

ing much of his volunteer time with CASA as a court appointed special advocate for children in the Lane County Juvenile Court system. Oh, yeah...he also is a SMART reader in the local schools and serves on the Board of Visitors of the U of O Humanities Center.

Janet Jacobsen also pointed out as we were preparing the intro for this "bland" person that he plays the piano and is avid fan of the Oregon Bach Festival. He loves baseball and has been involved in putting together our recent annual outings to the Ems games at Civic Stadium.

The Duncans have three daughters, four grandchildren and two step grandchildren.

We tried to find some "dirt," on this guy, but failed. We even tried to get Sharon to reveal a secret or two, but she stonewalled and refused to play ball with this reporter. She did agree that his term as president might give new meaning to the word, "bland."

Yeah, right. Only in the tie-dyed hippiedom of Eugene would the buttoned down Jim Duncan be called "bland."

BOARD NOTES

December 3, 2008

By Laurie Funkhouser Secretary

President Brian Hamilton called the meeting to order. The following members of the Board were present Laurie Funkhouser, Jim Pierce, Marshall Kandell, Barb Revere, Anne McLucas, Wayne Deeter, Stewart Hoeg and Jim Duncan. Other members present were Liz Reanier, Verna Kocken, Lenore McManigal, Paul Flashenberg, Elle Weaver, Joella Ewing, John Jacobsen, Julie Dorland, Larry Huff, Peter Green, Doug Nelson, and Pat Bitner.

Treasurer's Report: Stewart Hoeg requested and received Board APPROVAL for payment of the bills.

OLD BUSINESS

FWOC Report from Shirley Cameron: Shirley attended the conference and provided the report which is attached and made a part of the minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

2009 Committee Chairs: Jim Duncan presented the following list of Committee Chairs for 2009 which was APPROVED by the Board:

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Summer Trips | Jim Pierce |
| Winter Trips | Paul Flashenberg |
| Climbs | Larry Huff |
| Trail Maintenance | Peter Green |
| By-Ways By Bus | Liz Reanier |
| Summer Camp | Lana Lindstrom |
| Extended Trips | Jim Duncan |
| Membership | Barb Revere |
| Conservation | Pat Bitner |
| Publications | |
| Entertainment | Laurie Funkhouser |
| Science & Edu | Joella Ewing |
| Publicity | Elle Weaver |
| Concessions | Kathleen Floyd |
| Online | Wayne Deeter |
| Finance | Stewart Hoeg |
| Library/Historian | Lenore McManigal |
| Lodge Building | Doug Nelson |
| Lodge Grounds | John Jacobsen |
| Safety | Susan Sullivan |

In addition, Jim Duncan asked that: The Committees submit the reports by e-mail. The Board explore implementing an on-line, or e-mail sign-up method for trips. The Board consider discussing changes

in various committees.

2009 Budget: Stewart Hoeg provided the following report: The membership count is down but member financial contributions are up and contributions from Bus Trips and Summer Camp. The Budget for 2009 has been adjusted taking with these considerations: reduced cost of the Bulletin due to decreased mailing cost (available on-line), increased on-line expense to cover the cost of the domain name, adjust for insurance, and for income tax. The budget will be up for approval at the next Board meeting.

Consideration for Changing Car Pooling Fee: Brian Hamilton promoted a couple of options to address concerns regarding the car pooling fee: 1) Have an Ad Hoc Committee review options 2) Reduce the fee to \$.07, which was the fee prior to the recent increase in gas prices. It was decided an Ad Hoc Committee needs to address the car pool expense as well as other transportation considerations and provide a recommendation to the Board. The following volunteered to be members of that committee: Brian Hamilton, Stewart Hoeg, Barb Revere and Larry Huff.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Summer Trips (Barb Revere): A total of 15 trips have taken place since the last report and 2 reports are outstanding.

Winter Trips (Jim Pierce): Three trips have taken place and paperwork has been received. There are 51 trips on the schedule for the period through April 1.

Trail Maintenance (Peter Green): Two weeks ago, nine people led by Matthew Bell planted native plants. There will not be a project in December. The next event will be January 24, 2009.

By-Ways-By-Bus (Liz Reanier): Committee met on November 10 to hear trip proposals for the 2009. 14 trips have been proposed for the 2009 with the first, Eagles 'N More, scheduled for February 17 and 18.

Summer Camp (Lana Lindstrom): Due to a "misunderstanding" Summer Camp will have to move 5 days earlier to: Session 1 - July 18-23. Session 2 - July 23-28. The name of the camp will be

Camp Ishi. Wayne Deeter has done an excellent job updating the Summer Camp Web page.

Entertainment (Laurie Funkhouser): The November program presented by Eric Alan was attended by 59 people and fees of \$50 were collected. The next program by Chris Stockdale – Trekking in Bhutan is scheduled for December 19th.

Science and Education (Joella Ewing): Fourteen members attended the November 18 SciEd Tuesday program and \$14 was collected. The December meeting is cancelled due to a conflict of the presenters. The SciEd committee will set up a meeting soon with Conservation to coordinate our programs.

Membership (Julie Dorland): The Board APPROVED two new member applications which brings the total membership to date to 576 (as compared to 597 last year). Only 11.5 percent of the members have not yet paid their dues at this time.

Publicity (Anne Dhu McLucas): November was a busy month with two last minute events: Nordic Night on November 18th and Play in the Rain on November 22.

