

Inside This Issue

Backpacker Rendezvous	1
Summer Trips	1
Summer Camp	2
Membership	2
Board Notes	3
Trip Reports	4-10
Upcoming Events	10
Upcoming Bus Trips	11
Potluck	12
ExploraTalk	12
Calendar	13
Concessions	13
Picture of the Month	14

Dates to Remember

March 21	ExploraTalk
March 24	Potluck
April 1	Bulletin Deadline
April 5	Board Meeting
April 7	Backpacker Rendezvous
April 11	Leader Training

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

Backpacker Rendezvous 2017

THE ANNUAL RENDEZVOUS IS ABOUT ALL THINGS LIGHTWEIGHT BACKPACKING. If you are new to backpacking, a seasoned expert, or somewhere in between, the Obsidians have answers.

Join us at the Obsidian Lodge on Friday, April 7, 2017 from 7–9 PM.

Speakers and activities include:

- Ideas for doing more with less.
- Chris ‘Scrub’ Burke will share experiences on the PCT & AT.
- Section hiking on the PCT in Oregon.
- Bring your backpack and gear; get a shakedown from a pro hiker.
- Lightweight gear demos.

Obsidian trip leaders will be opening their packs to share what works for them on the trail.

Remember, the fun goes up when the weight comes down. If you want some practical ideas about lightweight backpacking while being safe and comfortable on the trail, join us for a great evening on April 7.

The event is free—the public is welcome.

Speakers begin at 7 PM; everything else starts at 8 PM.

Questions? Contact Mark at hougardy@gmail.com.

Summer is Coming ... Lead Early and Lead Often!

John Cooper, Summer Trips Chair

THE SEASONS WILL BE CHANGING, and that means the activities calendar will change as well—especially with your help. April 1 is the beginning of Summer Trips. Already scheduled is Mark Hougardy’s Backpacker Rendezvous (see article above) and the **Leader Training and Appreciation Night set for April 11**. The Training Night, organized by Summer Trips, will focus on how to remain safe on club activities. Pizza will be served. We ask that people RSVP by signing up for this event online.

What is needed now from our membership, is for leaders to sign up to lead trips, especially in the first two months, April and May. Please submit your ideas for an activity to summertrips@obsidian.org. It is a great time to pick a date since the calendar is wide open. Include date, distance, elevation, driving time, meeting place. The scheduler can help with any details you are missing.

Thanks.

Camp Funkhouser ~ Obsidian Summer Camp 2017

John Jacobsen, Summer Camp Chair

A REGISTRATION FORM FOR CAMP FUNKHOUSER in the North Cascades near Winthrop, Washington will be included with the April Obsidian *Bulletin* along with details about camp fees and other camping information. The camp is planned for Sunday, July 30 through Saturday, August 5. We anticipate that online signup will be available on April 17.



View from Cutthroat Pass in the North Cascades
Photo by John Jacobsen 2001

Membership

Active	403
Life	17
Honorary	5
Junior	8
Total	434

OBSIDIANS, INC

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405

Website: www.obsidians.org

Board of Directors

Laurie Funkhouser, President
John Cooper, Vice President
David Cooper, Secretary
Stewart Hoeg, Treasurer
Sharon Cutsforth, Pat Esch,
Marci Hansen, Todd Larsen,
Maryanne Reiter & Lyndell Wilken.

Board meetings are held at 6:00 PM the first Wednesday of each month, except October when it is the Wednesday after the Annual Meeting. There is no August meeting.

Committee Chairpersons

By-Ways By Bus Sharon Cutsforth
Climbs Maryanne Reiter
Concessions Carla Cooper
Conservation/SciEd J. Rolfe & T. Rundle
Entertainment Lana Lindstrom
Extended Trips Lana Lindstrom
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Publications Lou Maenz
Publicity Janet Jacobsen
Safety Lyndell Wilken
Summer Camp John Jacobsen
Summer Trips John Cooper
Trail Maintenance Matt Bell
Winter Trips Dave Lodeesen

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The Obsidian Bulletin

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405

Deadline

for April *Bulletin*

Saturday, April 1, 2017

February

Assembly/Mailing Team

Manager: Lou Maenz

Team: Tom Adamczyk, Don Baldwin,
Sharon Cutsforth, Clara Emlen, Yuan
Hopkins, Joanne Ledet, Lenore
McManigal, Margaret Prentice.

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Janet Jacobsen, Joanne Ledet,
Lou Maenz, Ethel Weltman

Copy Editors:

Jorry Rolfe, Ethel Weltman

Graphics Design & Desktop Publishing:
Carla Cooper, Bea Fontana, Stewart Hoeg

BOARD NOTES

By David Cooper

President Laurie Funkhouser called the meeting to order. Other Board members present: Marci Hansen, Maryanne Reiter, Dave Cooper, and Lyndell Wilken. Also present were: Stewart Hoeg, Kathy Hoeg, Matt Bell, Wayne Deeter, and Carla Cooper.

Without a quorum, the Board took no action but did discuss some topics.

Treasurer's Report:

The Board reviewed the bills.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Summer Trips (John Cooper): Work continues on Leader Training and Appreciation Night set for April 11. No time has yet been set. Dave Cooper and Kathy Randall are reviewing the Trip Leader Packet to look for updates that are needed. Janet Jacobsen has started trip recruitment for April and May with the big push by other committee members starting at the end of March.

Winter Trips (Dave Lodeesen): For the month of February (as of the moment of this report) the following has come to pass: 27 trips have been completed.

Climbs (Maryanne Reiter): The Climbs committee opened registration to Climb School on Feb 16. It was filled by 9 AM and in a few hours had 20 on the waiting list. Because of the demand, we added four more students bringing the total to 28. We also started adding Climbs to the schedule.

Trail Maintenance (Matthew Bell): There was one outing this past month in Hendricks Park to clear the trails and trail sides and ready the trails for re-opening hopefully soon.

Highways and Byways By Bus (Sharon Cutsforth): The Bus Committee has completed plans for eight 2017 bus trips. Details will be posted on the Obsidians website under *Bus Trips* and trip schedules will be available at the Bus Rally March 5.

Summer Camp (John Jacobsen): A registration form for Camp Funkhouser will be included with the April Obsidian *Bulletin* along with details about camp fees and other camping information.

Extended Trips (Lana Lindstrom): The registration for three Extended Trips opened in February. Two are fully subscribed with a waiting list. The third is almost full.

