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Dates to Remember

October 13	Annual Meeting
October 18	Board Meeting
October 27	Potluck
October 27	Bulletin Deadline
November 1	Membership Fees Due
November 1	Board Meeting

Current event schedules at:

www.obsidians.org

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Oregon Made Its Passing Law Much Safer for Cyclists, Starting Next Year

Richard Hughes

FOR MANY YEARS THERE HAS BEEN A COMMON MISCONCEPTION among drivers that they cannot cross the centerline on two-lane rural roads. As a consequence, when they come up on a slower-moving bicycle rider, they get peeved and pass too closely, not waiting for a wider section of the roadway or just crossing the centerline. Whether the drivers do this on purpose or not, the result for bicycle riders is frayed nerves and a terrifying experience.

When driving in a no passing zone, there have been some exceptions when you are legally able to pass another vehicle. The law (ORS 811.420) has stated that you are allowed to pass someone on the left in a no passing zone (1) if the other driver just turned onto another road, driveway or alley; or (2) if you need to move further to the left—even across the centerline—in order to avoid an *obstruction* in front of you.

Fast forward to 2023. I am happy to report that this summer, the Oregon State Legislature passed SB 895 that amends the existing statute. Effective January 1, 2024, these two additional key sections will clarify the issue:

- 1) drivers must slow down and drive at a speed that is at least five miles per hour under the speed limit when they pass another vehicle or any type of *obstruction* on the road, and
- 2) the bill amends the definition of *obstruction* to explicitly include *a person who is riding a bicycle or operating another type of vehicle and who is traveling at a speed of less than one-half of the speed limit.*

I owe a debt of gratitude to the bill's chief sponsor, Eugene-area Democrat Senator Floyd Prozanski. But it would not have happened without the advocacy and insights of Doug Parrow, a Salem-area bicycle advocate and blogger, and myself, two retired Oregonians who took it upon ourselves to identify this problem, do the leg-work required to create the bill and then get it through the system.

Finally, I want to thank the following Obsidian members who gave public testimony for the bill or supported the measure by contacting their state representatives: Sue Wolling, Darko Sojak, Angie Ruzicka, Brenda Kameenui, and Denise Rubenstein.

Much appreciation and many thanks go to Richard Hughes for his tireless work to make the roads safer for bicycle riders! Photo by Darian Morray.



Reminders:

- ◆ Our Annual Meeting is 6:30 PM, October 13, at the Lodge.
- ◆ Membership Fees are due by November 1.
- ◆ There will be no December *Bulletin*.

IN MEMORIAM

IF YOU WISH TO CONTRIBUTE TO A MEMORIAL BENCH FOR JOHN HARTMAN at the Mt. Pisgah Arboretum, please go to mountpisgaharboretum.org/john-hartmans-memorial-bench/. His partner Sally O'Donnell wrote: *On a walk through Mt. Pisgah before his upcoming surgery last March, I asked John what he would want a memorial bench to say, and he replied, "Go outside and play."* The bench will honor him and support the amazing work that Mt. Pisgah Arboretum does to preserve our wild beauty and provide education. John's In Memoriam was in the May Bulletin.



Climate and Environment

Oregon's Kelp Forest: new UO exhibit coming late October

Jorry Rolfe, co-chair CSE Committee

A NEW DISPLAY AT THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY, opening Saturday and Sunday October 28–29, will allow you to observe kelp forest ecosystems—underwater biodiversity hot spots which are foundational to our marine food web.

Facts about kelp: Under the chilly and salty surface of our coast, kelp can grow at least 30–60 feet long and move to the tide, forming what are known by some as underwater rainforests. Much like land forests, they can be lush, sustain dense canopies and carpeted understories, provide habitat for plants and animals, and support fisheries by providing spawning and nursery grounds for fish and shellfish. For generations kelp thrived off Oregon's coast. Some of these kelp forests are now suffering poor health or are disappearing for a variety of reasons, while others are holding on. Worldwide, 38% of the kelp forests have been in decline over the past fifty years; they occupy less than 1% of the nearshore of Oregon (the region close to the shoreline). Scientists theorize that marine heat waves, climate change, water pollution from human and animal waste, development, and unchecked grazing by sea urchins are the causes for this.



The exhibit: Soon you will have a chance at the Museum to see and learn why kelp forests are vital not only to Oregon but to the world. In the exhibit you will discover animals that shelter and feed there, understand the threats to these fragile ecosystems, and find out what we can do to aid the kelp. During the opening weekend there will be guided tours and refreshments.

