

### Inside This Issue

Southern Heights	1
Annual Meeting Reminder	2
FWOC Annual Conference	3
Trip Reports & Activities	4-8
Upcoming	9
At the Lodge	10
Membership Renewal Reminder	11
Calendar	11
Picture of the Month	12

### Dates to Remember

October 14	Annual Meeting
October 18	ExploraTalk
October 19	Board Meeting
October 28	Potluck
October 29	Bulletin Deadline

Complete current schedules at:

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

Register-Guard – Outdoors – Tuesday

### Reminder:

There will be no December *Bulletin*. Items for December and early January should be submitted for the upcoming November *Bulletin*.

## Southern Heights

By Steve McManigal

*Editor's Note: Steve first wrote an article for The Bulletin in July 2008 about his goal to climb the highest peak in every state. That summer he climbed primarily along the eastern seaboard and four years prior to that his efforts were concentrated in the Midwest.*

**I** SPENT THE SUMMER IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS courtesy of the Boeing Company, and immediately took the opportunity to high point Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi on my weekends. Too bad it was the hottest summer on record but you can't pick your travel opportunities.

My wife and daughter flew out to Texas to join me for a long weekend to



hike up Guadalupe Peak, located in Guadalupe National Park in West Texas, which is adjacent to Carlsbad Caverns National Park.

We started fairly early in the morning and were warned by the nice Park Ranger to carry at least one gallon of water per person. It was a little scary to receive such a warning because we only had 1.5 gallons of water between the 3 of us. The campground/trail head had good water. We didn't have enough containers, but we proceeded anyway.

It took us 4 hours to hike the 4.2 mile/3,000 ft. verti-

cal trail to the summit with my 12 year old daughter in tow. She doesn't share the same enthusiasm that I have for high pointing, but she made it. The trail was shaded a good portion of the way up in the morning. We saw several does and one spectacular buck. I wondered how they were getting enough to drink. Texas is experiencing a terrible drought this summer. The trail is also one of the rockiest if not THE rockiest trail I've ever hiked on. By the end of the day I was hurting from stepping on sharp rocks.

(Continued on page 2)

# 2011 Annual Meeting

**T**HE OBSIDIAN ANNUAL MEETING will be held Friday, October 14, refreshments at 6:30, meeting at 7:00 pm, at the Lodge. The meeting will include state of the club reports, committee reports, voting for new board members, approval of Honorary Membership and other business that may come before the membership. All Obsidian members are encouraged to attend.

*Note: There will be no potluck prior to the annual meeting but a surprise dessert will be served.*

## *(Southern Heights...continued from page 1)*

It took us four hours to descend. The trail is so rocky you couldn't walk fast down hill. You had to be careful with every step. And we drank all our water. There is NO water on that mountain. The views are spectacular of west Texas. I recommend high pointing Texas in the cool season. We drove back to San Antonio that evening. The high that day in San Antonio was 110 degrees. You could smell the heat.

I wouldn't make a special trip to see Big Bend National park. But if you're in Texas or close by I recommend you visit the park, especially in the cool season. The headquarters are located in a spectacular mountain region with good cabins and rooms to rent and a campground. It doesn't have the 'bling' of Yosemite (a Ranger's description) but I thoroughly enjoyed its scenery and history.

Earlier in the summer we high pointed Louisiana. Mt. Driskill is located in northern Louisiana. At 535' it ranks 48<sup>th</sup> in state high points. A short 20 minute hike is required to summit Mt. Driskill with a couple of, believe it or not, false summits. Bonnie and Clyde were ambushed about 10 miles from Mt. Driskill. A small monument marks the spot. The locals are still cashing in on the event with a museum and memorabilia sales. My superstitious wife wouldn't take a picture of me standing behind the monument.

Woodall Mountain at 806' is Mississippi's high point and it's a drive by. No walking required. To get there from Texas we were able to drive most of the Natchez Trace Parkway. The Natchez Trace, also known as the Old Natchez Trace, is a historical path that extends roughly 440 miles (710 km) from Natchez, Mississippi to Nashville, Tennessee, linking the Cumberland, Tennessee and Mississippi rivers. It was created and used for centuries by Native Americans, and was later used by early European and American explorers, traders and emigrants in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Today, the trail is commemorated by the 444-mile Natchez Trace Parkway, which follows the approximate path of the Trace, as well as the related Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail. Parts of the original trail are still accessible and some segments have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

## Correction!

**IN THE SEPTEMBER 2011 BULLETIN**, the photograph from the August 6 hike to Sawtooth Mountain was incorrectly credited to Bryan Hoyland. This excellent photograph was actually taken by Ernst Schwintzer. Our apologies.

## OBSIDIANS, INC

P.O. Box 322, Eugene, OR 97440

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

### Board of Directors

John Jacobsen, President  
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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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Winter Trips..... Tom Musselwhite

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[bulletin@obsidians.org](mailto:bulletin@obsidians.org)

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### Deadline

**for November 2011 Bulletin  
Saturday, October 29, 2011**

### Assembly/Mailing Team

**For September Bulletin**

Assembly & Mail Manager - Lou Maenz  
Assembly Team - Clare Emlen, Cathy  
Irwin, Vi Johnson, Barbara Schomaker,  
Suzanne Steussy and Margaret Prentice

### Editorial Team

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



By Pat Bitner

**S**HIRLEY CAMERON AND I REPRESENTED THE OBSIDIAN AT THE 2011 CONFERENCE, held at the Portland Mazamas' lodge near Government Camp on the slopes of Mt. Hood. A beautiful alpine lodge, with views of Mt. Hood and Mt. Jefferson – what a property! I was interested to find that the lodge is open to individual visitors as space is available and hope to return at a later time.

