

### Inside This Issue

Oregon Caves	1
Meet the Committee Chairs	2
Obituary	3
Board Notes	4
Book Review	5
Trip Reports & Activities	6-13
Chukars	13
Umpqua Raft Trip	14
Upcoming	15-17
Classifieds	17
Calendar	17
Picture of the Month	18

### Dates to Remember

July 28	Trail Maintenance
Aug 25	Trail Maintenance
Sept 1	Board Meeting
Sept 16	ExploraTalk - Steens Mtns
Sept 24	Potluck - Obsidian History

Complete current schedules at:

[www.observians.org](http://www.observians.org) or

Register-Guard – Outdoors – Tuesday

#### Summer Schedule

**No Potlucks or SciEd**  
in July and August.

**No Board Meeting or Bulletin**  
in August.

Back to a normal schedule  
In September.

## Going Underground

*By William Sullivan*

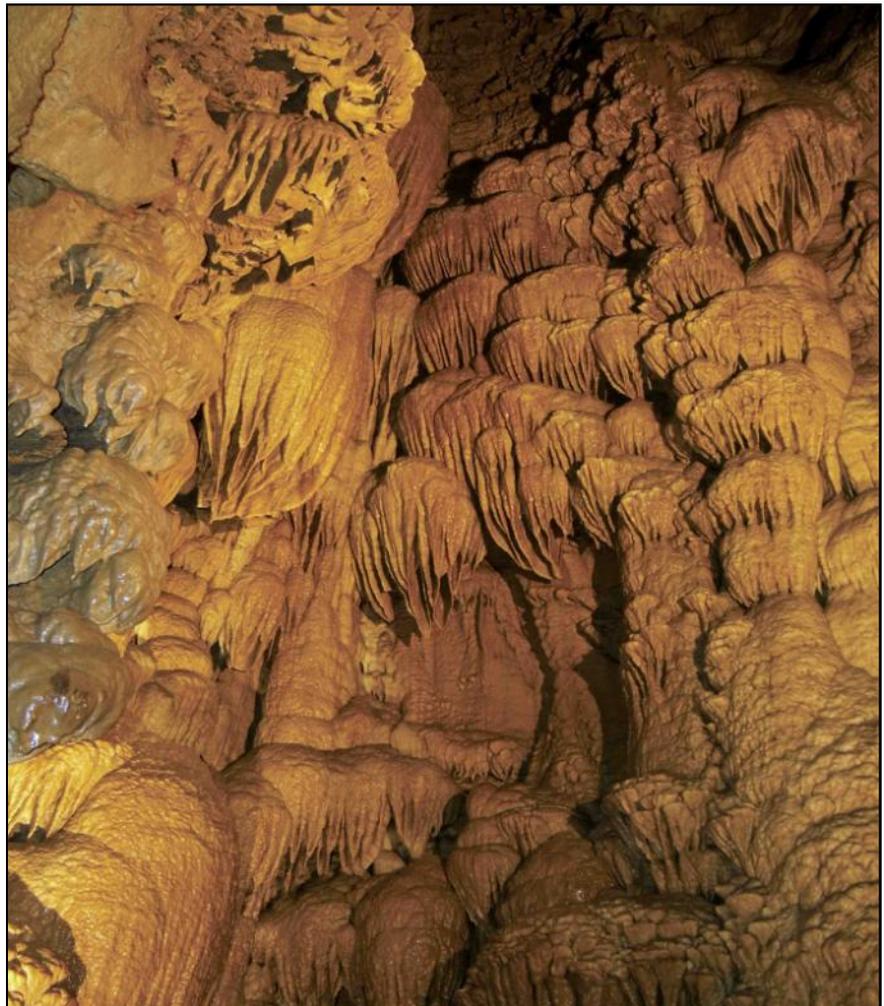
**THE OREGON CAVES**, the state's first and tiniest National Monument, celebrates its 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary this year. If you haven't been to this quirky Southern Oregon getaway recently, now's your chance.

I'm particularly interested in the caves this year because the Oregon Caves Natural History Association recently commissioned me to write a guidebook to the area. But I've also been told that my grandfather, Austin B. Brownell of Grants Pass, was the electrician who installed wiring there in the 1930s.

Family legend says Grandpa was one of the Oregon Cavemen, a strange booster group that dressed in animal skins, carried clubs, and abducted visiting celebrities under the direction of a mysterious Chief Bighorn.

You may laugh, but the Cavemen managed to induct four U.S. presidents as mem-

*(Continued on page 5)*



*Paradise Lost Formation - Photo courtesy of the National Park Service*

## Meet the Committee Chairs:

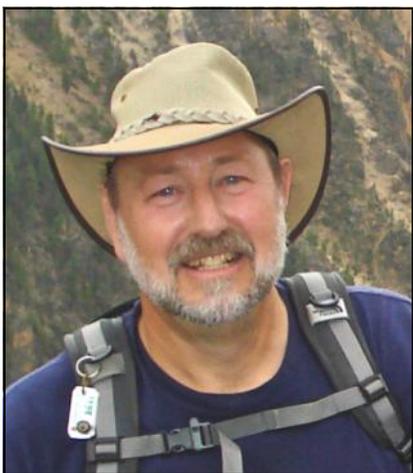
### Liz Reanier, Byways-By-Bus Chair

**L**IZ REANIER HAS THE DISTINCTION of being a true native Oregonian. Though born in Portland, she has lived in Eugene since a very young age. Liz did not join the Obsidians until 1994 due to the demands of a teaching career and family commitments. She taught math and computer science, and was coach of the ski team while at South Eugene High School, but finished her teaching career at Churchill High in 1993.

After being introduced to the Obsidians by Frances Newsom, she served on the Safety and Budget Committees, although she has volunteered most of her time with the Byways-By-Bus Committee. She assisted Bill Eaton and Ray Jensen in the planning of trips, and assumed the chair in early 2005. That job entails the planning and making of reservations for the approximately 10 trips the bus committee takes each year. Even after all the organizational work, Liz has been able to participate in and enjoy taking over 165 trips, having led 70 herself. While the trips are educational and entertaining, the greatest reward has been the friendships made.



### John Jacobsen, Lodge Grounds Chair



**I**F AWARDS WERE GIVEN for most hours volunteered to the club, that award would surely go to John Jacobsen. His contributions are almost too numerous to list, but a few highlights would include: Club President on three separate occasions, Summer Camp Chair several times, served on almost every Obsidian committee – chairing many of those committees, one of the layout editors for the *Bulletin*, and now chair of the Lodge Grounds Committee. John and his crew have been responsible for not only maintaining the neat appearance of the lodge grounds, but installing the Obsidian sign at the entrance to the grounds and shepherding the installation of the retaining wall mural.

When John does not have a rake or saw in his hand, he has found time to go on over 200 hikes, 30 of those trips being climbs. Using his skills as a computer consultant, John and Wayne Deeter have been working on the program to initiate online trip sign up. When not volunteering for the Obsidians, he and his wife Janet, also a dedicated Obsidian volunteer, love to travel the world, especially to some of the more remote parts.

#### Changes, Changes, Changes

Please notify Membership when changing your address, phone or email.

*Note: The Bulletin addressed to an old address is **not** forwarded to your new address.*

Send all changes to:

**Membership Committee, PO Box 51424, Eugene, OR 97405**  
or [membership@obsidians.org](mailto:membership@obsidians.org)

## OBSIDIANS, INC

P.O. Box 322, Eugene, OR 97440

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

### Board of Directors

Jim Pierce, President  
Lana Lindstrom, Vice President  
Kathy Hoeg, Secretary  
Stewart Hoeg, Treasurer  
Wayne Deeter, Lyn Gilman-Garrick,  
Larry Huff, Verna Kocken, & Elle Weaver

*Board meetings are held at 6 pm the first Wednesday of each month, except October when it is the Wednesday after the Annual Meeting, and no meeting in August.*

### Committee Chairpersons

Byways-By-Bus..... Liz Reanier  
Climbs..... Larry Huff  
Concessions..... Lyn Gilman-Garrick  
Conservation/SciEd... Pat Bitner/Joella Ewing  
Entertainment..... Laurie Finkhouser  
Extended Trips..... Jim Duncan  
Finance..... Stewart Hoeg  
Librarian/Historian..... Lenore McManigal  
Lodge Building..... Doug Nelson  
Lodge Grounds..... John Jacobsen  
Membership..... Barb Revere  
Online..... Wayne Deeter  
Publications..... Joanne Ledet  
Publicity..... Elle Weaver  
Safety..... Jim Pierce  
Summer Camp..... Lana Lindstrom  
Summer Trips..... Brian Hamilton/Scott Hovis  
Trail Maintenance..... Matt Bell  
Winter Trips..... Tom Musselwhite

## The **OBSIDIAN** Bulletin

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**The Obsidian Bulletin**

P.O. Box 51424, Eugene, OR 97405

### Deadline

**for September 2010 Bulletin**  
**Saturday, August 28, 2010**

### Assembly/Mailing Team

**For June Bulletin**

Assembly & Mail Manager - Lou Maenz  
Assembly Team - Tom Adamcyk, Don Baldwin, LaRee Beckley, John & Lenore McManigal, Margaret Prentice and Barb Revere

### Editorial Team

Writing & Editorial Staff - Bea Fontana, Ken Frazer, John Jacobsen, Joanne Ledet, Beth Roy and Ethel Weltman  
Copy Editors - Beth Roy & Ethel Weltman  
Graphics, Design & Desktop Publishing - Stewart Hoeg & John Jacobsen

# Bob Dark

## 1926 - 2010

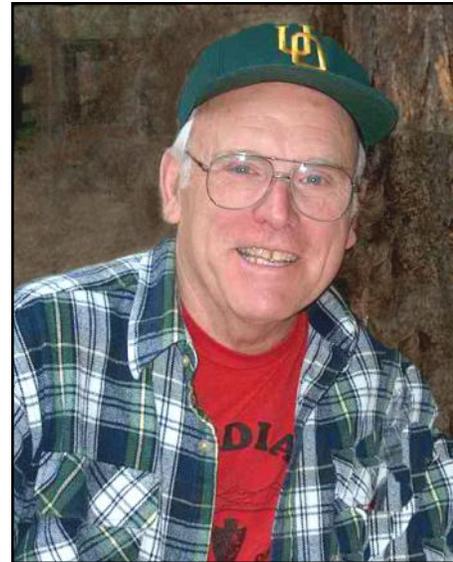
**R**OBERT G. 'BOB' DARK OF EUGENE died June 16 of age-related causes. He was 83. No service is planned. He was born October 19, 1926 in Edmond, Oklahoma and married Anita Kinnear in Coos Bay. She died in 1976. He married Patricia Morin on March 17, 1979, in Eugene. Bob served in the Navy from 1942 to 1945. He attended Central Missouri State Teachers College, Oklahoma State University and the University of Oregon. He received his Doctor of Dental Medicine degree from Oregon Health Sciences University in 1960 and worked as a dentist for more than 30 years. Survivors include his wife, a son Charles of Eugene, a daughter Delyn Dunham of Eugene, and 3 grandchildren.