Library/Historian (Lenore McManigal): All reports have been recorded.

Lodge Building (Brian Hamilton): There are three rentals in the works. As follow-up of old business regarding cleaning the chimney, the 2002 building report reported that it was acceptable; therefore, will postpone any action to clean until a later date.

Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): It's been a busy month for the Grounds Committee. 7 additional trees were cut down near the Lodge on November 19th in addition to the 5 last month. We have had a series of work parties to try to clean up the mess as well as holding the regular monthly cleanup.

Safety (Doug Nelson): No report. However, Laurie Michael, an EMT, has expressed a desire to provide an intense outdoor safety program and wondered what interest there might be. A notice will be placed in the Bulletin to determine interest.

TRIP REPORTS & OTHER ACTIVITIES



Hikes

Vivian Lake

September 6, 2008

Leader: Walt Dolliver

10 miles, 860 ft. (Moderate)

ON A WONDERFUL LATE summer day, six eager hikers gathered at SEHS for the long drive to the Vivian Lakes Trailhead. The route that was chosen was not the usual one, for we went in from the Hills Creek Reservoir side of the ridge. Going this way gives beautiful views of Diamond Peak and is longer than the usual way. We reached the lakes just after noon and had a leisurely lunch watching the wildlife. The hikers included members Carol Armstrong, Mari Baldwin, Walt Dolliver, Dana Furgerson, Steve Stifel and Rod Wood. (Thanks to Barb Revere for preparing this report.)

Shotgun Creek

October 27, 2008

Leader: Elle Weaver

6.1 miles, 610 ft. (Moderate)

JUST A FEW MILES FROM MARCOLA, Shotgun Creek offers three loops of trails, including two that are mainly level. Our first loop started along the creek over several little footbridges among healthy sword ferns and moss covered rocks. Although there are no majestic views from Drury Ridge, the trail wound through golden bigleaf maples and vine maples. Our lunch spot was alongside Shotgun Creek so that we could enjoy the sound of the creek and watch the leaves fall. Joanne wanted to sit in the sun so had to keep finding a new "soft" rock as the sun shifted through the trees. All in all, it was a lovely fall finale. Members: Joanne Ledet, Charlene Pierce, Jim Pierce, Susan Sanazaro and Elle Weaver.

Gillespie Butte

October 31, 2008

Leader: Chris Cunningham

3 miles, 120 ft. (Easy)

SEVEN OBSIDIANS SHOWED UP in raingear for this Friday hike to Gillespie Butte, a natural area with old oak habitat right in the middle of Eugene. Mercifully, the rain turned to a drizzle soon after we started. Still, clouds hugged the valley floor, making it impossible for us to enjoy the panorama with views of Skinner and Spencer buttes. A few of us were disappointed to note that someone had removed the "Legacy Tree" plaque, which designated that the butte's stand of white oaks ranges in age from 100 to 250 years old. On the butte's north side, we spent a bit of time wandering around the pioneer cemetery, named after the Rev. Jacob Gillespie, who settled on the butte and began maintaining the cemetery in the late 1850s. We noted several other names prominent in Eugene history too, including Young, Goodpasture, Ayers, and Armitage. Joining Chris Cunningham were members Myron Cook, Donna Halker, Dick Hildreth, Margaret Prentice, Moshe Rapaport and Barb Sutherland.

Trials Country

November 1, 2008

Leader: Anne Dhu McLucas

6 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

WE HIKED THE SIX-MILE TRAIL through Trials Country (one of about 70 miles of available trails), starting out in a gentle drizzle but ending in nice weather. The compatible five hikers were Anne Dhu McLucas, leader, with Daniele Delaby, Yuan Hopkins, and Barbara Schomaker, members, and Keiko Ryan and Euphemia Wesley, nonmembers. Since Euphemia is a landscape painter, we had many wonderful stops to admire beautiful things: the tree loaded down with ripe crabapples, some unusual moss hanging in loops from the trees, and had an enjoyable time. Jim Gillette, who has designed and built all the trails, also met us for lunch at a creek crossing.

Pre's & River Trails

November 3, 2008

Leader: Marshall Kandell

4 miles, 0 ft. (Easy)

THE FORECAST WAS FOR RAIN, but we had nary a drop on our pleasant outing. The fall foliage was definitely past its due date, but still offered reminders of former glory days. Sadly, the trees will soon be bare. The heron was easy to find today as he stood on the little island right in the middle of the duck pond. Today's hikers were members Myron Cook, Dick Hildreth and Marshall Kandell.

Duck Pond to Pre's Rock

November 6, 2008

Leader: Marshall Kandell

5 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

DESPITE A FORECAST OF RAIN, we had seven Obsidians bundled up and prepared and raring to go. It wasn't long before layers were being shed as the weather turned decidedly warm and dry. From the Alton Baker Park duck pond we took the river trail to Autzen Bridge and crossed to the campus. We toured a variety of large pits (where the new basketball arena is planned) and construction sites and headed up 15th to Birch and the climb to Skyline Drive (which offered panoramic views overlooking Alton Baker Park and the valley). We paid our respects to Pre and checked out all the tributes left at his memorial and then headed down via Hendricks Park and a stop at Eugene City Bakery before crossing back over the bridge. From all accounts it was a much enjoyed hike and offered everyone new approaches to and perspectives of familiar locations. Hikers were members Myron Cook, Sharon and Jim Duncan, Carol Fairbanks, Marshall Kandell, Barb Revere and Lee Young.