The FWOOC was founded in 1932 when a number of western outdoor clubs came together to strengthen their voices in advocating for protection of the landscape we all cherish. FWOOC member clubs are located in California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Utah, Idaho and Montana. Each sends delegates and interested members to the annual conference, arranged by a member club.

Resolutions are submitted by FWOOC clubs concerned with various threats to the western environment. This year, 12 resolutions were submitted and adopted. By reason of space constraint my report will detail only a portion.

Resolution 2 just could not be ignored. It opposes Forest Service approval of one of the most unsuitable activities on federal land since the 1960s attempt by the Curry Company, Yosemite's concessionaire, to build a Disney-inspired funicular to the top of Yosemite Falls.

*Resolution 2 - "The FWOOC opposes the proposal to construct a lift-assist downhill mountain bike facility at Mt. Hood's historic Timberline Lodge. In addition, the impact on the Mt. Hood elk herd's summer range and calving grounds need a more thorough assessment."*

Timberline plans to cut 17 miles of trails into fragile volcanic slopes so that riders can bomb down the mountain around historic Timberline Lodge. According to the Friends of Mt. Hood's April 5, 2011 release, the bike park would only be able to operate fewer than 90 days a season. (There is already another bike park on Mt. Hood at Ski Bowl.) The Forest Service is scheduled to issue a decision on the permit in the late fall, i.e. about now.

Other resolutions of major import concern the transport of hazardous and potentially hazardous materials across the state of Oregon.

*Resolution 4 - "The FWOOC opposes the transport of radioactive waste and the selection of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation as the nation's permanent nuclear waste dump."*

According to information submitted by Trails Club of Oregon, Hanford is a candidate for the site of the nation's nuclear waste dump. If chosen, thousands of trucks carrying nuclear waste would be traveling along interstate routes, and through the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic area.

Risk of an accident involving homes, schools and critical wildlife habitat as well as contamination of the Columbia River itself is always present. The Hanford waste site is opposed by 17 Oregon state legislators, Rep. Earl Blumenauer and Sens. Wyden and Merkeley.

*Resolution 8 - "The FWOOC strongly opposes the development of LNG import and export facilities on the Oregon coast and related LNG pipelines."*

Liquefied Natural Gas Pipelines and construction of terminals on the Northwest Pacific coast have been an issue for some time. California and Washington states have turned down LNG terminals due to the risk of great environmental damage to rivers and bays. Dredging required to accommodate the tankers transporting the LNG would be destructive to estuaries and fish habitat. In Oregon, two proposals, one terminal at Warrenton on the Columbia River and one at Coos Bay, known as the Ruby pipeline are active and are moving forward. The Palomar pipeline, which would clear-cut 42 miles across the Cascades and through Mt. Hood National Forest is temporarily suspended due to lack of financing, but the proposal is still viable. Although high unemployment in coastal communities makes any opportunity for jobs attractive, the short term gain is not worth the environmental damage.

*Resolution 12 - "FWOOC opposes the transport and export from Pacific coast ports of coal mined in the Powder River Basin and other locations in the interior of the western U. S. and strongly opposes transport of coal for export through the Columbia River Gorge."*

The Powder River Basin in northeast Wyoming supplies more than 40% of our domestic coal and is home to the 10 largest mines in the country. However, the coal transported to terminals on the north Pacific coast would be destined for use in China and India. Talk in the industry is of exporting more than 100 million tons annually. This coal would be carried by trains from the mines in Wyoming and Montana through Oregon to export terminals. Longview, Morrow and St. Helens, WA, and Coos Bay, OR have been proposed as export terminals. Recently obtained documents indicate plans for export of 60-80 million tons per year, carried by ten, one and a half mile-long trains per day moving through Longview, although the publicly announced annual amount was 5 million tons. Portland, OR, Vancouver, WA and Kalama, WA have all rejected coal terminals because of significant traffic congestion and coal dust pollution.

Ref. FWOOC Resolutions and related information: Friends of Mt. Hood press release Apr. 5, 2011 and On Earth, National Resources Defense Council, Fall 2011.

# TRIP REPORTS & OTHER ACTIVITIES



## Boat Trips

**Women's Hosmer Lake Canoe/Kayak**  
**September 6, 2011**  
**Leader: Patricia Esch**  
**Photographer: Lana Lindstrom**  
**Water: (Easy)**

**W**E EIGHT BOATERS SET UP CAMP ON HOSMER LAKE and took our boats to the ramp for a sunny and warm paddle. We met some fishers in their individual pontoon boats powered by flippers, and many immature bufflehead ducks that



looked too young to grow up in time to migrate. The water was so clear we could see the fish against the light colored bottom; they didn't seem very tempted by the fishers' flies. No gasoline motors are allowed on this fly-fishing-only lake. Lana's dinner team served delicious salmon burgers with cheesecake dessert to cap the day before we trundled off to our respective sleeping bags for a chilly night. On day two, we took our boats north to Sparks Lake. This lake is very shallow, too shallow for motors, with sandy beaches on one side and lava benches on the other. We checked out all the lava coves and islands. On the way back, we stopped at Elk Lake Resort, had drinks and ice cream, and gathered firewood in anticipation of a fire and marshmallows. Pat's dinner team served homemade bean soup with Nanaimo bars for dessert, and in keeping with last year's trip, we had rain, a very brief shower, AFTER we were in our tents. We decided to find the Hosmer Lake inlet on day three and search out a reported bridge. A lovely paddle the length of the lake brought us to a definite clear stream. A quarter-mile paddle against the current, dodging fallen trees, rewarded us with not only a trail bridge, but a waterfall. On the return, two very vocal sandhill cranes flew low over our heads, landed in the marsh, took off, were joined by a third, and all disappeared up to Sparks Lake where we had

seen them the day before. Driving back, riders in one car checked out Little Cultus Lake as a possible spot for next year's trip. Members: Clara Emlen, Patricia Esch, Joella Ewing, Lana Lindstrom, Nola Nelson, and Nancy Whitfield. Nonmembers: Jane Dods and Kim Phelps.