Conservation, Science, & Education (Jorry Rolfe): The February ExploraTalk with co-presenters Carrie Ward and John Leavens, introduced by Deb Carver, was well-attended. Forty people heard about what it takes to complete a Race Across America and a Denali climb.

Publications (Lou Maenz): The Bulletin committee mailed 411 *Bulletins*.

Entertainment (Lana Lindstrom): The February potluck presentation, *Hiking the Fife Trail in Scotland*, by Al LePage was very well-attended. We continue to evaluate the sound system proposals with the Lodge Committee Chair, including soliciting additional input from experts.

Membership (Laurie Funkhouser): The Committee had a meeting on February 22, 2017. Reviewed current documents and will be working to update/alter the renewal form.

Publicity (Janet Jacobsen): Last month, 50 copies of the February flyer were distributed at the Y. Darko continues to post the flyer at other places including REI. I leave copies by the entrance door of the Lodge. Members tell me they like to post a copy on their refrigerators to reference upcoming events. Encourage guests to view the calendar on our website or give them a copy when leading a trip.

Concessions (Carla Cooper): We are considering ordering commemorative ceramic coffee mugs and/or notecards for the Obsidians' 90th year. If anyone would like to give input on either of these items, please talk to one of the Concessions committee members.

Library/Historian (Lenore McManigal): All of the activities have been recorded which were in the February *Bulletin*.

Lodge Building (Dave Cooper): A special thanks to Janet Jacobsen and Jane Hackett for mopping the floors. And to John Jacobsen for having a ready supply of kindling and laying fires. Work will begin soon on replacing some storage area lighting with low profile LED fixtures. We will also be updating the lighting panel documentation and labeling light switches.

Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): Two work parties this month: Tuesday, Feb 7 - General cleanup for Lodge rental included picking up blowdown from latest wind storm and hauling last of stacked rounds from the December ice storm. Split kindling for Lodge. Thank you to Jim Northrup and Jim Whitfield for their help. Tuesday Feb 21 - A routine cleanup before the February ExploraTalk and potluck. Also re-dug/cleaned out all the drainage ditches around grounds—nothing like doing it in pouring down rain to see what's working and what's not. Thanks to Jim Northrup and Jim Whitfield for their help.

Safety (Lyndell Wilken): The annual safety committee meeting took place on January 6. The Accident Report Form was updated and changes were delivered to John Jacobsen so that the form could be updated online. The new copies were placed in all the first aid kits and the Obsidian box at the YMCA.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ad Hoc Canine Committee (Chris Stockdale):

After the Board approved the Guidelines published in the January *Bulletin* with one amendment, it gave the Committee the go-ahead to plan a 3-month trial period beginning in May. Criteria to determine the success or failure of this proposed addition to the list of Obsidian activities have now been developed.

GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Research of a new sound system for the Lodge
- Standard criteria for membership
- Status of annexation and development of property to the south of the Lodge
- Upgrading the Obsidian website

Adjournment

TRIP REPORTS & OTHER ACTIVITIES



Trail Maintenance

Trail Maintenance

January 28, 2017

Leader: Matthew Bell

Photographer: Pat Soussan

Trail Maintenance: 2 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

OUR GROUP MET UP AT THE MAIN SPENCER BUTTE PARKING LOT on a cold and calm morning. We had received permission from the city to work in some of the closed sections of the trails, namely the Tie and part of the Ridgeline trails. We broke into three groups to tackle the tasks for the morning. Clara and Laurie stayed at the trailhead to clean the stairs and kiosk. It was an amazing transformation. Janet, Dave, Tom, Jim, Wally, and Azara hiked up the main trail clearing drainage ditches and checking seven culverts before cleaning the stairs and summiting. Brad, Dan, Denise, Steve, Serge, Susan, and I donned hardhats and hiked along the Tie and Ridgeline trails nearly to Fox Hollow before working our way back. We raked out drainage features along, raked debris from, and threw debris away from the trail. Dan, Denise, and Serge worked extremely hard to clear much of the drainage



ditch just up the Tie Trail from the junction with the Ridgeline. Even with all that has been and was accomplished, there is still a lot of work that needs to be done to get the trails back into shape. Members: Steve Adey, Matthew Bell, Brad Bennett, Clara Emlen, Laurie Funkhouser, Dan Gilmore, Susan Hutchinson Carey, Janet Jacobsen, Jim Northrop, Dave Predeek, Pat Soussan. Nonmembers: Serge Faumont, Denise Egri, Wally Cellunese, Azara Tilt.

Blanton Ridge

February 9, 2017

Leader & Photographer: Janet Jacobsen

Trail Maintenance: 2 miles, 100 ft. (Moderate)

FOUR OF US VOLUNTEERED TO HELP DEV COCHRANE, a Eugene Parks and Open Space staff person, repair damage from the storm on Blanton Trail. For the first project, we used

Pulaskis and grub hoes to grade out and level a hole caused by a root wad making it easier for hikers to pass. Later this



spring, Open Space plans to do more work to stabilize the section. We then moved up the trail for the more difficult project, removing a giant root wad blocking the trail. Dev worked with us to set up the GripHoist and cables between two trees and the root wad. Everyone took turns tightening the cables with the telescopic handle. My turn was ten seconds. I could hardly move the handle. Eventually, the root wad began to move. Camera ready and with big smiles on our muddy faces, we watched it roll over the side of the slope. It was hard to believe that we actually moved it. We scraped as much mud as we could from the trail. It was more difficult to deal with the mud on clothes, our faces, and shoes. The photos of this interesting project are in the gallery. Thanks to Dev who patiently explained how to move the root wad. Members: David Cooper, Janet Jacobsen, John Jacobsen, Jim Northrop.



Snowshoe Trips

Gold Lake

January 22, 2017

Leader: Jane Hackett

Photographer: Darko Sojak

Snowshoe: 5 miles, 300 ft. (Moderate)

GORGEOUS DAY, 32 DEGREES AND SUNNY. Leaving an hour later than planned, we met very good road conditions—at 7:30 it was snowing and 28 degrees. We had no trouble getting to the end of the road. If you did not know where the shelter was you could have skied past it. Dave and Darko went down and checked it out while the rest of us lunched in the sun on the bridge. The shelter was in good shape, but so surrounded in snow that no one had been in it. We ran into a couple of ski patrollers digging steps down to the bathroom who also had dug steps from Hwy 58 up a six-foot wall of snow so that we could do our trip. It seemed like such a nice day, I decided to add an exploratory trip to Lower Marilyn Lake. This added a little over a mile to the trip but



took us off the road and into the trees. I was surprised that the lake was not completely frozen over. The puddle in the middle was enough to warn you off. We were back to the cars by 2:00 and home before dark. Members: Brad Bennett, Marguerite Cooney, Esme Greer, Joel Greer, Jane Hackett, David Lodeesen, Kathy Randall, Cindy Rice, Tom Rundle, Chris Shuraleff, Mike Smith, Darko Sojak, Nancy Whitfield.