Rexius Trail

November 11, 2008

Leader: Marshall Kandell

4 miles, 50 ft. (Easy)

I CAN'T DANCE WORTH A DARN, but the rain gods must still like my footwork, because they once again withheld their deluge until we had finished our hike. We got wet from the inside out, however, as we kept up a brisk pace in surprisingly warm, but

humid, weather. We went up one side of Amazon Creek and down the other, eager for the tasty rewards awaiting us at the Hideaway Bakery. Hikers were Obsidians Myron Cook, Dick Hildreth, Marshall Kandell, Moshe Rapaport, Barb Revere and Ruth Romoser. Margaret Prentice had to cancel due to a twisted knee, but that didn't keep her from joining us at the bakery.

Shasta Loops

November 13, 2008

Leader: Marshall Kandell

4 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

THE BIG QUESTION was whether to do the hike clockwise or counterclockwise. We took the more difficult route, going down South Shasta Loop and up the more challenging North Shasta Loop. Dick Hildreth and Myron Cook had been on the hike before, but said they saw things differently going in the opposite direction. The hike was all new to Ed Lizewski, who just moved here from Indiana a couple of weeks ago and was already on his second Obsidian trip. (Note to next year's board and chairs: Ed wants to get involved in trail maintenance.). We saw a couple of deer today, including a buck with a big rack. Members: Myron Cook, Dick Hildreth and Marshall Kandell; nonmember: Ed Lizewski.

LCC & Lunch at Renaissance Room

November 13, 2008

Leader: Barb Revere

3 miles, 100 ft. (Easy)

WHAT TO ORDER FOR LUNCH – our big decision today! Our trail crossed the playing fields along 30th Street before entering the neighboring forests on the southern and western edge of campus. We hiked the jogging trail with ease, including an "exploratory" to a little outdoor amphitheater, up to a communications tower for a peek at Mt. Pisgah, then out to 30th again. Only then did we venture into the maze of campus buildings in search of the Center Building, where the Culinary Students prepare lunch five days a week as part of their practicum. We asked and received good directions when we were only 100 yards from their door. The menu offered three dishes: beef, fish, or vegetarian -- with a "dessert sampler" included. All pronounced the food very good. A short conversation with a young fellow in a chef's smock at a nearby table revealed that he is a graduate of LCC (six years ago) and the "guest chef" this day. A Eugene native, he is home visiting and "between jobs." His last gig: working for Thomas Keller at the French Laundry in Yountville, CA -- a Michelin three-star restaurant --so, no surprise that the food was good. Thanks to all my wonderful dining and walking companions, and Mother Nature for the beautiful day! Members: Tom Adamcyk, Walt Dolliver, Jim Duncan, Sharon Duncan, Dick Essenberg, Margaret Essenberg, Janet Jacobsen, Joanne Ledet, Moshe Rapaport, Barb Revere and Pat Soussan; nonmembers: Nicky Masters and Deborah McGinley.

North Fork of Middle Fork of the Willamette

November 16, 2008

Leader and Photographer: Jim Pierce

5.6 miles, 400 ft. (Easy)

WHAT A GRAND DAY. We left the valley fog for the sun, filtered through 200 feet of forest giants. We hit the trail, excellent in all seasons, at 10:30. The mushrooms were especially photogenic. The creek crossings were tricky, but only a few wet boots. We

reached the grove of HUGE cedars in 1.5 hours and ate lunch in a patch of sun beside the rushing river... ahhh. Despite photographic delays on group one's return trip, we were back to the cars about 2:00. Three miles down the road we stopped at the Constitution Grove for another 15 minutes among giants in paradise. Thanks to Barb for leading group two. Members: Carol Armstrong, Julie Dorland, Pat Esch, Sachiko Iwasaki, Brenda Kameenui, Joanne Ledet, Lou Maenz, Charlene Pierce, Jim Pierce, Moshe Rapaport, Barb Revere, Susan Sanazaro, Pat Soussan and Marian West; nonmembers: Sandor Lau, Carolyn Sojak and Darko Sojak.



River Trails

November 18, 2008

Leader: Marshall Kandell

6 miles, 0 ft. (Moderate)

AS THEY SAY, "If you don't know where you're going, any road will get you there!" Having gone upstream on recent hikes starting at the duck pond, I felt we should go in the other direction on this beautiful sunny morning (no fog!) and then decide after an hour whether to go further or return. So, we set out along the North Bank Trail in the hope of finding a pond turtle basking in the sunlight. The first stretch, just past the North Bank brewpub, is almost on the freeway and then there is the long section along the Valley River Center parking lot (the key is to look to the left where the Willamette offers continuous eye-catching vistas). We soon were spotting great blue herons (we saw five or six on the hike), lots of ducks and geese, an egret, and a family of four raccoons making their way across a pond and up a hillside. After passing Willamette Oaks at the one hour mark, we conferred and our adventurous troop decided to cut over to Goodpasture Island Road and explore the Delta Ponds. Enroute, we saw a whole squadron of cormorants posing on a log. At first, we missed the trail and found ourselves on a newly constructed raised wooden walkway leading to a viewing platform. We retraced our steps and found the trail, which took us into the center of the ponds. The city is apparently letting this area return to its natural state and the trail was not always easy to follow, especially when we had to climb over and crawl under tree and brush limbs. Then it was back to the North Bank River Trail. We crossed the Valley River bridge and returned to the duck pond via the South Bank trail and the DeFazio bike bridge. What was advertised as an easy 4 to 5-mile hike became a 3-hour moderate 6 to 7-mile jaunt...with no complaints from any of the participants. Unfortu-

nately, we never did see a western pond turtle. They must have gone to sleep for the winter, because this was certainly a great day for basking in the sun. On the hike were members Brad Bennett, Myron Cook, Jim and Sharon Duncan, Marshall Kandell and Jim Pierce.