**South Slough Estuary Guided Paddle Trip**  
**September 17, 2011**  
**Leader: Joella Ewing**  
**Water: (Easy)**

**SEVEN OBSIDIAN WOMEN ENJOYED A SPLENDIDLY SUNNY DAY** canoeing and kayaking on the National South Slough Estuarine Research Reserve out of Charleston. Education Specialist Joy Tolly and her volunteer Louise Whitehead pointed out important flora and fauna, remains of an earlier industrial age and some of the Reserve's restoration projects. We spent the night at a local motel to ensure an early start and had delicious breakfasts at the Sea Basket restaurant. The volunteer, who has been assisting on this kind of outing for seven years, said ours was the best group she's ever assisted - experienced, knowledgeable, pleasant, and conservation-minded. She may even become an Obsidian. Members: Roberta Chord, Clara Emlen, Patricia Esch, Joella Ewing, Bea Fontana, Lana Lindstrom, and Nola Nelson.



## Hikes

**McKenzie Pass Geology**  
**August 12, 2011**  
**Leader: Peter Rodda**  
**Hike: 3 miles, 200 ft. (Easy)**

**O**N AN EXCEPTIONALLY FINE DAY, a group of eleven 'geologizers' headed for the Old McKenzie Highway. After a brief stop at the McKenzie Ranger Station, we proceeded to our first scheduled stop at the junction of highways 126 and 242. As in previous years, we began this geological trip with a general introduction to the geological history of the area. We then drove up the McKenzie Pass road, stopping several times to view, examine, and discuss the volcanic and glacial geology. Our second stop was for a view of the canyon walls of Lost Creek/White Branch, a discussion of the glacier that had filled the valley, and a look at the large spring that feeds Lost Creek. After a hike to Proxy Falls, walking over lava flows from Collier Cone, we stopped for lunch at Linton Lake Trailhead. We continued driving up Highway 242, with stops to examine and walk on the South Belknap Crater lava flow, at Craig Lake to look at glacial grooves cut into older volcanic rock, to walk across an 'island' of older volcanic rock nearly engulfed by lava from Little Belknap Crater, and to examine the contact between intersected lava flows from Little Belknap Crater and Yapoah Crater. Finally, we had a good, clear, 360-degree view of the Cascade peaks from atop Dee Wright Observatory, and a walk on the newly paved loop trail over the Yapoah lava flow. From

McKenzie Pass we returned to Eugene. Members: Ken Kodama, Lana Lindstrom, Barbara Norregaard, Margaret Prentice, Peter Rodda, and Susan Sanazaro. Nonmembers: Nancy Raymond, Lyn Ericson, Deborah Baumgold, Barbara Wheatley, and Ashley Hastings.

## **Fuji Mountain**

**August 20, 2011**

**Leader: Rod Wood**

**Hike: 3 miles, 950 ft. (Easy)**

**WE MET AT THE OAKRIDGE DAIRY QUEEN** and drove up to the upper trailhead. It was a pleasant day with hardly a cloud in sight. Mosquitoes were active until we stopped and put on insect repellent. There were many huckleberry bushes but only a few green berries, no doubt the result of late spring snows. We had lunch on top where we ran into Obsidian Brian Hoyland and a friend, and a family that Rod knew from Oakridge. A group of eight from Lewis and Clark College joined us on top—it was getting crowded! The view was magnificent, as advertised. You could even see Mt. Hood to the north and all the Cascade peaks to Mt. Thielsen in the south. Waldo Lake was in the foreground with its surrounding peaks of The Twins, Maiden Peak, and Mt. Rae. We met many more hikers on the way back to the car; it was a very busy day on Fuji Mountain. Since it was still early, we drove the six miles up to the impressive Salt Creek Falls which Sarah had not seen. From there we finished the trip with an ice cream treat at the DQ. Long drive, short hike, wonderful view, and good company. Members: Rod Wood. Nonmembers: Sarah McArthur.

## **Mt. Bailey**

**August 27, 2011**

**Leader: John Jacobsen**

**Hike: 10 miles, 3,163 ft. (Difficult)**

*(Editor's note: This climb was part of the Diamond/Crater Lake weekend led by Rob Castleberry.)*

**WE LEFT THE BROKEN ARROW CAMPGROUND AT DIAMOND LAKE** shortly after 7:00 am and were heading up the trail to Mt. Bailey from the lower trailhead about 7:20. We were soon getting some views of the surrounds, but this included a great deal of smoke from forest fires started from lightning the past couple evenings. Luckily as the day progressed the smoke gradually dissipated and the views steadily improved. So, up we went into the increasingly more open alpine environs, past the crater, over the false summit, skirting the lower dike, past the hole in Mt. Bailey, step-sliding up the steep scree, rock scrambling up the side of the dike, a little more scree and on to the broad summit of the mountain, arriving about 10:35. We couldn't decide if it was time for late breakfast or an early lunch, but whatever the respite might be called we had a long leisurely stay on the top enjoying our food, the panoramic views under cloudless skies and the good company. In the 'it's a small world' department, three hikers from the San Francisco area soon joined us on top and during our conversation with them came to find out they were friends with fellow Obsidian Sam Miller and had hiked with Sam and his son Zane. On our descent we made a side trip to see the Hemlock Butte A-frame. We returned to the trailhead a little after 2:00, glad to have had an early start in order to beat much of the heat on the trail and to make time for swimming in Diamond Lake, ice cream at Southside, and some leisure time in camp during the remainder of the day. It was a great day. Mem-

bers: Marianne Camp, Rob Castleberry, John Jacobsen, and Jim Whitfield. Nonmembers: Lisa Berenschot and Tom Etges.

