

Inside This Issue

Change Focus	1
2011 Bus Schedule	1
Thank You, Thank You	2
Welcome	2
Obsidians in the News	3
ExploraTalk Review	4
Fire Lookouts	4
Volunteers	5
Board Notes	6
Trip Reports & Activities	7-11
By the Numbers	11
Upcoming Activities	12-13
At the Lodge	14
Classifieds	15
Calendar	15
Picture of the Month	16

Dates to Remember

Feb 15	Explora-Wildish Property
Feb 25	Potluck-K2
Mar 2	Board Meeting

Complete current schedules at:
www.obsidians.org or
 Register-Guard – Outdoors – Tuesday

2011 Obsidian
 Membership Directory
 Included as an insert to this
Bulletin. Also available
 online in Members Only.

Climbs Committee:

Change of Focus

By Sue Sullivan

WHAT – NO CLIMB SCHOOL? It sounds like blasphemy. For most of the club’s history, the Obsidians have been involved with teaching a Basic Alpine Mountaineering class for aspiring climbers in the Eugene area. The Climbs Committee met in January and decided on a change in priorities for 2011. I caught up with Climbs Committee chairperson Larry Huff in between his classes at LCC to discuss the plans for climbs for 2011.

Why no climb school this year? “Over the past years, we have put a lot of time and energy into putting on climb school. This helps to bring new climbers into the Obsidians and climb school gives them the skills to participate in climbs,” Larry replied. “Our focus for this year is to build skills among the people who are currently participating in Obsidian climbs,



(Continued on page 5)

Byways By Bus Committee:

2011 Schedule Set

THE BUS COMMITTEE WILL ANNOUNCE the final 2011 trip schedule at the bus rally to be held at the Obsidian Lodge on February 27 at 1:00 pm. Ten trips are planned in all, with three multiday trips. The longest trip will be four days, September 14-17 and will coincide with Astoria’s bicentennial celebration. Leaders Barbara and Paul Beard have planned the route to cross many rivers and explore areas that were the centers for the earliest Oregon Territory settlements. This trip is packed with historical places, reenactments and Astoria celebratory events. The first two nights lodging will include beautiful Astoria Bed n’ Breakfast Inns. We then travel down the northern coastal highway for a Friday night dinner at the Inn at Spanish Head, followed by a special movie, complete with pop and popcorn. Lunch on Saturday will allow us to participate in the annual Siletz Indian Salmon Bake.

Other overnight trips include birding at the Klamath Lakes area in February, and the Oregon Garden and Silver Creek Falls with a stay at the Moonstone Resort in mid-May. Day trips vary from exploring Eugene service and ecological programs to visiting Cape Arago and Shore Acres on the southern Oregon coast.

Trip leaders will speak about their trip plans at the rally. Everyone is welcome!

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Grazie, Danke, Merci, Arigato, Tak
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*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.*

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**Deadline
for March 2011 Bulletin
Saturday, February 26, 2011**

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Assembly Team - Tom Adamczyk, Don
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Welcome!

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Slipping into High GEARs

ON NOVEMBER 30, 2010, RICHARD HUGHES was installed as the president of The Greater Eugene Area Riders Cycling Club or GEARs as most folks know it. Richard had been active with the club as the treasurer for the last two years. In addition, he has led bicycle rides and hikes with the Obsidians, and served as Mr. Coffee at summer camps.

The purpose of GEARs, which has more than 400 members, is to promote and encourage bicycle riding for transportation and recreation. The club has weekly rides at various skill levels and nonmembers are welcome. There is no cost to ride with the club.

Additionally the club teaches bicycle education classes for the cost of the text book (\$10). These classes are taught by certified cycling instructors through the League of American Bicyclists, a nationally recognized organization representing the nation's 57 million cyclists.

Also GEARs advocates for bicyclists in order to protect their rights and to promote safe riding facilities on streets and bike paths. For more information visit <http://eugenegears.org/membership>

Congratulations to our Obsidian member!



What's in a Name?

ASK NOLA NELSON. She knows the name should be Celilo. When the Cascade Raptor Center acquired an injured eagle to become a permanent resident of the facility, he of course needed a name. So it was decided to have a naming contest with the emphasis being on a Native American name with a uniquely Oregon connection. Of the over 500 entries, Nola's suggestion of Celilo was the winner. The name comes from Celilo Falls, a Native American fishing area on the Columbia River that was flooded when the dam at The Dalles was built in the 1950s. Nola can remember seeing one of the last dip net fishing sessions before the falls were submerged, and the memory has stayed with her ever since. So the name of Celilo seemed to be a natural to Nola, and the naming committee obviously agreed.

Congratulations to our Obsidian member!

Editor's Note: Join Nola on a 2-mile hike from Amazon Headwaters to the Raptor Center on Saturday afternoon, March 5. Sign up online for the hike led by Janet Jacobsen.



Collier Glacier's Secrets

By John Hartman

CODY BEEDLOW, AN OSU GRADUATE STUDENT, showed spectacular slides and described wilderness glaciology, including avalanches, rockfall, crevasse climbing, night travel, and every kind of weather and ski conditions. The presentation was appreciated by a lodge full of Obsidians and guests who saw publicity in the Register-Guard.

Oregon's glaciers are difficult to study because they are in remote wilderness locations. Cody used hiking and telemark ski mountaineering trips to monitor Collier Glacier for the last several years. In snow months he and his helpers made two-day, twenty-mile trips with 45+ lb. packs. Their ski route was a clockwise loop from Pole Creek Trailhead to the North Sister-Middle Sister saddle, down Collier Glacier, and out between Collier Cone and North Sister. They spent a total of over 45 days on the glacier, and saw almost no other people on their ski trips.

In 1900, the glacier reached Collier Cone and covered over 400 acres, as shown in photos taken by Mazamas, Obsidians and others. The greatest retreat was between 1910 and 1950. Between 1989 and 2010 there have been years of gain and loss. The glacier now has an area of 150 acres. Mass is added in the upper two-thirds of the glacier, above 8,200', and is lost below. To track year-round dynamics, Cody maps, probes, digs 15 foot deep snow pits, enters crevasses, and places stakes to measure melting. It is important to be there in April, when there is maximum snow accumulation, and November, when the most ice is exposed. Fascinating photo sequences showed how the glacier changes during the year.

