



The **OBSIDIAN** Bulletin

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Dates to Remember

October 1	Bulletin Deadline
October 8	Annual Mtg via Zoom
October 13	Board Meeting
November 3	Board Meeting

Current event schedules at:
www.obsidians.org

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2021 Obsidian Annual Meeting Will Be Via Zoom This Year

Maryanne Reiter

IT IS UNFORTUNATE, BUT DUE TO A SURGE IN COVID-19 CASES, THE ANNUAL MEETING ON OCTOBER 8 WILL BE VIA ZOOM RATHER THAN IN PERSON. We will email all members a Zoom link soon. At the meeting there will be a brief Strategic Planning overview and update as well as the vote for new Board members. (The President's address and the annual committee reports will be presented in the November issue of the *Bulletin*. The October issue of the *Bulletin* will feature trip and leader awards, but the actual awards will be given out during hikes, club activities, or mailed.) You will not want to miss this Zoom meeting since there will be a raffle for fabulous prizes during the meeting, and you must be online with us to win!



Time to Renew Your Membership

Diane Schechter
Membership Committee Chair

THE 2021-22 RENEWAL FORM IS ENCLOSED WITH THIS BULLETIN. Please return it to keep your membership active. Unfortunately, we will not be able to offer membership renewals and payments online this year, as our website and database management is in transition at this time. We are so sorry for the inconvenience.

We rely on our members to keep our club vibrant. Take a look on the reverse side of the form for ways you can help. Leaders are especially needed! The more leaders we have, the more trips we can offer!

Obsidian First Aid Kit Checkout Will End

Lyndell Wilken
Safety Committee Chair



FOR MANY YEARS, OBSIDIAN FIRST AID KITS HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE AT THE YMCA FOR TRIP LEADERS. When COVID closed the YMCA, Janet Jacobsen kindly volunteered to check out the kits from her home. Upon talking with the YMCA about the first aid kits, a joint decision was made to permanently discontinue their storage at the Y. We thank the Y for their 52 years of assistance to the Obsidians. Janet will continue to check out kits through September, but starting October 1 the Obsidian first aid kits WILL NOT be available except for Bus Trips, Summer Camp, Lodge Activities, Trail Maintenance, and Climbs. This means trip leaders and members should be carrying their own kits. If something does happen during an activity, with everyone having some first aid supplies, it should be enough to meet the emergency. There is a list of first aid supplies on the Obsidian web page under the Safety icon. Once the threat of COVID has subsided the Club will provide a first aid kit assembly session at the Lodge, and some first aid supplies will be available for members to add to their personal kits.

IN MEMORIAM

Vera Woolley
April 25, 1922–March 18, 2021

VERA JOINED THE OBSIDIANS IN 1980 and quickly shared her love of nature and photography with others. She was awarded her 100-trip patch in 2008 for completing 23 hikes and 81 bus trips. Born in remote Sparta, Oregon, and then living in other Oregon small towns, Vera was an interesting participant in many Oregon bus trip conversations. She served on the Bus Committee, Publications Committee, Entertainment Committee, and was Entertainment Chair in 1986. Her artistic table decorations at the annual Christmas Party were much appreciated. After leading her first hike to Clear Lake in May, 1990, she wrote: *I was a little jittery about leading my first hike, but when we regrouped at the Clear Lake Lodge, and I realized I was leading a congenial, fun-loving group, I wasn't too uncomfortable asking, "Now, where is that trailhead?"* On another Clear Lake trip she wrote: *The varied colors of the water in Clear Lake never fail to amaze me, and the clear blue sky brought out the gemlike blues and greens on this warm sunny day.* Her gemlike color analogy was no surprise since she was an enthusiastic rockhound and donated the geodes for the Obsidian Spirit mosaic mural outside the Lodge.

Editor's Note: A complete obituary can be found in the July 11, 2021 issue of The Register-Guard.

Ray Jensen
February 9, 1925–August 12, 2021

Yes, everyone can participate.... All of us love the outdoors: here is your chance to put that love into action. Old or young (and in-between), strong of back and will, calloused hands or office smooth, neophyte or trail expert—come and discover the joys and rewards of Club trail maintenance.

THE ABOVE QUOTE OF RAY'S, WHEN HE WAS TRAILS CHAIR, sheds light on his enthusiasm for so many club activities and for people in general. He became a member of the club in 1990, became Trails Chair in 1993, and Bus Chair in 1998. Formed in 1974, the Bus Committee needed Ray to modernize the schedule and increase ridership. He promoted the objectives of our club by exploring out of the way places—leading trips to the Olympic Peninsula, Trinity Alps, John Day Fossil Beds & Eastern Oregon Back Roads, Idaho & Montana, Eagles & More, Applegate Homestead, Palouse Country & the Snake River, Western Montana: Lewis & Clark Trail, and Oregon Caves. Sharon Cutsforth wrote: *Ray was a good man, friendly, kind, and compassionate—he was a great mentor to me when I started leading bus trips and again as I became committee chair.* Jim Northrop recently saw Ray at the Hendricks Park Rhododendron Gardens: *He came on a bus from Solvang Retirement Community. We walked around the main loop, talking about Obsidian bus trips. Ray was in good shape and good spirits, one of the few residents who walked the entire main loop.*

Ray led a number of hikes and 91 bus trips for his 100 Leader Award. His 200 Trip Award included not only bus trips but hikes, summer camps, and trail maintenance. He was awarded Honorary membership in 2010. He will be missed.

Ray is survived by his daughter, Mariel Bailey.

Editor's note: Ray's memorial service was at Central Lutheran Church August 17. A complete obituary can be found at:

<https://musgroves.com/tribute/all-services/index.html>

To learn more about Ray, read his article, "Celebrating V-E, V-J Days After 60 Years ...and Still On Deck!" in the February 2005 Bulletin.

www.observians.org/bulletin/Issues/2005_Bulletins/2005_05_Bulletin.pdf

OBSIDIANS, INC

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Website: www.observians.org

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Maryanne Reiter, President
Dave Cooper, Vice President
Denise Rubenstein, Secretary
Stewart Hoeg, Treasurer
Denise Bean, Marci Hansen,
Dave Hawkins, Laura Osinga
Jorry Rolfe, 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

Bus Jim Northrop
Climbs Maryanne Reiter
Concessions Carla Cooper
Conservation/SciEdK. Coots/A. Ruzicka
Entertainment Evelyn Nagy
Extended Trips Lana Lindstrom
Finance Stewart Hoeg
Lodge Building.....Dave Cooper
Lodge Grounds John Jacobsen
Librarian/Historian Lenore McManigal
Membership Diane Schechter
Online Wayne Deeter
Publications Lou Maenz
Publicity Marci Hansen
Safety.....Lyndell Wilken
StewardshipJorry Rolfe / Darko Sojak
Summer Camp
Summer TripsDave Cooper
Trail Maintenance.....Matt Bell
Winter TripsDave Cooper

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The Obsidian Bulletin

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**Deadline
for October Bulletin
Friday, October 1, 2021**

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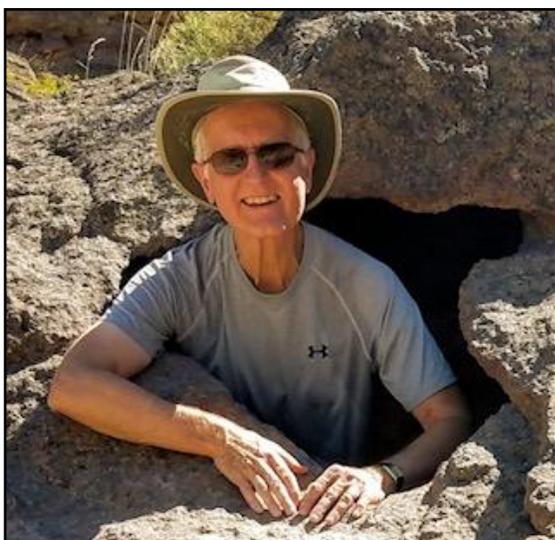
Team: Tom Adamcyk, Don Baldwin,
Patricia Bean, Yuan Hopkins,
Judy Newman

2022 Board Nominees

Angie Ruzicka

ANGIE RUZICKA JOINED THE OBSIDIANS IN THE FALL OF 2018. She has enjoyed meeting new people, getting exercise, and exploring new places. As a member of the Science Education and the newly formed Stewardship Committees, she is looking forward to working on projects. After a 30+ year career teaching science and math, Angie retired in the spring of 2020, but returned to teach 7th grade math during the pandemic year. She also teaches classes for pre-service teachers at the U of O.