Bob was one of the three living Obsidian Honorary Members. He joined the club in 1961, served on the Board several times and was President of the club in 1964. He also served as Climbs Chair, Lodge Chair, Grounds Chair and Summer Camp Chair (and probably others). He led 18 climbs and 18 hikes for the Obsidians and participated in 120 trips/climbs. He was involved for many years in the scouting, equipment maintenance and set-up for Obsidian summer camps. Bob, a great organizer, started making plans months ahead. We never saw him with a checklist - it was all in his head. Over the years, Bob had three Ford vans and one Dodge van. He and Pat didn't hesitate to fill the van with Obsidians and head out of town for raft trips, climbs, hikes, and extended trips. Memorable trips included a 1978 Mt. Rainier hike, a 1982 John Day River raft trip, a 1990 Rogue River/Paradise Lodge hike (47 people were on this trip), a 1990 Mt. Bachelor/Sunriver ski trip, a 1993 Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge hike/camp trip and a 1996 Hotel Diamond-Steens Mountain outing. Those who signed up for his trips have many stories to share and they all begin with: "Remember when Bob led . . ." or, "Remember when Bob took his van to . . ." He volunteered untold hours and went the extra mile to share his love of the Obsidians and the out of doors.

Bob and Bud Proctor co-led a climb of Mt. Washington in June of 1977. A few lines from Bud's trip report convey his generosity and skills. "Twelve climbers loaded into Bob's 12-passenger van while all packs trailed behind in his utility trailer . . . Bob's climbing and belaying talents became evident as he climbed the chute and then belayed the rest of the group up to the rappel point . . . At timberline on the way down more of Bob's talents became evident. With his internal radar turned on, Bob zeroed in on the return trail and led us back through the trees directly to camp."

Bob wrote in one of his reports, "I want to thank all the people who went on the trip for being so congenial and making this such a fun outing. You're easy to be with so let's do it again."

- Janet Jacobsen



## Summer Camp Memories

**MY BEST MEMORIES OF BOB** as a leader extraordinaire are from the many years my wife and I joined him and his wife Pat on the setup crew for summer camp. Bob worked for months fixing this and that to make sure that summer camp was a smooth operation. With many vehicles in the set up caravan each driver had a CB-radio so that Bob could give a heads up on what was at the top of the hill or around the next corner. He kept everyone well entertained while those of us in the back followed pulling the various trailers before the advent of the yellow beast (the Penske). As soon as we rolled into camp, Bob began to unload and explain what had to be done. Bob would be the first one up each morning, starting the fire so that we would have hot water for our coffee (instant back then). During the week of camp, while others were out hiking and exploring, Bob worked quietly behind the scenes making water runs, hauling garbage, fixing what needed fixing and making sure we were safe. If hikers needed to be dropped off at a trailhead for a one-way hike, Bob took them in his van. He chaired the 1989 summer camp at Rattlesnake Flats in the North Cascades. The Forest Service assured him that the name of the area had no significance. Was Bob surprised to discover just the opposite! Empty #10 cans were in great demand to avoid having to step out of the tent in the middle of the night.

Bob taught me most everything I learned and probably a lot that I've forgotten about summer camp, the Lodge, the Lodge grounds and the history of the Obsidians. He also showed me a knot that I use all the time - I don't know if it has a proper name, I just call it the Bob knot.

- John Jacobsen

# BOARD NOTES

July 7, 2010

By Kathy Hoeg, Secretary

President Jim Pierce called the meeting to order. Other Board members present: Lana Lindstrom, Wayne Deeter, Stewart Hoeg, Verna Kocken, Larry Huff, Elle Weaver, Lyn Gilman-Garrick, and Kathy Hoeg. Also present were: Barb Revere, Lenore McManigal, Pat Bitner, Jim Duncan, Laurie Funkhouser, Brian Hamilton, Matthew Bell, Joanne Ledet, John Jacobsen, Scott Hovis, and Doug Nelson.

**Treasurer's Report:** Stewart Hoeg reviewed the financials. The Board approved payment of the bills.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Summer Trips (Scott Hovis and Brian Hamilton):** Summer trips collected \$134.00 from members and \$147.00 from non-members for a total of \$281.00.

**Winter Trips (Tom Musselwhite):** Chair will be contacting committee members over the course of the summer.

**Climbs (Larry Huff):** Two climbs in June. Fees \$66.00, 7 members and 3 non. Larry gave a presentation about the activities of the Climbs Committee. He told how climbing had been part of the origin of the Obsidians, the committee's bylaws and tasks, the requirements for being a climbs leader and other committee items.

**Trail Maintenance (Matthew Bell):** Two outings in June. Upcoming Trail Maintenance outing July 28th will begin to cleanup the cobbled sections of the West Spencer Butte Trail. National Forest and Wilderness Area Trail Maintenance: To select a trail to adopt in the National Forests. An inventory of Obsidians hand tools that could be used for trail maintenance outings has been completed.

Month Statistics -- Outings on Spencer Butte: 2 (6/5 Nat. Trails Day & 6/30); Total Participants: 25; 15 members; 10 non-members.

**By-Ways-By-Bus (Liz Reanier):** On June 22 a group went to Salem's Riverfront Park. Obsidian bus trips that remain are still open. Interested persons should contact trip registrars as soon as possible.

**Conservation, Science, & Education (Pat Bitner & Joella Ewing):** Lana Lindstrom's Costa Rica slide show drew 44 viewers and \$42. Tom Musselwhite led four members on a conservation hike

along Cayuse Creek and collected \$4.

**Publication (Joanne Ledet):** Thanks to Jean Coberly for her help on the June *Bulletin*. No *Bulletin* in August.

**Entertainment (Laurie Funkhouser):** The June 25th presentation by Devon Comstock of ONDA was attended by 35 individuals with receipts of \$35.00! July and August there will be no presentations. Rick Ahrens will be presenting in September!

**Membership (Barb Revere):** There are currently 494 members: 441 Active, 25 Associate, 2 Honorary, 8 Junior, 18 Life. No new applications to present for approval this month.

**Publicity (Elle Weaver):** National Trails Day was June 5th. This year three of our hikes were posted on their national website. Thanks to Lyn Gilman-Garrick and Chris Stockdale for traveling to Oakridge and manning an info table at the National Trails Day event sponsored by The Greater Oakridge Area Trail Stewards. On June 30th, Sue Sullivan's camp CD was shown to a group of residents at a local retirement facility. The residents enjoyed seeing the photos of Obsidians camping and hiking. Concessions kindly donated a visor and a cap to be given to the residents.

**Concessions (Lyn Gilman-Garrick):** The Concessions Committee was relatively quiet in June. Sharon is attending the extended trip to Sequim and will take a few select items to sell.

**Library/Historian (Lenore McManigal):** As of Monday night all reports have been posted to the activity sheets.

**Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen):** Fir Removal/Oak Restoration Project - Thanks to Pat Adams, we got a couple more firs down and bucked, and then thanks to Matt Bell for splitting and stacking the wood. Work Party June 15 - Regular spruce-up before Sci/Ed night and potluck. Thanks to Darlene Mancuso, Effie Neth, and Pat Adams. Special thanks to Effie Neth who drops by the Lodge from time to time to work on blackberry whacking and brush cleanup. Bills turned in for reimbursement: \$21 for gas and \$12.99 for ant spray.

**Safety (Jim Pierce):** Scott Hovis had

one of the Club's first-aid kits stolen from his car. He will reimburse the Club for its cost. The first aid class has been scheduled for three Mondays in November -- November 1, 8, and 15.

## OLD BUSINESS

Jim Duncan reported that the attribution plaque for the Dallas Cole mural has been completed.

## NEW BUSINESS

Matthew Bell, Jan Jacobsen, and John Jacobsen will attend a meeting on July 8 to discuss EWEB's planned installation of a pipeline near the Lodge. The City of Eugene and other interested groups may contribute to the building of a trail.

Jim Pierce reminded the group that the Annual Meeting will be October 8. Items that will be voted on at the meeting need to be published in the September Bulletin.

Elle Weaver reported that she has applied for a booth at the Eugene Celebration, but hasn't received a reply yet. The Celebration is earlier this year: August 27 - 29. The organizers are reconfiguring the booth area. Elle is seeking volunteers to take 2-hour shifts.