River Trail/Skinner Butte

November 20, 2008

Leader: Marshall Kandell

4 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

WE BEGAN UNDER A RAINBOW and clearing skies and needed sunglasses atop Skinner Butte, but had to deal with sporadic rain showers on most of our hike. Starting at the duck pond in Alton Baker Park, we crossed over to Skinner Butte Park and followed the trail to the top of the butte, getting a fleeting glance at a bald eagle overhead and spotting its nest (we think). On the way down the other side we found the Columns clear of risk-takers on this wet day, went by the Shelton-McMurphey-Johnson House, made a pit stop at EWEB and continued on to the Autzen bike bridge and back to the duck pond via the South Bank Trail. Braving the weather were members Myron Cook, Dick Hildreth, Marshall Kandell and Barbara Morgan; and member-to-be Ed Lizewski on his third and qualifying hike.



Climbs

South Sister

August 31, 2008

Leader: Buzz Blumm

11 miles, 4,900 ft. (Difficult)



THE DAY STARTED OFF CLEAR, and we were full of optimism. But clouds were looming... We hit the trail about 9 am, reaching the glaciated lake just under the peak about 12:30 pm. By then the clouds had crept up and obscured the peak, the wind was blowing hard, and the temperature was in the 40s. In a close vote, democracy ruled and we turned back from that point. Hikers included Obsidians Janet Jacobsen, Barb Revere, Greg Milliman, Charles Durham, Madeline Blumm, Talie Blumm

Smith, Buzz Blumm, and non-Obsidians Ben Muir and Shannon Harty. (As a footnote, the Blumm family made a return trip four weeks later and successfully summited the mountain on Sept. 28. Unfortunately, Cecile broke her ankle on the scree slope on the way down; we eventually hobbled out five hours later, and well after dark.)



Trail
Maintenance

Spencer Butte

November 22, 2008

Leader: Matt Bell

OBSIDIANS, EUGENE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES (EPOS) staff (Lorna, Jason, & Emily), and a couple of non-members all met up at the main Spencer Butte parking lot at 9 a.m. for native plant restoration along part of Spencer Butte Trail. Those of you who have hiked Spencer's Butte during the past year know that EPOS has done some major improvements to the trail including replacing the old rotten foot bridge with a long-lasting raised dry-stone pathway. Due to all the work in the area and the heavy use the bypass trail saw, the native plants took a really beating. To help restore the area and make the path seem more integrated into the environment we planted: sword ferns, sedges, firs, lilies, trilliums, starbursts, and other native plants. These plants will help the area regenerate more quickly and help keep the trail looking as beautiful as we all want it to be. With members: Matthew Bell, Jim and Sharon Duncan, Jim Pierce, Dave Predeek and non-members Todd Hammans, Stewart Lewis, Josh Grezsund, Ed Lizewski, Rick McMonagle.



SciEd Tuesday

Buford Park/Mt. Pisgah

November 18, 2008

Reviewed by Joella Ewing

FRIENDS OF BUFORD PARK AND MT. PISGAH are working with the Nature Conservancy, Lane County, Bonneville Power Administration, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon State Parks, the City of Eugene, and Willamalane Parks District to purchase 1200 acres currently owned by the Wildish Company. This would complete the Howard Buford Recreation Area authorized by the State Legislature in 1973. The state transferred the original 2300 acres to Lane County in 1983. The Friends of Buford Park took over stewardship of the area in 1989. Because the Wildish lands are in the center of the park, they are considered the "meat in the sandwich."

The Nature Conservancy is involved because it considers the Willamette Valley critical for plant and animal habitat restoration since only two percent of the original oakland and prairie habitats remain to support 189 species that depend on it.

Restoration projects include an oak enhancement demon-

stration project which is removing Douglas fir that kill the oaks by shading them. Volunteers, many of them Obsidians, are removing invasive species throughout the park and planting native species grown in the park's five-acre native plant nursery. They are also involved with staff in building and maintenance of 17 miles of trails. Prescribed burns are used in some areas and limited herbicides in others to bring invasive species under control. Backwater habitat, upland forests, and riparian forests are features on or around 1531-foot Mt. Pisgah that many Obsidians enjoy hiking.



Potlucks

Wild Grace

November 21, 2008

Reviewed by Laurie Funkhouser

AFTER AN ENCOUNTER WITH CANCER, Eric Alan's awareness of the spiritual path of nature became heightened and he shares this awareness with others in his book "Wild Grace: Nature as a Spiritual Path" (published by White Cloud Press). Alan's journey began in the "cathedral" of nature, noting that it is easier to feel the divine sanctuary of nature while viewing a redwood, whose "patience has lasted a thousand years", than sitting in traffic on the highway.