Salt/Diamond Creek

January 28, 2017

Leader: Scott Hovis

Snowshoe: 3.5 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

THE NEW PEDESTRIAN SIGNS AT SALT CREEK ARE NOT ALWAYS OBEYED BY SOME DRIVERS. The strategy I use when crossing the Salt Creek car/people crossing is to walk down the middle of the bridge so the vehicle must stop; don't allow a car to push you to the side where you'll be squeezed between the car and the guard rail. Warning: some of the viewpoints are missing guard rails. There were 18 inches of packed snow on the foot bridge to cross Salt Creek, but it was still safe to cross. To my surprise it was pointed out to me that the hike is not 3.5 miles but actually 5 miles. Members: Marguerite Cooney, Consuelo Gomez, Esme Greer, Joel Greer, Scott Hovis, Valerie Metcalfe, Deborah Sinnott, Mike Smith. Nonmembers: Kim Davidson-Ruby.

Potato Hill

February 11, 2017

Leader: Scott Hovis

Photographer: Daphne James

Snowshoe: 5 miles, 900 ft. (Difficult)

A BEAUTIFUL BRIGHT, SUNNY DAY AWAITED US near Santiam Pass as we arrived to snowshoe the loop up to Potato Hill and down through the forest. It was 27 as we started up the trail that had already been broken by a previous group of snowshoers. About 1 1/2 miles up the trail, we veered off to the left to ascend Potato Hill. Here we had to break our own trail through fresh powder that was often a foot deep. The packed base snow was a good 5-6 feet in depth. We enjoyed clear views of Three-Fingered Jack and Mt. Jefferson to the north before we started our descent into the forest loop. Here the way got tricky because the blue diamonds marking the trail were few and far between. This led to many false starts and some backtracking. We found a small clearing where we stopped to eat lunch and soak up the warm sun. Then it was mostly downhill through deep powder to where we hooked

up with the return trail. Everyone made it back to the cars in fine shape. A big thanks to Mike for helping with a lot of the hard and exhausting trail breaking—with broken bindings on



both of his snowshoes. Amazing! Members: Marguerite Cooney, Consuelo Gomez, Scott Hovis, Daphne James, David Lodeesen, Lynn Meacham, Tom Rundle, Mike Smith, Eric Thornton. Nonmembers: Julian Gomez, Amber Gomez.

Isaac Nickerson Loop (Exploratory)

February 13, 2017

Leader: Jane Hackett

Photographer: Dave Lodeesen

Snowshoe: 4 miles, 250 ft. (Easy)

GREAT SNOWSHOE TRIP. Views of Three-Fingered Jack, Mt. Washington and all Three Sisters. We started in the fog and



by Leaburg we were in the sun for the rest of the day. No new snow but by the time we got on the trail the sun had softened things up; that made for easy snowshoeing the rest of the day. Lunch at noon on a bench with a perfect view of all Three Sisters. Members: Brad Bennett, Patricia Esch, May Fogg, Jane Hackett, David Lodeesen, Caroline Moore, Tom Rundle.

Brandenburg Shelter Loop

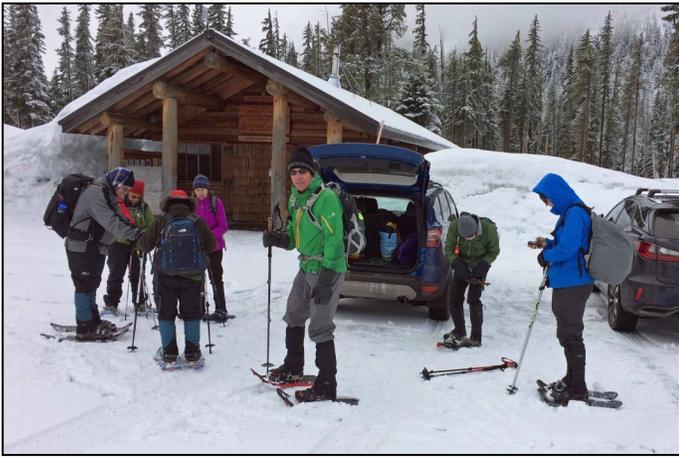
February 17, 2017

Leader: Daphne James

Photographer: Dave Lodeesen

Snowshoe: 7.4 miles, 100 ft. (Moderate)

THE SNOWSHOE TRIP TO BRANDENBURG SHELTER at Ray Benson Sno-Park is a 7.4-mile loop. We got to the trailhead early and it was cloudy and 35 when we headed out on the



South Loop. There were several inches of perfect fresh white snow on the trail and trees, and a remarkable quiet in the air. Our strong leaders easily broke trail through the powdery snow. After a couple of miles the trail curved west, went past the place where the PCT intercepts, and came to a sign for Brandenburg Shelter in 1/2 mile. This trail circled around Brandenburg Butte. At one point near a sign post in the ground, the blue diamonds became difficult to spot. We kept to the right going around the butte and the diamonds soon reappeared. We followed the diamonds around to the north side of the butte then turned right a very short distance downhill to the shelter. There was a lone skier just leaving when we arrived at the shelter. He left us a cozy fire which everyone enjoyed, warming their hands during lunch. Early afternoon, as we traced our track back, the sun emerged along with patches of brilliant blue sky. Although Three-Fingered Jack and Mt. Washington remained elusively in the clouds, the afternoon sun revealed smashing views of Hayrick Butte and other surrounding hills. After a week of rain and gray, it was a joy to be tracking together on the white trails, with the sounds of snow melting from the trees and the feel of the warm sun shining down on us. Members: Brad Bennett, Keiko Bryan, Marguerite Cooney, Daphne James, David Lodeesen, Lynn Meacham, Darian Morray, Tom Rundle, Mike Smith.