Note: Be sure to check the Obsidian schedule for an urban hike, lunch, and museum visit for Saturday, October 28. The morning will begin with a two-hour tree walk in the south University neighborhood, led by Whitey Lueck—his last one for the year. Then we will lunch on the UO campus before visiting the Museum of Natural and Cultural History to see the kelp exhibit.

Welcome New Members!

Melanie Glock
Eugene, OR 97405

John Marshall
Eugene, OR 97401

Jimmy Murphy
Eugene, OR 97405

Ken Robinson
Springfield, OR 97477

Michael Rowe
Eugene, OR 97405

Jeffrey Smith
Eugene, OR 97403

OBSIDIANS

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Dave Hawkins, President
Denise Bean, Vice President
Angie Ruzicka, Secretary
Laura Osinga, Treasurer
Russ Davies, Jean Harris, Maryanne Reiter,
Jorry Rolfe, Denise Rubenstein

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 (Interim)..... Jim Northrop
Climbs (Interim)..... Maryanne Reiter
Concessions..... Carla Cooper
Conservation/SciEd..... J. Rolfe/A. Ruzicka
Entertainment..... Ane McKee
Extended Trips..... Lana Lindstrom
Finance..... Susan Zeni
Lodge Building..... Dave Cooper
Lodge Grounds (Interim)..... Jim Northrop
Librarian/Historian..... Lenore McManigal
Membership..... Diane Schechter
Online (Interim)..... Marci Hansen
Publications..... Lou Maenz
Publicity..... Marci Hansen
Safety..... Lyndell Wilken
Stewardship..... Jorry Rolfe/Darko Sojak
Summer Camp..... Lana Lindstrom
Summer Trips..... Dave Cooper
Winter Trips..... Dave Cooper

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Deadline

for November/December Bulletin

Friday, October 27

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Janet Jacobsen, Lou Maenz

Copy Editors:

Ethel Weltman, Karen Yoerger

Graphics Design & Desktop Publishing:

Carla Cooper, Bea Fontana, Stewart Hoeg

Assembly/Mailing Team

Manager: Lou Maenz

Assistant Manager: Nancy Raymond

Team: Tom Adamcyk, Don Baldwin,

Yuan Hopkins, Judy Newman

Barbara Schomaker

BOARD NOTES

Special Board Meeting

July 31, 2023

By Denise Rubenstein

President Dave Hawkins called the meeting to order. Board members present: Russ Davies, Jean Harris, Laura Osinga, Jorry Rolfe, and Denise Rubenstein. Others present: Lana Lindstrom and Jim Northrop.

The purpose of the meeting was to consider payment for a proposal from Revolution Design for completion of the website design. The details discussed included timing, costs, and follow-up support. The Revolution CEO believes they can have the project completed and ready for our testing by August 31. We hope in two weeks at a minimum after that we can test and get back to Revolution with things to be fixed before going live. The Revolution proposal includes three estimates: low, expected, and high. Payment of 25% of the expected cost is required. A motion to move forward with the plan to have Revolution Design complete the project was passed.

September Board Meeting

September 6, 2023

From Minutes by Angela Ruzicka

President Dave Hawkins called the meeting to order. Board members present: Denise Bean, Laura Osinga, Maryanne Reiter, Denise Rubenstein, Angie Ruzicka. Others present: Carla Cooper, Dave Cooper, Lana Lindstrom, Jim Northrop, Lisa Van Liefde.

The Board approved the minutes for the meetings on July 5 and July 31.

Treasurer's Report (Laura Osinga): Laura reviewed the year-to-date income and expenses as well as the balance sheet. The Capital & Contingency Fund decreased nearly \$11,000 due to invoices received from Revolution Design to complete the website project. Similarly, \$12,000 was transferred from the money market account to US Bank to cover invoices from Revolution Design. The Summer Camp Fund/Checking are down \$21,000+ due to covering the expenses of Summer Camp. The Board approved the bills.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Climbs (Maryanne Reiter): The Climbs Committee had six climbs scheduled since the last Board meeting; one climb was postponed due to smoke. Dalen Willhite achieved his goal of leading all 10 peaks for the Obsidians with the completion of his lead of Mount McLoughlin. The Climbs Committee also worked on putting on a more advanced climbing class that starts Sept. 5. It will teach the skills needed to set up and take down ropes for climbing outside as well as the other skills needed for outside climbing.