Elle Weaver asked if there could be a continuously updated list of the club's membership in the Members Only section of the web site. John Jacobsen volunteered to create a list that will have the names of all members plus any email addresses or phone numbers.

John Jacobsen asked if the Safety Committee would be clarifying whether incidents are discussed at Board meetings and whether people get notified of incident reports. Jim Pierce said that the Safety Committee is revising and cleaning up the Safety Manual and will resolve these issues.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jan Jacobsen will be leading another set of Get-Acquainted Hikes on July 16 at 10:00 and 5:30. Club members are encouraged to attend and bring guests.

John Jacobsen announced that his nephew, David Morgan, has donated \$120 worth of software to the Obsidian Publication Committee. The Board wrote and signed a thank-you note on one of the club's new picture note cards.

# Going Underground

(Continued from page 1)

bers. A 30-foot caveman statue still hefts his club by the Grants Pass exit on Interstate 5.

I'll tell you what's new at the caves in a minute. But first, you may well be wondering where to stay while you're in this neck of the woods. A variety of accommodations are available. Two nearby campgrounds are open May through September: Cave Creek Campground and Grayback Campground are each just a few miles from the caves. The Oregon Caves' grand old lodge, the 1934 Chateau, is a hotel that also features a 1930s coffee shop with a view of a waterfall. For weirder digs, try the Treesort in nearby Takilma. It's a private forest with ten rentable treehouses. Lodgings are connected by stairs, cable ziplines, and swinging footbridges as much as 40 feet in the air.

**NOW, ABOUT THE CAVES.** They're cool. In fact, they're 42 degrees Fahrenheit all year, so you'll need to bring warm clothes. You won't need flashlights, though, and you're not allowed to bring backpacks.

The ranger-guided, 90-minute cave tour climbs 0.6 mile up staircases and through passageways. Along the way you pass marble caverns with stalactites, pillars, and other dripstone formations that you won't see in other Northwest caves.

If you haven't been here for a while, you'll notice that the caves have a more natural look, thanks to a 14-year, \$1.2-million restoration effort.

Workers have removed a thousand tons of rubble left by earlier construction projects. Bats have been allowed to return. Some of the stalactites broken off as souvenirs by early visitors have been repaired with epoxy and powdered marble.

Bright colored lights have been replaced by a subtler incandescent lighting system, lessening the algae growth that had started to turn the marble green. Paths of native quartz and calcite have taken the place of black asphalt.

The tours now also showcase animal bones discovered during the restoration project, including grizzly bear bones more than 50,000 years old. Other bones found in the cave belonged to black bears, a bobcat, bats, small rodents, and two jaguars—a mammal that has been extinct in Oregon for millennia.

**FROM THE CAVE EXIT,** visitors return on their own on above-ground trails. The shortest route is a paved 0.3-mile path. If you'd like a longer hike, continue on a 3-mile loop to Big Tree, one of the largest Douglas firs in the world. Pets are banned on National Monument trails.

To drive there from Interstate 5 at Grants Pass, follow Highway 199 for 32 miles to Cave Junction. Then follow Oregon Caves pointers east on Highway 46 for 20 miles to a parking turnaround. Walk the road ahead 0.2 mile to the gift shop, visitor center, and cave entrance.

Tours leave about every hour from 10 am to 4 pm. Tickets are sold only at the National Monument and only on a first-come-first-served basis. Expect to pay \$8.50 for adults and \$6 for children below age 17.

Children under six must be at least 42 inches tall to join the standard cave tours, although rangers are planning to offer some tours for families with kids.

Also under consideration are adventurous off-trail tours, where rangers take serious spelunkers into parts of the cave that are usually off limits. So far, more than three miles of passageways have been discovered.

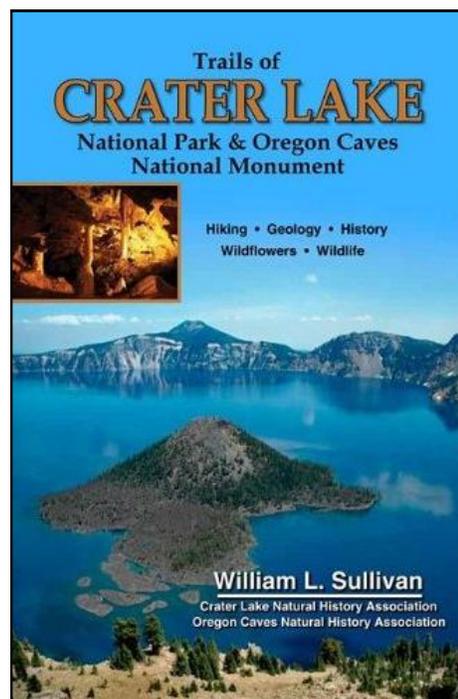
There's still plenty of room at Oregon Caves for adventure.

*Note: William L. Sullivan's new book, "Trails of Crater Lake National Park & Oregon Caves National Monument", describes the hikes, sights, geology, wildflowers, wildlife, and history of these two National Park Service destinations in Southern Oregon. See a review below.*

## Book Review:

### Bill Sullivan's Latest

By Janet Jacobsen



**TRAILS OF CRATER LAKE NATIONAL PARK & OREGON CAVES NATIONAL MONUMENT**, by William Sullivan, 2010, has a balanced coverage of hiking trails, geology, history, wildflowers and wildlife of two spectacular places to visit in Oregon. For anyone considering a visit to Crater Lake, this is the book to purchase. It has snippets of information that are up to date, making sure that one avoids potential frustration in a National Park. For example, Sullivan tells what you need to do to make sure that you get a ticket for the boat ride from Cleetwood Cove to Wizard Island. Just plan to stay for more than a day.

# TRIP REPORTS & OTHER ACTIVITIES



## Hikes

### Fall Creek

May 26, 2010

Leader: Susanne Twight-Alexander

6 miles, 200 ft. (Moderate)

**R**OARING CREEK, MUDDY TRAIL, RAIN, SUN--it was a good trip. I'd canceled once due to no signups and this time two of us set out for Fall Creek. It was raining but this spring you never know what might happen weatherwise. Fall Creek was as high as I've ever seen it, sometimes almost too loud to talk over. Wet ferns brushed against our legs, some almost waist high (we saw sword, lady, maidenhair, bracken and licorice ferns). Moss on the trees was thick and spongy. The trail has a lot of small hills so it was a good workout. There are many exposed roots to watch for and in some places the trail had crumpled a bit on the outside (saw horse hoofprints maybe from last fall). One bridge had a board missing and another looked as if it might collapse soon. Lots of muddy places, but it was a beautiful hike. Water droplets sparkled on the wood sorrel, even without sunshine. There were a few short periods of sun on the way out and more on the way back. Wrens sang from the hillsides. We saw a pair of mergansers trying to swim upstream against the strong current. The burned-over area is coming back nicely with dogwood in flower, vine maples getting tall and of course lots of fireweed that will bloom a little later. No place for shelter for lunch so we settled on a semi-dry place under a yew tree. Saw only one other hiker and her wet, muddy dog. Thanks to member Charlie Van Deusen for being willing to brave the elements! Members: Susanne Twight-Alexander and Charlie Van Deusen.

### Mt. Pisgah Sunset/Moonrise

May 27, 2010

Leader: Joella Ewing

3 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

**NEAR THE END OF A RAINY DAY**, the rain stopped and the sky partially cleared to give us perfect hiking weather and a beautiful sunset. Unlike Amtrak, the sun set right on schedule, painting the sky in subtle hues at first that rapidly turned into bright oranges, reds, and purples. As the city lights began to appear, two Obsidian members and two prospective members turned our attention to the east for a moonrise that didn't materialize through the heavy veil of remaining clouds. With the kind of weather we've had this May, though, one out of two ain't that bad. Members: Joella Ewing and Tom Musselwhite. Nonmembers: Barb Albrecht and Love Opincar.

### Mount Baldy

May 29, 2010

Leader: Richard Sundt

3 miles, 500 ft. (Easy)

**WITH HIGH CLOUDS BUT GOOD VISIBILITY** and no threat of rain, five hikers, starting around 9:15 am, trekked from Martin Street up the Headwaters of the Amazon trail. The path along the wooded ravine was in excellent condition despite the recent heavy downpours that affected the Eugene area in the previous week. All trees and bushes were fully in leaf and seemed to glow in their freshness despite the low, cloud-filtered light. After reaching Fox Hollow Road, we took the trail through Hult Park which was muddy in spots since this path is not covered with gravel. Upon reaching Dillard Road, we took to the shoulder and walked down for about ¼-mile to the Mt. Baldy parking lot. From there we wended our way up to the summit. There we took a break and had some light snacks. The views were excellent given the cloudy day. While Mary's Peak was nowhere visible, pretty much everything else in front of it was. Looking east afforded a view of Mt. Pisgah and surrounding hills. Nearby peaks were visible as well, but not the Sisters. We then descended in the direction of Spring Boulevard, eventually reaching a spot in the lower segment of Dillard Road. On the way down we stopped for the one water feature in this area, the pond at the foot of Mt. Baldy (and facing Spencer's Butte). The pond was at the highest level ever seen by the trip leader. From Dillard the group then hiked down the power-line cut to get back to the trailhead near Martin Street. By 12:15 the hike was over and this left us with a lot of time for other Saturday activities. Mt. Baldy was ascended by members Susan Sanazaro, Dick Hildreth, Ginny Reich, Clara Emlen, and Richard Sundt (leader).