A surface energy mass model is used to explain the changes in the glacier. To develop and calibrate the model, Cody designed and installed cheap, backpackable weather stations. He operates a station at the bottom of the glacier,

replacing batteries and taking data every three months. He told me he hopes to reach the station this January! A station at mid-glacier was lost under 15' of snow, despite a precise GPS location and serious probing. There's also a temperature logger at the top of the glacier. The model gives good agreement with mass change measurements, and may be used to simplify monitoring and predict Collier's and other glaciers' responses to micro-climate, weather, and climate change. Fun facts:

- Eliot Glacier on Mt. Hood is the other most studied glacier in Oregon, and it is atypical because of heavy debris.
- Radar showed Collier Glacier thickness of 300' in 1986.
- On summer afternoons there's often a temperature inversion and wind up the glacier. September and October are much colder.
- There are annual lines in the ice from dust and debris off the North Sister.
- Rain on snow events can have a big impact on mass accumulation, presumably including the mid-January event this year.
- Digging deep snow pits is heroic in consolidated snow more than 50% as dense as ice.
- Cody sometimes slept on the glacier under the stars and was once besieged by a mouse.
- Lost material (and deer remains) can emerge from the glacier years later. Watch for Cody's yellow water bottle!

Cody recommended Andrew Fountain's Portland State website as a good source for glacier education and photos - <http://glaciers.research.pdx.edu>

Editor's Note: Obsidian, Ruth Hopkins Keene took photographs of Collier Glacier that are on the PSU website See the June 2007 Bulletin: Climate Change Causes Concern for Glacier Watchers Past and Present for more information about historical photos.

Fire Lookouts and Bill Sullivan

By Janet Jacobsen

AT THE JANUARY POTLUCK PROGRAM Bill Sullivan showed pictures of several fire lookouts in southern Oregon that are available for overnight use.

In his book *Oregon's Greatest Disasters*, Sullivan notes that after the Great Fire of 1910, 8,000 fire lookouts were built including 849 in Oregon. When I asked him about the lookouts, he said, "There are 80 lookouts left in Oregon with 20 of them for rent." He recommended checking out the website <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/recreation/rentals>. Take time to scroll through the photos of the lookouts and

cabins. It might pique your interest to plan an overnight trip or to lead a trip.

The next site has current and historical photos of many fire towers along with brief descriptions. <http://www.firelookout.com/orwc.html> If you have hiked to places like Three Pyramids or Fuji Mountain, you can see how the lookout was perched on the top.

If you have stayed at any of these lookouts and would like to share the experience, please send your story to the *Bulletin*.

Byways By Bus

Liz Reanier, Chair

Ethel Allen, Bill Arthur, Barbara Beard, Paul Beard, Mary Lee Cheadle, Sharon Cutsforth, Barbara Flanders, Dennis Flanders, Ray Jensen, Verna Kocken, Lenore McManigal, Barbara Payne, Don Payne, Janet Speelman, Richard Speelman, Mary Ellen West, Rick Ahrens, Bette Hack, Ben Jeffries, Pat Jeffries, Rosella Jones, Vera Woolley

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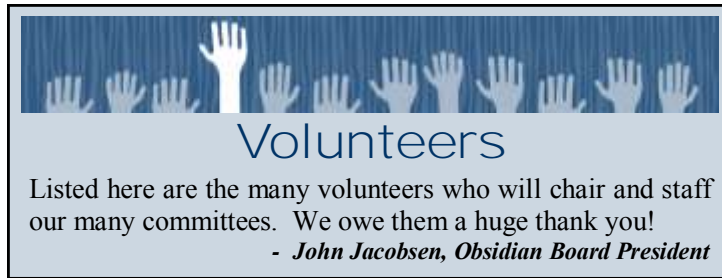
Susan Wanser, Chair

TBA

Extended Trips

Jim Duncan, Chair

Marianne Camp, Pat Esch,



Listed here are the many volunteers who will chair and staff our many committees. We owe them a huge thank you!

- John Jacobsen, Obsidian Board President

Lana Lindstrom, Chris Stockdale

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Stewart Hoeg, Chair

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Joella Ewing, Brian Hamilton, John

Jacobsen, Becky Lipton

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Trail Maintenance

Matthew Bell, Chair

Ed Lizewski, Dave Predeek, Jim Whitfield

Winter Trips

Tom Musselwhite, Chair

Elle Weaver, Chris Stockdale, Judy Ness, Valarie Metcalfe, Brian Hamilton, Daphne James, Joella Ewing, Jim Pierce, Karla Rusow, Judy Terry

Change of Focus

(Continued from page 1)

so that they will be better equipped to lead climbs themselves.”

Was this a sudden decision? “Not really,” said Larry. “We have noticed that the pool of leaders willing to lead climbs has not expanded much over the past years. We’d like to try and do something about that. There are a lot of new climbers that are enthusiastic and passionate about climbing; however, we haven’t traditionally provided a means for people to develop their climbing skills to give them the confidence and experience to become leaders themselves.

“We normally partner with Eugene Mountain Rescue to put on Climb School. This is a busy year for EMR, as they are going through a rigorous recertification process which is taking up a lot of their time. So that was one motivation for thinking about doing something different this year.”

“**HERE IS THE IDEA WE ARE PLANNING TO PURSUE:** we are going to have a series of seminars to help participants build skills – in things like anchor building, crevasse rescue, leading easy trad routes, and building snow travel skills on hard snow or ice. We are developing a list of topics of things to offer and will poll people who have participated in climbs in the past couple of years to see which topics have the greatest interest. We hope to make this an ongoing effort, and use it as a means to keep the

climbs program an active and growing one. We expect to return to offering Basic Mountaineering again next year.

“The first two ideas we are working up are a Rock Skills Review weekend, probably over at Smith Rock. This could involve sessions on anchor building, leading skills, and maybe a couple of problems for people to work on—such as how to deal with some specific problems one might run into while rock climbing. We expect to do a similar weekend session on glacier travel skills, and do it on Mt. Hood or in the Sisters, where we can find better conditions to practice than we can in the spring. We are also planning to have Crevasse Rescue training in early summer, similar to what we have done in the past.”

Will this reduce the number of climbs on the schedule this year? “That is not part of our plan. We also want to get out and climb!” He laughed. “We are hoping to have a full climb schedule this year, and we are seeking leaders to commit to leading a climb or two. If we have people who would be willing to lead a climb that haven’t done so before, we on the committee will commit to finding someone to be an assistant leader to back them up. We are still working up the schedule.”