Concessions (Carla Cooper): With \$23 in July sales and a whopping \$638 at Summer Camp, our last two months' total income is \$661. Many thanks to Keiko Bryan and Chris Shuraleff for their help at Summer Camp.

Lodge Building (Dave Cooper): Several improvements at the Lodge have been completed. A special thanks to John Hegg for finishing and staining the east side railings. The walkway and steps were pressure washed. Thanks to Vern Marsonette for troubleshooting and repairing the pressure washer. Linda Anson got us a turbo nozzle and she has cleaned the front entry and disabled parking area. The disabled parking symbols have been repainted. Bear Mountain Electric has almost completed changing the lights in the main room and the upstairs storage room to LED lighting. Beside the ongoing savings this will create, we will receive \$95 from EWEB from their incentive program. The supply line to the

stove in the entryway has been turned off. If we find there is a need to relight the stove, contact Dave Cooper. There is a specific safety procedure for relighting the pilot light. The ceiling fans can now be turned on and off from a switch just below the hallway electrical panel.

Lodge Grounds (Jim Northrop - interim): Fifteen industrious Obsidians turned out on August 31 to spruce up the Lodge grounds. Grass was mowed, weeds whacked, bushes and tree limbs trimmed, blackberries cut, mulch spread, a path re-graveled, and the Lodge entrance power washed. The vistas looking at and from the Lodge have been opened up, with individual plants identifiable in place of a wall of green. The newly mulched planting bed outside the fence received favorable comments from a passerby. Special thanks to Clara Emlen for putting in extra hours cutting blackberries and moving mulch outside the fence and to Linda Anson for purchasing and installing a turbo nozzle for the power washer. Special thanks to John Hegg, who sanded and stained the hand railings and sanded the Helen Hughes bench. The railings look fantastic, and the picturesque carvings on the bench have come to life.

Summer Camp (Lana Lindstrom): Summer Camp 2023 was a huge success—great campsite where everyone could spread out, perfect hiking weather without any smoke (albeit chilly at night); several *wow* hikes, and yummy food. Eighty-one participants camped and three stayed at Smiley Creek Lodge. Many of us enjoyed Smiley Creek's Wi-Fi and limited cell service while sipping a beverage or eating ice cream. Others went to Redfish Lake, Stanley, or Ketchum for similar services, plus hot showers. Thanks very much to the hard-working set-up crew, U-Haul driver Randy Sinnott, the lead workers for the various tasks, the folks who coordinated the hikes, walks, gondola ride, and the raft trip, and all those who helped break down the camp and unload the truck in Eugene. And most of all, thanks to Camp Boss Steve Johnson for all the planning, researching, building, supervising, and drudgery which resulted in a very special experience enjoying the outdoors with friends for the rest of us. The financial report reflects a *break even* camp.

OLD BUSINESS

Web design project update (Dave Hawkins): Lana, Dave C. and Dave H. met with Revolution to check in on the changes we requested. They have asked us to test the functionality of the changes they've already made as they continue to work on the

(Continued on Page 14)

Concatenation

Mike Smith

FOR WANT OF A NAIL THE SHOE WAS LOST....

It started with a report of a 32-inch diameter log blocking the Maiden Peak trail near Skyline Creek. I receive such reports because I used to update a trail conditions page. While I stopped doing the updates, I still like to know what is going on out there. I said to myself, "Opportunity!" because the world works in strange ways and it is worth remembering that opportunities often appear unexpectedly, without fanfare, especially the ones from failure. Concatenation is one of my favorite words; an opportunity may come from a concatenation of certain events.

I knew the writer and the area well, having been there last winter putting reflective blue diamond trail markers on trees. The log was only two miles in from the Gold Lake Road and sounded like an interesting project: no power saws were allowed due to fire danger, so we had to cut the log out by hand. I wanted to be a part of that. I emailed the writer, offering assistance and suggesting that while there we additionally try to cut out some of the logs on the Marilyn Lakes Trail, a winter trail that has minimal upkeep compared to regular hiking trails. We couldn't clear it a year ago.

The writer then got COVID, my crew boss became involved, and ten days later, five of us (four Obsidians) were on the Gold Lake Road: Coop, Brad, and I hiked in with a 7-foot crosscut saw to deal with the big log. The other two (including Keiko) went to the north end of the Gold Lake Road to start working the Marilyn Lakes Trail. I may have told them the logs were not too bad. I belatedly apologize for that.



We three hiked in, slightly uphill, and the diamond markers were at least 12 to 15 feet up in the trees; I had placed them last winter at eye level. The log turned out to be smaller, rotten, with branches easily removed. We single cut it in ten minutes and pushed it off the trail with our legs. We then hiked back out.