Alan illustrated his spiritual path with beautiful photographs of nature. Other "paths" explored in his program included: the release of burdens and regret as leaves are released in fall; the flow of water over rocks and other obstacles; the languid movements of sea lions and slugs; and clouds billowing over rolling

hills. All that attended enjoyed this introduction to the spiritual path of nature.

Currently Alan is working on another book, tentatively titled "Tranquility of Light" and planned for release within the year. In addition to publications, Alan also offers workshops and programs. For more information on these activities, please visit: www.wildgrace.org.

Note: Alan is the son of Obsidian member Shirley Froyd to whom his 1st book is dedicated.

Play In The Rain

Date: November 22, 2008

Reported by Anne Dhu McLucas

ON VERY SHORT NOTICE, six wonderful Obsidians took on the job of contributing to an event sponsored by the Northwest Youth Corps on Saturday, November 22. Advertising free outdoor entertainment for kids of all ages, rain or no rain, the event attracted hundreds of families to a chilly, but sunny day at Mt. Pisgah. Several groups—including the Obsidians—set up tables under the White Oak Pavilion roof, and then proceeded to offer activities ranging from knot-tying to hot-dog roasting, and even hay- and horse-back rides. While others were sitting around campfires or waiting in line, the Obsidians hawked their hikes—and many families, some with over-active children, decided to participate. Anne Dhu McLucas led a hike for 12 along the Water Garden Trail and over to the Lily Pond Trail; Larry Huff led two hikes of 7 and 10 people, to the Water Garden and then up the Incense Cedar Trail; John Jacobsen and Rick Ahrens also led hikes. Meanwhile, Lana Lindstrom and Brenda Kameenui helped out at the table, talking to dozens of parents about the joys of the Obsidians activities. It was well worth the time and trouble it took to set up and plan, and my thanks go out to those who participated on such short notice!

UPCOMING

Big Lake Extended Trip

Date: March 11 – March 13, Leader: Lana Lindstrom

Cost: \$90 for members; \$100 non-members

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING - Where exactly is Big Lake and why would I want to go there in March? Big Lake "Camp" is 3.5 miles from the Ray Benson Sno Park on Santiam Pass. It's right on the lake (think wide, open views of Mt. Washington), and it makes skiing or snowshoeing to Sand or Little Cache Mountains much more accessible. During the summer it is a youth camp, but the rest of the year it's available for groups.

We'll be staying in semi-private rooms with the bathrooms down the hall. Mattresses are provided on bunk beds (they can be moved to the floor); we bring our sleeping bags. There's a cozy common area to read, play games or just socialize. A snow-cat will carry our gear in, so we'll ski or snowshoe with just our daypacks. The snow will be deep, and hopefully, the weather will be perfect. All meals are included beginning with dinner on Wednesday and ending with a sack lunch on Friday.

To sign up, send a \$20 on-refundable deposit check payable to the *Obsidians* to: Lana Lindstrom, P.O. Box 5506, Eugene, OR 97405. The balance is due by February 15th. This trip is limited to twenty adventurous souls!

Questions?: Contact Leader Lana Lindstrom at 683-1409 or лана_lindstrom@hotmail.com



Seasonal Gifts For Your Health!

Sun., Dec. 21 – Tahkenitch Dunes – Hike, moderate. The trail you will hike will cover dunes, bogs, beach and deep ferny forest with a view of Three Mile Lake thrown in for your further enjoyment. In addition to this trip, led by Becky Lipton, please note that there is another chance to take this popular hike on Jan. 1, led by Stewart Hoeg.

Sat., Dec. 27 – Trapper Creek – S'Shoe, moderate. Trapper Creek feeds into beautiful Odell Lake near the Shelter Cove Resort – just a hop, skip and jump beyond Willamette Pass. Leader Paul Flashenberg will break away from the tameness of the groomed trails at the Cove and take you creek-side for the beginning of this lovely trek. Large stones, marooned in mid-creek, wear snowy caps of snow and contrast starkly with the inky black water flowing gently around them. Watch for American dippers that bob on shore and rock, periodically diving under the current to feed on water bugs. As you veer away from the creek bed, the slope steepens, and how far you go depends on your skill and that of the rest of your party. This trip is 5 miles and climbs 500'.

Sun., Jan. 1 – Spencer Butte –Hike, moderate. Janet Jacobsen leads this close to home trip that was traditionally done on New Year's Day by Obsidians in years past. Wind up the newest trail in Spencer's network, from Canyon Rd. at Martin, for a bird's eye view of Eugene, Springfield, Pleasant Hill and Cottage Grove. Note also that this hike is led on Dec. 18 by Barb Revere.

Tue., Jan. 6 – Courthouse/Downtown – Easy, urban walk. This is a good chance to get together with the Obsidian friends you have been missing since last summer and the best way I know of to banish your holiday stress; besides, there are some great places to grab snacks or lunch downtown. Leader Janet Jacobsen is sure to have searched out some interesting Eugene City and Skinner's Mud Hole lore for your edification.

Fri., Jan. 9 – Sweet Creek Falls – Hike, easy. Sweet Creek is great anytime of the year, but in winter you get a chest thumping roar from this little stream in its narrow canyon. The platforms and walkways provide a spectacular 'up close' perspective and an exciting but safe walk in the twisted canyon. You'll be surrounded by fern and moss and rushing water everywhere. Kathleen Floyd leads this lovely walk that you'll return to again and again.