## **Larison Creek**

**August 27, 2011**

**Leader: Lynda Christiansen**

**Hike: 10.4 miles, 700 ft. (Moderate)**

**LARISON CREEK WAS A QUICK SUBSTITUTION** for the planned Obsidian Trail hike, which was cancelled because of lingering snowfields. Because it was such a warm day, we agreed that it was a good choice, as the canopy of the Douglas firs and red cedars kept us out of the sun. We noted the lack of wildflowers which have been so abundant recently. The trail was noticeably dry and Larison Creek flowed quietly. However, about halfway down the trail we had noted an inviting swimming hole which was much too good to pass up. The water was refreshing and we completed the day in good cheer. The trail is in good condition and we shared it with a small number of mountain bikers. Members: Lynda Christiansen and Diana Masarie. Nonmembers: Erin Noble.

## **U of O Campus**

**September 2, 2011**

**Leader: Janet Jacobsen**

**Hike: 3 miles, 0 ft. (Easy)**

**WITHOUT THE BUSTLE OF STUDENTS**, the U of O campus provided a pleasant and tranquil setting for nine of us to stroll for two hours discovering 40-plus sculptures and building ornamentals. We didn't find the elusive sundial but we did spot Alan Turing's tie clip in the shape of a question mark, Maxwell and his demon, a basketball and football, a fruit fly, flying ducks, zebra fish, and nine colophons. Winding our way through the service entrance of Straub Hall to the inner courtyard, we found The House of Phineas Gage in the shape of a brain reminding us of his gruesome accident and how it influenced brain science. At 10:55, we were in front of the Museum of Art waiting for the doors to open for the first Friday of the month free admission day. It was an inspired group who shared their impressions and made the walk so much fun. If you would like to see photos of the sculpture, Google outdoor sculpture University of Oregon or <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/architecture/oregon/sculpture.html>. Our apologies to Ann Rollins whom we somehow missed in the SEHS parking lot. Members: Linda Harris, Dick Hildreth, Janet Jacobsen, Margaret Prentice, Susan Sanazaro, and Suzanne Steussy. Nonmembers: Susan Deal, Leah Firth, and Sonia Yetter.

## **Ridgeline Trail**

**September 3, 2011**

**Leader: Janet Jacobsen**

**Hike: 6.2 miles, 900 ft. (Moderate)**

**IT WAS WORTH THE EARLY 8:00 AM START** to have a pleasant temperature for hiking. We were at the shaded park bench on Mt. Baldy around 11:00. Those who had not hiked the Ridgeline Trail were surprised how the car shuttle and the trail sections fit together. This was a perfect hike to start the Labor Day weekend. The five nonmembers had previously participated in the Get Acquainted hikes. Three of them asked us to sign their membership applications. Thanks to the five drivers who helped with the shuttle. Members: Lynda Christiansen, Jean Coberly, Dick Hildreth, Janet Jacobsen, and Sarah Praskievicz. Nonmembers:

Chris Zilka, Carolyn DeMarco, James Brown, Ann Rollins, and Leah Firth.

## Get Acquainted Hike AM - Ribbon Trail

September 9, 2011

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 2.5 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

**MEMBERS LANA LINDSTROM AND SUZANNE STEUSSY** were a great assist with the hike, especially answering questions. Why do our trips start so early? Do we keep track of a member's mileage? When was the Lodge built? Why are we called Obsidians? What is the average size of a hiking group? Can you hike up Mt. Hood? Where will your next summer camp be? It was a refreshing touch to serve apple cider at the Lodge as guests viewed the artwork. Members: Janet Jacobsen, Lana Lindstrom, and Suzanne Steussy. Nonmembers: Jeffery Kornfeld, Sonia Yetter, James Lavagnino, Phyllis Goldman, Sandra Rowell, Leah Knelly, Arlene Slattery, Della Swift, and Chris Accoa.

## Get Acquainted Hike PM - Ribbon Trail

September 9, 2011

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 2.5 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

**IT WAS A WARM HIKE** but thankfully the conversation distracted our heat sensors. The best quote was in response to my explanation of ivy removal from the trees. A guest said, "That sounds like a Sisyphus task." Two deer greeted us at the Lodge where the inside temperature was a welcome relief. Members: Janet Jacobsen. Nonmembers: Jim Evans, Ron Turbeville, and Bryn Miller.

## Get Acquainted Hike AM - Ribbon Trail

September 10, 2011

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 2.5 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

**A FOOTBALL GAME AND HOT WEATHER** did not get in the way of our morning hike on the Ribbon Trail. Everyone was eager to make new friends, hike the Ribbon Trail, and try to get their bearings when we got to 30th. Where is Franklin? Where is the golf course? The most recent arrival to Eugene was Tanya Peterson from South Dakota who arrived at 10:30 pm on Thursday. We couldn't wait to show her poison oak! Susan Stewart, a former member, hopes to reinstate her membership. It was interesting to visit with Ted Taylor, editor of the *Eugene Weekly*. Member Sarah Praskievicz had just returned from a week of field research for her Ph.D. dissertation. Sharon Cutsforth, board nominee who leads bus trips, was upbeat about her first hike. Members: Roberta Chord, Janet Jacobsen, Sharon Cutsforth, and Sarah Praskievicz. Nonmembers: David Madeira, Chyanne Edwards, Trenton Edwards, Autumn Edwards, Susan Stewart, Tanya Peterson, Jennifer Hickey, Wayne Hickey, and Ted Taylor.