Angie grew up in Bloomington, Minnesota; her love of the outdoors began when she was young, exploring a local forest along Nine Mile Creek with a pack of neighborhood kids. After graduating from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Biology, but not sure what she wanted to be when she grew up, she headed west to live in Missoula, MT and work at a bakery. After a bit she took a Greyhound bus to California where she taught outdoor school, worked as a field biologist studying lichen, and temped in downtown San Francisco. She headed north to OSU for graduate school in 1987 and has lived in Oregon ever since. In addition to hiking and biking Angie enjoys gardening, quilting, and reading.



Dave Hawkins

IHAD ALWAYS PLANNED TO JOIN THE OBSIDIANS but finally found the time after retirement and joined in 2013. I had been hiking with friends for many years prior to joining. Being a retired CPA, I have recently become treasurer of both the Bus and Summer Camp committees while continuing to serve on the Finance Committee and also on the Strategic Planning Committee. I became a member of the Board in 2019 so this would be my second term.

I grew up in Kansas and attended college in Seattle, later graduating from the University of Oregon. I met my wife Donna here, and we have two grown children. Hiking and pickleball are my major forms of exercise.

Maryanne Reiter

IAM HONORED TO BE ABLE TO SERVE ANOTHER TERM ON THE OBSIDIAN BOARD. I have been an Obsidian since 2001—Climbs Committee Chair since 2015, and President since 2020. When I first came to Oregon from Minnesota in 1986, I mainly went to the coast since being on the edge of land was so new for a mid-westerer. Then I found the beauty and solace of the mountains, and the lasting connection of those who choose to travel together on a common rope. Now I rarely go to the ocean, but when I do, I am reminded what an amazing state we have with its public coastline, deserts, mountains, and valleys. And of course Oregon has amazing people such as can be found in this club. I continue to be impressed by the dedication and passion of our members to get themselves and others into the wild and stunning places of the Pacific Northwest, and to serve the needs of the club and our community. I look forward to working together to continue the club's mission.



JULY BOARD NOTES

July 7, 2021

From Minutes by Denise Rubenstein

President Maryanne Reiter called the meeting to order. Board members present: Denise Bean, Dave Cooper, Dave Hawkins, Laura Osinga, Jorry Rolfe, Denise Rubenstein, and Lyndell Wilken. Others present: Matt Bell, Stewart Hoeg, Kay Coots, Steve Cordon, Carla Cooper, Jim Northrop.

The Board approved the minutes for June 2021.

Treasurer's Report (Stewart Hoeg):

Stewart reviewed the year-to-date income and expenses as well as the balance sheet. The Board approved the bills.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Climbs (Maryanne Reiter): We had three climbs in June: South Sister, Middle Sister and Mount Thielsen. Mount Adams was originally scheduled for June, but it was on the weekend of extreme heat so was rescheduled for July.

Entertainment (Evelyn Nagy, Ron and Pam Swisher): Fern Ridge picnic and games on Friday evening, June 25, 2021, led by Darko Sojak and Angie Ruzicka; twenty-two attendees. Participants brought their own food and non-alcoholic beverages.

Finance (Stewart Hoeg): The Finance Committee met at the Lodge to discuss the possibility of changing the Club's tax status from 501c7 to 501c3. Denise Bean presented information she had gathered from a lawyer specializing in non-profits. After much discussion, the group unanimously agreed to recommend to the Board that the Club pursue the change in tax status to 501c3.

Lodge Building (Dave Cooper): Some minor damage to a wall in one of the bathrooms has been repaired. The recessed lights in the Scherer Room have been changed to LED lamps.

Librarian/Historian (Lenore McManigal): All the trips from the June *Bulletin* have been recorded. The Historian Committee provided information for Chuck Reul's In Memoriam for the July *Bulletin*. He was a member from 1990–2008. Norm Benton's niece gave his slides and newspaper clippings to Maryanne. Bert Ewing is scanning those materials as well as Lloyd Plaisted's slides to add to the archives.

Membership (Diane Schechter): See New Business for approved members. Total membership 416.

Safety (Lyndell Wilken): Steps were taken to secure all first aid kits and a system of checkout developed since the Club's hiking activities are resuming. For now all first aid kits will be picked up and dropped off at Janet Jacobsen's house. Janet should be notified ahead of time if you are dropping off or picking up a first aid kit. Janet will inform the Safety Committee chair who will keep a record of where the kits are. In addition, the Benadryl in each first aid kit has been replaced.

Stewardship (Jorry Rolfe & Darko Sojak): Three work parties are scheduled for the next three months. These are cleanup activities: two at the beach and one at Rosary Lakes. The *Love a Lake* activity is a pilot project with the Cascade Volunteers. No fees are charged to participants. There were two outings this past month in Spencer Butte Park to brush the Tie Trail for National Trails Day and add steps to the

West Trail. We also cleaned the trailhead steps. Nine members worked a total of 24.5 volunteer hours.

Summer Trips (Dave Cooper): Despite a few trips that had to be canceled or rescheduled, the schedule for June still offered a good number of outings. There were 38 trips. The participation numbers were 304 members and 40 nonmembers. There have been 103 trips completed through the end of June. Between COVID and fires, we have fallen short of a target of 200 summer trips the last couple of years. We are seeing things turn around now but still need more hike leaders. Out of town hikes fill up quickly but twice this month, people on the wait list took the initiative and organized another trip. The committee has some tentative leaders for more Eugene to Crest hikes and expects to add them to the schedule soon. We encourage people to apply for Central Cascades Wilderness permits. Often the majority of permits are not available until 7 days in advance. Some members have been successful in acquiring these permits. There are helpful hints for the permit process on our website. Contact Summer Trips if you have questions.

OLD BUSINESS

It was determined that the Club will drop all COVID protocols at this point.

NEW BUSINESS

- Trail Maintenance Committee within the new Stewardship Committee: a motion was passed that the Trails Committee will be dissolved, and its functions absorbed by the Stewardship Committee as of December 1, 2021. The bylaws will be amended accordingly.
- A change has been made in the bylaws to indicate that there will not be a fee charged for Stewardship activities, similar to Trail Maintenance and Get Acquainted Hikes.
- The Board approved a motion to change the Club's tax status from a 501c7 to a 501c3. This change offers many financial benefits along with a broader vision of serving the needs of the community in addition to the needs of its members.
- A motion was passed to retain the services of attorney David Atkin to facilitate the tax change, with fees not to exceed \$4,000.
- The Board approved the Strategic Planning Goals and Strategies as presented.
- The Safety Committee will review how the Club manages the first aid kits.
- Dave Cooper presented investigative work done by John Jacobsen for improvements in the parking area of the Lodge. These included lighting, stump removal, parking bumpers and grading the driving surface. Since it is a significant cost, it was suggested that the discussion be tabled for later, after the tax status change.
- New members approved by the Board: Fred Crafts, Jennifer Crim, Marti Gerdes.

TRIP REPORTS



Backpacks

Diamond Peak Loop

July 23, 2021

Leader: Russ Davies

Assistant Leader: Denise Bean

Backpack: 22 miles, 2,300 ft. (Difficult)

TWO HAPPY HIKERS SET OUT from Trapper Creek trailhead on this three-day tour of the Diamond Peak Wilderness on a clear warm afternoon, at first walking through quiet forest along a mossy winding creek. A few miles and some elevation later, they reached Diamond View Lake for their first panoramic view of the peak above. We sweated on and up through the late afternoon and were rewarded with a lovely tarn-side campsite in full view of the mountain and in time to watch the sun set strikingly behind its south summit. Day two began with a clear sunrise and then a short hike over the PCT crest to scenic Marie Lake. We camped at a comfortable, breezy site just above the lake and spent the afternoon watching its deep colors change with the traveling sunlight. On day three, the hikers started early and strong with some quick elevation gain up through open, mature forest, popping out onto a rocky point with sweeping views south over Summit Lake and Mt. Thielsen. From there, we traversed the alpine zone following the PCT north along Diamond Peak's craggy east and north faces. The hikers walked rocky, stunted forests, passed tarns and heather-filled meadows, and enjoyed deep views into central Oregon. After lunch and a nap, they continued north to the pyramid tower of Mt. Yoran where they left the PCT and descended past several more scenic lakes, concluding with a refreshing ford of Trapper Creek to the trailhead. Members: Denise Bean, Russ Davies.