Sat., Jan. 10 – Bechtel Shelter – S'Shoe, moderate. This trip, in the trail network the Gold Lake Sno Park, starts out in a hubbub of ski parties trying to stay together, but leader Marianne Camp will get you off the beaten path into a bit of back-country. The trip is a partial loop through beautiful forest and covers gentle terrain.

Same Day (Jan. 10) – Fish Lake & Lava Lakes – S'Shoe, moderate. Fish Lake is usually dry all summer, so most of us give it a miss and head for high alpine trails; but the lake has many faces: it fills beautifully every spring with collected snow melt; the banks flower shortly thereafter; and in winter the lakebed becomes a shallow basin of snow just waiting for you and leader Scott Hovis to make tracks. Nearby Lava Lake has a variety of trails for your enjoyment also.

Sun., Jan. 11 – Midnight Lake – X-Ski, moderate. You'll leave the greater mass of skiers behind quickly on this trip with leader Doug McCarty. The trail is a partial loop beginning at Gold Lake Sno Park and includes trail as well as road skiing in a nicely forested area. The small lake is a snow covered meadow and your turn around point.

Wed., Jan. 14 – North Shasta Loop – Hike, moderate. If you live in South Eugene, you will be so close to home on this walk that you'll feel as if you never left. Leader Ruth Romoser has a different take on the area and you'll wind through some of the hidden neighborhoods that dead-end around the Masonic Cemetery.

Outdoor 1st Aid Training?

THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE ATTENDED the basic 1st aid classes held at the lodge the past two seasons will remember Lauri Monico. She is offering Obsidians members the opportunity to attend, at minimal charge, a more in-depth, outdoor oriented, first aid class sometime early next spring. At this time we would like to see if there are enough people interested in attending to justify planing for this class. A brief description follows below. If you would be interested in attending, please contact Doug Nelson at: 541-736-6076 or at fullnelson3o5@gmail.com

What: Eight hour class covering basic first aid skills. Taught by National Ski Patrol instructors to affiliate groups.

Cost: \$ 20.00 refundable fee to encourage class participation.

Books: \$ 10.00 May be bought or borrowed.

When: March? 3 weekday evenings. 6:30 to 9:30.

Topics: Personal protection

Assessment- scene and patient

ABC assessment and care

Patient stabilization

Basic splinting and bandaging

Assisting with backboarding and traction splinting

Basic medical emergencies

Special focus on cold injuries

Touch on tick management, spider bites and stings

Touch on altitude

Certification: Students receive a signed Outdoor First Aid card. Good for three years. Basic refreshing needed each year. Entire class taken again every three years.

Minimum enrollment: 10

AT THE LODGE



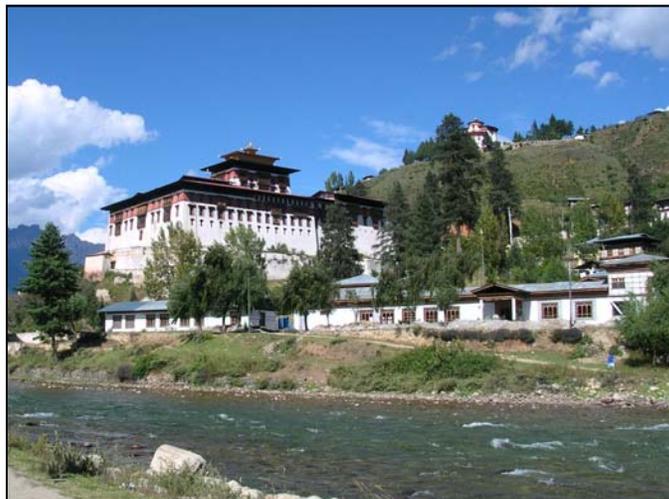
POTLUCK

Friday December 19:

Note Early Date

Land of the Thunder Dragon

TRAVEL TO THE LAND of the Thunder Dragon [Bhutan] is time-consuming and expensive, but not one of the group of 8 who ventured to that remote kingdom in October 2007 regretted the journey. Obsidian Sam Miller found 7 friends (including 3 more Obsidians) who wanted to accompany him on a trip that would include a strenuous 8-day, 7-night trek into the Himalayas and cultural sightseeing. Sam worked closely with Obsidian Pema Chhophyel and Pema's associate and cousin, Sonam Jatso, to put together an itinerary that would appeal to the whole group. Sonam, who lives in Bhutan, owns a company called Insiders' Bhutan, and he has extensive experience in designing such trips. Chris Stockdale, one of the Obsidians in the group, has put together some photos and a narrative that she hopes will convey some of the beauty and mystique of this little visited country sandwiched between India and Tibet.

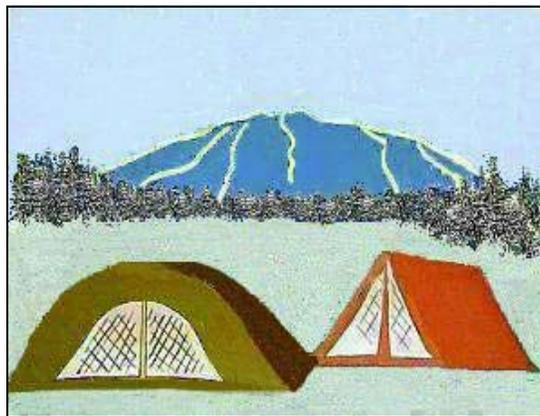


**December Potluck - Friday, December 19, 2008 - Obsidian Lodge
Potluck, 6:30 p.m. Program, 7:30 p.m.**

Bring your favorite potluck dish to share...along with plates, utensils and cups...plus \$1 to help cover club expenses.