The Marilyn Lakes Trail joins three parts of the Gold Lake Road; we started from Hwy. 58, working towards the other two cutters. I relearn each year that a trail viewed in winter appears quite different in summer. After some wrong turns, we finally exited the high brush at the start. Near Upper Marilyn Lake I saw more wild blueberry plants than I had ever seen in Oregon. I never knew about the spot, because I don't usually come on the trail except in winter or perhaps well into autumn to help ('swamp' for) a chain sawyer to cut the logs out.

We met up with the other two, who had cut out four logs, still working on one that was going to take at least an hour. Because there were a dozen more, I suggested we stop for the day and wait for conditions that allowed power saw use. We packed up and hiked out. My mind did not leave, however.

Eight days later I returned, first to Shadow Bay on Waldo Lake, where I found enough huckleberries to half fill a colander. I do every year. I then drove down to Gold Lake and hiked in about a mile to Lower Marilyn Lake. I had lunch by the lake next to some huckleberry plants. Afterwards I hiked towards Upper Marilyn, around logs that still need to be removed, until I reached the blueberry patch. It was partly cloudy, pleasant, and the berries as tasty and plentiful as I had remembered. I had all the time I wished to pick, rather than grab and go, which is what I usually do. The hike was four miles, 150 feet elevation gain, excellent blueberries. All because I read a report. Gave me an idea for an article, too.

See you on the trail. We'll try to clear Marilyn Lakes before winter.



LISA VAN LIEFDE RECENTLY VISITED SALT CREEK FALLS and came upon a Scorpions volunteer crew replacing railings on the bridge out of the trailhead to Diamond Falls. Obsidian members Mike Smith and Brad Bennett were working on the multi-day project on this day. Several days, many different skills, and a lot of hard work went in to this bridge. Hikers and walkers surely appreciate all of their efforts.

Quite a few Obsidians are also Scorpions. If you are interested in helping the Scorpions keep our well-loved trails accessible and safe, check out <https://cascadevols.org/> or talk to Mike Smith or Dave Cooper.





DENISE RUBENSTEIN
50 LEADS AWARD
Photographer: Carla Cooper

2023 Leader Awards



JORRY ROLFE
75 LEADS AWARD
Photographer: Carla Cooper



DALEN WILLHITE
25 LEADS AWARD
TEN PEAKS LEADER AWARD
Photographer: Sue Sullivan

*What would
we do if we
didn't have
people
volunteer to
lead?*



TOMMY YOUNG
75 LEADS AWARD
100 LEADS AWARD
Photographer: Janet Jacobsen

Trip Awards

600 TRIPS AWARD

**DAVE COOPER
JORRY ROLFE
MIKE SMITH**



500 TRIPS AWARD

LANA LINDSTROM



400 TRIPS AWARD

TOMMY YOUNG

300 TRIPS AWARD

**LYNN MEACHAM
DENISE RUBENSTEIN
ANGIE RUZICKA**

*How many miles have
Obsidians walked together?*

200 TRIPS AWARD

**JENNIFER BAER
MATTHEW BELL
ELIZABETH GRANT
SCOTT HOVIS
STEVE JOHNSON**



Photos by Darko Sojak.

100 Trips



DAN GILMORE
100 TRIPS AWARD
Photographer: Janet Jacobsen



KARLA RUSOW
100 TRIPS AWARD
Photographer: Carla Cooper



SANDRA SIGRIST
100 TRIPS AWARD
Photographer: Carla Cooper



LISA VAN LIEFDE
100 TRIPS AWARD
Photographer: Buzz Blumm

Special Mention:

Dan Gilmore—100 Trail Maintenance Trips

Matt Bell



DAN GILMORE HAS AN UNPARALLELED SENSE OF HUMOR AND SARCASTIC WIT. He also is an avid trail maintenance volunteer participating nearly every month since February, 2012. Dan is a great volunteer, always willing to pitch in and help with any of the tasks that we're working on. Occasionally he has even gone home to get additional tools to help us successfully accomplish our projects. In his professional life Dan was/is a graphic designer and in his amateur career he's a woodworker. We have benefited from both as Dan has designed and produced our posters and signs, and built the carrying case for our signs, for which we are very thankful. We are proud that Dan has earned his 100-trip patch through trail maintenance activities.



Photos by Pat Soussan.