Car Camps

Perpetua Plus Loop Hike

July 1, 2021

Leader: Mark Hougardy

Car Camp: 7 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

THIS TRIP WAS AN EXCURSION TO CAPE PERPETUA FOR ONE overnight of camping and hiking the Cook's Ridge and Gwynn Creek Loop. The only site available to reserve two weeks out was the group camp. Scheduling this trip on such short notice, I was not expecting much of a turnout but I was hoping for a few more people. The large and open group campsite was green and quiet and wonderful. I was joined the next day on the hike by several on the trail, including a retired interpretive ranger who once worked at Perpetua. He was more than eager to share about the area's natural history. Members: Mark Hougardy.



Photographer: Mark Hougardy.

OCT: Depoe Bay to Newport

July 11, 2021

Leader: Mark Hougardy

Car Camp: 20 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

DAY ONE: THE GROUP MET AT THE YAQUINA HEAD INTERPRETIVE CENTER. Very windy. We explored Quarry Cove and the lighthouse, then rested out of the wind at Cobble Beach. We saw lots of common murrens and several sea lions. Close to 4 PM we drove to the Beverly Beach State Park and stayed in Group Camp 2. The camp was the perfect size for our small group, but the site was slated to hold 25! That afternoon we attempted a walk south on the beach to the Moolack Beach, but the wind was unrelenting so we stayed more inland. We hiked the Nature Trail around the park, then later spent the evening around the campfire. Day Two: We departed camp at 9 AM and drove to Depoe Bay to explore some of the small parks and hidden lookouts adjacent to residential areas. We saw several grey whales feeding close to shore. At the Big Tire overlook, we saw lots of cormorants and a great view. Some of the participants enjoyed coffee at a local coffeehouse. We departed for the Rocky Creek State Scenic Viewpoint two miles away. This was to avoid a dangerous stretch of highway with no shoulder. We walked the Otter Crest Loop. In one area, we saw a small group of people next to the road. Keiko decided to ask what they were doing, they coyly responded, "We're here for day recreation." A short walk down the road revealed several people walking on a slackline suspended between two sides of the cliff and high over the ocean. If we were driving, we would not have seen them. We watched them for a time from the roadside. Several people from the group up the road walked down and disap-

peared down an unassuming deer trail as they headed to the area. We continued to Cape Foulweather—curiously being rebranded as Otter Crest State Scenic Viewpoint—and looked at the magnificent view. We rested and had a short bite to eat. The group walked to the Inn at Otter Crest for a look-see and was almost run over by a speeding high-end car. We continued to Devil’s Punchbowl State Natural Area, then walked on the beach and looked at fossils. We continued south, then under the Hwy 101 bridge into Beverly Beach State Park to our group site. We spent the evening around the campfire. Day Three: The group broke camp and drove a short way to the Agate Beach State Recreation Area and we arranged a shuttle to the endpoint. We walked north a bit, but the wind was not enjoyable so we continued south. At Nye Beach, we walked into town and the group descended upon a small bakery. Afterward, we continued on Elizabeth Street to the Yaquina Head lighthouse. We ended our trip overlooking the Yaquina Bay Bridge. We encountered: bumblebees, grey whales, sea lions, common murre, cormorants, pelicans, humans, crows, robins, one pigeon (It emerged from a small cave at the Big Tire overlook; interestingly, the birds that pigeons descended from, before they were domesticated, lived in seaside cliffs). We also saw deer and a ground squirrel. Members: Keiko Bryan, Lynda Christiansen, Christiane Hougardy, Mark Hougardy, Denise Rubenstein, Joan Skarda, John Skarda.

OCT: Newport to Waldport

July 25, 2021

Leader & Photographer: Mark Hougardy

Car Camp: 20 miles, 100 ft. (Moderate)

THE FIRST DAY BEGAN AT NOON at the South Beach State Park day use area. The afternoon was free-form for exploring, and some of us walked over the Yaquina Bay Bridge into Newport, where the previous Oregon Coast Trail hike ended. In Newport, we spoke with a fisherman who said his harvest of black cod (about 300 pounds) was shipping to Japan, and he had received top dollar for the fish. A trip participant bought a banana leaf-wrapped tamale from the street vendor that she later shared with the group. (The tamale was yummy.) Few people in Newport were wearing masks to prevent COVID transmission, even in restaurants and indoor areas. Our walk back over the bridge proved to be very windy. The wind was knocking our feet out from underneath us, and with the amount of close vehicle traffic on the narrow walkway, this was a bit unnerving. At 4 PM, we checked into the group camp and explored a bit more of the park. In the morning, we walked a few steps to the trailhead and began our 8-mile hike to Seal Rock. The route was sunny for the first several miles, then the fog moved in. At Brian Booth State Park, we had lunch next to Beaver Creek, then continued south again on the beach to Seal Rock. As the beach trail ended about an eighth of a mile from Seal Rock, we ascended a somewhat hidden and unnamed path to the highway. While walking that last couple of feet on the highway, to the parking area and our shuttle, a large truck passed us and swerved onto the highway’s shoulder to avoid hitting a car that was turning. It was a close call for us. At the parking area, we enjoyed the view of Seal Rock then returned to the campsite. For dinner, we ate at a local fish house where we could sit outside. We knew the place was a tourist trap and the fish greasy, but we were hungry. Afterward, we went on a two-mile hike on a nature trail to walk off the meal. The

trip leader lost his sunglasses somewhere on the trail. Everyone had an early night. On the third day, there were only four of us hiking. We started at Seal Rock and enjoyed a negative low tide. The tidepools were amazing! Because of the low water we easily navigated rocks that might have been problematic. The soup-like fog returned and we hiked for 5 miles on the beach in an ethereal haze. Approaching Waldport, we walked inland on some side roads, and the fog immediately cleared. We made our way down to the Alsea River and shimmied up a rough trail to the Alsea Bay Bridge. The crossing was pleasant, and we enjoyed the wide pedestrian walkway. In Waldport, we walked more on the beach, past the seawall, and to the mouth of the Alsea River. The wind was picking up again. We had an encounter with a blue heron that flew close. At the Governor Patterson Memorial State Recreation Area, we ended the section of the Oregon Coast Trail. This was a fulfilling yet hard section to travel as the sand made walking more difficult; incidents included several blisters, a lost pair of sunglasses, lots of sore muscles, and one bad tummy-ache from the greasy fish. With side trips, we hiked 25 miles—one pedometer read 30 miles. Members: Keiko Bryan, Lynda Christiansen, Christiane Hougardy, Mark Hougardy, Nola Nelson, Joan Skarda, John Skarda.



OCT: Waldport to Heceta Head

August 1, 2021

Leader & Photographer: Mark Hougardy

Car Camp: 23 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

AFTER A STOP AT THE RANGER KIOSK AT SOUTH BEACH STATE PARK, the trip leader was able to recover his sunglasses lost during the previous OCT walk, which had unknowingly been found and delivered to the kiosk by a good Obsidian. The group participants arrived at the Cape Perpetua main parking area at noon on Sunday. We then arranged several shuttles to Yachats. We walked through town, on a side street, then a pathway next to the highway before venturing inland to the Amanda statue. After that, the trail had an unrelenting elevation gain. Finally, we reached the top at just over 1,000 feet and descended to 800 feet to the shelter at Cape Perpetua for amazing views of the Pacific Ocean and Oregon Coast. We walked down the switch-back laden trail, with some continuing to the group camp while others retrieved vehicles from the nearby visitor center