Important - Summer Camp Date Changes

INDEED, AS ANNOUNCED EARLIER, the 2009 Obsidian Summer Camp will be held in Lassen Volcanic National Park, a six-hour drive from Eugene. So in addition to perusing the Obsidian winter trip schedule, you can start day dreaming about Camp Ishi. However, please note that the dates of the two five-day camp sessions have been revised to July 18 - 23 (Saturday - Thursday), and July 23 - 28 (Thursday - Tuesday), due to changes in the National Park Service campground schedule.



Camp Ishi will be at an elevation of 5700' at the Lost Creek group camp site. Because our incoming Obsidian president chose not to have the camp named after him, the Summer Camp Committee decided to honor Ishi, a member of the indigenous Yahi people, who is considered to be the very last Stone Age California Indian. Ishi was found starving to death in 1911 near Mt. Lassen, and thereafter lived at the University of California, Berkeley, until his death from

tuberculosis in 1916. *Ishi the Last Yahi, A Documentary History*, edited by Robert F. Heizer and Theodora Kroeber (University of California Press) documents his story.

Hopefully you'll be able to come to camp! Please change the dates on your calendar and look for the registration form in the March 2009 *Obsidian Bulletin*. You can register at the Camp Rally on Friday, March 27, or thereafter by mail. Wendy Dame and Don Doerr are camp leaders for Session 1, and Lana Lindstrom is

Camp Leader for Session 2.

The October 2008 *Obsidian Bulletin* includes an informative article by Jim Pierce about last summer's trip to Lassen, including descriptions of several spectacular hikes; as well as Kris Wolters' enthusiastic article about her first Obsidian Summer Camp. Future *Bulletin* issues will include additional information about Lassen Volcanic National Park, and you can also check out: <http://www.nps.gov/lavo/>.

Let it Snow,
Let it Snow,
Let it Snow...



THERE ARE 51 WINTER TRIPS already on the schedule for the 2008-2009 season. Please start fitting some of them into YOUR schedule. Please keep checking the website calendar for the latest schedule. We are wishing for snow... soon.

This season, the Winter Trips Committee does not plan to mail out leader packets. Winter trip leader documents have been emailed to all the winter trip leaders. Some of the documents and forms are available on the Obsidian website under the documents section. If any trip leader or potential trip leader cannot access the emailed documents or print out forms from the website, Please call or email wintertrips@obsidians.org.

Winter trip leader training will be changed this season. The plan is to have mentors guide new and inexperienced trip leaders through the process of planning, posting, leading and reporting a winter trip. Any new trip leaders or trip leaders who want a refresher should email the Winter Trips Committee. Also, experienced leaders who would be potential mentors should volunteer... before you are called.

*Thanks from the Winter Trips Committee
- Paul Flashenberg, Winter Trips Chair*

Give the Gift of Life... And Have Fun Doing It!

Chris Stockdale

WHO WOULD HAVE GUESSED that donating blood could be so much fun? On October 14th, 17 Obsidians found out for themselves that it was a great excuse for a party. These members showed up at Lane Memorial Blood Bank to give their pints and collect their pizza. One member, Brad Bennett, celebrated his 100th blood donation that evening. The group decided they wanted to do it again, so we have scheduled another Obsidian evening for Wednesday, December 17, from 4:30-6:30pm. Please call 484-9111 to make an appointment during that time. We'll have pizza again, as well as great cookies and other snacks.

The Christmas season is a time of giving, and the blood bank wants to remind you that you can give the greatest gift of all – the gift of life. One blood transfusion can help somebody battle a life-threatening situation and give that person another chance at life.

To be a blood donor, you need to be at least 16 years old, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be in good general health. If you have questions about your eligibility to donate, just call 484-9111 and speak with a nurse.

Obsidian Calendar

December

19 Fri - **Bhutan**, Stockdale **Potluck**
21 Sun - **Tahkenitch Dunes**, M, B.Lipton 736-7498
27 Sat - **Trapper Creek**, S'Shoe, M, Flashenberg 461-1977

January 2009

1 Thu - **Tahkenitch Dunes**, 6.5m, M, S.Hoeg 484-6196
1 Thu - **Spencer Butte**, M, Jan Jacobsen 343-8030
9 Fri - **Sweet Creek**, E, J & K Floyd 654-0087
10 Sat - **Bechtel Shelter**, S-Shoe, M, M. Camp 221-1866
10 Sat - **Fish and Lava Lakes**, S'Shoe M, Hovis... 345-7788
11 Sun - **Fuji Shelter**, X-Ski, D, Funkhouser 206-2303
11 Sun - **Midnight Lake**, X-Ski, M, D.McCarty .. 342-6962
11 Sun - **Rosary Lakes**, X-Ski, M, S.Wolling 345-2110
14 Wed - **North Shasta Loop**, 5m, E, Romoser ... 726-8154
15 Thu - **Buford Park**, E, Barb Revere 726-4989
17 Sat - **Rosary Lakes**, S-Shoe, D, M. Bell ... 503-884-8829
23 Fri - **Natural Disasters**, Sullivan **Potluck**
25 Sun - **Midnight Lake**, X-Ski, M, Funkhouser... 206-2303
25 Sun - **Sand Mountain**, X-Ski, D, S.Miller 484-4586
31 Sat - **Maiden Peak**, S-Shoe, M, M. Bell 503-884-8829