12:30 and took a lunch break. The temperature remained near freezing all day but the wind was strong at the edge of the lake so we didn't stay long. Low clouds obstructed any views we might have had of Three-Fingered Jack and surrounding terrain. Heavy snow began falling and we wondered if it would fill the tracks we had made on our way to the lake. During our return to the trailhead, falling snow occasionally turned to a cold rain. Nevertheless, we had a pleasant ski trip back to where we started, reaching the sno-park by 2:30. Thanks to Harold for fitting all five of us in his vehicle for the drive to and from the sno-park. Members: Brian Hamilton, Patty Morrow, Harold Thompson, Sue Wolling. Non-members: Larry Winiarski.

Gold Lake
February 4, 2017
Leader: Jane Hackett
Cross Country Ski: 5 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

RAINING IN EUGENE. Since there were only two of us and it would be the first time on skies for both of us, we took the chance and went anyway. It rained heavily until we were through the tunnel. We then talked about turning around at Gold Lake Sno-Park and returning home. We were lucky; two miles from the sno-park it started snowing. After parking we decided to skip Gold Lake and ski to Bechtel Shelter. At least we could get back to the car more easily if the rain caught up with us. So began a very good day. It continued to snow for the rest of the day. We made it to the shelter that I had never seen. The snow conditions were good, no crust or ice. The ski out was fun, great glide. The best part was that we missed the 20 to 30 people we passed on the way out headed toward that same shelter. Members: Jane Hackett, Ken Kodama.

Fawn Lake
February 4, 2017
Leader: Brian Hamilton
Cross Country Ski: 7 miles, 920 ft. (Difficult)

THE TEMPERATURE WAS ABOVE FREEZING ALL DAY. It snowed, it rained, and we even got a glimpse of the sun. There was a little bit of new snow on the lower sections of the trail but after the junction with the Pretty Lake Trail where our trail turned north, we began to run into patches of hard snow and ice under the Douglas-firs. When the trail turned to the west and started to flatten out, conditions were great with about four inches of fresh snow. We reached Fawn Lake after 1 3/4 hours of skiing and took a short lunch break. Instead of skiing over the icy patches on the way back, we decided to head up to Pretty Lake and make a loop out of the trip. Unfortunately, by following compass bearings, we kept running into areas that were too steep, or thick stands of trees that made us veer off course. At one point, we saw fresh ski tracks. "Oh, look! Someone else has been here. Let's follow their tracks." And then, "Oh wait, those are our tracks." We saw a big hill and after rechecking our maps, we knew it separated us from Pretty Lake. We figured we would skirt around the hill and ski down the drainage to intersect Cold Creek, but when we saw Fawn Lake again to our left, we said "To heck with it! We'll just go back the way we came." At least some good came out of meandering in the woods like Moses and the Israelites wandering in the desert for 40 years: there was more time for fun in the snow. We reached the critical point where time spent skiing was greater than time



Ski Trips

Berley Lakes
January 21, 2017
Leader: Brian Hamilton
Cross Country Ski: 7 miles, 630 ft. (Moderate)

AFTER SEVERAL WARM AND RAINY DAYS, we expected less than ideal snow conditions at Santiam Pass. Instead, we were surprised to find four to six inches of perfect conditions for cross country skiing. We left the sno-park at 10:30 and followed another skier's tracks for a quarter mile. When the tracks turned northeast, heading toward the PCT, we continued north through the untracked, open burn area. Breaking a new trail was easy. We relied on a GPS occasionally to keep us headed in the right direction. The only real difficulty we encountered was wiggling through the dense trees along Lower Berley Lake's outlet creek. We reached the lake at

spent driving, and it snowed enough during the time we were going around in circles that the icy patches on the trip back to the trailhead had a nice cover that made them much more pleasant to ski over. All in all, it was another great day to ski! Members: Brian Hamilton, John Hartman, Sue Wolling.

Big Lake

February 11, 2017

Leader: Jane Hackett

Cross Country Ski: 5.5 miles, 100 ft. (Moderate)

WONDERFUL DAY. Three of us enjoyed a spring day of cross-country skiing. Great views of Three-Fingered Jack and Mt. Washington. It was warm enough to sit in the sun for a 40-minute lunch. Six inches of new snow on a good base made the skiing great. We followed the trail out toward Big Lake then broke off the trail to wander through the trees off-trail in the direction of Big Lake where lunch was enjoyed. Our return trip once again led us through trees following some snowmobile tracks until we hooked up with a cross-country trail and headed back to Ray Benson sno-park. We were not the only ones enjoying the good conditions; about seventy-five Boy Scouts were digging snow caves and camping out. Members: Barbara Dumesnil, Jane Hackett, Todd Papisadero.

Sand Mountain Lookout

February 19, 2017

Leader & Photographer: Sam Miller

Cross Country Ski: 10 miles, 1,600 ft. (Difficult)

AS A PARTICIPANT ON MANY OBSIDIAN SKI TRIPS the past 40+ years, I've learned that you never know for certain how an outing will turn out until after it's been completed. You often plan a trip months in advance and hope for the best. Will the weather be fine or miserable? Will the snow be soft or icy? Will there even be snow? Will the participants be amiable and experienced? To some extent these variables can be managed, but you can never be 100 percent certain what will transpire. This year's ski to the Sand Mountain fire lookout exceeded my expectations. Despite rainy weather several days prior to the trip, we encountered good snow conditions thanks to an overnight snowfall. Every member of our group was an experienced skier. When conditions near the summit



became icy and cold, the group maintained a positive attitude. After all, we were outdoors doing an activity we all enjoyed. We ate lunch below the summit as conditions gradually improved. From that point, skiers split into two groups and descended via our road up-track or over the flanks of Sand Mountain. Telemark turns were the order of the day. We

completed our counterclockwise loop through the forest on a snowmobile trail to return to our vehicles. This excellent outing was made possible by fortuitous conditions and an outstanding group of participants. Members: Brian Hamilton, John Hartman, Steven Koester, Sam Miller, Randy Sinnott, David Strutin, Harold Thompson.



Hikes

North Bank Deer Preserve

January 29, 2017

Leader: Darko Sojak

Photographer: Holger Krentz

Hike: 8.1 miles, 1,975 ft. (Moderate)

EVERYBODY ENJOYED TODAY'S PLEASANT WEATHER and hike over rolling oak savannas with many 360 degree



vistas. We didn't see the famous whitetail deer, but we saw flocks of colorful western bluebirds. Members: Keiko Bryan, Janet Jacobsen, Holger Krentz, Tom Rundle, Darko Sojak.