parking area. The evening was quiet and we were able to enjoy a campfire in the cool ocean air. The next day, we broke camp and arranged several shuttles between Yachats and the Governor Patterson Memorial State Recreation Site, about 7.5 miles away from where our hike began. The fog quickly returned. We passed the Big Stump, a relic of a ghost forest. The card attached to the tree says it is an ancient redwood tree that died about 1,200 years ago. The associated website for additional information is not active at the time of this writing. A second, seemingly ancient redwood was found about a quarter-mile to the south on the beach. The group made several creek crossings. The wind kicked up. Entering Yachats, we walked on the 804 trail along the rocky coast and through Yachats to where our car shuttles waited at the Yachats State Park Recreation Area. The group split up, with those in town finding some lunch while several shuttled back to pick up our vehicles. Upon returning to town, we joined the others for lunch. Several commented that Yachats had lost its quiriness from previous decades and was becoming another Carmel. Near the parking area, we watched several whales just off the coast. That afternoon, we returned to the group camp, where we relaxed and hiked local trails. By the way, on the interpretive display at Perpetua about the CCC camp from the 1930s, a Thanksgiving Day menu is shown. One of the items is Goat's Milk, which is code for beer. That evening, a juvenile barred owl visited the camp. The owl sat on a prominent dead, broken tree about forty feet away for about 45 minutes. The owl looked at us and was very curious about some rustling in the nearby grass. The owl departed, and we continued to enjoy the evening. On the third day, we broke camp and drove south, by-passing several hard-to-access beaches or areas with a hazardous shoulder for walking to the Heceta Head parking overflow lot. We arranged a shuttle to the Muriel O. Ponsler Memorial State Scenic Viewpoint. We walked south to Heceta Head, where we observed an osprey and briefly two bald eagles. We traversed the Hobbit Trail and went over to Heceta Head Lighthouse. Just beyond the lighthouse, there were two, possibly three, juvenile gray whales playing and having lunch. We continued under the Cape Creek Bridge to the picnic area, where we ended the trip. Over three days, we hiked 25 miles and saw some fantastic wildlife. Members: Christiane Hougardy, Mark Hougardy, Nola Nelson, Kathy Randall, Joan Skarda, Nancy Whitfield.

Exploring Mt. Hood Hike / Camp

August 9, 2021

Leader & Photographer: Daphne James

Car Camp: 22 miles, 3,800 ft. (Difficult)

ALTHOUGH OREGON HAS SEEN RECORD-BREAKING, TRIPLE-DIGIT HEAT, spreading wildfires, and smoke in recent weeks, we were graced with perfect conditions for our exploring Mt. Hood trip. We had bug-free days and nights, blue skies, warm but hikeable temperatures, lovely paintbrush and asters covering the meadows and trailing along the streams, with the added treat of ripe huckleberries at every turn. Our first day we crossed roaring Newton Creek on various logs to enjoy a serene lunch at the old wood shelter on Elk Meadows.

Sitting at the base of Mt. Hood, it gave us our first full view of the grand mountain. In the evening we strolled around Trillium Lake watching the wildlife come out and the sun going down on Hood. The next day we hiked up Vista Ridge. This trail took us through an old burn area where the contrast between the sculpted silver trees and the hot pink fireweed was quite lovely. When we connected with the Timberline Trail, views of Mt. Rainier, Mt. Adams, and distinctive St. Helens opened up in the skyline. We followed Timberline Trail to Elk Cove, passing flower-covered alpine meadows and jumping over clear, crisp streams along the way. On our way back from lunch in a shaded spot by Elk Cove, we passed the hidden user trail to Dollar Lake twice before taking out our maps and apps and using our superior trail skills to find the secret trailhead in the bushes. The lake is nestled in a beautiful valley, but the lake itself was rather shallow and a murky green. Our third and final day, we took a morning hike to Mirror Lake before heading back home. Obsidian trips are a team effort. Much appreciation to our drivers who navigated the winding, dusty roads; to our trail finders; wildlife spotters; and flower identifiers for making this year's trip a fine adventure. Members: Brad Bennett, Ben Brown, Keiko Bryan, Marguerite Cooney, Jean Harris, Daphne James, Mike Nease, Darko Sojak. Nonmembers: Rachelle Masin.



Hikers and a spectacular view of Mt. Hood.



Climbs

Middle Sister

June 19, 2021

Leader: Dalen Willhite

Climb: 15 miles, 4,500 ft. (Difficult)

WE STARTED FROM POLE CREEK and encountered more mosquitoes than snow once we got on the climber's trail. We set up camp just above the tree line (about 7,700 ft.) where the mosquitoes didn't seem to hang out. The next morning, we enjoyed the sunrise and walked up to the saddle. The summit push was a mix of rock scrambling and snow, but we were glad to have crampons on the steep section.

Great weather and a great crew. Members: Andrew Langford, Bill Lowder, Patrick Mucker, Dalen Willhite.



Hikes

Wild Iris Ridge with Added Loop

June 16, 2021

Leader: Lisa Van Liefde

Hike: 4.4 miles, 800 ft. (Moderate)

TEN OF US GATHERED FOR AN EVENING HIKE up Wild Iris Ridge. At the top of the ridge, the trail for the added loop was overgrown and challenging to find. But everyone was on board to make the hike an *explora*, and with help from Elizabeth and Dorothy, we found the trail eventually! So glad to be joined by three soon-to-be members: Jennifer, Kim and Tinker! Members: Kathie Carpenter, Elizabeth Grant, Kathy Hoeg, Gwyneth Iredale, Denise Rubenstein, Lisa Van Liefde, Dorothy van Winkle. Nonmembers: Kim Davidson-Ruby, Tinker Flom, Jennifer Crim.

Iron Mountain

June 18, 2021

Leader: Ben Brown

Hike: 7.8 miles, 1,900 ft. (Moderate)

UPON ARRIVAL, A LITTLE PAST 9:00 AM, the Tombstone Pass parking area was almost full. This is a very popular trail, even on a weekday. There are several reasons for that during mid-June. It is a well-maintained and well-marked trail that, while a good workout, is not too much for the average hiker. By this time of year, almost all snow had melted. There was only one fairly large patch a little below the observation deck that was easily climbable. To avoid the crowds at the top, there is a very nice lunch spot off the trail approximately 50–60 ft. from the top, with mighty fine views of Hood, Jefferson, Washington, all Three Sisters, and Diamond Peak—al fresco dining at its finest. The flowers in the Cone Peak Meadows were quite nice. Larkspur, red paintbrush, and monkey-flower were abundant. There was even a fair amount of trillium along the final ascent up Iron Mountain. This is an iconic Oregon trail that should not be missed. Just be prepared for interactions with numerous people along the way. Members: Ben Brown, David Hawkins, Daphne James, Steven Johnson, David Morris, Jorry Rolfe, Kate Shapiro, Karen Yoerger.

Bachelor Mountain via Bugaboo Ridge

June 30, 2021

Leader: Daphne James

Hike: 8.2 miles, 1,600 ft. (Moderate)

WE SET OUT FOR OUR BUGABOO RIDGE HIKE THE LAST DAY of June following a week of record-breaking heat in the triple digits. And although the temperatures had come down a bit, the heat and hazy skies made the moderate hike somewhat more challenging. But even 90-degree temperatures on the trail could not detract from the lovely meadows of wildflowers and impressive views of Mount Jefferson. This is a great hike for spring wildflowers and grand mountain views. Members: Ben Brown, Jean Harris, David Hawkins, Daphne

James, Michael Myers, Jorry Rolfe, Angie Ruzicka, Kate Shapiro, Randy Sinnott. Nonmembers: Lisa Johnson.

Bachelor Mountain via Bugaboo Ridge

June 30, 2021

Leader: Becky Lipton

Hike: 8.2 miles, 1,600 ft. (Moderate)

A BEAUTIFUL WILDFLOWER HIKE WITH HAZY VIEWS TODAY on a historic and unseasonably hot day—the day the governor opened up Oregon after vaccinations for COVID-19! Hurrah! We enjoyed our celebration! Members: Becky Lipton, Lisa Marks, David Morris, Barbara Orsi, Kathy Randall, Doug Sandburg. Nonmembers: Kim Davidson-Ruby.

Horsepasture Mountain

July 1, 2021

Leader: Steven Johnson

Hike: 6.9 miles, 2,300 ft. (Difficult)

THE HORSEPASTURE MT. HIKE IS ALWAYS A GREAT SPRING OUTING on account of the abundant wildflowers and great views. This year was again a worthwhile hike for our group of nine. The trail is still in very good condition with only a couple of logs to climb across on the upper section. The views from the summit were only slightly obscured by smoke from the distant wildfires. Members: Jody Boyles, Marti Gerdes, Janet Jacobsen, Steven Johnson, Lana Lindstrom, Kathy Randall, Angie Ruzicka, Karen Yoerger. Nonmembers: Susan Calhoun.