February

1 Sun - **Maklaks**, X-Ski/S'Shoe, M, Lindstrom 683-1409
7-8 Sat-Sun - **Survival**, X-Ski/S'Shoe McCarty 342-6962
7 Sat - **Potato Hill**, S'Shoe D, S.Hovis 345-7788
8 Sun - **Fuji Shelter**, S'Shoe, D, D.James 683-7488
10 Tue - **Sweet Creek Falls**, 2.8m, E, J.Pierce 344-1775
12 Thu - **Maiden Peak Cabin**, X-Ski, D, Wilken .343-3080
21 Sat - **Benson SP Loop**, S'Shoe, DV Metcalfe
21 Sat - **Diamond Creek**, S'Shoe, E, Durham 687-0885
21 Sat - **Fawn Lake**, S'Shoe, D, M. Bell 503-884-8829
22 Sun - **Arrowhead Lake**, X-Ski, D, Funkhouser 206-2303

Bulletin Classifieds

For Sale

COLUMBIA DOWNHILL SKI PANTS - Omni Tech waterproof/breathable. Black - women's medium. Lightly used. \$40. Barb Bruns 485-7285

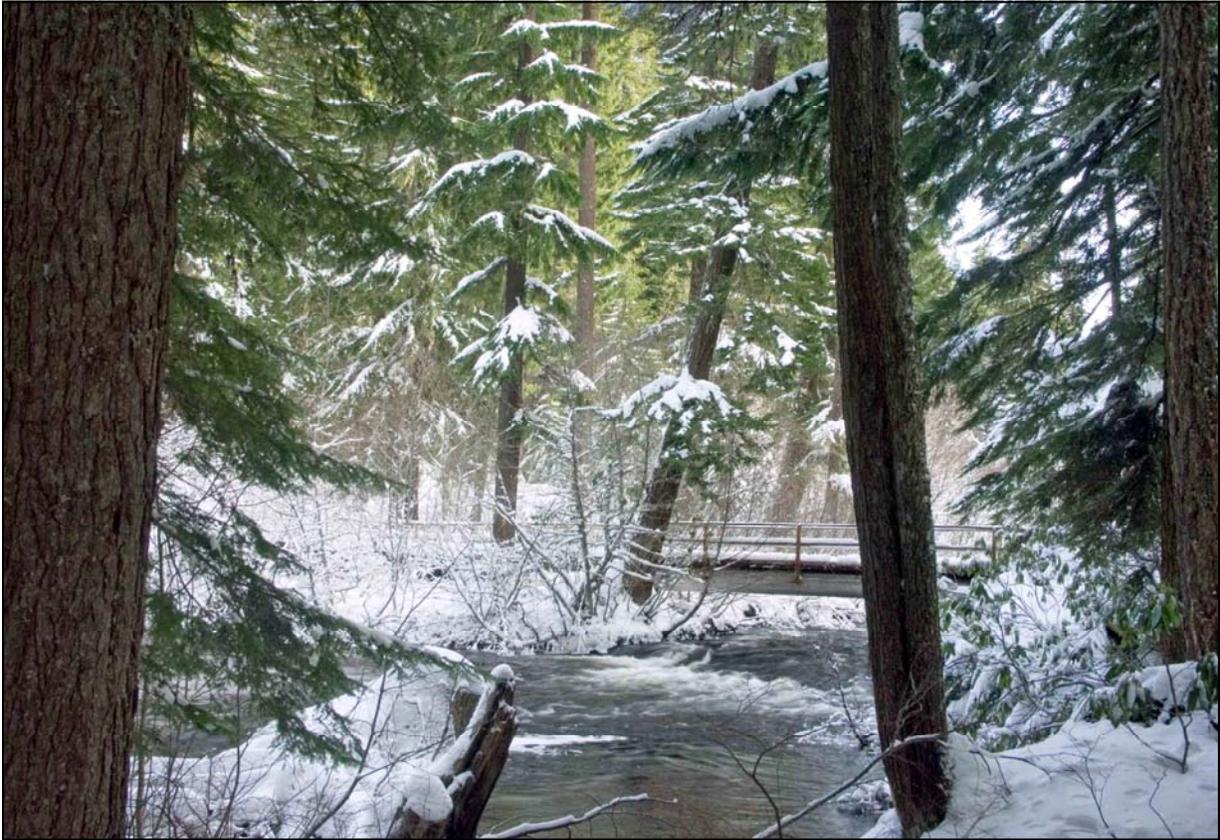
BARRASTERS SKI RACK - Fits on car roof. Excellent condition. \$30. Sandra 687-2589 or sglars@comcast.net

WOOD - Green fir , cut and split at the Obsidian Lodge. You haul. \$120/cord. John 343-8030 or johnwjacobsen@comcast.net.

Obsidian Goodies

T-shirts, \$10 (no matter design or size); sweatshirt, \$15; cap, \$15; mug or tumbler, \$10; whistle, \$3. Contact: Kathleen at 654-0087 or jmkmfloyd@comcast.net.

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.



Salt Creek - Photo by Stewart Hoeg



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December 2008