So stay tuned . . . the details about Intermediate Climb Skills classes are still being worked out. The Climbs Committee would be happy to get any feedback or suggestions you might have. Contact Larry Huff or any of the other Committee members (Sue Sullivan, Wayne Deeter, John Pegg, or Steve Kuhn) if you have comments or questions.

BOARD NOTES

February 2, 2011

By Kathy Hoeg, Secretary

President John Jacobsen called the meeting to order. Board members: Matt Bell, Lyn Gilman-Garrick, Kathy Hoeg, Stewart Hoeg, Larry Huff, Verna Kocken, and Elle Weaver. Also present: Wayne Deeter, Jim Duncan, Joella Ewing, Brian Hamilton, Lenore McManigal, Tom Musselwhite, Doug Nelson, Jim Pierce, Barb Revere, and Sue Sullivan.

Treasurer's Report: Stewart Hoeg reviewed the Budget-vs-Actual Report and the Balance Sheet. He also reported that Dora Harris' daughter had informed him of a \$1,720 bequest from Dora's estate to the Obsidians.

The Board approved payment of the bills.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Summer Trips (Brian Hamilton): The committee met in January to begin planning for the 2011 season and to sort out roles of the committee members. We will begin contacting potential leaders within a month. The initial schedule for the season will be posted by the end of March. We will schedule a Leader Training Session/Summer Trips Kickoff Social in early April.

Winter Trips (Tom Musselwhite): From Nov 15-Feb 1, 20 leaders have led 25 Trips with 165 total participants. 126 participants were members and 39 non. Revenue \$138.00. Of 60 trips scheduled, 25 have been completed, 3 have been cancelled, 3 have been rescheduled and 32 trips remain.

Climbs (Larry Huff): The Climbs Committee has decided on a new approach for the 2011 season. Due to low climb leader turnout, a busy E.M.R schedule, and an expressed interest by club members to provide intermediate climb skills training, we have come up with a new direction for this year. Here is the idea we are planning to pursue: instead of having a traditional climb school, we are going to have a series of seminars to help participants build skills – in things like anchor building, crevasse rescue, leading easy trad routes, and building snow travel skills on hard snow or ice. We are developing a list of topics to offer and will poll people who have

participated in climbs in the past couple of years to see which topics have the greatest interest. We hope to make this an ongoing effort and use it as a means to keep the climbs program an active and growing one.

Trail Maintenance (Matthew Bell): One trail maintenance outing was held on the Ridgeline Trail on both sides of Willamette and 52nd.

Byways By Bus (Liz Reanier): Fifteen members of the bus committee met at the Obsidians Lodge on Jan. 17, for a discussion of the proposed trips and presentations of the individual trip proposals from each trip leader.

Extended Trips (Jim Duncan): The four trips currently on the Extended Trips schedule are in the online system. We also discussed some of the problems (rain tarps, propane transport) associated with camping extended trips.

Conservation, Science, & Education (Joella Ewing): An annotated schedule of ExploraTalks and related hikes/trips was submitted.

Entertainment (Laurie Funkhouser): The January potluck with Bill Sullivan presenting Southern Hikes in Oregon was well attended with approximately 90 attendees and fees collected of \$85. In addition, Bill has agreed to present the January 2012 potluck - providing a presentation of his favorite hikes as published with the Register-Guard. February 25th will be a presentation by Hussain Mirza regarding his trip to K2.

Membership (Barb Revere): Joanne Whitfield and Heather Home reinstated. Current membership is 484. Sheila Barry, Les Benoy and Joe Sanders were accepted as new members.

Publicity (Elle Weaver): Brochures and schedules were given to the event coordinator for Winterfest.

Concessions (Lyn Gilman-Garrick): We met to take inventory of our stock, and to consider new items from McKenzie by Sew On. We sold \$94 in merchandise, at the January potluck.

Finance (Stewart Hoeg): The Finance Committee met in January to schedule annual audits, discuss recommendations for allocating 2010 investment income

and discuss recommendations for investing excess cash.

Library/Historian (Lenore McManigal): I made 6 new activity sheets for the 6 members who were voted in at the January meeting. The trips have not been recorded, since they are not available to me online.

Lodge Building (Doug Nelson): Two Lodge rental fees submitted -- John Jacobsen (birthday party) on Jan. 30: \$70.00; and McKenzie River Trust (staff retreat) on February 13: \$140.00.

Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): Fir Removal/Oak Restoration Project continued. Met with our neighbor to the west, Pat Holleran to discuss our tree project and how it might affect his property.

Safety (Sue Sullivan): There was one incident report investigated and resolved in January.

NEW BUSINESS

John Jacobsen requested and received consent for Susan Wanser to chair the Entertainment Committee.

The Board approved the following committee members:

- Publicity - Chris Stockdale
- Safety - Pat Esch, Lyndell Wilken, Verna Kocken, Jim Pierce, and Sue Sullivan (chair)
- Online - Matthew Bell
- Trails - David Predeek and Jim Whitfield
- Winter Trips -- Jim Pierce

Stewart Hoeg explained the Finance Committee's recommendations for allocation of the club's 2010 income among the General, Endowment, and Capital/Contingency funds. The Board approved the recommendations.

There was a general discussion of whether Conservation, Science, and Education was the best name for that committee. The decision was to keep the name as it is.

Kathy Hoeg reported on her examination of the Constitution and Bylaws for inconsistencies and errors. The Board approved the appointment of an ad hoc committee consisting of Kathy, Lyn Gilman-Garrick, Jim Pierce, and Stewart Hoeg which will recommend actions to be taken.