Olallie Mountain

July 8, 2021

Leader: Steven Johnson

Hike: 7.5 miles, 1,150 ft. (Moderate)

THE SUMMIT OF OLALLIE MT. IS STILL AMONG THE BEST VIEWPOINT HIKES in the Three Sisters Wilderness. From the now burned-out lookout we were rewarded with a 360-degree, unobstructed view of Diamond Peak to the south all the way to Mt. Hood to the north, plus a large expanse of mostly green forest to the west. However, the trail condition itself has deteriorated over the last couple of years to the point of being just plain terrible. We spent much of our hike wading through the dense vegetation that has overgrown the trail—so much so that we often struggled to find the path at all—and climbing over a large number of fallen trees. By the days end we all agreed that this once beautiful hike should now be avoided until after the completion of some much-needed maintenance. Members: Ben Brown, Barbara Kay Cosby, Marti Gerdes, Whitney Gould, Steven Johnson, Kathy Randall, Emily Rice, Kate Shapiro, Karen Yoerger.

Devil's Staircase / Dark Grove

July 9, 2021

Leader: Gordon Sayre

Assistant Leader: Darko Sojak

Photographer: Michael Myers

Hike: 5 miles, 900 ft. (Difficult)

IN MARCH 2019, THE DEVIL'S STAIRCASE WILDERNESS AREA WAS CREATED by an act of Congress and signed by Donald Trump. This was a big victory for Oregon conservationists because it protects the largest remaining tract of old growth forest in the coast range, more than 30,000 acres. But unlike other wilderness areas in our state, this one has no developed trailheads or maintained trails, and the Siuslaw National For-

est has no plans to build any. The result is something Obsidians may have thought they knew but have not really experienced: a true forest wilderness, hands and knees in the dirt, leaves and thorns in the face. In this wilderness area there are no photogenic vistas, no campsites with fire rings and tent sites, and the trails are deceptive, because any opening in the brush brings relief, but the track might be due to elk rather than humans. For this trip we tried to follow a GPS track made on a previous Obsidians trip in 2017, a loop of about 5 miles, but the track was not a trail and was difficult to repeat. We spent more than five hours in the forest. Salmonberry, Devil's club, elderberry, alder, and blackberry contribute to the dense understory, and at many points we were forced to crawl through it. Sword ferns were easier to pass through but conceal a forest floor where no footing is secure. Large logs disintegrate under the weight of your boot, branches break off when you grasp them for support. Here we saw the forest as a place of decomposition and humus. The Devil's Staircase waterfall has been adopted as a scenic eponym for the wilderness, but it is a red herring, for Wassen Creek scarcely holds enough water to make a spectacle. The marvel of this place is that it humbles, even mocks, the human sense of aesthetics in nature. It's impossible to stand back and put the scene at a comfortable distance for beauty. Seven Obsidians kept close together, kept their patience, and emerged with a fresh appreciation for Oregon forests. Members: Russ Davies, Lubos Hubata-Vacek, Michael Myers, Linda Parks, Gordon Sayre, Randy Sinnott, Darko Sojak.



Russ, Darko, Lubos, and Gordon on old growth log.

Lowder Mountain

July 10, 2021

Leader & Photographer: Joel Greer

Hike: 7 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

IT WAS A WARM, PLEASANT DAY with good visibility from Mt. Hood to Diamond Peak. The trail was a bit overgrown in places, but trail maintenance crews had cleared several fallen trees and cleaned up pretty well. We enjoyed lunch and spectacular views of the Cascades and Karl and Ruth Lakes from a summit meadow and cliff. There was a pretty good variety of wildflowers, including asters, penstemon, Oregon sunshine, one-seeded pussypaws, larkspurs, tiger lilies, and scarlet gilia. After we returned to our cars, we opted not to go on the optional one-mile hike to the so-called Quaking Aspen Swamp. Instead, we all stopped at the home of Jim and Diana

Dinn on the McKenzie River for fresh-squeezed lemonade. It was a fun day for everyone. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Diana Dinn, James Dinn, Esme Greer, Joel Greer, Gwyneth Iredale, Holger Krentz, Jorry Rolfe, Randy Sinnott, Lisa Van Liefde. Nonmembers: Mike Graham.



Through the thimbleberry patch.

Marion Mountain

July 10, 2021

Leader: Steven Johnson

Photographer: Darko Sojak

Hike: 11 miles, 2,000 ft. (Difficult)

NINE OBSIDIAN MEMBERS GOT TOGETHER on a very warm Saturday for a hike up Marion Mt. We made a short side trip on the way to the beautiful Marion and Gatch Falls before going on to the summit to enjoy our lunch with great views of Jefferson and Jack. On the way back we stopped for a refreshing swim in the slightly green Marion Lake. Members: Jody Boyles, Marti Gerdes, Janet Jacobsen, Steven Johnson, Lynn Meacham, Kathy Randall, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Scott Wilkinson.



Mt. Jefferson from the top of Marion Mt.

PCT—Highway 58 to Lils Lake

July 11, 2021

Leader: Darko Sojak

Photographer: Holger Krentz

Hike: 13.2 miles, 1,180 ft. (Difficult)

A **PCT HIKE FROM WILLAMETTE PASS** along Odell Lake, Midnight Lake, Hidden Lake, and a dozen smaller mosquito-infested ponds to Lils Lake (intersection with Yoran Lake trail #3846). After the whole group enjoyed a refreshing

swim in beautiful, green Lils Lake, we returned the same way, finishing 13.2 miles with a record average moving time. Members: Barbara Orsi, Jody Boyles, Kathie Carpenter, Liz Cooney, Marguerite Cooney, Holger Krentz, Jessica Moll, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak. Nonmembers: Mike Graham.



Diamond Peak.

Three Fingered Jack Loop

July 12, 2021

Leader: Steven Johnson

Hike: 9.3 miles, 1,500 ft. (Difficult)

A HIKE THROUGH THIS 2003 BURN AREA meant lots of sun but also great views of the Cascades. After hiking three miles on the PCT, we left the trail near Three Fingered Jack to descend a steep ridge to the beautifully secluded Martin Lake for our lunch stop. We then merged onto the Old Summit Trail to hike past Booth Lake to Square Lake, where we stopped for a very refreshing swim before completing the loop and hiking back to our vehicles. Members: Jan Anselmo, Brad Bennett, Kathie Carpenter, Marguerite Cooney, Marti Gerdes, Esme Greer, Joel Greer, Daphne James, Steven Johnson, Lynn Meacham. Nonmembers: Richard Anselmo.

Oregon Dunes

July 15, 2021

Leader: Scott Hovis

Hike: 4.5 miles, 150 ft. (Moderate)

I LIKE THE VARIETY ON THIS HIKE—dunes, forest, beach, creek. We had lunch overlooking the ocean. Be careful where you go in the foredunes: snowy plovers are nesting until September. Although the hike is only 4.5 miles, it feels farther because half the trail is walking in dry sand. For summer, I thought there were relatively few people. It was nice that most of the construction was finished on the drive there. Don't forget your senior pass for the trailhead. Members: Patricia Cleall, Patricia Esch, Nancy Hoecker, Yuan Hopkins, Scott Hovis, Kathy Randall, Dorothy van Winkle, Nancy Whitfield.

Buck Bridge to Trail Bridge Reservoir

July 17, 2021

Leader: Denise Bean

Hike: 13 miles, 600 ft. (Difficult)

WE PARKED AT BUCK BRIDGE, also known as Frissel Boat Launch. There is always plenty of parking. To find the parking area, watch for the boat launch sign on your right pointing to the road on the left. This is right after you cross Scott Creek (highway sign) and is a couple of miles past Belknap Springs. This is where the trail crosses to the north side of the

river and leaves the highway side. Most of the trail is right along the river and is refreshing in the old growth forest. We all had our trackers on and felt that it was more like 14 miles round trip. Members: Jan Anselmo, Denise Bean, Kathie Carpenter, David Hawkins, Holger Krentz, Lynn Meacham, Jessica Moll, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak.