Groundhog Day

February 2, 2017

Leader & Photographer: Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 4.5 miles, 739 ft. (Easy)



WITHIN A FEW MINUTES AFTER OUR DEPARTURE from the Masonic Cemetery main gate, we spotted a groundhog hiding by the Woodsmen of the World Monument. The shy ground-

hog seemed more interested in the squirrels than Obsidian hikers. Another surprise was a large grave plot covered with snowdrop flowers. We then headed up to the Obsidian Lodge and over to Hendricks Park ending back at Allann Brothers. We enjoyed drinking coffee with longtime Obsidian Bert Ewing who shared stories and photos of climbs, goats, and marmots. Members: David Hawkins, Janet Jacobsen, Evelyn Nagy, Ruth Romoser, Dorene Steggell.

Kentucky Falls

February 3, 2017

Leader & Photographer: Darian Morray

Hike: 11 miles, 1,100 ft. (Difficult)

TEN PARTICIPANTS MADE THE CHALLENGING DRIVE TO KENTUCKY FALLS TRAILHEAD IN THREE CARS. We stayed together on the drive and no one got lost either going or returning. There had been a small amount of freezing rain in Eugene in the early morning hours but we encountered no ice on the



roads. The drive took about 90 minutes. We hiked down to the North Fork Smith Trail, stopping to photograph upper Kentucky Falls. We bypassed the lower falls on the way in and continued along the North Fork Trail to the 11-foot diameter Douglas-fir tree. The hike in took about 90 minutes and we stopped at the big tree for lunch. By then it was raining steadily and hard. We hiked back partly along a smaller trail that drops to the level of the river before rejoining the North Fork Trail. We stopped briefly at Lower Kentucky Falls which were quite full and very impressive. The final climb out was uneventful. Total hiking time was about 4 hours, total distance about 10 miles. Everyone was soaked when we got back to the trailhead, but the group was happy. All in all,

a great hike. Members: Mari Baldwin, Steve Cordon, Daphne James, Steven Koester, David Lodeesen, Vern Marsonette, Darian Morray, Mike Smith, David Strutin. Nonmembers: Edward Brindle.

Pisgah Trails

February 4, 2017

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 3 miles, 1,000 ft. (Easy)

RAIN PROMPTED A LAST MINUTE CANCELLATION so it was a solo hike until I met two Obsidians who shared the trail. Members: Janet Jacobsen.

Elijah Bristow State Park

February 5, 2017

Leader: Kathy Randall

Photographer: Darko Sojak

Hike: 7.4 miles, 0 ft. (Easy)

DESPITE THE FORECAST FOR A DREARY AND VERY WET DAY, six hardy hikers hit the wet and muddy trails at Elijah



Bristow State Park in a light drizzle. After only 20 minutes on the Elk Trail the rain stopped and never returned! We enjoyed partly sunny skies the rest of the hike with temperatures pushing 60 degrees! We encountered a few problems due to high river water levels. The slough crossing on the Angler's Trail was too deep to cross so we had to backtrack until we found a safe crossing that was only about 8" deep. The pond below Dexter Dam was flooding across the trail so this became our turnaround point. A beaver was spotted as we arrived so we took a 30-minute rest there waiting for him to reappear, enjoying the serene setting and some waterfowl and eating our snacks. The beaver didn't cooperate so we headed back taking a detour on the Turtle Trail where we encountered a black salamander. Members: Marguerite Cooney, Christiane Hougardy, Mark Hougardy, David Lodeesen, Kathy Randall, Darko Sojak.

Pisgah Moon Hike

February 10, 2017

Leader: Mike Smith

Photographer: Brad Bennett

Hike: 4 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

WE HAD POST-FRONTAL SHOWERS MOST OF THE DAY but it cleared just before the hike with clouds stacked up against the Cascades. We got to the top, missing both sunset and



moonrise. Naturally, once we were back down and well clear of the mountain, the moon shone brightly through cloud layers. While there was a penumbral eclipse occurring, it was over an hour past the maximum time; penumbral eclipses often are not easily discernible. Oh well. Members: Jennifer Baer, Brad Bennett, Janet Jacobsen, David Lodeesen, Mike Smith, Blue Wesley. Nonmembers: Peg Straub.

Masonic Cemetery/Hendricks Park Loop

February 11, 2017

Leader & Photographer: Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 6 miles, 800 ft. (Easy)

A PLETHORA OF SNOWDROP AND CROCUS FLOWERS greeted us at the Masonic Cemetery. On the Ribbon Trail above the



Obsidian Lodge near 30th Avenue, we were surprised to see a cleared parcel of land with a sign for a public hearing for a zone change. Before we headed for Hendricks Park, we stopped at the Lodge to view the new art exhibit. It was a beautiful day to enjoy a pleasant walk on quiet, urban trails. Members: May Fogg, Janet Jacobsen, Sandra Larsen.

Oregon Birthday - Dorris Ranch

February 14, 2017

Leader & Photographer: Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 8 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

OUR 7.2-MILE LOOP HIKE STARTED AT DORRIS RANCH with a stop at Willamette Heights Park before we walked the Mill Race Path and Middle Fork Path. Surprise! Everyone read the trip description and had an interesting Oregon fact to share. We especially thank Steve Adey who read a dramatic



anecdote from David Douglas's journal at our snack break. An egret flying from the millrace wetlands was a showstopper. We took note of a well-worn totem pole at Willamette Heights Park and wondered who carved it. Since the trip I learned that the totem pole was created as a 1990 youth Super Summer project. In fact, the sons of two Obsidians, Anita Pierce (Dorian) and Caroline Moore (Colin), helped carve this serendipitous discovery of ours. Members: Steve Adey, Steve Cordon, Jane Hackett, Janet Jacobsen, Ruthy Kanagy, Cari Soderlund, Dorene Steggell. Nonmembers: Paul Flashenberg, Melinda McCormick.

Pisgah Trails

February 18, 2017

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Photographer: Carla Cooper

Hike: 6 miles, 1,200 ft. (Moderate)

AT THE PARKING LOT DAVE COOPER PREDICTED THAT THE RAIN WOULD STOP IN TEN MINUTES. He was correct! We took trails 17, 7, 3, 4, and 1 to the summit. It was interesting to venture on a new partially completed Y intersection on trail



4. We concluded our hike by taking a lower trail with flowing streams up to the Zig Zag trail. The hiking camaraderie made our 2 1/2 hour hike an enjoyable way to start the day. Members: Jennifer Baer, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, May Fogg, Janet Jacobsen, Holger Krentz, Darian Morray, Jorry Rolfe.