## Get Acquainted Hike PM - Ribbon Trail

September 11, 2011

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 2.5 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

**IN SPITE OF THE HEAT**, seven guests and one member met me at the parking lot. During the introductions, two guests discovered they were both from Michigan and another two discovered they both moved to Eugene for better opportunities for their children's education. At last, someone could identify the two patch-

es of pink flowers on the trail: they are cyclamen. This was the last Get Acquainted Hike for the season and again I found the guests so appreciative about the opportunity to make friends, learn about the Obsidians, and discover the Ribbon Trail. After the hike people lingered in the parking lot to visit. A total of 28 guests (including four children) signed up for the four August hikes. We hope to see them on future hikes. Members: Janet Jacobsen and Moshe Rapaport. Nonmembers: Justin Mellott, Jessica Mellott, Atticus Mellott, Lydia Norton, Bonnie Grant, Shannon Jones, and Stephen Slater.

## Sweet Creek Falls

September 11, 2011

Leader: Jim Pierce

Hike: 2.5 miles, 250 ft. (Easy)

**FOUR ESCAPED THE VALLEY HEAT FOR A COOL WALK** along Sweet Creek. Our car was the first, but when we finished, there were 22 cars at the trailhead. The water was not as low as I have seen. The crawdads were bright, and we saw all seven kinds of ferns. After Sweet Creek was walked, we went on to Heceta Beach where it was COLD and windy, especially compared to the valley. Members: Jim Pierce and Susan Sanazaro. Nonmembers: Deborah Baumgold and Jim Evans.

## Fuji Mountain - Upper Island Loop

September 17, 2011

Leader: Lyndell Wilken

Photographer: Chris Stockdale

Hike: 16 miles, 2,949 ft. (Difficult)

**GOOD WEATHER AND EIGHT SEASONED HIKERS** made the trip up Fuji Mountain a rewarding experience. The sun came out just in time for our lunch on top. We had views of the surrounding peaks and lakes and time was spent identifying landmarks to those on the hike who were unfamiliar with the area. Our return trip followed a different route passing Lower and Upper Island lakes. Everyone stayed vigilant along the trail as they searched for the Cy Bingham tree blaze, along the South Waldo Trail, which dates back to 1905. Another tree blaze from 1908 was seen at the Mt. Rae trail junction. These blazes have survived over 100 years and feature the name of Cy Bingham, the date, the ranger district, and the names of anyone that was camping with Cy Bingham at the time. The blazes added an interesting feature to the 10-mile return hike to the cars. Participants in-



cluded Matthys Reinder, a visitor from Switzerland. Members: John Hegg, Dick Hildreth, Chris Stockdale, Elle Weaver, Lyndell Wilken, and Sue Wolling. Nonmembers: Erin Noble and Matthys Reinder.

## North Fork Trail - Buffalo Rock Segment

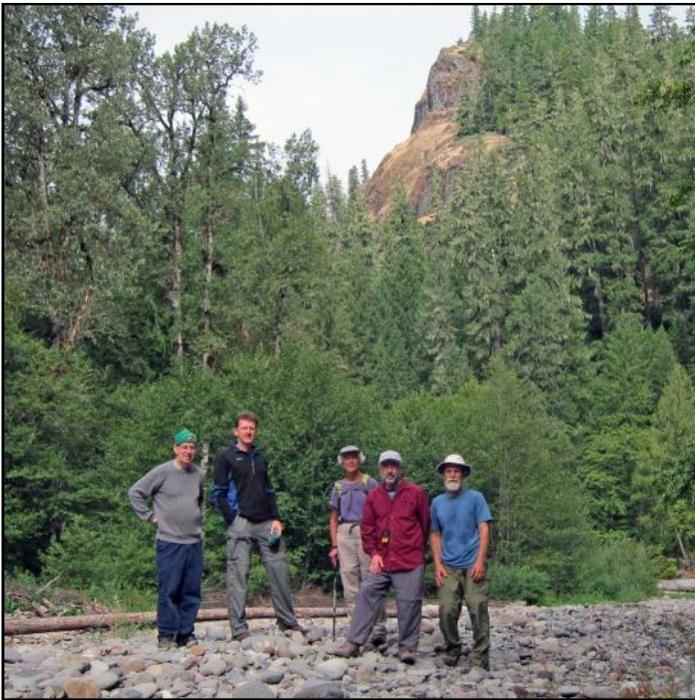
September 17, 2011

Leader: Paul Flashenberg

Photographer: Ernest Schwintzer

Hike: 9 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

FIVE OF US LEFT EUGENE ON A COOL MORNING for our hike on the new section of the North Fork Trail. After a brief stop on the cobble beach for picture taking, we continued to the end of the trail for our lunch break. On our way back, two other hikers informed us that they saw salmon spawning on the river near the cobble beach, so we all watched for awhile. With everyone maintaining a solid pace, we were back in town a little after 4:00, having enjoyed an early fall hike. Members: Lynda Christiansen, Paul Flashenberg, Ernst Schwintzer, and Darko Sojak. Nonmembers: Jeffery Kornfeld.



## Climbs

### Three Fingered Jack

August 27, 2011

Leader: Wayne Deeter

Climb: 11 miles, 3,000 ft.