TRIP REPORTS



Climbs

Rock Gym to Outside Climbing Skills

September 5, 2023

Leader: Patrick Mcmurdo

Assistant Leader & Photographer: Maryanne Reiter

THE OBSIDIAN'S INAUGURAL GYM TO CRAG COURSE was a resounding success! We kicked off on Tuesday with an introductory session, a skills assessment, and lessons on cleaning and building anchors. By Friday, we gathered at the columns where everyone had a chance to build a climbing anchor, climb to the top, and clean an anchor while on top rope. The adventure continued on Saturday at Eagles Rest where we introduced the group to lead climbing and lead belaying. Although the group initially practiced lead climbing while on top rope, they surpassed all expectations by the afternoon, successfully leading their first outdoor climbs. As the day came to a close, some participants led their second climb, while others ventured up the extensive slab known as 'Bohemian Slab City'. Members: Jane Leng, Sarah Martens, Patrick Mcmurdo, Maryanne Reiter, Linda Sato. Nonmembers: Melanie Glock, Eva Burgess.



Linda starting her lead, Jane belaying.



Hikes

Evening Hike, Spring to Hendricks

August 31, 2023

Leader: Lisa Van Liefde

Hike: 2.7 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

WHAT A WELCOME CHANGE IN WEATHER! A small group of us enjoyed both cooler temperatures and some light drizzle. We also approached the multiple trails in Hendricks ganderflanking-style: each person took a turn deciding which way to go. We ended up exploring more of the park than before. Members: Robert Eriksen, Lisa Van Liefde, Maureen Whalen.

Collard & Clear Lakes, Hike & Swim

September 2, 2023

Leader & Photographer: Darko Sojak

Assistant Leader: Joan Skarda

Hike: 5.6 miles, 610 ft. (Moderate)

JUST ANOTHER GREAT LATE-SUMMER HIKE AND SWIM. Members: Rachelle Masin, Evelyn Nagy, Angie Ruzicka, Joan Skarda, John Skarda, Darko Sojak.



Picking wild blueberries and enjoying the lake.

Finley: Mill Hill Loop, Fiechter House, Cabell Marsh

September 2, 2023

Leader: Mark Hougardy

Photographer: Nancy Whitfield

Hike: 4.5 miles, 330 ft. (Easy)

ARRIVING AT THE FINLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, we discovered that the Woodpecker Loop Trail was closed for repairs. Instead of beginning our hike on that path, we parked at the Visitor Center and then proceeded to the second part of our planned hike, the Mill Hill Loop. We saw a vulture on the trail. There were numerous flying ants emerging from the ground in several areas. Upon returning to the Visitor Center area, we learned that the nearby and rarely open Fiechter House was open and staffed with interpreters. The house was built in the 1850s and is considered to be the oldest house in Benton County. After our visit to the Fiechter House, we stopped by the Campbell Boardwalk for a side trip to the Cabell Marsh. We made good use of the opportunity to eat plums and blackberries in the parking area before heading home. Members: Patricia Esch, Christiane Hougardy, Mark Hougardy, Elizabeth Koch. Nonmembers: Howard Kopp.

Richard Hughes, Janet Jacobsen, Lana Lindstrom, Evelyn Nagy, Jorry Rolfe.



Willow Creek Preserve Loop

September 4, 2023

Leader: Mark Hougardy

Hike: 2.5 miles, 55 ft. (Easy)

OUR GROUP FOLLOWED A MOWED PATHWAY around the perimeter of the Preserve from 18th Avenue in west Eugene to the south end of the Preserve. The area was quiet and there were pleasant views of the nearby hills. The trip leader took a spill on the trail. Walking to the east we attempted to cross a little creek but poison oak had turned seasonally red, revealing its abundance. We decided it best not to risk it and returned to our original route back to the cars. Willow Creek's native grasslands, ash woodlands, and perennial streams provide the best remaining example of native wet prairie habitats in the southern Willamette Valley. The property is managed by the Nature Conservancy and more than 200 native plants, 100 birds, and 25 butterfly species have been recorded on the preserve. This biome once occupied much of the Willamette Valley but today has been reduced to only a few remnant patches. Members: Joanna Alexander, Christiane Hougardy, Mark Hougardy, Dave Predeek, Meg Stewart Smith, Maureen Whalen.



Enjoying lunch in the shade on a perfect day.