EMX/River

February 21, 2017

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 6 miles, 0 ft. (Easy)

IT WAS HARD TO RECOGNIZE EACH OTHER bundled up in rain gear at the LTD Eugene Service Station. I recommend that

the leader not have her rain hat pulled down over her face. At 9:40 seven of us boarded the crowded EMX to mingle with University of Oregon students. At the LTD Springfield Service Station, Steve Adey led us on paths to Island Park and river trails. Some of us decided to hike the recently opened Skinner Butte trails before we headed back to downtown Eugene. Another lesson learned: take the road or the O trail, not the E trail. Members: Steve Adey, Keiko Bryan, Janet Jacobsen, Ruthy Kanagy, Ruth Romoser. Nonmembers: Paul Flashenberg.

February Wednesday Hikes

Various Hikes: 4-6.2 miles, 1,000-1,530 ft. (Moderate)

Leader: David Strutin (2/1 Pisgah Trails) Members: Jennifer Baer, Brad Bennett, Hilary Fisher, Nancy Hoecker, Janet Jacobsen, Lana Lindstrom, Vern Marsonette, Caroline Moore, Evelyn Nagy, Dorene Steggell, David Strutin. Nonmembers: Blue Wesley.

Leader: Mike Smith (2/8 Mt. Pisgah) Members: Jennifer Baer, Brad Bennett, Hilary Fisher, Nancy Hoecker, Janet Jacobsen, Caroline Moore, Mike Smith, Dorene Steggell. Nonmembers: Blue Wesley.

Leader: David Lodeesen (2/15 Amazon Headwaters) Members: Jennifer Baer, Brad Bennett, Hilary Fisher, David Lodeesen, Caroline Moore, Darian Morray, Jorry Rolfe, Tom Rundle, Randy Sinnott, Mike Smith, Dorene Steggell, Blue Wesley. Nonmembers: Barbara Kay Cosby.

Upcoming Trips

SOLVE Beach Cleanup, April 1, 2017, 10 AM to 1 PM

FOR THE LAST ELEVEN YEARS the Obsidians have participated in SOLVE beach cleanup. On April 1 from 10 AM–1 PM, we will again participate by cleaning Florence’s South Jetty beach. On the way back we will stop in Florence for lunch.

This event is part of the annual Spring Oregon Beach Cleanup, a statewide effort to keep our beaches healthy and reduce the impacts to marine life. Since 1986, this home-grown tradition of twice-yearly beach cleanups has benefited people and wildlife alike, supporting clean seas and healthy beaches for present and future generations. Please see <http://solveoregon.org/what-we-do/solve-spring-oregon-beach-cleanup>

SOLVE will provide bags and gloves. Volunteers are encouraged to bring their own bags/buckets and reusable gloves to help make the event more sustainable—and an old colander to sift sand for tiny bits of plastic.

Sign up online.

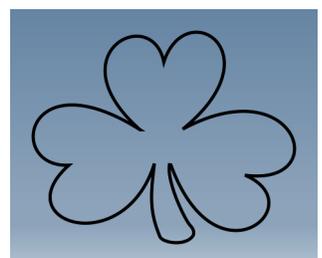
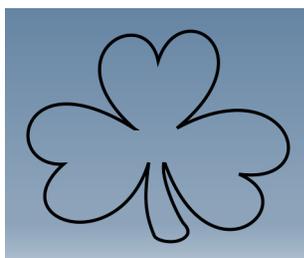
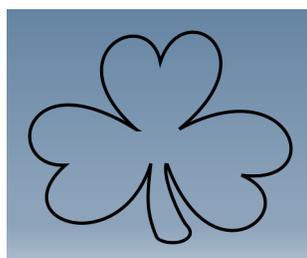
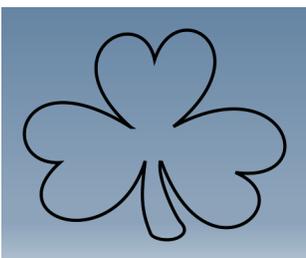
Leader: Darko Sojak darchey@comcast.net

White Mountains, California August 23–29, 2017 Leader: Alan Curtis

THE WHITE MOUNTAINS ARE LOCATED IN CENTRAL CALIFORNIA NEAR BISHOP. This is the home of the bristlecone pines, one of which has been dated at more than 5,000 years. There are many trails to hike, a visitor center to explore, and unlimited photographic opportunities.

We will stay at the University of California’s Crooked Creek Research Station, elevation 10,150 feet for four nights; meals will be prepared for us. Cost will be \$60 per person per night. You can see pictures and learn more at www.wmrc.edu/facilities/cc. Also visit Wikipedia, White Mt. Peak. This 14,252 foot high peak is accessible via hiking an old jeep road. The round trip hike is 14 miles, and can be done in one day. This is the third highest peak in California.

More information will be in the next issue of the *Bulletin*, and registration will commence in April.



Upcoming Bus Trips



OMSI and Railroad Museum

April 13 (Thursday)

Leader: Jim Northrop

Cost: \$66 (\$68 nonmembers)

Reservations & checks: Mary Lee Cheadle, 689-1085

Load bus at 7:45 AM, depart at 8:00

WHAT BETTER WAY TO SPEND A RAINY SPRING DAY than with a trip to the museum—two museums, in fact. Our bus trip will take us to the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry and the Oregon Rail Heritage Center, both located within a few blocks of each other along the Willamette River in southeast Portland. At OMSI we will view the featured exhibit, *The Art of the Brick*. This is the world's largest display of LEGO art, with both original pieces of inspiring artwork as well as re-imagined versions of some of the world's most famous art masterpieces, made entirely from LEGO bricks. We will also see the big screen IMAX movie *National Parks Adventure* and take in a laser light show or see the stars in the Kendall Planetarium. Optional activities are a 45-minute tour of the USS Blueback submarine docked along the Willamette River (\$3.00), or a ride in a motion simulator (\$5.00). Be sure to tour the museum's regular science exhibits in the Turbine Hall and visit the Science Store for gift ideas. Lunch is on your own in the Theory Eatery (sandwiches, soups, salads, tacos, pizza, 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM) or bring your own lunch to eat in the visitors' lunchroom. Sometime after 1:00 PM Jim Northrop will lead fellow train enthusiasts two blocks to the Oregon Rail Heritage Center to visit three steam locomotives, including SP 4449, which pulled the Freedom Train for the bicentennial celebration in 1976. The railroad museum includes a gift shop and other displays of railroading in Oregon. If the weather is nice and you are up for some exercise, hike across the new Tilikum Crossing: Bridge of the People over the Willamette River. This bridge next to OMSI carries pedestrians, cyclists, city buses, the Portland Streetcar, and MAX trains, but not cars. It is the largest car-free bridge in the United States and is a marvel to behold. We will re-board our motor coach at 3:00 and hope to arrive back at Shopko before 6:00 PM.