Hikes

Three Mile Lake/Tahkenitch Dunes

December 18, 2010

Leader: Becky Lipton

Hike: 6.7 miles, 1,200 ft. (Moderate)

TEN HOPEFUL HIKERS MET IN THE POURING RAIN to determine the fate of the Three Mile Lake hike. One doubtful soul bailed out and the remainder decided to believe the weather report of maybe 1/4 inch of precipitation for the coast and headed west. Those nine trusting persons were well rewarded with a lovely hike and partly sunny skies, although a very brief shower and wind did strike as soon as lunch was retrieved from backpacks. The group also had quite an adventure while trying to discern the location of the new trail from the northern-most portion of the loop going south through low sandy dunes towards Three Mile Lake. Although new trail markers have been installed, there really is no trail yet and at times all nine of us were fanned out, looking for the next trail marker. It was kind of like a big Easter egg hunt but it unfortunately caused us to miss the beach walk. After seeing Three Mile Lake, the group split, with some folks hiking back through the high forested dunes and some hiking back on the beach. Oh yeah, there was another brief and light shower and some hail on the return trip. A great adventure was had by all. Members: Jane Allen, Don Cross, Becky Lipton, Brian Popowsky, and Sarah Praskievicz. Nonmembers: Cindy Rust, Ryan Hovland, Jonathan Jost, Pam Motisson.

Ridgeline Trail

January 6, 2011

Leader: Jim Pierce

Hike: 6.2 miles, 1,400 ft. (Moderate)

WHAT A GLORIOUS DAY: clear, crisp, bright...perfect hiking weather. The forest and ferns shared their shades of green. There are just a few muddy spots on the Ridgeline Trail. Lunch was on top of Baldy with views of South and Middle Sisters sparkling over the top of Pisgah. The hike was four hours, car to car. Enjoying the day were members Janet Jacobsen, Nancy Whitfield, Dick Hildreth and Leader Jim Pierce.



Fishmobile at the end of the Mt. Baldy Loop hike.

Mt. Baldy Loop

January 8, 2011

Leader: Janet Jacobsen Photo: Michael Tanner

Hike: 5 miles, 800 ft. (Easy)

THE WEATHER GODS LOOKED KINDLY upon our loop hike from Amazon Headwaters to Fox Hollow and the Ridgeline Trail to the Dillard Skyline Park and Mt. Baldy. We stopped on the Headwaters trail to approve the five Douglas fir trees that Pat Soussan and I planted in early December. I could only remember one line of our haiku poem so I am now including the three lines:

Five fir trees planted
Silent, switchback sentinels
Rev'rent feet go by

The loop back included the well-graveled trail down to Spring, the muddy trail on the north side of Baldy and then the rocky power line road to Amazon. The trip took around 2 hours and 45 minutes with stops at trailhead maps and for views. We did take notice of two odd things: on the power line road, we met two young men with one shovel on their way to dig a fort. Back at our cars on Martin Street, a fish or shark mobile car complete with scales, fins, and teeth greeted us. Members: Janet Jacobsen, Lisa Marcus, Sarah Praskievicz, Suzanne Steussy. Nonmembers: Les Benoy, Michael Tanner.

Spencer Butte/Amazon Headwaters

January 22, 2011

Leader: Janet Jacobsen Photo: Darko Sojak

Hike: 6.4 miles, 1,530 ft. (Moderate)



ON TOP OF SPENCER BUTTE, the sun was struggling to shine and give us some blue sky. We shared our snacks and decided it was a bit chilly for us to hang around for a change in sky color. It was the first time on the butte for one hiker while several had not climbed the butte for many years. Guy Strahon remembers as a kid in 1959 riding his bike out to Spencer Butte and then climbing to the top. Hiking poles were helpful for the slippery rock scrambling on the way down. A big thanks to Darko who was able to catch Myron on just the right moment. The trip took 3 hours and 45 minutes. Members: Myron Cook, Janet Jacobsen, Darko Sojak, Guy Strahon, Judy Terry. Nonmembers: Jacque Davis, Joe Sanders.



Snowshoe Trips

Odell Overview

December 12, 2010

Leader: Scott Hovis

SShoe: 3.5 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

WE HAD POOR SNOW but there was plenty to enjoy early in the season. The shelter has been stocked with plenty of wood. At the warming hut in the parking lot we got hot drinks. Snow passes and maps can be bought here, however they are only open Sat/Sun. We saw an eagle at the Odell overview. Members: Marianne Camp, Patricia Esch, Scott Hovis, Daphne James, Peggy Windle. Nonmembers: Cindy Rust and Robin Forster.

Rosary Lakes

January 8, 2011

Leader: Matthew Bell Photo: Sheila Barry

SShoe: 8.5 miles, 1,200 ft. (Difficult)

I LED THIS TRIP AS THE TRIP I THOUGHT I signed up to lead, which was not the same as the trip that people thought they had signed up for. I didn't update the trail miles or the elevation gain information from what the online sign-up system automatically adds for the Rosary Lakes destination. Because of this, people signed up for a moderate 6-mile snowshoe with 600 feet of elevation gain, when what they did was actually a difficult 8.5-



Pulpit Rock over Lower Rosary Lake

miler with 1,200 feet of elevation gain. Worse yet, I didn't question the information on the sign-up sheet, thinking that it was the same as what I'd led last year. I was corrected back at the trailhead that we'd actually snowshoed farther than the 6 miles I thought we'd done.

We started out from Willamette Pass at about 8:20 snowshoeing our way east along the PCT. We made the turn north and arrived at the south end of Lower Rosary Lake to see two snowshoers on the lake enjoying the views. The skies overhead had patches of clouds and after descending onto the lake we were able to see Pulpit Rock and even Maiden Peak. We snowshoed along the eastern shore of the lake exiting around the headwaters of Rosary Creek. On the north end of the lake we headed up the ridge between the lower and middle lakes. We stopped to get some photos as it seemed that we were directly below Pulpit Rock. We traversed along the east shore of the middle lake and followed the narrow passage that connects the middle and north lakes before rejoining the PCT above North Rosary Lake. We climbed up onto Maiden Saddle breaking for lunch, at about 11:45, behind some trees on the ridge to seek shelter from the breeze. After lunch we followed Taits Trail along the ridge behind Pulpit Rock. Passing just below one of the backside ski runs, we were able to watch skiers zoom by. As we snowshoed along the ridge the breeze continued and some dark clouds began to pass overhead.