Amazon Headwaters 18th Anniversary

September 3, 2023

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Photographer: Carla Cooper

Hike: 3 miles, 430 ft. (Easy)

ON LABOR DAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2005, I led 21 Obsidians/guests on the new Amazon Headwaters Trail that officially opened on September 3. The first bridge was not yet built so we started at the end of Martin St./West Amazon (now Erin Noble Headwaters) and crossed a creek to get back to the new trail. On today's hike I pointed out those overgrown trails that we used until 2005. The trail cost \$140,000 to construct with \$50,000 coming from the state's Recreational Trails Program. In 1999, with help of Lane County Audubon Society, the City of Eugene purchased a 13-acre tract of land from Martin and Leslie Beverly for \$180,000. The City continues to make improvements to the trail: last month the City replaced three bridges/boardwalks. We celebrated our appreciation of the trail with chocolate zucchini bread and memories. Lots of history! Members: Linda Anson, Mari Baldwin, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Christiane Hougardy,

Elkton Plants & Butterflies Hike

September 9, 2023

Leader: Vern Marsonette

Photographer: Carla Cooper

Hike: 4 miles, 100 ft. (Easy)

STARTED OUR DAY IN SUNNY 50-DEGREE WEATHER. Drove 48 minutes to Elkton City Park where we walked to the Umpqua River's edge and enjoyed the beauty. A lively and fun group headed west along city sidewalks to the Carol Beckley Native Plant Park Trail, where we made a short stroll under a shady canopy of fir, cedar, and a variety of native Oregon plants to the Butterfly Pavilion. Many adult monarch butterflies and chrysalises were available for viewing. Then we took a short walk to the re-creation of Fort Umpqua and self-toured the fort. Returned to Elkton on the same trails and enjoyed a nice group lunch at Arlene's restaurant. Members: David Clinger, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Robert Eriksen, Vicky Hanson, Gwyneth Iredale, Noah Lee, Vern Marsonette, Diana Masarie, Lynn Meacham, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak. Nonmembers: Kelly Perdue, Toni Doveri.



Monarch butterfly.

Finley: Cabell Marsh & Boardwalk
September 9, 2023
Leader: Mark Hougardy
Hike: 4 miles, 50 ft. (Easy)

WE SAW EGRETS, PELICANS, GREBES, SWALLOWS, a hawk, a red-winged blackbird, jays, vultures, oak woodpeckers, and other birds. There was a baby garter snake peeking out along the trail, and tracks where elk had passed over a muddy area. It was interesting to see the Cabell Marsh and nearby area at a time of year when the water level is very low and many of the birds have left the area. The area was dry and a bit crisp, though the recent rain did help. We visited the quarter-mile Campbell Boardwalk. On our departure, we stopped by the Visitor Center. In the town of Monroe, we visited a family farm stand. Members: Jane Hackett, Mark Hougardy, Dave Predeek, Meg Stewart Smith.

Get Acquainted / Ribbon Trail
September 10, 2023
Leader: Dorothy van Winkle
Hike: 2.5 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

ONCE AGAIN, A SUCCESSFUL GET ACQUAINTED HIKE was completed, this time on a Sunday instead of a Saturday. Four guests joined two members for a lively hike and gabfest as we went through the woods and park. These hikes are always enjoyable, giving members a chance to share what our club is about with newcomers. Members: Whitney Gould, Dorothy van Winkle. Nonmembers: Jeffrey Smith, Kim Cobbs, Paula Rich, Toni Doveri.

Fuji Mountain
September 12, 2023
Leader & Photographer: Lyndell Wilken
Hike: 12 miles, 2,200 ft. (Difficult)

FIVE OBSIDIANS ENJOYED A PERFECT WEATHER DAY for a hike to the top of Fuji Mountain. A stop at Birthday Lake for a snack on the way gave everyone a rest before the uphill trek. Signs of last year's Cedar Creek fire began to appear a mile from the top. The fire had stopped right at the trail. One could see the expanse of the burned area in all directions as we summited. The blue water of Waldo Lake and the views of the surrounding Cascade peaks were still as beautiful as ever—a combination of destruction and beauty. Members: Kathie Carpenter, David Cooper, Lynn Meacham, Lyndell Wilken, Tommy Young.