Canyon Creek Meadows

July 17, 2021

Leader: Steven Johnson

Photographer Joel Greer

Hike: 7.5 miles, 1,400 ft. (Difficult)

CANYON CREEK ALWAYS MAKES FOR A GREAT HIKE and this was no exception. We benefited from the prevailing winds, which blew the smoke to the east giving us clear skies, and from the meadows, which were covered with lupine, paintbrush, and heather. Our lunch stop on the ridge next to Three Fingered Jack was spectacular, plus the many mountain goats in the area made for a very special day. Members: Jody Boyles, Keiko Bryan, Jacquie Fern, Marti Gerdes, Esme Greer, Joel Greer, Janet Jacobsen, Steven Johnson, Kathy Randall. Nonmembers: Richard McManigal.



On the snow field below Three Fingered Jack.

Chambers Lakes

July 19, 2021

Leader: Steven Johnson

Hike: 14.2 miles, 1,800 ft. (Difficult)

CAMP LAKE ISN'T EASY TO GET TO. We drove 108 miles to get to the trailhead, ten miles of it over a washboard-covered gravel road. The trail to Camp Lake is over seven miles and an almost 2,000-foot gain. The first four miles is through the 2012 Pole Creek burn area making for a very hot, dusty trail. The payoff for all this work is a rewarding visit to one of the most scenic lakes in Oregon. Camp Lake is nestled between the South and Middle Sisters and its sand-covered lake bed and crystal clear water make it one of the best swimming lakes around. Eight of our group of twelve went for a refreshing swim before heading back to our vehicles and then driving to Sisters for a very relaxing dinner at Takoda's Restaurant. Members: Brad Bennett, Ben Brown, Kathie Carpenter, Marti Gerdes, Esme Greer, Joel Greer, Daphne James, Steven Johnson, Michael Myers, Mike Nease, Kathy Randall, Jorry Rolfe.

Richardson Park Moonwalk

July 22, 2021

Leader & Photographer: Darko Sojak

Hike: 3 miles, 25 ft. (Easy)

TONIGHT'S FULL MOON WATCHED WESTERN GREBES AND BLUE HERONS preparing for good night. It was a warm evening, ideal for walking along the lake. Members: Joanna Alexander, Donna Bloomfield, Jennifer Crim, Sheridan Gates, Kathy Hoeg, Linda Parks, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak. Nonmembers: Tinker Flom, Phyllis Klein.



Along Fern Ridge Reservoir.

Annual Beach Barefoot Hike

July 25, 2021

Leader: Darko Sojak

Hike: 3.3 miles, 33 ft. (Easy)

ANNUAL BAREFOOT BEACH. This year we walked from Baker Beach to Darko's hidden cove. Good party, low tide and NW wind. Members: Joanna Alexander, Jennifer Crim, Vicky Hanson, Gwyneth Iredale, Holger Krentz, Michael Myers, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak. Nonmembers: Alice Krentz.

Divide Lake

July 23, 2021

Leader & Photographer: Randy Sinnott

Assistant Leader: Jorry Rolfe

Hike: 10 miles, 1,600 ft. (Difficult)

DIVIDE LAKE SITS AT THE FOOT OF IMPRESSIVE MOUNT YORAN. Getting there was facilitated by the efforts of the Scorpions, a volunteer trail clearing crew who had cut out blowdowns the day before our hike. The weather was sunny and we were under a hemlock canopy most of the way, enjoying air temperatures twenty degrees cooler than the Willamette Valley. We arrived at Divide Lake, enjoyed a brief stop, then continued on another mile up to the ridge between Yoran and Diamond Peak. Better views were possible to the east, including Odell Lake, Willamette Pass ski slopes and imposing Diamond Peak by continuing higher toward Yoran, but this soon became a steep scramble in which most of us were not inclined to invest the energy. Besides, a dip in the lake and lunch was waiting for us down below. A few took advantage of the refreshing lake while others enjoyed the peace and clear, smoke-free air of a Cascades afternoon. The hike out was mostly downhill and we saw no other hikers the entire trip. We agreed this lovely hike would be well worth a future visit. Members: Ben Brown, Kathie Carpenter, Jean Harris, David Hawkins, Jonathan Jost, Holger Krentz, Kathy Randall, Jorry Rolfe, Randy Sinnott, Karen Yoerger. Nonmembers: Howard Feinman.



Divide Lake hikers.

Cowhorn Mountain

July 24, 2021

Leader: Steven Johnson

Photographer: Scott Wilkinson

Hike: 11.9 miles, 3,100 ft. (Difficult)

WITH FOUR HOURS OF DRIVING TIME, 12 miles of hiking, and 3,000 feet of elevation gain, a hike up Cowhorn Mt. is an all-day trip, but it's a worthwhile adventure. We spent our day hiking through a pristine, unburned forest with almost no other people on the trail. The views from the summit of Cowhorn Mt. are, I'm sure, impressive. However, for this day, they were shrouded in smoke, making even nearby Diamond Peak barely visible. We stopped at Indigo Lake for a very refreshing swim before finishing our hike at Timpanogas Lake. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Liz Cooney, Marguerite Cooney, Marti Gerdes, Esme Greer, Joel Greer, Steven Johnson, Kathy Randall, Scott Wilkinson, Paul Winther.



On the cinder ridgeline, leading to the summit.

Brice Creek

July 26, 2021

Leader: Jean Harris

Assistant Leader: Daphne James

Hike: 10 miles, 1,600 ft. (Moderate)

SEVEN LOVELY LADIES ENJOYED A 10.5-MILE HIKE along Brice Creek, Upper Trestle Falls trail loop and Lower Trestle Falls. The day started at Cedar Creek Trailhead. The enchanting forest felt cooler than the sunny openings. The water flow was low, yet still pleasant to experience. A dip in Brice Creek was refreshing! A little history regarding the gold mining era of the late 1800s and early 1900s caused wonder about life over 100 years ago. Lund Park was the half-way stop for the two-day trip from Cottage Grove to Bohemia Mountain. Perhaps a future trip to the mining district is in order. Charla is returning to the Obsidians after a long absence. Welcome Charla and Mary! Members: Charla Eubanks, Hilary Fisher, Jean Harris, Daphne James, Becky Lipton, Jorry Rolfe. Nonmembers: Mary Holbert.

Obsidian Grand Tour

July 27, 2021

Leader: Steven Johnson

Hike: 18.5 miles, 2,800 ft. (Difficult)

OUR GROUP OF 12 HIKE THIS 18.5 MILE LOOP with overcast skies, a cool breeze, and an occasional short shower, making this day a refreshing change from the previous month of hot weather. We made the usual stops for photos at Four-in-One Cone, Minnie Scott Springs, and Collier Glacier Viewpoint, where we had lunch. We then continued our hike past Obsidian Cliffs followed by a short scramble up to Arrowhead Lake, where most of us took a refreshing swim. We then hiked past Obsidian Falls and continued on the Obsidian trail back to our trailhead. Members: Ben Brown, Kathie Carpenter, Marti Gerdes, Esme Greer, Joel Greer, Steven Johnson, Jorma Meriaho, Michael Myers, Rich Romm, Angie Ruzicka, Tommy Young. Nonmembers: Arjen Hoekstra.

Evening Hike to Hendricks Park

August 11, 2021

Leader: Lisa Van Liefde

Hike: 3 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

A VERY WARM EVENING GREETED THE SIX OF US. The shade on this trail provided the best conditions to handle it. Members: Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Jennifer Crim, Holger Krentz, Helen Martz, Lisa Van Liefde.

Oregon Rocks Walk

August 12, 2021

Leader: David Cooper

Hike: 2.2 miles, (Easy)

AN AFTERNOON START ON A TRIPLE DIGIT DAY. One-hundred-degree temps didn't stop 15 of us from walking to the Museum of Natural and Cultural History for a presentation by U of O geologist and author Marli Miller. We were glad when we found out the event was moving inside. Marli treated us to a talk about the cycle of rocks, geologic faults, and intrusive granite. She did it with guitar in hand, singing her songs such as *You Say All Your Faults Are Normal* and *Don't Take It For Granite*. Informative and entertaining! Look for Marli Miller on YouTube to see her musical presentations. Members: Charles Ashmore, Lynda Christiansen, Carla Cooper, David

Cooper, Clara Emlen, Tinker Flom, Mark Hougardy, Lana Lindstrom, Lisa Marks, Helen Martz, Jorry Rolfe, Chris Shuraleff, Marie Stringer, Nancy Whitfield. Nonmembers: Jim Flom.