Springtime in the Country

May 18 (Thursday)

Leaders: Mary Ellen West, Sharon Cutsforth

Cost: \$65 (\$67 nonmembers)

Reservations/checks: Tom/Judy Adamcyk, 302-8160

SPRINGTIME IN THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY IS SO BEAUTIFUL, why not come along with Obsidians and guests on a slow-paced day to enjoy that beauty? Keep an eye out for animals and birds as we travel up backroads to Corvallis for our

coffee stop at Avery Park. While there we can view the ninety-three foot long picnic table cut from a single Douglas-fir log; perhaps the Rhododendron garden will be in bloom too. Then we make our way to Garland Nursery to enjoy all the spring flowers and interesting garden art they offer for sale. Lunch time will take us to The Children's Farm Home down the road a bit. This beautiful historic building began as an orphanage, fell into ruin and was about to be torn down when the community stepped in to save it. It is now a residential care center for troubled youth. We will learn more about the building, programs and history before stepping into the dining room for a special lunch (cost included). After lunch we will take backroads to Brownsville to visit the Linn County Historical Museum, watch a short movie in the Boxcar Theater and have a tour of the historic Moyer House. More back roads will bring us back to Shopko around 5:30.

Exploring the Santiam Wagon Road

June 14 (Wednesday)

Leader: Mary Ellen West

Cost: \$50 (\$52 nonmembers)

Reservations & checks: Mary Lee Cheadle, 689-1085

More Food VI

July 11 (Tuesday)

Leader: Mary Ellen West

Cost: \$60 (\$62 nonmembers)

Reservations & checks: Mary Lee Cheadle, 689-1085

National Parks of the Southwest

September 10–22 (Sun 9/10–Fri 9/22)

Leaders: Sharon Cutsforth, Jim Northrop

Cost: \$1,557 (\$1,583 nonmembers)

Reservations & checks: Sharon Cutsforth, 746-4929

Please call for complete itinerary.

Fall Color—McKenzie River & Belknap Springs

October 3 (Tuesday)

Leaders: Barbara & Paul Beard

Cost: \$68 (\$70 nonmembers)

Reservations & checks: Judy Phelps, 726-0118

Christmas Lights at Shore Acres

November 30–December 1 (Thurs–Fri)

Leaders: Barbara & Paul Beard

Cost: \$174 (\$178 nonmembers)

Reservations & checks: Judy Phelps, 726-0118

Bus trip information is also available on the Obsidians home page: www.obsidians.org
Contact information: bustrips@obsidians.org
Sharon Cutsforth, Bus Committee Chair, 746-4929

AT THE LODGE



POTLUCK

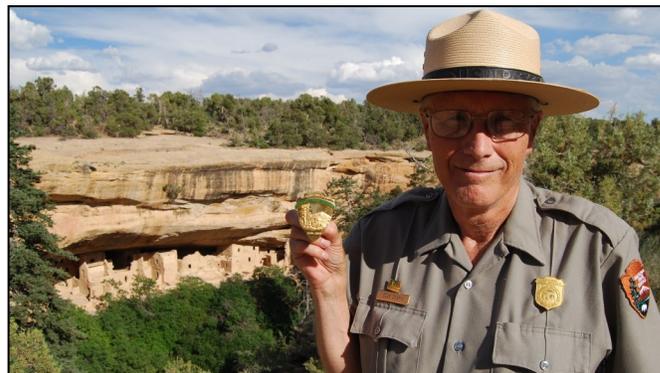
Friday, March 24, at 6:30 PM

America's National Parks: An Insider's Look

LAST YEAR AMERICA CELEBRATED THE CENTENNIAL anniversary of the National Park Service. How did this proud organization get its start? Who were the early personalities and its influential leaders? What is it like to be a National Park Service ranger today? What does the future hold for our American treasures?

Our speaker shares the unique perspective of a park ranger who has seen and experienced first-hand the wonders, history and traditions of our national parks. He will tell tales of America's 700-year-old apartment dwellings as well as the secret of how Yellowstone park rangers make their geyser eruption predictions!

Eugene resident Doug Crispin is a retired Oregon State Parks ranger and semi-retired National Park Service ranger. He has also worked in 13 western national park areas. In May Doug returns to Mesa Verde National Park (Colorado) for his 45th summer working in the park profession.



Friday, March 24, 2017

Obsidian Lodge

Potluck, 6:30 PM PROGRAM, 7:30 PM

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



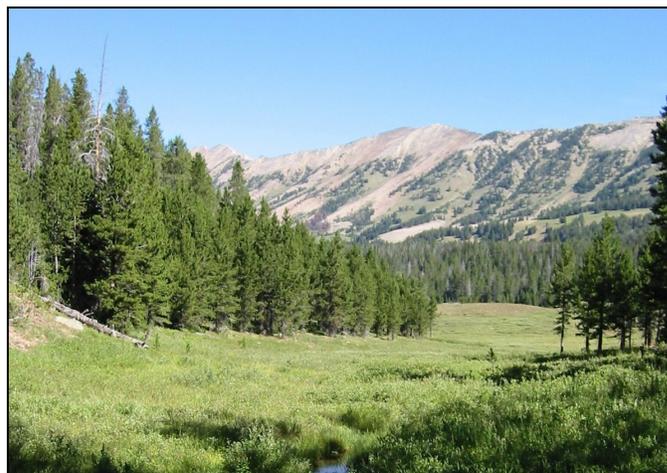
ExploraTalk

Tuesday, March 21, at 7:00 PM

Wilderness Management Are We Loving Our National Forests to Death?

MATT PETERSON, RECREATION PROGRAM MANAGER WITH THE FOREST SERVICE, will discuss potential management strategies in the Willamette and Deschutes National Forests.

Some of our favorite areas have been ecologically impacted by a high increase in visitors. Matt will cover and explore with us future goals and initiatives planned for Mt. Jefferson, Mt. Washington, Three Sisters and Diamond Peak Wilderness areas, Opal Creek, Menagerie, Middle Santiam, and Waldo Lake Wilderness areas.