### Clear Lake

May 30, 2010

Leader & Photo: Barb Revere

5 miles, 200 ft. (Easy)



**THE LAST FEW DAYS OF GOOD WEATHER** helped pull in a few additional hikers: we were a group of 12, six members and six nonmembers, one of whom has completed his application. The lake was glorious and the trail is dry (mostly), and in good shape despite the hoards of bicyclists that were riding around the lake

with us. If I say there were 35 to 40 cyclists, I am not exaggerating! They were polite and careful. About a dozen boats drifted on the lake, only a few with fishing poles. The bright overcast covered the mountain peaks, so the view was limited to the lake, but that was sufficient. We saw a handful of ducks and one possible osprey. A Steller's jay joined us for lunch at the Great Spring. Wildflowers were scarce, just a few tickseed monkey flowers in rocks along the trail. If the sun ever comes out to stay, spring is ready to come on fast. It was wonderful to see all the new faces and we hope to see each one again soon. Members: Dan Bates, Lynda Christiansen, Walt Dolliver, Clara Emlen, Joella Ewing and Barb Revere. Nonmembers: Roberta Chord, Jhea-whan Hong, John Moser, Noy Rathakette, Barry Taub and Myungok Yoon.

## Oregon Dunes

June 5, 2010

Leader: Paul Flashenberg Photo: Darko Sojak  
7.5 miles, 250 ft. (Moderate)



WITH A SMALL PARTY OF THREE eager to enjoy some sunshine, we departed Eugene in the usual cloud cover. After driving through the tunnel on the way to the coast, the clouds disappeared and we were warmly and brightly greeted. The sun persevered throughout much of the day and the coast was comfortably warm. After leaving the dunes overlook, we descended to the beach, and then hiked several miles south, noting where the return loop left the beach. After an hour's walk on the beach, we started back and then stopped briefly for lunch, as the wind had picked up. We then took the return loop through the dunes, briefly missing the posts that mark the way, and arrived back at our starting point having enjoyed a delightful day on the coast. Members Suzanne Steussy and Darko Sojak joined leader Paul Flashenberg on a dry sunny day.

## Lillian Falls/Goddard Nature Trail

June 6, 2010

Leader: Guy Strahon Photo: Tom Musselwhite  
2.4 miles, 600 ft. (Easy)

SEVEN HIKERS SET OFF on what was advertised as an 'easy' hike. It turned out to be more than that. The first half-mile was the complicated part: Mother Nature had provided three large trees at irregular intervals across the trail. We all managed to get up and over, but not gracefully. We also encountered three streams which were swollen and difficult to cross. Everyone had

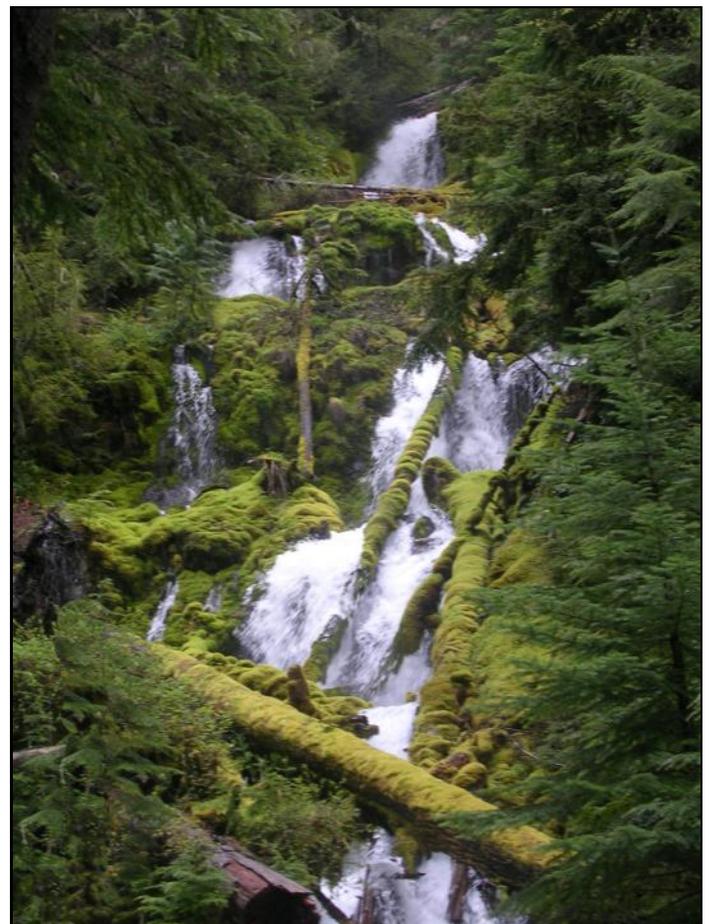
a different solution, and there were soaked feet for several of us. Lillian Falls proved to be quite beautiful, thanks to the large volume of water. We stopped for pictures and a snack, then a light rain shower began as we returned to the cars. Our previous experience at 'log jumping' and stream crossings made the trip faster. We drove back one mile from Lillian Falls for the Joe Goddard nature trail. Here we were awed by several huge old growth trees in a forest grove set aside for future generations. Chuck Eyers told us about another 'must see' further down the road a few miles. He led us on a trail to Salmon Creek Gorge and across a bridge to witness the river running at a very high level. Very beautiful - thanks Chuck. We celebrated our safe return at A&W in Oakridge with late lunch/treats. Members: Walt Dolliver, Chuck Eyers, Tom Musselwhite, Karla Rusow, Guy Strahon and Judith Terry; nonmember: Jim Woodard.

## Mary's Peak

June 8, 2010

Leader: Dan Christensen  
8 miles, 2,000 ft. (Moderate)

MARY'S PEAK, AT JUST OVER 4,000 FEET, is the highest point in the Coast Range. There are at least three different trails that lead to the top. Since a paved road goes to within .5 mile of the summit, access is easy for those who are not seeking a more strenuous hike. This North Trail hike, however, requires a climb of four miles, with an elevation gain of 2,000 feet in order to reach the summit. I used to do this hike around the first of May, but the snow was typically substantial and the weather always



Lillian Falls

inclement so I moved it into June. Even then, I had to postpone the hike five days in order to wait for a dry day. The trail tread is excellent, with no standing water and very little mud, despite the recent heavy rains. The switchbacks have been designed in a way that makes the elevation gain seem much less than it is. The trail climbs through a beautiful hemlock forest with a dense canopy. Lots of wildflowers were visible including snow queen, blue-eyed mary, glacier and fawn lilies, trilliums, a magnificent display of fairy lanterns, irises, columbine, phlox and one in-bloom delphinium. One high mountain meadow still contained a display of daffodils. The trail emerges onto the parking lot at the 3.5 mile mark. So the last half mile is in the open, unless you elect to take the alternative trail through a beautiful Noble fir forest (recommended at least one way). As one passes through the locked gate and proceeds up the service road, there usually is a magnificent display of wildflowers along the south slope. But those appear to be delayed this year due to our long stretch of inclement weather. The view from the summit is fantastic: you can see all the way from Diamond Peak to Hood and Adams and to the Coast in the west. On the very rare clear day, you would be able to see the ocean. We had very good visibility despite a high cloud cover, but we couldn't quite see the waves rolling up on the beach. While eating lunch on the summit, we were visited by a nearly tame chukar, which seemed no more concerned about the presence of humans than a chicken would. Having come up the road, we proceeded down through the Noble fir forest and returned to our cars a couple of hours later. If you leave Eugene by 8 am, you should be able to return by 4:30 or so. A highly recommended hike for those who are interested in doing a little work in order to be rewarded with a great view at the top. Members: Dan Christensen, Janet Jacobsen and Lana Lindstrom; nonmember: Leslie Graymer.

## **Skinner Butte Eaglets**

**June 11, 2010**

**Leader: Margaret & Richard Essenberg**

**1 miles, 200 ft. (Easy)**

**ON A CHILLY, OVERCAST DAY**, seven Obsidians met in Skinner Butte parking lot. As we paused at Lamb Cottage for a distant view of the bald eagles' nest, we heard an adult eagle cry and watched a crow make many swooping passes into a Douglas fir east of the nest tree - a daring crow attacking the eagle? We walked up the north side of the butte and from three viewpoints saw the two eight-week-old eaglets preening, eating, and flapping their wings. As we reached the summit, one of the eagle parents flew to the nest. Near the other end of the avian homeowners' size range, we saw two of this season's bushtit nests before descending the steps beside the basalt climbing wall and returning to the parking lot. Members: Margaret Essenberg, Richard Essenberg, Richard Hildreth, Barb Revere, Tom Revere and Charlie Van Deusen; nonmember: Caroline Forell.

## **Rebel Rock**

**June 12, 2010**

**Leader: Larry Huff**

**13 miles, 3,583 ft. (Difficult)**

**THE TRIP WAS ORGANIZED AS A SNOW TRIP** due to cooler than normal temps, higher than average precipitation and the McKenzie Bridge ranger station reporting a snow level of 4,200 feet. We lucked out by having beautiful weather and snow was

not a factor. That being said, it was a physical trip in rugged country. We chose to do the hike by its south loop to maximize success as it's more direct to the Rock itself. The first five miles of trail ascends from 2,000 feet at the confluence of Rebel Creek and the South Fork of the McKenzie River to 5,300 feet at the crest of a ridge I call West Rebel with great views of Mt. Jefferson, the Three Sisters, Rebel Mountain and Rebel Rock, our goal for the day. What happened to all that snow? Due to the southern exposure of Rebel Mountain and the whole south loop, the snow was only a minor inconvenience. We stashed our snowshoes and other implements worthy of snow at the West Rebel view and continued forward to a point of interest along the trail known as Rebel Lookout and helipad. The lookout is weather-beaten and more a rodent hostel than a place for humans to lay down a bed roll. It has great views of the South Fork of the McKenzie canyon, the southern end of the Three Sisters Wilderness and the Cascade crest peaks of Mt. Bachelor, Packsaddle, Horse and Irish Mountains.