Macduff Mountain

July 29, 2021

Leader: Steven Johnson

Hike: 4.5 miles, 1,200 ft. (Moderate)

THIS IS A GOOD HIKE FOR A HOT DAY as it's almost completely in the shade. It normally has a nice wildflower display but we hiked it later this year on account of the heatwave. The views from the top were mostly clear although a bit smoky. We ended the hike with some of Janet's homemade apple crisp during a short but pleasant rain shower. Members: Marti Gerdes, Janet Jacobsen, Steven Johnson, Kathy Randall, Jorry Rolfe, Diana Wheat, Tommy Young. Nonmembers: Larry Winiarski.

E2C Tire Mountain West

August 15, 2021

Leader: David Cooper

Photographer: Carla Cooper

Hike: 7 miles, 1,330 ft. (Moderate)

THERE WAS SOME APPREHENSION ABOUT HEAT AND SMOKE, but conditions were improved from the last few days. Still, it was warm and the humidity along this green trail was noticeable. We crossed over the newly-completed footbridge and headed to our destination, the junction with the trail to the top of Tire Mountain. Part of the group went up this trail. Blow-downs have made a mess of it and it is likely to be abandoned. This group made it up to the saddle before giving up the effort. It was a good, slightly cooler, less smoky day, with Obsidians who are always a pleasure to hike with. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Kathy Randall, Jorry Rolfe, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak.



Hunts Cove (Pamelia Lake)

August 17, 2021

Leader: David Cooper

Hike: 6 miles, 900 ft. (Moderate)

ON OUR TRIP UP TO THE TRAILHEAD WE WERE MET WITH A PLEASANT SURPRISE—SPRINKLES OF RAIN. As we turned on the North Santiam Highway we beheld a wonderful, much desired sight—wet pavement! The cooler temperature made some hikers wish that they had worn long pants. The hike up to the lake was literally no sweat. After the heat we'd been having, this hike was a pleasant change. We stopped briefly at the lake and then headed on up to the junction with the PCT. At this point, the trail was clearly closed. We met four PCT hikers that were coming out on the Pamelia Lake trail and that would have to pick up their journey north on the other side of last year's wildfires. We went back to the lake for lunch. The cloudy skies blocked any views of Mt. Jefferson and the reports of downed trees had already nixed the original plan of going to Hunt's Cove. Hopefully today's wonderful group of hikers will consider coming back to lead hikes to Hunt's Cove and Grizzly Peak. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Caroline Moore, Lisa Marks, Angie Ruzicka. Nonmembers: Larry Winiarski.

Scott Mountain

August 23, 2021

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Photographer: Tommy Young

Hike: 8.2 miles, 1,300 ft. (Moderate)

WE HAD THE SUMMIT TO OURSELVES FOR LUNCH and to enjoy the views of the Cascade peaks. The site of the cathedral-style cabin lookout that was destroyed around 1960 was easy to locate. Later we relaxed at Tenas Lake, with four of us slowly or quickly plunging into the cold water. There were a few ripe huckleberries along the trail but I was unable to determine the average number consumed—perhaps five. After the hike six of us drove a mile on Highway 242 to a small roadside pullout for a short hike to see the historic Hand Lake Shelter, meadows, and Hand Lake. Obsidians, including Rick McManigal's parents, helped restore the shelter in 1993. One only needs a self-issued permit and Bill Sullivan's description for an interesting exploration. Many thanks to Steve



Standing on the site of the former lookout.

Johnson for leading. Members: Marguerite Cooney, Marti Gerdes, Janet Jacobsen, Steven Johnson, June Miller, Richard McManigal, Kathy Randall, Denise Rubenstein, Tommy Young. Nonmembers: Larry Winiarski, Mi Zhao.



Scott Mountain Lookout photo by Bailey Castelleo from the Obsidian Archives

Amazon Headwaters / Fox Hollow / Spencer Butte / Mt. Baldy Hikes

Hikes: 3.5–8.5 miles, 630–1,900 ft. (Easy–Moderate)
Various Leaders

Janet Jacobsen: 6/26 4 Members, 3 Nonmembers, 7/4 5 Members, 2 Nonmembers, 7/11 5 Members, 1 Nonmember, 7/18 12 Members, 7/25 4 Members, 7/31 4 Members, 8/7 4 Members, 8/14 6 Members 1 Nonmember

Caroline Moore, Carla Lyon: 6/30 9 Members, 1 Nonmember

Denise Rubenstein: 7/7 12 Members, 1 Nonmember, 8/11 12 Members, 1 Nonmember

Mike Smith: 7/14 11 Members, 2 Nonmembers

Lisa Van Liefde: 7/14 4 Members

Jorry Rolfe: 7/21 10 Members, 8/18 8 Members

Whitney Gould: 7/28 8 Members

Darko Sojak: 8/1 4 Members, 8/8 5 Members

June Miller, Lana Lindstrom: 8/4 9 Members

Blanton Ridge Hikes

Hikes: 8.5–9.4 miles, 1,450–1,740 ft. (Moderate)

Various Leaders

Tommy Young: 6/29 11 Members, 1 Nonmember, 7/6 8 Members, 1 Nonmember, 7/13 5 Members, 7/20 3 Members, 8/3 6 Members, 8/10 4 Members, 8/17 6 Members

Janet Jacobsen: 7/27 3 Members, 1 Nonmember

Mt. Pisgah Hikes

Hikes: 3.5–6.4 miles, 1,000–1,400 ft. (Moderate)

Various Leaders

Janet Jacobsen: 7/23 3 Members, 8/20 13 Members
1 Nonmember

Lisa Van Liefde: 8/4 5 Members, 1 Nonmember



Water Trips

Women's Coast Kayak

July 20, 2021

Leader: Lana Lindstrom

Photographer: Jacquie Fern

Water: (Moderate)

SIX-WORD MEMOIRS OF OUR ADVENTURES: 12 wonderful women. Helping each other./ Water paddle. Blue sky. White clouds./ Paddled to second Siuslaw bridge. Satisfying./ Delightful Drift Creek. Ooh-la-la./ Lots of fun. Special, terrific boating./ Mesmerizing, disorienting reflections. Gravel bar. STOP./ Red hat. Horny bull. Paddle fast./ Colorful kayaks gliding through the forest!/?/ Great group. Great fun. Great water./ Paddling quietly or chatting with others./ Wild beauty. Drift Creek. Serene paddle./ Women paddling, laughing, exploring nature together. Members: Jacquie Fern, Sharon Friedland, Elizabeth Grant, Lana Lindstrom, Lou Maenz, Linda Parks, Emily Rice, Denise Rubenstein, Diane Schechter, Joan Skarda. Nonmembers: Kim Davidson-Ruby, Rachele Masin.



Crossing the Alsea River. Much harder on return.

Stewardship

Berry Creek and Beach Cleanup

July 3, 2021

Leader: Darko Sojak

Work Party: 2.5 miles, 50 ft. (Easy)

ON A PRETTY WINDY DAY, we collected 51 lbs. of mixed rubbish. Thank you all! Afterwards, some of us stopped at Chen's Family Dish for a delectable lunch. Members: Charles Ashmore, Brad Bennett, Keiko Bryan, Sheridan Gates, Jane Hackett, Vicky Hanson, Gwyneth Iredale, Holger Krentz, Barbara Orsi, Jorry Rolfe, Angie Ruzicka, Joan Skarda, Darko Sojak, Nancy Whitfield.