**A**LAS, OUR USUAL EARLY START DIDN'T GET US TO THE TOP FIRST. A group of seven with the Santiam Alpine Club had left the trailhead around 3 am. We got to 'The Crawl' just as their leader was stringing their fixed-line. We asked for,

and received, permission to use their rope. That gave us several hours to relax at the base of the chimney. Dalen continued the old tradition of hauling a watermelon along on a climb. (Ha! Bet he didn't know he wasn't the first to do so.) It was a cute little one, only about 8" across. There was plenty for the four of us, and some left over for the SACers. After we all had our 60 seconds on the true summit, we beat a hasty retreat. There was quite a crowd behind us: 11-12 Scouts, a group of two, and six Mazamas. The day was warm but tolerable. Views were impaired by smoke from the recent lightning-caused fires. No one besides me had opted for the 'Jack/Washington' double, so I was alone in my dip in Suttle Lake, and dinner at Papandreas. Members: Wayne Deeter, Brian Hamilton, Rick Harris, and Dalen Willhite.

### Mt. Washington

August 28, 2011

Leader: Wayne Deeter; Asst. Leader: Marci Hansen

Climb: 10.5 miles, 3,000 ft.

LEADER-IN-TRAINING MARCI LED THE GROUP UP THE PCT, which was damp from the thundershowers of the previous night. We reached the climbers' trail at about sunrise, and the ridge about 1½ hours later. We could make out just the tops of Three Fingered Jack and Mt. Jefferson poking through the smoke from the wildfires. There was still a substantial amount of snow on the east side scree fields. All five of us made the summit. Winds cleared the air of much of the smoke, allowing us views of the Sisters, Jack and Jefferson. As we started our descent we got a glimpse of Broken Top. We returned via the west-side scree fields and wildflower-filled meadows. Congratulations to David and Dean on their first technical mountain ascents! Members: Wayne Deeter and Marci Hansen. Nonmembers: David Shear, Dean Hansen, and Rick Hoffman.



## Bike Trips

### Big Fall Creek

September 11, 2011

Leader: Stewart Hoeg

Bike: 38 miles, 400 ft. (Moderate)

**I**T WAS A WARM AND SMOKY START at the Lowell marina as the three participants prepared for the ride. Forest fires to the west coupled with a lack of recent rain were the source of the smoke. Actually, the three riders had met earlier at the Sunrise Cafe in Pleasant Hill for breakfast. As a result, everyone had plenty of calories to aid in the upcoming ride. The road had more cars than usual, but the route was perfect for the unusually warm day—mostly shady and abutting water. The lush greenery helped preserve the cool feeling which we all appreciated. The last few miles before our lunch spot at Puma Campground was through the area burned by a forest fire several years ago. Although it is open and stark, the understory is beginning to fill in and provides an interesting variation in the ride's landscape. The ride back to Lowell is always a pleasure. It is a gradual downgrade making for a relatively quick and relaxing return. Members: Bill Aspegren, Stewart Hoeg, Richard Hughes.



## Trail Maintenance

### **Spencer Butte**

**August 31, 2011**

**Leader: Matthew Bell**

**Trl Mnt: 2 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)**

**W**E MET CHRISTER LABRECQUE OF PARKS & OPEN SPACES at the main Spencer Butte parking lot for the last Wednesday evening trails outing of the summer, and headed up the trail. Along the way Darko and Jim put up a couple of signs to warn hikers of a cougar sighting earlier in the day in the Junction

Meadow. One was placed near the trailhead and the other near the trail junction in the Junction Meadow. Just after the meadow that used to have picnic tables, we were all very surprised to see that all of the sticks, branches, and logs we'd previously used to disguise and block an illicit trail had been taken and used to create a large wigwam. We all joined together to take apart the wigwam and re-brush out the illicit trail. As we progressed along the trail we noted the smell of a decaying animal and discovered the remains of a deer fairly close to the trail. Thoughts of it being the aftermath of a cougar's dinner weren't far from our minds. Once at the meadow we broke into two groups. One group, consisting of Janet Jacobsen and Lana Lindstrom, continued up the trail to continue blocking shortcuts and illicit trails with brush. The remainder of our group worked with Christer to remove small trees from the meadow to prevent further loss to the encroachment of the forest. Members: Matthew Bell, Janet Jacobsen, Lana Lindstrom, Darko Sojak, and Jim Whitfield. Nonmembers: Todd Larsen and Julie Bojanowski .

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### **Hiking Around Mt. Hood**

**September 7-9, 2011**

**Leader: Joe Sanders**

**Extended Trip**

**T**HREE REMAINING HARDY SOULS who did not cancel out beforehand, plus the trip leader, were rewarded with three days of spectacular hikes around the Mt. Hood area. Despite a major fire on NE slopes of Mt. Hood, and record heat temperatures in both Eugene and Portland, our weather was totally smoke-free and cloudless, if a tad warm at times. Views of Mt. Hood varied from observing the south flank from a distance (Tom, Dick and Harry Ridge, on the south side of Route 26) to 'up close and personal' (a stiff climb up to Silcox hut, above Timberline Lodge, directly on the mountain, followed by a lupine filled trek along the upper flank of the Paradise Park access trail), to everyone's favorite on our third day: Elk Meadows, with Mt. Hood's east flank majestically overlooking late blooming wildflowers and the subtle early fall color changes of the marsh grasses in this bucolic meadow.

Ensnconced comfortably in the Portland based Trails Club

Lodge (Tyee) directly on lower Mt. Hood, we stuffed ourselves during our group evening meals with an over-abundance of food (thanks to a last minute cancellation and a no-show). We learned local lore and enjoyed the company of our gracious Trails Club hostess Vicki Wood. Fortunately, any drama (problems) associated with the trip were left behind with the 'who's in/who's out' advance signup shuffling in Eugene, and the only incident we had to contend with during our excursion was Paul losing his hat!

Our warm full day's work-out on the mountain itself ended with Vicki and her four male out-of-town hikers sitting in the air conditioned Timberline Lodge with an ice cold pitcher of beer, gazing up at Mt. Hood through panoramic windows. Had 'cold beer after hiking' been part of the advance trip description, this trip might have filled, with a wait list—but such a perk was a spontaneous group decision, part of touring this iconic Oregon tourist attraction. Like that reflective beer-enhanced afternoon, this trip itself will pass into memory, as I will not be offering it again in future.