After another half mile you leave the vague trail behind and ascend Rebel Mountain while traversing the Rebel Rock geologic area, a series of weathered basalt dikes making up a precipitous and imposing wall of rock high on the canyon wall. Once we arrived at the summit of Rebel Mountain we traversed south through thick brush to the Rock itself. Once at the Rock there are sweeping views to the east of the Three Sisters, Broken Top and Mt. Bachelor. The Rock itself is imposing, the summit tantalizingly close, but I would not recommend scaling this overhanging, mossy and loose precipice without some protection. Some other highlights along the trail were forested ravines that were choked with deadfall and flowing streams. Up higher, the forest opened to meadows choked with new growth that obscured the trail and managed to separate our party once or twice. Showy wild flowers such as yellow orchids, creamy white trilliums and blue/white irises really added beauty to these brushy meadows and rock outcroppings that dominate the high country. It was a strenuous day with blisters, cramping and dehydration that accompanied us through the trip and affected us all to some degree. It was a great experience nevertheless with a great group of fellow Obsidians. Members: Sean Breslin, Danni Harris, Bistra Hristova and Larry Huff.

## **Erma Bell Lakes**

**June 13, 2010**

**Leader: Joella Ewing**

**5 miles, 350 ft. (Easy)**

**THE MIDDLEFORK RANGER STATION** could guarantee no snow on the Skookum Creek Road to the trailhead, but was not sure about the trail. I'm glad to report there was none! But we did step over a few small trees blown down during winter. Seven members and three nonmembers enjoyed a pristine sunny day, listening to bird calls and the breeze in the trees, lazing on the banks of the lower and middle lakes, and watching eagles soar overhead. We even saw hummingbirds, fish jumping and three young fishermen in inflatable rafts. One visiting hiker and prospective member is a young Peruvian who leads ten commercial trips a year to Machu Picchu. Members: Carol Anderson, Clara Emlen, Joella Ewing, John Moser, Tom Musselwhite, Suzanne Steussy and Michelle Tambellini. Nonmembers: Graciea Alca, Marissa Athens and Noy Rathakette.

## Cayuse Creek

June 14, 2010

Leader: Tom Musselwhite

10 miles, 1,700 ft. (Moderate)

**FOUR OBSIDIANS MET SHORTLY** before 8:00 am at Amazon Community Center and gathered around the trip leader's 'show and tells.' The 30-inch diameter, 350-year-old Douglas fir round from a tree which once grew near our destination for the day got the most attention. Billed as a Conservation Hike and sponsored by the Sci-Ed/Conservation Committee, this adventure begins 70 miles from Eugene with a look down the North Fork of the Middle Fork of the Willamette River. The vantage point from the FS1944 bridge is a classic. After a brief discussion about local topography and significant geographical features and noting the confluences of both Fisher Creek and Cayuse Creek, we began our trek up Cayuse Creek following Forest Service road 1944. We passed one camper hidden away in a remote site and soon saw our first reportable wildlife, a small brown rabbit with rather large ears. Hikers discussed recent studies on the linear relationship between trees and bird populations. We also discussed large woody debris, debris flows, carbon storage and sequestration in northwest forests, critical water temperatures, fishing, and the importance of shade to hikers on a warm summer day. Alas the tenor of the trip soon changed and the conversation became: "Wow that's something, you could have billed this as a waterfall hike." Before long we were plotting extended trips and lost in the springtime wonderland of bright mosses, blooming rhododendrons, and cascading rivulets beneath the mostly red cedar and fir canopy.

Lunchtime found us at the end of the road. With clear skies and perfect weather and noting nary a single mosquito, after a leisurely lunch our small company decided to bushwhack another half-mile through dense forest to a small lake. Named Devils Lake on the map, we soon discovered why - devil's club, huge patches of the thorny, thick-stemmed forest menace! Proceed with caution. We also 'discovered' a magnificent undisturbed grove of huge, four-foot diameter trees. After navigating over, around, and through the devil's club, negotiating vine maple, climbing over and around huge downed trees, and traversing natural log bridges crisscrossing Cayuse Creek, we arrived at the edge of a small, perhaps 300-foot diameter, mostly round lake. The far side of the lake was a snow bank in a natural bowl beneath a ridge. As we stood admiring both the scene and our own

perseverance for getting there, we were greeted by two salamanders that came swimming up to us at the water's edge. The hike back out to the road was another adventure. We took a somewhat higher route along the edge of the draw where we encountered more vine maple and steep terrain, but we dropped out of the wild and back onto the road in just the spot we were aiming for. We arrived back at our automobiles after a brisk five miles downhill and were soon on the way home. Kudos to all participants for a super great day. We arrived back in Eugene at 6:30 pm. Hikers, all Obsidians, were Lamonte Smith, Pat Soussan, Mary Holbert, and Tom Musselwhite (leader). Everyone agreed that this group's well-matched abilities and overall condition were important to making this trip enjoyable and safe. Hikers considering this trip in the future should remember that unmarked trails could be dangerous; map and compass or GPS skills, along with other wilderness skills are prerequisites to safety.

## Get Acquainted Hikes

June 16, 2010

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

2.5 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

**RIBBON TRAIL LODGE GET ACQUAINTED HIKEs:** the two Get Acquainted hikes started at Hendricks Park and continued on the Ribbon Trail to 30th Street with a stop at the Obsidian Lodge. What a surprise it was for the nonmembers to catch their first glimpse of the lodge in its unique landscape. Inside the lodge, we used the self-guided art guide. Hopefully our club can sponsor more of these hikes. The trip took around 1 ½ hours. Non-member Mindy Hollenbeck participated in the 10:00 hike. Thirteen signed up for the 5:30 hike. Members Daniele Delaby, Margit Hollerud, Janet Jacobsen, Sandra Larsen, John Moser, and Barbara Schomaker were joined by nonmembers Roberta Chord, Kristy Downs, Keith Christensen, Inger Janemark, Noy Rathakett, Rinzin Wangchuk, and Joanne Whitfield.

## Cone Peak/Iron Mountain

June 19, 2010

Leader & Photo: John Jacobsen

6.8 miles, 2,500 ft. (Moderate)

**THE WEATHERMAN'S PREDICTION OF RAIN** did not come to pass, but we did encounter fog, clouds, snow banks and cool temperatures on this loop hike, none of which diminished from

*Chilly lunch near Cone Peak, with Iron Mountain in background, left.*



another great day in the mountains with a pleasant group of people. Departing the Iron Mountain lower trailhead off of FS Road 15 about 10:00 am, we hiked counter-clockwise to get the uphill to Tombstone Pass out of the way at the beginning, rather than the end of the day. While not the earliest in the year that I have done this trip, the flower season had just barely gotten underway, with an abundance of trillium and glacier lilies (I don't think I have seen glacier lilies before on this loop). There were many other flowers coming on, but it will be a couple of weeks before the big show starts. I found it a real treat to see what happens early in the growing season in the area. We did not go up Cone Peak as planned due to the fog (no view) and the wet grass (making an already steep, difficult cross-country slope even worse). So after a brief lunch (due to the chilly conditions) about 11:45 at the rocks on the ridge to Cone Peak, we headed around the north side of Iron Mountain. While there were patches of snow along the trail and visible on the mountains, the area on the north side of Iron Mountain, which can often have considerable late snow on the trail, was relatively snow-free, with the remaining snow banks easily traversed. As we approached the summit of Iron Mountain on the northeast side we again encountered quite a bit of snow, but again it was relatively easy to cross it. The view from the summit of Iron Mountain, while not extensive, was not too bad since the clouds had lifted some from earlier in the day. After a leisurely stay at the summit platform, we headed down to the cars via the Iron Mountain Trail, arriving back at the trailhead about 3:00. Members: Janet Jacobsen, John Jacobsen, Ed Lichtenstein, Sarah Praskievicz and Susanne Twight-Alexander. Nonmembers: Robyn Barthel and Evan Onaclea.

## North Bank Deer Preserve, Eastern Part

June 19, 2010

Leader & Photo: Chris Stockdale

8 miles, 1,500 ft. (Moderate)



Hikers attempting to look grumpy at Grumpy's Pond!

FOUR OBSIDIANS MET UP AT THE SCENIC WAL-MART in Cottage Grove to carpool down to the eastern access trailhead of this wonderful, underused hiking area. The leader had done numerous exploratory hikes there and was anxious to show off this section of the Preserve that hasn't been offered as an Obsidian hike. We were lucky with the weather as we had barely a sprinkle on a day that was forecast to contain showers. Setting off from the Comstock Day trailhead (a very pleasant, newly con-

structed area with restrooms, picnic shelter, and even a BBQ) we sauntered up Soggy Bottoms Trail. This lived up to its name in several places where we had to attempt to circumvent the extreme mud and muck. Climbing up higher into the hills we finally escaped the mud and could enjoy the profusion of wildflowers and extensive poison oak displays. We stopped for a quick snack at Grumpy's Pond before heading further up towards the ridge. Our grassy lunch spot not only gave us fabulous views of the North Umpqua River Basin and surrounding hills, but we also ate right below a Purple Martin Sanctuary with song entertainment from the inhabitants. The 'nest' houses are installed on long poles and look nothing like a bird's house but more like things from outer space but obviously the birds like them. After lunch we climbed up and down the 4-mile long Ridge Trail that offered views in every direction before finally heading down to the access road. Hikers were members Lynda Christiansen, Becky Lipton, Chris Shuraleff and leader Chris Stockdale. *To access this trailhead, you need to drive the North Bank Road past the west trailhead another seven miles; turn left into a gated area that is well signed and follow the road about half a mile to the trailhead. The trailhead has a superb trail map showing all the different routes one can take. Horses, dogs, mountain bikes as well as hikers are welcome in this area yet we saw just a couple of horse people at the beginning and not another soul during our 5-hour day.*

## Heceta Head

June 23, 2010

Leader: Sandra Larsen

6.5 miles, 800 ft. (Moderate)

THE WEATHER GODS WERE IN OUR FAVOR as we didn't have any rain, only clouds and a nice cool temperature which was ideal for hiking. Our group of four started from Washburne State Park day use area and hiked south on the beach to the Hobbitt Trail. We had only one stream crossing where a few of us got wet feet. We climbed up the headland to the lighthouse. On the way we met a former Obsidian member hiking the opposite direction and then on arrival at the lighthouse, we met Obsidian member Birgitte Williams with some guests from Norway. After lunch, three of our group toured the lighthouse and then we returned the same way we came. There weren't the usual good photo ops as it was a little too cloudy, but there were a few wild irises in bloom. This trail often has very muddy spots so hiking poles are put to good use. This was the third trip for Marcia Karnesky so she is ready to become a new member. Members: Dan Bates, Brenda Kameenui and Sandra Larsen.