Finley: Pigeon Butte / Cheadle Marsh
September 17, 2023
Leader: Mark Hougardy
Photographer: Nancy Whitfield
Hike: 4 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

THIS WAS A MEANDERING, NATURE-VIEWING HIKE to the highest point of the William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge. Our hike began with a short side trip to the Prairie Overlook on the south side of Bruce Road to enjoy the view, then we walked north along the Pigeon Butte Trail. We looked for band-tailed pigeons and songbirds. We did see one raptor. There were signs of a previous fire on the south side of the Butte as much of the grasslands had been charred. We saw large white oaks along the trail going up the Butte. At the old quarry, several roosting turkey vultures observed us. At the top of the Butte, we could easily see 40 miles to the south even though there was smoke from an area forest fire. On the return walk, we had lunch under a tree near Cheadle Barn then continued on the Cheadle Marsh Trail to observe a wetland. The area was very dry. We saw signs of elk, a lizard, a frog, several white-colored praying mantises, and a great blue heron eating a frog. Members: Charles Ashmore, Christiane Hougardy, Mark Hougardy, Vern Marsonette, Barbara Orsi, Annette Pfautz, Meg Stewart Smith, Nancy Whitfield.

Midnight Lake
September 17, 2023
Leader: Lisa Van Liefde
Hike: 5.8 miles, 528 ft. (Moderate)

MANY OF US HAVE SNOWSHOED FROM GOLD LAKE SNOWPARK, but this was a chance to see the terrain in dry conditions. We left the parking lot and headed out the Forest Service road, then turned left to go up to the Odell Lake Overlook. What a beautiful view, a perfect temperature, and even the air quality was good. From there we hiked the PCT up to Midnight Lake. Again, we were greeted by perfect weather and a welcoming spot to have lunch. We enjoyed meeting a PCT thru-hiker who was heading home to Canada and clocking up to 40 miles per day! Everyone enjoyed the day and each other's company. Members: Gabriel Buchbinder, Kathie Carpenter, Annie Chan, Marguerite Cooney, Diana Dinn, James Dinn, Whitney Gould, Denise Rubenstein, Karla Rusow, Lis Sorrell, Mitch Temple, Lisa Van Liefde, Maureen Whalen.

Finley: Snag Boat Bend Loop

September 22, 2023

Leader: Mark Hougardy

Hike: 3.2 miles, 40 ft. (Easy)

SNAG BOAT BEND IS THE EASTERN UNIT of the William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge. The centerpiece of the property is an old meander of the Willamette River that connects with Lake Creek. On our walk we saw four river otters, herons, egrets, a turkey, several kingfishers, numerous skeletal fish scattered on the bank which were believed to be carp, a number of ducks, signs of beaver, and a large burrow in the bank located near the water level. We were the only people on the trail during our 2.5-hour walk. We each made a visit to the Mennonite Bakery that was in the area and returned home with some delicious snacks. Members: Mark Hougardy, Dorothy van Winkle.

Finley: Beaver & Cattail Ponds

September 24, 2023

Leader: Mark Hougardy

Hike: 3.3 miles, 20 ft. (Easy)

THE WEATHER DELIVERED A LIGHT RAIN and the fragrance of the forest waking up after a dry summer was beautiful. On the far side of Pigeon Butte, we observed a burned patch under some oak trees. This appeared to be from a controlled burn within the last 24 hours. We observed on our short walk: egrets, a California quail, a newt, four deer, a barred owl, grebes, herons, ducks, wrens, a jay, a red-winged blackbird, and 20 turkeys. Shortly after we left the Finley area, the rain really came down. Members: Jane Hackett, Steve Hennes, Mark Hougardy, Barbara Orsi, Meg Stewart Smith, Maureen Whalen.

Amazon Headwaters / Ridgeline Trail / Spencer Butte Hikes

Hikes: 6.2 miles, 1,530 ft. (Moderate)

Various Leaders

Jorry Rolfe: 9/6 10 Members

Karen Yoerger: 9/13 13 Members

Ane McKee: 9/20 17 Members, 1 Nonmember

Sandra Sigrist: 9/27 11 Members



Some of the Wednesday morning regulars.

Photo by Ane McKee.

Blanton Ridge Hikes

Hike: 8.5 miles, 1,740 ft. (Easy-Moderate)

Leader, Tommy Young: 9/5 9 Members, 1 Nonmember
9/19 7 Members, 9/26 7 Members, 1 Nonmember

Mt. Pisgah Hikes

Hike: 3.5–6.6 miles, 1,000–1,375 ft. (Moderate)

Various Leaders

Heidi Anderson: 9/8 6 Members

Sandra Sigrist: 9/22 12 Members

David Hawkins: 9/22 9 Members

Janet Jacobsen: 9/28 13 Members



Mt. Pisgah sunset.

Photo by Darko Sojak.