During breaks we could see down onto Lower Rosary Lake and over to Maiden Peak whose top was now obscured by clouds. We could see not only our own tracks around the eastern shore of the lower lake but the tracks of more adventurous snowshoers who had snowshoed directly across the middle of the lake, detouring in the middle creating a little upside down 'J' in their track. We descended down the south end of the ridge to come back to the south end of Lower Rosary Lake. The breeze was out of the north so we didn't return to the lakeshore. We headed for the PCT and I misinterpreted two blue diamonds for about 20 feet that don't seem to be part of any trail in the area. We followed the PCT back to Willamette Pass. Along the way we were briefly dusted by some very fine snow. We also passed our second group for the day, this time it was three cross country skiers with a dog. We arrived back at the trailhead beside the bunny slope at about 3 pm. Members: Matthew Bell, Brad Bennett, Keiko Bryan, Jolynn Fabiano, Daphne James, Art Kearney, and Lynn Meacham. Nonmembers: Robb Mills, Tom O'Brien, Kellee Blanchard, Janice Suratt, and Sheila Barry.

Maiden Peak Shelter

January 22, 2011

Leader & Photo: Matthew Bell

SShoe: 12 miles, 1,300 ft. (Difficult)

I'M NOT REALLY SURE IF **OBSDIAN** trips can count if you are your only participant but I still went on this trip as planned. I set out at 6 am from Eugene. I began snowshoeing up Gold Lake Road a little before 8 am. Although it had rained several days during the week, Saturday was a beautiful day to snowshoe in the Cascades. The snow was definitely compacted and crusty from the rain and the number of skiers and snowshoers that use the road. All day there wasn't a single cloud in the sky. I easily



Maiden Peak shelter

followed the road to Maiden Peak Trail and then followed it to the PCT, enjoying glimpses of Mt. Fuji and Mt. Ray through the trees.

As I was the only participant, I'd decided to do a little double duty on the trip by doing some winter trail maintenance on the PCT. (I adopted the PCT and Skyline trails from Maiden Saddle to Maiden Peak Trail.) I replaced, raised, and added the blue diamond winter trail markers along the PCT as I snowshoed to Maiden Ski Shelter. I cleaned up a corner close to the cabin.

I arrived at the cabin to find it toasty warm (47 degrees) with a freshly stoked fire. It seemed as though a few people were using the cabin as a basecamp and skiing around or to Maiden Peak. I enjoyed a quick lunch and continued along the PCT to Maiden Saddle. No one had come into or left from the cabin along the PCT so I got to enjoy breaking trail though a light crust of snow. As I got closer to the saddle it got warmer and warmer and the snow became a little slushy and clingy. The snowpack is so low and the diamonds were so high for most of the trail that even in the snow I'd need a 15 to 20 foot ladder to be able to fix and replace them. I cleaned up the sight lines as best I could but I needed a pole-saw. I'd packed about 20 diamonds and 60 nails and ran out a little before the saddle. There is definitely more work to be done making the trail corridor more readily apparent and easily followed.

I snowshoed to the high point of the saddle and enjoyed a nice view of Odell Lake and Diamond Peak. From the saddle I followed Taits Trail onto the ridge behind Pulpit Rock. Along the ridge I could feel a warm breeze coming up from the southeast. A visual reminder of the warm was the reflective light blue center of Lower Rosary Lake. I think that this effect was caused by water pooling over ice or a mixture of ice and water. I followed the ridge and to the southern shore of the lake. I followed along the bank to the PCT and the first sign of fresh activity I'd seen all day.

I followed the PCT to Willamette Pass and used the Tie Trail to get to Gold Lake Road. Along the Tie Trail I ran into fellow Obsdians Pat Sousan and Jane Allen enjoying the day's beautiful weather snowshoeing and cross country skiing. I arrived back to Gold Lake Sno-Park at 3:45 pm.



Ski Trips

Jack Ridge Meadows

December 26, 2010

Leader: Sue Sullivan

Ski: 6 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

SO...WHEN ONE PLANS A SKI TRIP FOR WEEKS ahead of the date, one never knows what the weather and snow conditions will be like. When our group met at South Eugene High School, more than one person confessed that, given the weather, they thought that sleeping in might have been a better option than skiing this day. But persistence and perseverance pay off! The heavy rain in the Eugene area gave way to slushy snow by the time we reached McKenzie Bridge, and the snow at Santiam Pass was fresh and powdery over a good base. The winds were strong enough to make us decide to keep off the southern exposures and ridge tops, but the skiing in the open skeleton of trees in the burn was very nice. We skied to a small lake on the west side of Jack Ridge, then skied down past the Rock Pile and down to the old Santiam trail and back to the sno-park. A very nice loop, great snow conditions and congenial company! Members: Mari Baldwin, John Mowat, Sue Sullivan, Jim Whitfield. Nonmembers: Paul Murtaugh.

Waldo Lake Road

December 30, 2010

Leader: Lana Lindstrom

Combo: 6 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

WHAT A SPECTACULAR DAY! Stately Douglas firs draped in snow watched us from on high; lower, gnomes, rabbits, sea horses, and other critters entertained us. And the foot or so new snow was velvety. Plus we lucked out since a vehicle had packed down the snow: we couldn't quite figure out what kind of vehicle it was, finally deciding that it was a snow cat pulling a trailer. We only met two other people on the trail - wow! Note: don't do this trip on a weekend unless you are willing to share the road with snowmobiles. Special thanks to Bill and Jim for driving. Joining me in an absolutely perfect day were members Jane Allen, Bill Aspegren, Keiko Bryan, Judy Ness, Carol Petty, Suzanne Steussy, and Jim Whitfield, and nonmember Sharon Friedland.

Fawn Lake

January 2, 2011

Leader: Brian Hamilton

Ski: 7 miles, 800 ft. (Moderate)

WE LEFT THE TRAILHEAD AT CRESCENT LAKE SNO-PARK at 10:30 under an overcast sky, with the temperature well below freezing. We had to break a trail 16 to 20 inches deep, but soon encountered fresh tracks left by other skiers. After crossing the snowmobile trail, we continued following the fresh tracks, but they were headed up the Pretty Lake Trail. We caught up with the skiers ahead of us (fellow Obsidians John Mowat and Sue Sullivan) and together, we corrected our course to get onto the Fawn Lake Trail. With strong, experienced skiers in the front

busy with route-finding and trail-breaking, the leader brought up the rear as the sweep. Blue paint and unofficial blazes on tree trunks helped with navigation. The trailbreakers reached the lake shortly after 1:00 pm as clouds parted to let the sun shine. The tail end of the group reached the lake by 1:30. We ate lunch with views of Red Top and Lakeview Mountain across the lake. After our break, we followed our tracks back, enjoying a nice downhill glide. With varying levels of endurance and ability, our group was spread out along the trail until we gathered at the beginning of the Fawn Lake Trail. We had to break trail again on a direct line to the snowmobile trail. Back at the trailhead, we were loaded up and ready to drive home by 4:30. Many thanks go to the more-experienced of our group for helping out with co-leading. Skiers were guests Paul Murtaugh, Dale Schaper, and Van Likes, and Obsidians Chris Stockdale, Mari Baldwin, Frank Chemotti, John Hartman, Lyndell Wilken, John Hegg, Sean Breslin, Brian Hamilton, and new member Sherrill Bower.