## Iron Mountain/Cone Peak Meadows

June 26, 2010

Leader: Becky Lipton

6.6 miles, 1,900 ft. (Difficult)

TWELVE HAPPY HIKERS zipped up Iron Mountain, enjoying the splendid weather and blue skies of finally-arrived summer. Wildflowers were just barely beginning to bloom in patches after heavy quantities of late spring snows and unusually cool and wet May/June weather. Suspect the wildflower bloom this year will be in full swing in another two weeks or so. A full 10 of our happy hikers were guests, and a congenial and fast group they

were! Members: Dan Christensen and Becky Lipton; nonmembers: Samantha Algen, Malissa Bare, Taub Barry, Sherrill Bower, Tom Boyd, Juliana Cichy, Chuck Harpham, Frank Lulich, Chris Murphy and Laura Murphy.

## Sullivan Log Cabin

June 26, 2010

Leader: Bill Sullivan  
3 miles, 200 ft. (Easy)

NEARLY TWO DOZEN MEMBERS AND GUESTS of the Salem Chemeketans and Eugene Obsidians hiked a 1.5-mile private trail through old-growth Sitka spruce along the Siletz River to the log cabin featured in Bill Sullivan's memoir, *Cabin Fever*. At the cabin, Janell provided coffee and cookies from the woodstove. Paula Hyatt noted that she'd first done this hike 30 years ago when Bill's father Wes was writing articles in the Salem newspaper about the cabin's pioneer-style construction without power tools. On a return loop, the group visited Bill's 'writing cabin,' a smaller log building in the woods where he writes his books with a typewriter. It was a gorgeous summer day! Members: Tom Gould, Colleen Milliman, Greg Milliman and Bill Sullivan. Nonmembers: Roxanne Blankenship, Mareen Bouchard, Gary Burgess, Karen Burgess, Elly Collier, Bob Dressler, Linda Hofman, Paula Hyatt, Everett Knott, Bruce Patterson, Lorraine Resoff, Becky Salibrici, Marilyn Sander, Roberta Selvy, Ken Skidmore, Nelda Skidmore, Loyd Wildbanks and Shanon Wright.



## Bicycle Trips

### Aufderheide/Blue River to Box Canyon

May 30, 2010

Leader: Sam Miller  
52 miles, 2,700 ft. (Difficult)

**T**HE GREAT MAY MONSOON OF 2010 subsided enough to permit a fine bicycle ride on the Aufderheide Highway. Under somewhat sunny skies our group of six peddled between Highway 126 outside of Blue River to the pass at Box Canyon and back. Our 52-mile ride began along the banks of Cougar Reservoir and ascended the road that parallels the south fork of the McKenzie River. After climbing 2,700 feet, we enjoyed a rapid descent, stopping for lunch near the river. Members participating in this ride were Sue Wolling and Sam Miller (co-leaders), Larry Dunlap, Paul Brown, and nonmembers Glenn Mitterman and Jeanne Palzinski.

### Ankeny Hill/Buena Vista

June 15, 2010

Leader: Richard Hughes  
20 miles, 0 ft. (Moderate)

**THIS TRIP WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED** to be a 33-mile ride with a 1,000-foot elevation gain. Instead, we ended up putting

only 20 miles on the odometer due to an unexpected downpour which dampened our bodies, but not our appetite. After reaching our vehicles and shedding our bikes, we retreated to the 'Word of Mouth' restaurant in Salem for a satisfying lunch. Members: Cathy Irwin, David Becker, Anne Bonine, Pat Esch, Kitson Graham, Peter Graham, Richard Hughes, Lana Lindstrom, Evelyn Nagy, Barb Revere, Charlie Van Deusen and Peggy Windle; nonmember: Don Kindt.

## Old McKenzie Highway

June 26, 2010

Leader: Sue Wolling  
47 miles, 3,800 ft. (Difficult)

**SINCE THERE WAS STILL FOUR FEET OF SNOW** on McKenzie Highway on the originally planned date for this ride, we re-scheduled, and managed to stay within the time when the road was open to bicycles but closed to motor vehicles. The result was a wonderful, quiet ride among a steady trickle of bicyclists. We enjoyed not only the cool forest cover and spectacular views of Cascade Peaks, but also the smooth pavement of a highway that has been closed for re-surfacing over the past few years. The nice conditions made for a comfortable ascent. Judging from the gears I used, the climb is challenging, but not steep; like a very long, curvy Fox Hollow Road. The new pavement and lack of cars made the descent much less treacherous than it has felt in the past. Only two of us enjoyed this great ride: Jackie Murdoff (nonmember) and Sue Wolling (leader)



## Paddle Trips

### Fish Lake

June 13, 2010

Leader: Ellen Sather

**A**FTER A DECADE-LONG WINTER we decided to celebrate the second day of summer by boating on Fish Lake. As many of you know, Fish Lake dries up during the summer. There is something magical seeing this special place while 'it's there' - especially on a beautiful sunny day. We went to the far end of the lake and up one of the fingers until we came to a log barrier too big to portage around. We found a grassy bank which was a great spot for a relaxing lunch. Ducks and geese abounded. We followed several flotillas of mom and chicks. The morning's light made striking reflections on the water, a perfect picture opportunity. After a leisurely paddle back to the dock we gathered for some Talking Rain and health-food snacks (potato chips). Many of us felt the day was a peaceful experience we will remember for a long time. Many thanks to Lana Lindstrom who really did all the work. Members: Anne Bonine, Marlene Drescher, Pat Esch, Lana Lindstrom, Judy Ness, Jack O'Donnell and Ellen Sather.



## Climbs

### **Diamond Peak/Pioneer Gulch**

**May 23, 2010**

**Leader: Larry Huff**

**8 miles, 3,749 ft. (I-1)**

**THE MORNING STARTED OUT BRISK** with a fresh coat of snow at the trailhead. The sky overhead was slate gray with a low ceiling. The trail bed was visible through the snow for the first .7 mile. We proceeded on a N.E. bearing for another .5 mile. We ascended the south west ridge en route to the false summit; along the way the snow conditions were approximately 1.5 feet of unconsolidated corn snow over a base. There was brief clearing on the way up but the summit would never reveal itself. Somewhat intermittent views gave glimpses of Summit Lake, Calapooya Ridge, Cowhorn and Sawtooth peaks. At treeline I began to place wands and we became somewhat cautious of slope loading in spots. We reveled at the way wind and snow turned Krumholtz pines into icy sculptures. During the climb the wind was mild, which in turn created a serene winter wonderland. We did manage to stand on the false summit at 8,421 feet. It was not safe this day to proceed to the summit: the cornices overhanging the east face were quite large and hidden in pea soup fog. It was an easy call for me but a tough spot for Sean. It was Sean's third attempt for the summit and once again forced to turn back. We had a nice descent as we enjoyed the beauty of the ridge. We even stopped and went over some navigation skills. When we returned to the trail the thaw was under way, and it was like being in a rain forest literally being poured on by the trees. When we arrived back at the cars the snow was gone. I was fortunate to enjoy the company of some intrepid adventurers, including members Sean Breslin, Bistra Hristova and Larry Huff, and nonmembers Beth Machamer and Shellie Robertson.

### **Mt. Thielsen**

**June 12, 2010**

**Leader: Wayne Deeter**

**10 miles, 3,800 ft. (I-2)**

**DUE TO LATE SNOWS THIS YEAR**, this was a mixed snow and rock climb. We donned snowshoes at 6,000 feet where the snow cover became continuous. This allowed us to take a shortcut through the big blow-down at the wilderness boundary, and another just below the ridge. Snow was patchy above 8,000

feet, so we stashed our snowshoes there. A steep snow field around the pinnacle necessitated use of ice axes. (A group of two in front of us had to turn around here as they didn't have axes.) Chicken Point was covered by snow, but our group was able to crowd onto a small ledge just below it while the fixed line was set up. We all lounged on top for a while, basking in the sun and admiring the views. Mounts Shasta and McLoughlin were seen to the south, fully enveloped in snow. The Phantom Ship could just be made out at the far side of Crater Lake. Some thought they could even see Lassen Peak! To the north we could see all the other Oregon Cascades peaks--Diamond through Mt. Hood. A fixed line was set up on the steepest part of the snow to make the descent safer. We couldn't take the short cut back through the blow down as the snow had softened up too much; saw cuts showed us the location of the trail. We were greeted back at the trailhead by billions of mosquitoes--summer is almost here! Members: Chrissy Anderson, Wayne Deeter and Bob Harrison; nonmembers: Wendy Sullivan and Tucker Teague.