False Brome Removal

July 28, 2021

Leader: Matt Bell

Trail Maintenance: 1 mile, 500 ft. (Moderate)

OUR GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS MET DEVERTON COCHRANE from the City at the main Spencer Butte parking lot, which was atypically unfilled with cars; most people were avoiding hiking in the heat. Our project for the day was a good one for such a hot evening, pulling grass. We grabbed hand tillers and hiked up the steep West Trail to remove some patches of false brome, a grass that looks suspiciously like several of our native grasses. We all can now tell you that it has a more lime green color, broader blades with hairs on the underside and edges, hairs on the stem, has tighter-looking seed heads than our native grasses, and likes growing in the shade of trees. We identified the grass, used the hand tillers to dig it out, and bagged it up before it goes to seed. Deverton GPS-marked where we found the grass so that we can return and remove it again next spring. Our group made short work of removing false brome and ended early, at 7:30. We stayed below tree line and didn't summit the Butte on this trip. Back at the parking lot, we enjoyed cold apple crisp from Janet. Special thanks go to Clara for cleaning the trailhead kiosk and steps. Members: Matt Bell, Nathaniel Bell, Clara Emlen, Janet Jacobsen, Wally Miller, Jorry Rolfe, Darko Sojak.

Spencer Butte Summit Steps and Trailhead

August 25, 2021

Leader: Matt Bell

Photographer: Pat Soussan

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

OUR GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS MET UP ON A COOL EVENING to hike up the Spencer Butte and clean the summit steps. Most of our group hiked to the top of the Butte before working our way back down. The garden hoes and square-bladed shovels made short work of loosening and scraping the grit and rocks from the steps. People's hard work was followed by the loud and dusty work of blowing the steps off with a backpack leaf blower. On our way back down, we also picked up garbage from along the trail, including an unopened Smart Water bottle which wasn't so smart to litter. Special thanks go to Pat and Helen for cleaning the trailhead kiosk and steps. Members: Matt Bell, Jennifer Crim, Dan Gilmore, Gwyneth Iredale, Todd Larsen, Lisa Marks, Helen Martz, Evelyn Nagy, Jorry Rolfe, Pat Soussan, Lisa Van Liefde.



A large group gathers, ready to clean the summit steps.

OBSIDIAN CALENDAR

September

1 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M** Smith 520-488-9569
 8 Wed Tam McArthur Rim Hike **M** Cooper 868-5427
 12 Sun 3 Sisters PCT Section Hike BkPk **D** Davies 797-4004
 13 Mon Rosary Lakes Cleanup WrkPrty **M** Wilken 343-3080
 14 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M** Young 941-780-4156
 14 Tue UO Sustainability Walk Hike **E**Coots 729-7215
 15 Wed Fuji Mountain Hike **D** Wilken 343-3080
 15 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M** Rolfe 206-9501
 18 Sat Mt. McLoughlin Climb **D**Kanewa 525-1709
 18 Sat Yoran / Lils Lakes Loop Hike **D** Anselmo 236-5020
 19 Sun Mt Pispah Sunset/Moonrise (long) Hike **M** Jacobsen 206-1251
 20 Mon U of O Campus Walk Hike **E** Alexander 458-209-7798
 25 Sat National Public Lands Day TrlMnt **M** Bell 503-884-8829
 25 Sat Berry Creek & Beach Cleanup WrkPrty **E** Sojak 799-9199
 18 Sat Mt McLoughlin Climb **D**Kanewa 525-1709
 18 Sat Yoran / Lils Lakes Loop Hike **D** Anselmo 236-5020
 21 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M**. Young 941-780-4156
 22 Wed Rigdon Lakes Hike **M** Yoerger 510-2832

22 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M** Gould 510-368-8941
 25 Sat National Public Lands Day TrlMnt **M** Bell 503-884-8829
 25 Sat Berry Creek & Beach Cleanup WrkPrty **E** Sojak 799-9199
 28 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M** Young 941-780-4156
 29 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M** Morray 953-5679

October

3 Sun Twin Craters Explora Hike **M** Sojak 799-9199
 3 Sun C. Tucker Memorial 4 in 1 Cone Hike **D**...Smith 520-488-9569
 6 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M** Cooper 868-5427
 13 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M** Miller 808-282-5201
 20 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M** Morray 953-5679
 23 Sat North Bank Restoration Project WrkPrty Sojak 799-9199
 27 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M** Jacobsen 206-1251
 30 Sat Ridgeline Trail Maintenance TrlMnt **M** Bell 503-884-8829

November

3 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M** Smith 520-488-9569
 27 Sat Ridgeline Trail Maintenance TrlMnt **M** Bell 503-884-8829

FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION about our activities, visit the Obsidian website: obsidians.org

Welcome New Members!

Carol Babcock
Eugene, OR 97405

Tinker Flom
Springfield, OR 97478

Frank Webster
Eugene, OR 97405

Susan Calhoun
Eugene, OR 97405

Jerry Pergamit
Eugene, OR 97405

Judy Webster
Eugene, OR 97405

Kim Davidson-Ruby
Eugene, OR 97405

Lindsey Urquhart
Eugene, OR 97405

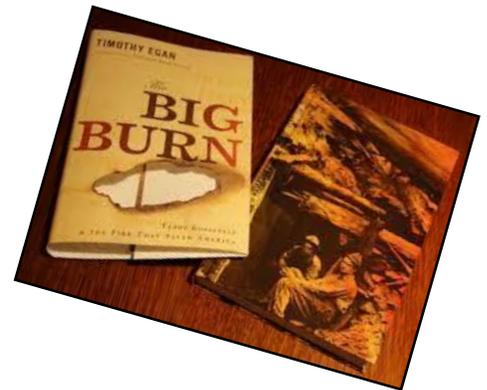
Mi Zhao
Eugene, OR 97401

New: Obsidian Book Group

Angie Ruzicka
Conservation/SciEd Cochair

COMING THIS FALL—AN OBSIDIAN BOOK GROUP! The Science and Education committee is organizing a group of folks interested in reading Timothy Egan's *The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire That Saved America*. Egan weaves together the story of the beginnings of the Forest Service and conservation with the conditions that led to the fire that burned three million acres across Idaho, Montana, and Washington in the late summer of 1910.

The group will meet once this fall on Thursday, October 28, from 6:30–8:00 PM at the Lodge (will shift to Zoom if needed) and once in January (date to be determined). The book is easily available: Eugene, Springfield, UO, and LCC libraries have copies; local bookstores may have copies; and new, used, and e-book editions are available from online booksellers. If you are interested in joining us, email Angie Ruzicka at angie.ruzicka@gmail.com for additional information, including discussion questions.





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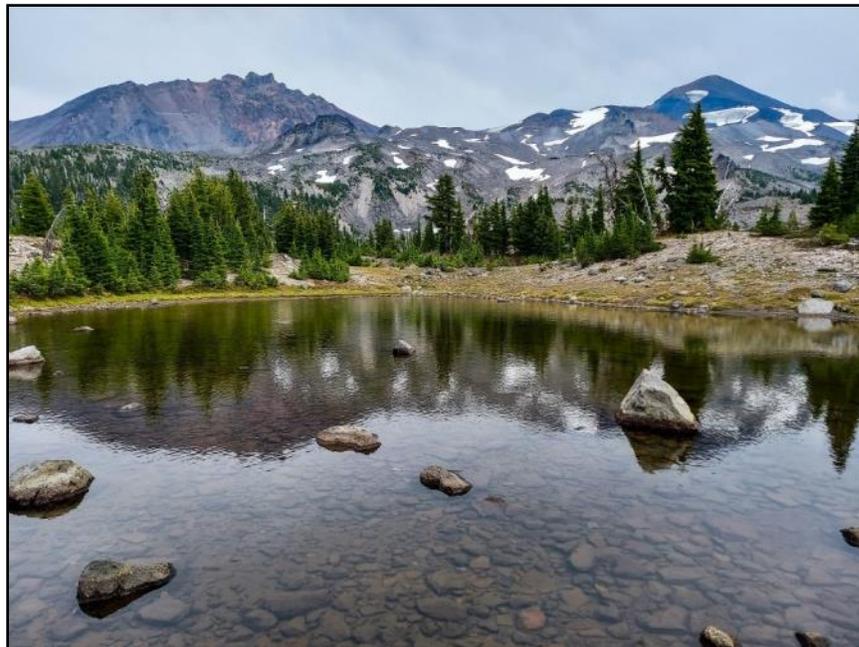
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September 2021



North and Middle Sister from Arrowhead Lake. See Obsidian Grand Tour trip report on p. 12. Photo by Joel Greer.

ENJOY the photos in color!
ONLINE *Bulletin* at www.obsidians.org