Circle Lake

January 9, 2011

Leader: Sue Wolling Asst & Photo: Chris Stockdale

Ski: 10 miles, 300 ft. (Moderate)



AS WE HEADED UP THE MCKENZIE HIGHWAY, we realized we would probably find new snow up in the mountains since we ran into falling snow around Leaburg. We weren't wrong, and on arrival at the Ray Benson Sno-Park, found 3-4" of lovely new powder on top of a packed base, offering fantastic skiing conditions.

Sue Wolling was the official leader of the trip, but thanks to her recent bike accident, resorted to snowshoes to enjoy the big outdoors. Lyndell Wilken also donned her snowshoes to keep Sue company, while the other nine participants strapped skis on and headed off on the Circle Lake trail, ably guided by Chris Stockdale. Several of the group found enough hills on which to practice their telemark turns while others enjoyed long glides on the trail. We had lunch at the Island Junction shelter where Sue and Lyndell caught up with us to enjoy the warmth of the wood stove already burning. After lunch the group split, with the more ambitious heading for the Brandenburg Shelter, adding another 2 miles to their day, while the others headed back for the cars and the comfortable warm shelter at the parking area. Members: John Hegg, Jonathan Jost, Becky Lipton, Sam Miller, Chris Shuraleff, Chris Stockdale, Harold Thompson, Lyndell Wilken, Sue Wolling, Tom Woxell. Nonmembers: Sara Christensen.

By the Numbers

90 – DAYS THE ONLINE DATA SYSTEMS HAS BEEN UP AND RUNNING. An email was sent on November 2, 2010 to all Obsidian members for whom we have an email address announcing that the system would be available on November 4th. The email also provided our members their user name and password that would allow them access to the system. We lied – we actually went live online a day early, on November 3rd.

6,216 – TIMES THE ONLINE DATA SYSTEM HAS BEEN ACCESSED by users during that time to check schedules, signup for trips, register as a guest user or to just look around.

123 – NONMEMBER-GUESTS WHO HAVE REGISTERED to have access to the online system, of whom 75 went on to sign up for a trip and 39 of those have completed a trip successfully so far. 10 have become new Obsidian members.

542 – INDIVIDUAL TRIP SIGN UPS. Of those, 192 have been successfully completed, 139 trip signups have been cancelled, 9 were no-shows for the trip, 1 person was unable to go because the trip was over limit (due to wilderness limits) and

201 are still signed up waiting for their chosen trip to go.

85 – TRIPS SCHEDULED ONLINE. 3 Bus, 4 Extended Trips, 13 Trail Maintenance, 65 Winter Trips. Of the 85 trips that were scheduled online: 22 are completed and approved by the sponsoring committee, 7 are completed and awaiting trip report completion and/or approval, 6 have been canceled, 4 have been rescheduled, 15 are currently available for online signup and 31 are scheduled to be available for online signup about 3 weeks before the trips departure.

307 – THE NUMBER OF EMAILS STASHED IN MY ‘ONLINE PROBLEMS’ FOLDER. Many are related to folks who have lost their user name and/or password, but also include myriad other issues, many of which could have been resolved by reading the onscreen guidelines or the help PDFs provided online. I did not count the phone calls received.

450 – APPROXIMATE MAN-HOURS TO DATE spent planning the online system, designing the user interface, coding the logic and upgrading/refining the system.

John Jacobsen – Online Committee



Trail Maintenance

Spencer Butte

January 29, 2011

Leader & Photo: Matthew Bell

Tri Mnt: 1 miles, 100 ft. (Moderate)

THE MORNING WAS EXQUISITE weather for doing a little trail work, the sky was clear and the sun was warm. Our group quickly filled up the Willamette and 52nd trailhead parking lot. After an explanation of the days tasks and introductions we broke into about 4 groups. Two groups began to spread 3/8 minus gravel over the new sections of trail. Jim Pierce, Steve Gibson, Alex and Matthew Lockfeld, and John Jacobsen worked to spread the small gravel along the new connector trail along the westside of Willamette. Jim Whitfield, Tom O'Brien, Sarah Praskievicz, and I worked to spread the small gravel east along the Ridgeline from the parking lot. Jim did an excellent job compacting the gravel to create an almost paved-road look.

Donald Burton, Robert Beal, Tom Hurts, and Ed Lizewski worked really hard breaking up the old trail so that it will more quickly return to a natural state. After they'd finished they joined us to finish up spreading and placing the gravel along the trail. Ed Peara worked dili-

gently to dig a hole for and place a new post with rails to create an improved barrier blocking the old trail under the power lines. In just a couple of hours we were able to accomplish a lot of work that will not only help nature reclaim the old trail but, make the new sections of trail safer and more long lasting.

Members: Matthew Bell, John Jacobsen, Ed Lizewski, Jim Pierce, Sarah Praskievicz, Jim Whitfield. Nonmembers: Steve Gibson, Tom O'Brien, Donald Burton, Alex Lockfeld, Matthew Lockfeld, Ed Peara, Robert Beal, Tom Hurts.



Willamette Confluence Tours

THE CONSERVATION/SCI^{ED} COMMITTEE is hosting two tours of the Willamette Confluence Project with ambassadors from Friends of Buford Park on Saturday, February 19th and 26th, at 9:00 am. The tours are exclusively for Obsidians and will be limited to 12 people each. Visit the online signup sheet to reserve a spot on the tours and for more information



2011 Conservation/SciEd Programs

THE CONSERVATION, SCIENCE AND EDUCATION committee schedule for 2011 is posted below. Some programs and events are still in the formative stages and will be announced in detail later. Please note these on your calendar now and keep a lookout for other programs on the drawing board (and others that may not have even been thought of yet). Your ideas are always welcome.