*Wendy climbs to the summit of Mt. Thielsen*

### **Mt. Whitney – Mountaineer's Route**

**June 25-29, 2010**

**Leader: Brian Hamilton Asst: Peter Green**

**Photo: Bistra Hristova**

**12 miles, 6,200 ft. (I-2)**

**WE BEGAN OUR CLIMB AT 8:30 AM** on the main Mt. Whitney Trail. After a mile, we turned off and hiked up a climbers' trail where, after a few minutes, a sign was posted stating that "The Mountaineer's Route is not easy." Indeed, the first mile included several swift stream crossings, hiking across steep, sloping granite slabs, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Class scrambling up a large crack in a granite wall to the Ebersbacher Ledges. This series of ledges were sometimes only a few feet wide where a slip could result in a 200-foot fall. After the ledges, we reached Lower Boy

Scout Lake where the view opened up to the beautiful sight of glacier-carved cirques and Mt. Whitney's summit block. After a total elevation gain of 3,000 feet, three miles horizontal distance, and five hours of hiking, we reached Upper Boy Scout Lake, the site of our base camp. At our 11,300-foot camp, we were feeling the effects of the high altitude, so we used Day 2 on the mountain to rest, acclimate to the altitude, enjoy the scenery, and protect our food from raiding marmots. We also trekked up to Iceberg Lake at 12,600 feet to check out our route for the next day's summit attempt. Day 3, Summit Day, began at 4:30 am under a cloudless sky as we retraced our route to Iceberg Lake and then began to ascend the steep snow-filled couloir on the north side of Whitney's east flank. We often plunged to our hips in the soft snow, making the climb that much more difficult. At the top of the couloir, we reached the notch where the vista of snow-capped Sierra Nevada peaks appeared endless to the west and north. We then turned south to ascend a steep gully requiring 4<sup>th</sup> Class scrambling. We reached the summit at 11:30, sharing the huge, gently sloping, slab-strewn top with about a dozen climbers who had ascended the standard route. After an hour's rest, we began the nerve-racking descent down the gully. A rope would have made us more comfortable, but we made it without any mishaps. Often, we needed to remove packs and hand them to others before down-climbing difficult sections. Back at base camp, we rested for another hour before packing up and hiking out to the trailhead at Whitney Portal. When we finally removed our backpacks and boots, it was close to 7:30 pm. Just as before the climb, we ate dinner in Lone Pine and spent the night at Lone Pine Campground. The final day was filled with a 15-hour drive back to Eugene. Climbers included former Obsidian Rich Peevers who met us in Reno, and Obsidians Peter Green (assistant leader), Bistra Hristova, Randy Sinnott, and Brian Hamilton (leader.)



*Approach to Ebersbacher Ledges (upper right) on Mt. Whitney.*

## Chukars

*By Dan Christensen*



**O**N A RECENT HIKE TO THE TOP OF MARY'S PEAK our Obsidians group encountered a chukar on the peak. The bird was very tame and grazed close to us while we ate lunch. It ate nuts out of my hand. It was exciting to see this beautiful quail up close. I would speculate that it was a pet or farm raised bird which had somehow escaped. The wild chukar would be too wary to approach this close to humans. Additionally, the Coast Range is not its natural habitat. It prefers the open, rocky desert of Eastern Oregon. Still, it was a great bonus of our Mary's Peak experience to be close to a 'wild' creature.

The chukar is a partridge or quail which is a member of the pheasant family. Its natural environment is in Eurasia, where it is found from the Mediterranean to China and India. The chukar is the national bird of Pakistan. It was introduced to the United States in 1932 as a game bird. The wild chukar is very challenging to hunt as it tends to run ahead of the hunter rather than flying. It has also been successfully farmed in this country both as a pet and as a gourmet food source. The chukar has thrived in the US with a large and stable population. It is most common in Oregon, Nevada and Idaho.

# Rafting The North Umpqua River

*By Jim Duncan*

**P**ERFECT WEATHER (FINALLY) and the exciting and beautiful North Umpqua River made for a happy group of campers on our recent rafting trip on June 25 - 27. Seventeen members and friends enjoyed a fun-filled day on the river, which was at its best – great water and challenging rapids.

We arrived at our campground, Steamboat Ball Field, on Friday afternoon and after setting up camp, many of the group hiked the Calf Creek section of the North Umpqua Trail. This section is interesting because it stays very close to the river, giving us a nice view of some of the Class III rapids we would encounter the following day, and the trail had enough ups and downs to give us a reasonable workout.

Saturday was a beautiful sunny day, temperatures in the low 80s, perfect for rafting. Our guides from Ouzel Outfitters picked us up at the campsite and drove us to the put-in site at Boulder Flat. Our two previous Obsidians rafting trips had been required to put in downstream at Marsters because of a downed tree, so this time we had a bonus of about two additional miles of river to run. After the usual sobering safety lecture, we donned our flotation devices and helmets and set off in our three rafts to take on Boulder Hole, Dog Wave, Cardiac Arrest and other interesting rapids. As usual, this was a paddle-rafting trip where everyone in the raft is paddling; this kept us busy and gave us a sense of contributing to the adventure. In the calmer areas we had time to ad-

mire the many swallowtail butterflies, kingfishers and occasional American dippers we spotted along this gorgeous river.

After a generous lunch provided by Ouzel, the rafting got even more exciting as we encountered a quick succession of three Class III rapids, then more, culminating in a wild but successful ride through Pinball, the only Class IV rapid on this section of the river. Along the way, a couple of members decided to take a short dip in the river, presumably just to cool off. We continued downstream through more rapids, arriving at Gravel Bin, our take-out site around 3:30 in the afternoon. It was a great day on the river.

Dinners on Friday and Saturday evenings were group efforts and the food was delicious and plentiful. Thanks to Sharon and Joanne for organizing dinners and to everyone who volunteered to help. Ralph provided wood for our campfire each evening and brought extra water. Thanks to Walt for hauling propane, a stove, and other supplies from summer camp. It was a friendly group of adventurers, congenial and good-humored, which always makes these trips more fun.

Participants included nonmembers Janet Ashcraft and Marianne Maynard, and members John Agnew, Laree Beckley, Anne Bonine, Ralph Core, Walt Dolliver, Pat Esch, Ken Frazer, Mary Frazer, Joanne Ledet, Helen Martz, Judy Ness, Jack O'Donnell, Elle Weaver, and co-leaders Sharon and Jim Duncan



## UPCOMING



### Upcoming Bus Trips

#### Harrison Hot Springs Resort

Date: August 16-21

Cost: \$735

THERE ARE STILL OPENINGS FOR THIS TRIP. If interested, call Janet Speelman: 344-3019

#### Last Day of Summer BBQ at Waldo Lake

Date: Tuesday, September 21

Leaders: Barbara and Paul Beard

Cost: \$55 members, \$57 nonmembers

Reservations and checks: Barbara Payne 746-1964

LEAVE SHOPKO PARKING LOT AT 8 AM for our beautiful destination Waldo Lake, where we will have a summer barbecue with all the trimmings prepared by our leaders, Paul and Barbara and daughter Paula. Everything from hot dogs to corn on the cob, watermelon, potato salad and of course dessert, included in your trip fee. Fall colors will be on to show their marvelous hues, and a few side roads will be on the agenda for viewing along with the Willamette Fish Hatchery at the northeast side of Oakridge. An afternoon snack on the way home will include root beer floats at the

almost one and only drive-up A & W Root Beer Restaurant left in business.

#### Foothills of the Coast Range and Independence

Date: Wednesday, October 20

Leader: Ray Jensen

Cost: \$49 members, \$51 nonmembers

Reservations & checks: Mary Lee Cheadle 689-1085

WE WILL TRAVEL THROUGH PHILOMATH to King's Valley, where the color should be at its peak. Our coffee break will be at Bezell Memorial Forest, which is run by the Benton County Parks Department. Then on to the nearby Fort Hoskins Interpretive Center, a historic military site located above the Luckiamute River. There will be time here to walk the grounds and explore. We will continue on back roads to the Ritner Creek Covered Bridge and go through Monmouth to quaint Independence for a group lunch (included) at J. Bella Restaurant in the old Sperling Building. At 1 pm, we will visit the Heritage Museum located in the First Baptist Church (1888). We will have time to check out historic buildings on Main Street. Everything is located in a two square block area across from the new amphitheater along the Willamette River. In mid-afternoon, we will go to Buena Vista to the Wings of Wonder Conservatory where exotic butterflies are flying and more. We will have a conducted tour of the exhibits. We will complete the day at Hazelnut Hill for coffee, ice cream and nut confections. Return by 6 pm.

## It's the McManigal's 60th!

*John and Lenore McManigal's three sons and their wives invite all Obsidians members to help celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Saturday, September 18, 2010 from 2 pm to 5 pm at the Obsidian Lodge. No gifts please. RSVP at 345-2036 if you can attend.*



**Field Trip:**

# Malheur & Steens Mountain

Monday Sept. 27 to Thursday Sept. 30 - Leader: Lyn Gilman-Garrick

**M**ALHEUR NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE and Steens Mountain are located in the heart of Oregon's High Desert. An area of sharp contrasts and rugged beauty, you'll find marshes and waterfowl, glacial valleys and big horn sheep, groves of aspen, wild horses, and a mile high escarpment overlooking a vast alkali lake. It's also an area rich with the history of cattle barons, Basque shepherders, settlers and Paiute Indians.



Come join me for a tour of this fascinating section of the Northern Great Basin from Monday, September 27th, to Thursday, September 30th. Though there will be plenty of hiking, I also hope to make it an educational trip focusing on the natural and human history of the area. Tentative activities include a guided tour of the wild horse corrals outside of Burns and naturalist led hikes of the refuge and the Steens Wilderness Area.