Members: Paul Flashenburg, Joe Sanders (leader), Ron Swisher. Nonmember: Tom Avery.

## **Dallas Cole Birthday at the Lodge**

**D**ALLAS COLE AND OTHER VISITORS from the Mary's Woods Retirement Community in Lake Oswego made their second visit to Eugene on September 8<sup>th</sup> to view her sculptures, including the Obsidian Spirit mural. It was Dallas' 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday, so surprise decorations were prearranged with Dallas' husband. He called John Jacobsen and asked him to put up a cartoon dialog bubble on the mural with one of the hikers announcing "Happy Birthday, Dallas." The other hiker held a floating balloon.

A smiling Dallas was first off the van wearing her Obsidian sweatshirt with the Obsidian leader patch on her sleeve. Was she surprised to see the addition to the mural and the table decorations! Mary's Woods provided sack lunches for everyone. Obsidian hosts presented the sparkling apple cider to accompany Dallas' homemade brownies.

Dallas later wrote to thank Obsidians for their cheerful hospitality and special effects, along with a donation to the club for \$82, one dollar for each year. Cheers to Dallas!!

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



### Byways By Bus

#### **Holiday Gathering at the Obsidian Lodge**

**Date:** December 6, 2011 from 11 am to 3 pm

**Cost:** \$5 members, \$10 nonmembers

**Reservations & checks to:** Janet Speelman, 344-3019

**O**N TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6 FROM 11 AM TO 3 PM, the Bus Committee will host a Holiday Luncheon at the Lodge. There will be door prizes, entertainment, Obsidian concessions for sale, and the bus committee's legendary excellent food.

Join us and bring your rider friends who may no longer be able to travel. Come to get acquainted with our special group of riders. Do not bring eating utensils, as plates and eating utensils will be furnished.

If transportation or directions to the Lodge are needed, call Janet Speelman at 344-3019.

## OTHER ORGANIZATION EVENTS

### Nearby Nature

#### **No School Day Program: Harvest Tales and Treats** (Friday, October 14, 8:30 am-3 pm)

Immerse yourself in nature's bounty at our Learnscape in Alton Baker Park. Gather seasonal veggies, prepare a garden-fresh feast, and have a forest tea party. Make an herbal wreath and tell harvest tales. \$30 members/\$35 nonmembers, ages 6-9, maximum 12 kids. Register at 687-9699, ext. 2 or <http://www.nearbynature.org/programs/no-school-day-programs>.

#### **Pumpkin Carving:** (Thursday, October 20, 3-5 pm)

Help Nearby Nature carve 70-90 pumpkins for the Haunted Hike! We'll meet outside the Park Host Residence. Bring carving tools if you have them...we'll also share what we have. Call 687-9699 or email [info@nearbynature.org](mailto:info@nearbynature.org) to let us know you're coming to help.

#### **15th Annual Haunted Hike!** (Saturday, October 22, 5:30-9 pm—Pre-Registration Required)

Join us for an evening of night creature fun and discovery. Go on a pumpkin-lit hike through Alton Baker Park and meet our costumed night critters—Bat, Owl, Raccoon, Frog, Moth, Beaver, and Spider! Back at the picnic shelter, enjoy creepy crafts, munch on tricky treats, and check out our amazing raffle. Pre-registration required: 687-9699. Event happens rain or moonshine. Cost: members FREE, nonmembers \$5 per person. Raffle items welcome—call 687-9699 to make a donation. Thanks a bunch to all the folks who have donated so far—see <http://www.nearbynature.org/thanks/2011-haunted-hike-affle-and-food-donations> to see what you can win!

#### **Track Town Pizza Benefit Day** (Wednesday, October 26)

Join us at Track Town Pizza at 1809 Franklin Blvd. on Wednesday, October 26 for a Nearby Nature PIE DAY in support of Nearby Nature's educational programs! All day long, Track Town will donate 50% of the cost of your pizza, salad, or soup order (not delivery items) to Nearby Nature if you bring in our special coupon. Donations will support family nature programs, park restoration, scholarships, and more.

**Important:** Pizza coupons will not be available at the restaurant—you must bring your coupon with you. Click <http://www.nearbynature.org/membership/coupons-for-benefit-days> to get a copy from our website. Make copies and share with friends!

#### **No School Day Program: Time Travelers** (Friday, November 11, 8:30 am-3 pm)

Unravel the mysteries of Alton Baker Park! Discover 20-million-year-old fossils, create your own fossil imprint, and explode a volcano. Dig for dinosaur bones at the Science Factory's dinosaur exhibit and learn tales of the Kalapuya people. \$30 members/\$35 nonmembers, ages 6-9, maximum 12 kids. Register at 687-9699, ext. 2 or <http://www.nearbynature.org/programs/no-school-day-programs>.

#### **Play in the Rain Day** (Saturday, November 12, 10 am-3 pm at Mount Pisgah Arboretum)

Play in the Rain Day is a free family event for all ages. The day's activities include nature crafts, hikes, hay rides, scavenger hunts, tree climbing, a visit from Smokey Bear, campfire cookery, and more! Parking and all activities, including campfire food, are FREE! Don't miss this fun event—over 1,000 people attend every year. Play in the Rain Day will happen rain or shine, so dress for the weather. This event is sponsored by the Youth in Nature Partnership (<http://www.youthinnature.org/>), which includes Nearby Nature. For directions, see <http://mountpisgaharboretum.org/maps>.