Joella Ewing, Conservation, SciEd Chair

March 16 (Wed.) ExploraTalk -- William (Bill) Russell of Bandon, a co-founder of Shoreline Education for Awareness (SEA), will do a slide presentation on whales, concentrating on the gray whale since it is seen most on the Oregon coast. SEA has been helping people understand the wildlife of the Oregon coast for over 20 years. This presentation will precede a whale watching trip planned for Sunday, March 27.

March 18 (Fri.) Tom Musselwhite will lead a hike in the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest out of Blue River.

March 26 (Sat.) SOLV spring beach cleanup on a beach near Reedsport.

March 27 (Sun.) Whale watching trip out of Coos Bay. Bill Russell will be our on board resource person.

April 19 (Tues.) Slide presentation on forest health, stream and river preservation by fellow Obsidian Tom Musselwhite, conservationist.

June 16 (Thur.) Devon Comstock, coordinator of the Oregon Natural Desert Association, will make a slide presentation on the Hart Mountain and Sheldon National Wildlife Refuges, including the antelope and other wildlife native to those areas.

June -- 4Ts trail in Portland TBA

Sept. ExploraTalk TBA Working on a program to complement following guided canoe/kayak trip.

Sept. 16-17 (Fri. and Sat.) Guided canoe/kayak trip led by staff of South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve. We will spend Friday night at a motel so we can be at the visitors center before 9 am Saturday. Participants must furnish their own boat.

Sept. 24 (Sat.) -- SOLV fall beach cleanup.

Oct. 18 (Tues.) -- ExploraTalk TBA

We are working on several programs/events to be announced later, including: A guided extended trip to the Hart Mountain and Sheldon National Wildlife Refuges in late June. The 4Ts trip in Portland. 4Ts stands for Trail, Tram, Trolley and Train, a circular trip that starts from the Portland Zoo with a 4 mile hike through wooded areas to the Oregon Health Sciences Hospital where we take the tram to the waterfront where we take a trolley to downtown Portland, have lunch and pick up the MAX train back to the zoo.

Byways By Bus

Exploring Eugene

Tuesday, March 22, 2011

Co-leaders: Sharon Cutsforth & Bill Arthur

Cost: \$47 members, \$49 non-members

Reservations & checks: Barbara Payne 746-1964

WE WILL LEAVE SHOPKO PARKING LOT at 8:30 am to begin our day of visiting local nonprofit agencies. At Food For Lane County, we will tour their 30,000 sq. ft. building and learn about the acquisition, sorting, packaging and distribution of food to low income persons. They have graciously agreed to let us have our coffee break inside the building. The next stop will be the Eugene Mission for a tour of all the buildings and to hear about future development plans for assisting homeless people. There will be stairs to climb here or a place to wait for those choosing to avoid the stairs. The Mission staff will serve us a light lunch (cost included). After lunch, we will visit St. Vincent dePaul's Aurora Glass Works where discarded glass is recycled and transformed into various colored and shaped pieces of art. The last stop of the day will be to view the exterior and grounds of the new native American Long House at LCC. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended. We will return by 5 pm.

UPCOMING EXTENDED TRIPS

Big Lake

March 30 -- April 1, 2011 (2 Nights, 3 Days)

Leader: Lana Lindstrom

Cost: \$75 Members, \$80 non members

SO WHERE EXACTLY IS **BIG LAKE** and why would I want to go there in March? Big Lake Camp is 3.5 miles west of 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 used for youth camps, but the rest of the year, it's available for various 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 common area to read, play games or just socialize. And yes, the building is heated. A snowcat 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. We will prepare our own meals and clean up afterwards. The cost of dinners and breakfasts is included, lunches are not.

Where: Big Lake Camp, Santiam Pass Area, Highway 20

Cancellation: Before March 15, full refund. After March 15, if you find someone to take your place, your payment will be refunded. Otherwise, you will forfeit the entire amount.

Signup: Online – then mail your check for the full amount payable to the Obsidians to Lana Lindstrom, PO Box 5506, Eugene, OR, 97405

Maximum: Twenty adventurous souls. This trip is a bargain and will sell out quickly! Members will be given preference.

Pre-trip meeting: There will be a pre-trip meeting on Tuesday, March 22 at the Lodge

Questions: Contact Lana 683-1409 or lana_lindstrom@hotmail.com



Spring Basin Wilderness

May 19-22, 2011 (Thursday-Sunday)

Leader: Chris Stockdale: 767-3668

Cost: \$130 members, \$135 nonmembers

HAVE YOU VISITED **SPRING BASIN**, the new Wilderness near the John Day Fossil Beds, Clarno Unit? If not, join fellow Obsidians as we return to the OMSI Camp Hancock Field Station, a rustic but comfortable camp located within the fossil beds and close to the edge of the Wilderness. We will be housed in A-frame cabins with electricity and heat; showers and toilets are close by, and meals are served in a large dining hall.

This year we are staying three nights in the camp to give everybody time to explore the new Wilderness, the adjoining 34,000 acre Pine Creek Conservation area, and the 10 miles of trails surrounding the camp. This is a great area for wildflowers and bird spotting, and hikers of all abilities will find plenty of terrain to suit their preferences. The camp has a well stocked library furnished with comfortable chairs for relaxing after dinner (or as an alternative to a hike).

Meals are served family-style; special dietary needs can be accommodated; and you are guaranteed not to leave the table hungry. In addition, free tea and coffee is available all day.



The camp is about a four hour drive from Eugene and an optional hike will be organized in the Smith Rock/Madras area to break the journey.

The trip price of \$130 (members) and \$135 (nonmembers) includes three nights accommodation, three dinners and breakfasts, and fix-

ings for three lunches. To secure your place, sign up online and send within five days a non-refundable check for \$25, payable to the Obsidians, to:

Chris Stockdale, 32665 W Saginaw Rd, Cottage Grove, OR 97424.

Phone: 767-3668; email: happyhiker2010@hotmail.com

(See the June 2010 Bulletin for a story on the 2010 trip)

AT THE LODGE



POTLUCK

Friday, February 25th:

K2 Trekking

COME EXPERIENCE THE MAGNIFICENCE OF THE KARAKORAM with Hussain Mirza on a trek to K2.