My plan is to camp at Page Springs Campground at the south end of the refuge outside of Burns. However, in late September the nights can be frosty and the sun sets early. To



make up for the hardships of camping, we will have dinner at the historic Diamond Hotel on Tuesday and Wednesday nights. They serve gourmet home-style meals. You might even overhear the ghostly machinations of Pete French, a local cattle baron who ruthlessly amassed an empire, making many enemies among the homesteaders and stockmen before being shot dead in 1897.

If you are interested and would like more information about this trip,

please don't hesitate to contact me at 345-5236 or [lynng@efn.org](mailto:lynng@efn.org). I will post the trip at the YMCA, along with more information, on Saturday, July 24th. Unfortunately, because we'll be hiking in wilderness area, I have to limit the trip to 11 people.

In addition to the trip, I have asked local nature photographer, Bob Petit, to give the September ExploraTalk. He has spent a lot of time in the Steens area, photographing and studying the native birds and mammals, especially Kiger mustangs. His talk will be on Thursday, September 16th, at 7:00 pm. Mark your calendars!



## Nearby Nature Summer Nature Quests

### Meadow Magic (Saturday, July 24, 10 am-noon):

Catch butterflies and other bugs in the Walama Butterfly Meadow. Do the Butterfly Glide with Bella Butterfly and make your own creative bug! Snacks are provided. Fun for all ages—families especially welcome. We meet outside the Alton Baker Park Host Residence. Cost: \$2/person, \$5/family for nonmembers. Pre-registration is suggested: 687-9699, ext. 1.

### Water Wonderful (Saturday, August 28, 10 am-noon):

Celebrate water in this fun medley of water, sand, and soil activities. Enjoy a visit from one of our costumed Kinder Critters. Snacks are provided. Fun for all ages—families especially welcome. We meet outside the Alton Baker Park Host Residence. Cost: \$2/person, \$5/family for nonmembers. Pre-registration is suggested: 687-9699, ext. 1.

## Obsidians Leave Life Saving Prints!

**T**WELVE OBSIDIANS MEMBERS trekked into Lane Memorial Blood Bank and left behind life saving boot prints by donating blood at the recent Obsidian drive (6/1/10—6/4/10).

The winner of the REI raffle was Richard Hughes. Richard knows first hand how a patient's destiny can be affected by life saving blood transfusions. He received 13 units of red blood cells and several doses of platelets after falling from a ladder. Not only did he recover and go back to his favorite activities, he donates his blood to give life to others.

Leave some life saving tracks of your own by donating at the **next Obsidians blood drive scheduled for August 24<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm.** Pizza will be served and there will be another raffle for an REI gift certificate. If you can't make it in on Tuesday evening, donate anytime 8/24 through 8/27 to enter the raffle. Just let the LMBB registrar know you are with the Obsidians group.

Units you donate on or after 8/24/10 will help with blood usage through the Labor Day holiday.

Please call the blood bank at 484-9111 for an appointment or if you have questions about your eligibility to donate. You can also contact Kathleen Floyd, the Obsidian blood drive coordinator at 654-0087 or [jmkmfloyd@comcast.net](mailto:jmkmfloyd@comcast.net).



LANE MEMORIAL  
bloodbank

## Classifieds

### For Rent

**YACHATS RENTAL** Steps to rocky shore walking path and one block to 6 miles of sandy beach. Many day hikes in area. Two story house with ocean views; 3 bedroom, 3 bath. \$130/night. See 'Jama House' at <http://www.seanikvacationrentals.com/>

### For Sale

**'87 VW WESTFALIA WEEKENDER.** 195,000 miles. Pop-top, sleeps 2 comfortably in two beds. No kitchen equipment but has fold-up table, plenty of storage room, can carry 6 passengers. Good light truck tires, Sony radio/cassette player. Perfect vehicle for summer camp and other excursions. \$7500 OBO. Call Chris 767-3668 or email [happy-hiker2010@hotmail.com](mailto:happy-hiker2010@hotmail.com).

**WOOD - GREEN FIR** at the Obsidian Lodge. Split, you haul. \$110/cord, or we can haul for \$40. Half cords available too. Contact John Jacobsen, Grounds Chair:

343-8030 or [johnwjacobsen@comcast.net](mailto:johnwjacobsen@comcast.net)

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

## Obsidian Calendar

### July

12 Mon – Roads End, 2.8m E, B.Beard .....	994-2337
13 Tue – Butterflies, Bus, B.Payne .....	746-1964
13-18 Tue-Sun – Sequim Bay, L.Lindstrom .....	683-1409
15 Thu – Crescent Mtn, 9m 2000' D, R.Smythe .....	757-6357
16 Fri – Get Acquainted Hike, E, Jacobsen .....	343-8030
16-18 Fri-Sun –Mt Jefferson, Climb, Deeter .....	954-0924
17 Sat – Cowhorn Mtn, 8.5m 1850' D, Jacobsen .....	343-8030
18 Sun –Patterson Mtn, E, Dunlap .....	686-6745
20 Tue – Chucksney Mtn, 10.3m D, Castleberry .....	726-2412
24 Sat – Cottage Gr/Cedar Crk, Bike D, Hoeg .....	484-6196
24 Sat – Lowder Mtn, 5.6m 900' M, Duncan .....	343-8079
24 Sat – Rosary Lakes, 9m 1000' M, D.Delaby .....	688-4978
26 Mon – Mt. Pisgah, 3m 1000' E, R.Murdock .....	345-8305
28 Wed – Spencer Butte, Trail Main, Bell .....	503-884-8829
31 Sat – Fuji Mountain, 11.2m 2200' D, J.Terry .....	345-0720
31 Sat – Three Pyramids, 4.2m 1800' M, Adkins .....	344-4163
31 Sat – Williams Lake, 8.4m 800' M, J.Ledet .....	683-2603

### August

1 Sun – Olallie Mtn, 6.8m 1140' M, Nelson .....	736-6076
5 Thu – Ridgeline Trail, 5.5m 900' E, Jeffcott .....	344-6447
7 Sat – Get Acquainted Hike, 2.5m E, Jacobsen .....	343-8030
7 Sat – R Daily Bread, Bike D, Gilman-Garrick .....	345-5236
8 Sun – Belknap Crater, 8.5m 1672' D, Jacobsen .....	343-8030
11 Wed –Larison Creek, D, Colgan .....	485-2787
13-16 Fri-Mon – Irish Mtn, Backpack, Sullivan .....	683-6837
13 Fri –Jasper Park, Bike, M, Esch .....	338-8280
14 Sat – Three Fingered Jack, Climb, Deeter .....	954-0924
14 Sat – Washburne/China Creek, E, Kandell .....	345-8095
15-20 Sun-Fri – Mt. Conness, Bpack, Lizewski .....	505-0976
15 Sun – Eagles Rest, 13.4m 2100' D, D.Colgan .....	485-2787
15 Sun – Mt. Washington, Climb, W.Deeter .....	954-0924
16-21 Mon-Sat – Harrison Hot Sps, Bus, Speelman .....	
20 Fri – McKenzie Pass Geology, E, Rodda .....	343-3887
21-22 Sat-Sun – Broken Top, Climb, D.Nelson .....	736-6076
21 Sat – Fuji Mountain, 3m 950' E, R.Wood .....	782-2710
21 Sat – Goodman Creek, D, J.Terry .....	345-0720
22 Sun – Big Lake/McKenzie Pass, D, Blumm .....	343-8830
22 Sun – Black Crater, 7.4m 2500' D, S.Wolling .....	345-2110
22 Sun – North Fork Siuslaw, M, S.Hoeg .....	484-6196
24 Tue – Mt. Pisgah, 3m 1000' E, J.Jacobsen .....	343-8030
25 Wed – Spencer Butte, Trail Main, Bell .....	503-884-8829
27 Fri – Clear Lake, 3.2m 400' E, Cunningham .....	344-0486
28 Sat – Divide Lake, 8m 1200' M, J.Terry .....	345-0720
28 Sat – Mt. Bailey, 9.8m 3160' D, J.Jacobsen .....	343-8030
28 Sat – Mt. McLoughlin, Climb, J.McGlinsky .....	461-0408
28 Sat – Mt. Thielsen, Climb, B.Hamilton .....	343-6550
29 Sun – Row River Trail, Bike 36m M, Strahon .....	505-9084
31 Tue – Shasta/Blackberries, E, Kandell .....	345-8095

### September

4 Sat – Canyon Creek Meadows, M, Weaver .....	485-0817
5 Sun – Backyard Metric 100, Bike D, McCarty .....	342-6962
5 Sun – Four in One Cone, M, C.Tucker .....	344-8371
5 Sun – South Sister, Climb, B.Blumm .....	343-8830
9 Thu – Junction Lake, D, D.Christensen .....	343-8941
10-12 Fri-Sun – Jefferson Pk, BPack D, Hovis .....	345-7788
11 Sat – Lillian Falls, 7.6m 2200' M, J.Duncan .....	343-8079
11 Sat – Mt. Washington, Climb, B.Hamilton .....	343-6550
11 Sat – The Twins, M, B.Kameenui .....	344-9506
12 Sun – Green Lakes, 8m 1100' M, D.James .....	683-7488
12 Sun – Waltherville Canal, 4m E, L.Maenz .....	
16 Mon – Steens Mountain, .....	<b>ExploraTalk</b>
18 Sat – Fall Creek, Bike 38m M, S.Hoeg .....	384-6196
19 Sun – Maiden Peak, 11m 3000' D, D.McCarty .....	342-6962
21 Tue – Clear Lake, 5.5m E, M.Kandell .....	345-8095



*Climbing Mt. Thielsen, with Diamond Lake and Mt. Bailey in background. See trip report Page 12. - Photo by Wayne Deeter*

July/August 2010



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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