## AT THE LODGE



# POTLUCK

Friday, October 28, 6:30 pm

## Hiking the PCT

**JIM REA, WHO DISCOVERED HIKING AT THE AGE OF 64,** has hiked the full length of the Pacific Crest Trail by hiking approximately 400 miles each summer. He began at the Mexican border in 2004 and reached the Canadian terminus in 2010. After the first couple of years, his wife Zhita has served as his support team by providing his food resupplies and his weekly rest stops along the way. I met Jim near Pamela Lake while I was day hiking and have backpacked with him on the PCT for parts of his last three sections. Come hear Jim speak about his experiences including an air evacuation near Mt. Jefferson at the potluck on Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>. Remember to bring your cup, plate and silverware along with a dish to share and a dollar to help cover lodge costs. Dinner begins at 6:30 and Jim will begin his presentation around 7:30. Hope to see lots of folks there, both people new to the Obsidians as well as you old timers.

*Susan Wanser, Entertainment Committee Chair*



### October Potluck

Friday, October 28, 2011

Potluck, 6:30 pm Program, 7:30 pm Obsidian Lodge

*Bring your favorite potluck dish to share...along with plates, utensils and cups...*



### ExploraTalk

Tuesday, October 18, 7:00 pm

## The Science of Spiders

**THE GOOD? THE BAD? THE UGLY? SPIDERS:** Which are they?

According to Obsidian Rick Ahrens, spiders are GOOD and BEAUTIFUL! And he would like the opportunity to prove it to you at the Tuesday, October 18, ExploraTalk, 7 pm at the Lodge.

He's taken multitudes of photos of the extraordinary variety that inhabit his house and porch and garden (and yours, too). His show was very well received at the Eugene Public Library, so if you missed it there, here's your second chance.

Rick will give us the science of spiders, noting all the benefits we derive from them. Like the erroneously feared bat, spiders are much maligned, to their detriment and ours. I saw first-hand the other day how a spider on my porch kept a nasty house fly out of my home by wrapping him cocoon style, in his web, on hold for a tasty dinner. Poisonous spiders don't normally inhabit our area. The few encountered come in on 'banana boats' from somewhere else.

So hide your arachnophobia under your hat (or the garden shed) for one evening and come learn what pretty and fascinating creatures our spider neighbors can be.

*Joelle Ewing, Conservation/SciEd Chair*



# Membership Committee Wants Your Renewals!

**I**F WE COULD, WE'D DO A BIG COUNTDOWN IN THIS SPACE, or play the Jeopardy Jingle to get you guys and gals moving who haven't renewed your Obsidian membership yet! Or maybe playing the William Tell Overture would speed your renewals on their way!?!

All memberships expire on November 1<sup>st</sup>. You've only got a couple of weeks left before the Membership Committee starts dialing, interrupting important activities -- **Monday Night Football, Iron Chef, Man, Woman, Wild,** or the **Leave it to Beaver** reruns!

Please take a moment to put your name on the yellow renewal form (mailed to every household, tucked safely inside your September Bulletins). Or go to the Obsidian homepage, *members only, documents* and print one out. Then write a check for your dues, \$30 each, and then mail it without delay, to:

**Obsidians Inc. Membership Chair, PO Box 51424, Eugene, OR 97405**

We on Membership Committee really appreciate those of you who pay on time. Thanks!

*Membership Committee Chair, Barb Revere*

## Save the date!

February 1-3, 2012

Paulina Lake Ski/Snowshoe Extended Trip

**W**E'LL SKI OR SNOWSHOE three miles into the Paulina Lake area and stay in warm cottages. Additional information will be in the next *Bulletin*.



## Obsidian Calendar

### October

15 Sat **Grizzly Peak**, Hike, 10m, 2,700', **D**, Weaver .....852-6128  
15 Sat **Lorane-Doane Hill Loop**, Bike, Gilman-Garrick.345-5236  
18 Tue **Spiders**, Ahrens .....**ExploraTalk**  
22 Sat **Tamolitch Pool to Clear Lake**, Hike, **M**, Lipton.736-7498  
23 Sat **McKenzie View/Bottom Loop**, Bike, Strahon .....689-0753  
23 Sun **Silver Falls**, Hike, 7m, 600', **M**, Hackett.....953-7046  
28 Fri **Hiking the PCT**, Rea .....**Potluck**  
29 Sat **Spencer Butte**, Trl Mnt, Bell.....503-884-8829  
29 Sat **Smith Rocks**, Hike, 10m, 80', **E**, Hamilton.....343-6550

### November

05 Sat **Eel Creek**, Hike, 6m, 100', **M**, Hackett.....953-7046  
06 Sun **Kentucky Falls**, Hike, 4.4m, 800', **E**, Ledet.....683-2603  
26 Sat **Spencer Butte**, Trl Mnt, Bell.....503-884-8829

### December

06 Tue **Christmas at the Lodge**, Bus, Reanier .....687-1925  
18 Sun **Three Mile Lake/Tahkenitch**, Hike, **M**, Lipton.736-7498

## Memory Test

**J**ULE GILFILLAN, A TV PRODUCER FOR OREGON FIELD GUIDE, AT OPB, is researching the status and history of the Santiam apple tree that is allegedly on the south side of the highway at or near the Santiam Pass as one travels to Sisters. She did a Google search for information about the tree but could only find reference to the tree in a July, 1964 Obsidian newsletter. At that time the tree was in full bloom and tree watchers were anticipating the apples which would result in the pies that made the tree so famous.

If you have any current information or know more about the tree, Jule would very much like to talk with you. She can be reached at 503-293-1942 or email at [jgilfillan@opb.org](mailto:jgilfillan@opb.org)

## Classifieds

### For Sale

**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.*



Broken Top from Sparks Lake. Photo by Lana Lindstrom. See Hosmer Lake trip report on page 4.

October 2011



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