Susan Wanser, Entertainment Chair



February Potluck
Friday, February 25, 2011
Potluck, 6:30 pm Program, 7:30 pm
Obsidian Lodge

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



Explora Talk Tuesday, February 15th

The Willamette Confluence

ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH, 7:00 pm at the Lodge, come hear Val Rogers, Development Director of Friends of Buford Park, talk about Oregon Nature Conservancy's newest purchase -- the Willamette Confluence Project (aka the Wildish property) -- 1,270 acres of river and stream banks, wetlands, forest, oak woodlands and native prairie where the Willamette River's middle and coast forks meet.

Val will talk about the Nature Conservancy's plans for restoring and protecting this valuable habitat and for promoting compatible recreational opportunities. Share your ideas for the future of the site and find out more about volunteer work parties.

Joella Ewing, Conservation, Science and Education Chair



Winter Trips Update

FOR ALL OF OUR DEDICATED winter trips leaders, thanks for all the great trips you have volunteered to lead this, yet another, on and off winter snow season. My hope is we'll get hit with another shot of snow without a hard freeze in the valley before the groundhog begins to stir.

I'm thinking about leading a 'going looking for snow' trip sometime soon. (By the time the *Bulletin* is published I hope we have more snow.) But this could be a good time for other non-snow trip leaders to schedule a lower elevation hike. Although snow conditions are not at their best right now, we can still get out there.

Leaders, to schedule a trip email wintertrips@obsidians.org or contact Tom Musselwhite, Winter Trips committee chair, email tom_m@g.com or 461-3296.

Tom Musselwhite, Winter Trips Chair

Extended Trips Signup

EXTENDED TRIPS will begin using the Obsidians online signup procedures starting with the two trips described in the February *Bulletin*. The online signup form will become available at the time the full description of an extended trip is published in the online version of the *Bulletin*.

To reserve a place on an extended trip, sign up online, then send your nonrefundable deposit check (or the full amount, if requested), payable to Obsidians, within 5 days to the leader at the address given in the *Bulletin* description.

Jim Duncan, Extended Trips Chair

Summer Trips

SUMMER IS ON THE WAY! It's time to dust off your trail guides, get out your maps, and start planning for the 2011 summer trips season. The Summer Trips Committee will begin its annual trip leader recruitment campaign soon. Watch for announcements for our Leaders Training Session/Summer Trips Kickoff Social to be held in early April

This year, we are going to prepare a schedule of hikes prior to contacting leaders with suggested trips and dates we want to see led throughout the season.

If you're a member of the Obsidians, you can expect that we'll be contacting you. Why wait to be called? You can save us a step by emailing the committee with the trips you want to lead at summertrips@obsidians.org. Even if you can't lead a trip this year, you can still save time for the volunteers on the committee by sending a message letting us know not to contact you this season.

If you are a new Obsidian member or have never led a trip, we'll get you started with all the information you need to lead a successful trip. Look for information on the upcoming leader training in the next issue of the *Bulletin*.

Brian Hamilton, Summer Trips Chair

Obsidian Calendar

February

11 Fri - Atomic Ranch , Hike, E Cunningham	344-0486
12 Sat - Bechtel Shelter , SShoe M, Pierce	344-1775
13 Sun - Redtop Mountain , Xski D, Thompson	683-8942
19 Sat - Bechtel Shelter , SShoe M, Camp	221-1866
19 Sat - Marilyn Lakes , Xski, E, B. Hamilton	343-6550
19 Sat - Willamette , Hike, E, Gilman-Garrick.....	345-5236
20 Sun - Potato Hill , SShoe, D, Hovis	345-7788
22 Tue - Eagles 'N More , Bus, Reanier	687-1925
25 Fri - K2 , Mirza.....	Potluck
26 Sat - Willamette , Hike, E, Gilman-Garrick.....	345-5236
26 Sat - North Waldo Lake , Xski, D, Hubata-Vacek ...	345-3060
26 Sat - Spencer Butte , Trail Mtn, Bell	503-884-8829
27 Sun - Sand Mountain , Xski, D, Sam Miller	484-4586

March

5 Sat - Raptor Center , Hike E, Jacobsen	343-8030
6 Sun - Island Lakes Loop , Xski D, Jensen	344-1363
13 Sun - Maiden Lake , Xski D, Pegg	343-0909
13 Sun - Little Nash , SShoe, D, Hovis.....	345-7788
18 Fri - HJ Andrs Lookout Cr , Hike M, Musselwhite ..	461-3296
19 Sat - Fawn Lake , Xski, D, Sinnott.....	915-0234
20 Sun - Lava Lake , SShoe, M, Hovis.....	345-7788
22 Tue - Exploring Eugene , Bus, Cutsforth.....	746-4929
24 Thu - Skinner Butte , Hike E, Essenberg	343-1733
25 Fri - Peru , Wanser.....	Potluck
26 Sat - Spencer Butte , Trail Mtn, Bell	503-884-8829
30 Wed - Big Lake , Ext Trip, Lindstrom.....	683-1409

April

9 Sat - PCT N Santiam Sno-Park , SShoe M, Hildreth ..	345-7520
10 Sun - South Waldo Shelter , Xski D, Jensen	344-1363
23 Sat - Spencer Butte , Trail Mtn, Bell	503-884-8829
29 Fri - Hemlock Butte , Bkpk, D, Hovis	345-7788
29 Fri - Nepal , Obsidian Travelers.....	Potluck

May

13 Fri - Malheur Refuge, Ext Trip , Camp	221-1866
19 Thu - Spring Basin Wilderness , Ext Trip, Stockdale	767-3668
25 Wed - Spencer Butte , Trail Mnt, Bell	503-884-8829
27 Fri - Lewis and Clark Trail , March	Potluck

Classifieds

For Sale

Barrecrafters roof mounted **ski rack** for cars with roof gutters, \$25. Breakaway by Rhode Gear **bike helmet**, size small/med, \$25. Bell **bike helmet**, size large, \$10. Fischer Crown Outbound **cross country skis**, 189 cm., **poles & Alpina boots**, size 13. Whole package \$100. Very good condition.

Email sglars@comcast.net or
phone: 687-2589, ask for Sandra or Chris.

For Sale

Garmont Excursion **plastic backcountry/tele ski boots**, womens size 24.5 (US size 7-8.5). Probably fairly old model. Don't show much use. \$75. John Hartman, jh@softwareunderstanding.com phone: 505-9980



Tree Holes along the PCT near Santiam Pass, late January — Photo by Clare Tucker

February 2011



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