Obsidian Calendar

March

8 Wed	Amazon Headwaters Hike M Strutin	221-9015
12 Sun	Pisgah Moon Hike Hike M Smith	520-488-9569
14 Tue	Pi Day Hike E Jacobsen	206-1251
14 Tue	Tait's Loop/Pulpit Rock Snowshoe D Wilken ...	343-3080
15 Wed	Amazon Headwaters Hike M Morray	953-5679
19 Sun	Mt. Baldy Hike M Randall	844-5916
21 Tue	Wilderness Management	ExploraTalk
22 Wed	Amazon Headwaters Hike M Lodeesen	214-709-0352
24 Fri	America's National Parks	Potluck
25 Sat	Trail Maintenance Trail Maint M Bell	503-884-8829
26 Sun	Eagles Rest Hike M Randall	844-5916
29 Wed	Amazon Headwaters Hike M Rundle	653-0741
30 Thu	Salem Exploration Hike E Jacobsen	206-1251

April

1 Sat	SOLVE Beach Clean Up Hike E Sojak	525-1124
1 Sat	Hardesty Loop Hike D Smith	520-488-9569
2 Sun	Finley Wildlife Refuge Hike E Hackett	953-7046
5 Wed	Amazon Headwaters Hike M Jacobsen	206-1251
9 Sun	Yoakam Point to Simpson Reef Hike M Sojak ..	525-1124
10 Mon	Mt Pisgah Full Moon/Sunset Hike M Smith ..	520-488-9569
10 Mon	Basic Climb School Climb School Reiter	521-8472
11 Tue	Leader Training and Appreciation Night	Presentation
11 Tue	Delta Ponds Hike E Montgomery	688-7025
12 Wed	Amazon Headwaters Hike M Smith	520-488-9569
13 Thu	OMSI & Railroad Museum Bus Northrop	343-3426
15 Sat	Rooster Rock Hike D Smith	520-488-9569
16 Sun	Ankeny Wildlife Refuge Bike M Hughes	933-5542
18 Tue	Conservation in Our Backyard	ExploraTalk
19 Wed	Amazon Headwaters Hike M Rundle	653-0741
22 Sat	Sweet Creek Falls Hike E Ewing	344-9197
23 Sun	Sawtooth Rock via Lost Creek Hike M Randall	844-5916
24 Mon	Owyhee Rafting Trip Extended Trip E Rice ..	517-0757
26 Wed	Amazon Headwaters Hike M Cooper	868-5427
28 Fri	Cycling Hokkaido, Japan	Potluck
29 Sat	Trail Maintenance Trail Maint M Bell	503-884-8829

May

1 Mon	Deer Creek Center Hike E Stockdale	221-2293
5 Fri	Mt Hood Climb Harris	521-5807
6 Sat	Coyote Creek Kayak E Lindstrom	683-1409
14 Sun	Alder Dune to Pacific Ocean Hike E Sojak	525-1124
14 Sun	Scio Covered Bridges Bike M Hughes	933-5542

16 Tue	TBA	ExploraTalk
17 Wed	Amazon Headwaters Hike M Rundle	653-0741
18 Thu	Springtime in the Country Bus Cutsforth	746-4929
18 Thu	Heceta Head Geology Hike M Rundle	653-0741
19 Fri	Cycling New Zealand	Potluck
19 Fri	Malheur Wildlife Refuge Ext Trp E Camp	347-703-9852
19 Fri	Alder Creek Restoration Trl Mnt M Hougardy	505-7031
20 Sat	Horse Rock Geology Hike E Rundle	653-0741
21 Sun	Tahkenitch Creek Exploratory Hike M Rundle	653-0741
22 Mon	Whole McKenzie River Trail Hike D Smith	520-488-9569
27 Sat	Diamond Peak Graduation Climb Huseman ..	743-3658
31 Wed	Trail Maintenance Trl Mnt M Bell	503-884-8829

June

3 Sat	National Trails Day Trl Mnt M Bell	503-884-8829
3 Sat	Mt Washington Graduation Climb Edinger	231-1457
4 Sun	Three Fingered Jack Climb Willhite	406-570-4514
6 Tue	12 Bridges Bike M Hughes	933-5542
13 Tue	Exploring the Santiam Wagon Road Bus West	343-5492
18 Sun	Mount Baker Climb Hamilton	343-6550
20 Tue	Total Solar Eclipse	ExploraTalk
23 Fri	Conserving Rhinos in South Africa	Potluck
28 Wed	Trail Maintenance Trail Maint M Bell	503-884-8829

July

11 Tue	More Food VI Bus West	343-5492
14 Fri	Mt Jefferson- Milk Creek Climb Harris	521-5807
16 Sun	Yapoah Crater Geology Hike D Rundle	653-0741
22 Sat	Mt Adams-Mazama Glacier Climb Huseman ..	743-3658
26 Wed	Trail Maintenance Trail Maint M Bell	503-884-8829
29 Sat	Mt McLoughlin Climb Van Winkle	615-686-4402

August

5 Sat	Broken Top Climb Hansen	360-852-2041
19 Sat	Mt Washington Climb Hansen	360-852-2041
20 Sun	South Sister Climb Van Winkle	615-686-4402
21 Mon	Total Solar Eclipse of 2017 Hike E Sojak	525-1124
30 Wed	Trail Maintenance Trail Maint M Bell	503-884-8829

September

10 Sun	Southwest National Parks Bus Cutsforth	746-4929
16 Sat	Broken Top Climb Hamilton	343-6550
19 Tue	Birding Without Borders	ExploraTalk
30 Sat	National Public Lands Day Trl Mnt M Bell	503-884-8829

Shopping for trips? A few tips...

TO SEE THE LATEST UPDATES TO OUR TRIPSCHEDULE, be sure to visit the Obsidian Online Signup www.obsidians.org/onlinesignup/index.htm. There you will find the necessary links to retrieve your password, if you have forgotten it, or to register if you are a nonmember.

Can't spot the trip you want? Be sure to scroll down through the entire list to view all current selections.

On the Obsidian home page www.obsidians.org you will find a handful of links (Summer Trips, Climbs, Bus Trips, and many more) taking you to expanded descriptions of upcoming trips and events.

Show Your Obsidian Pride!

BE SURE TO STOP BY THE CONCESSIONS DISPLAY at the next ExploraTalk or Potluck and check out our new merchandise. We have All-American, 100% cotton t-shirts in a variety of fun colors for just \$10 and baseball caps for \$12. Our discount on selected merchandise also continues this month.

We accept cash, check, or credit card.



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March 2017



*Photo taken by Darian Morray on Brandenberg Shelter Loop snowshoe trip
(See page 5)*