Car Camps

Paulina Lake Car Camp

September 11, 2023

Leader: Valerie Metcalfe

Car Camp: 7 miles, 230 ft. (Moderate)

THE GROUP HAD PERFECT WEATHER on this three-night camping trip to Newberry Group Site on the shores of Paulina Lake within the Newberry National Volcanic Monument. Skies were blue with no clouds and no smoke, and the temperatures were in the low 80s. It was a bit chilly at night. Activities included hiking the Paulina Lakeshore Trail loop, checking out the hot springs, canoeing and paddle boarding on the lake, exploring Newberry Crater and hiking to the summit of nearby Paulina Peak, bird watching, and hanging out at camp. A bald eagle was even spotted flying over the lake near camp. Some visited Lava Lands Visitor Center and the Lava River Cave enroute to or from camp. We made big campfires all three nights and enjoyed getting to know each other. Members: Patricia Cleall, Wayne Cleall, Clara Emlen, Michael Heidelberg, Valerie Metcalfe, Michael Myers, Barbara Orsi, Beth Roy, Chris Stockdale, Juliet Thompson. Nonmembers: Larry Winiarski.



Stewardship

Love-A-Lake Stewardship Hike to Rosary Lakes September 7, 2023

Leader & Photographer: Lyndell Wilken
Work Party: 7 miles, 800 ft. (Moderate)

THE ROSARY LAKES ARE ONCE AGAIN PRISTINE and free of trash. Fire rings were cleaned of ash and downsized to the 12-inch diameter that the Forest Service requires. Rings closer than 100 ft. to the lake are often removed unless it is a ring that has a long history and is a favorable spot in terms of fire safety. The day was clear giving the lakes an emerald green and blue appearance. An eagle was sighted soaring around Pulpit Rock as we ate our lunch at Upper Rosary Lake. Yellow jackets were ever-present and we later discovered a ground nest near our lunch spot. Ane's two-way radios came in handy when we split the group to cover different areas of each lake. Everyone had a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction of leaving the lakes better than we found them. Members: Annie Chan, Jonathan Jost, Elizabeth Koch, Ane McKee, Chris Stockdale, Lyndell Wilken, Paul Winther.



National Public Lands Day at Spencer Butte

September 23, 2023

Leader: Matt Bell

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

FOR OUR FIRST SATURDAY MORNING OUTING of the winter schedule, we met at the Willamette and 52nd trailhead and readied ourselves for a morning of work in recognition of National Public Lands Day. We broke into two groups. The bulk of our group hiked into the Tie Trail Junction to clear drainage ditches. Clara stayed behind at the trailhead to cut back blackberries. Our group of five ditch cleaners made great time scraping the ditches and culvert outflows clear of duff, plants, and gravel on our way back to the Willamette & 52nd trailhead. We got to see and use the new bridge that the City of Eugene installed. Upon returning the tools to the City's shed, I realized I was one Terra hoe short. I took Nathaniel and Fletcher with me on a hike to find and return it. We found it in the second to last drainage system that we worked on. Special thanks go to Clara for annihilating the blackberries along the fence line behind the kiosk. Members: Matt Bell, Nathaniel Bell, David Cooper, Larry Dunlap, Clara Emlen, Jorry Rolfe, Lisa Van Liefde. Nonmembers: Fletcher Bell.

Baker Beach Clean-up

September 23, 2023

Leader & Photographer: Darko Sojak

Work Party: 3 miles, 100 ft. (Easy)

WE MET AT THE BAKER BEACH TRAILHEAD. Cloudy, low 60s, and no wind was ideal. Our group of thirteen headed west and then crossed north into the unusually dry cranberry bog between the Baker Beach trail and Berry Creek. Cheerful and capable, our group combed a wide, scrubby ravine littered with thousands of driftwood logs. We encountered several areas with hard-to-penetrate, invasive, and very prickly gorse bushes. A few hours later, back in the parking lot, our bags of mixed debris weighed a total of 95 lbs. The first autumn rain sprinkled our departure. Thank you volunteers! Members: David Clinger, Diana Dinn, James Dinn, Jane Hackett, Lubos Hubata-Vacek, Rachelle Masin, Angie Ruzicka, Joan Skarda, John Skarda, Darko Sojak, Lis Sorrell. Nonmembers: Madeline Hepp, Denise Lutz.

Beach cleaners on the move on National Public Lands Day.



Upper left: Chris Stockdale cleans a campsite.

Lower left: Ane McKee cleans out a fire pit.

(Board Notes, continued from page 3)

remaining items. Once the website is completed, we will need to find a host/administrator (Revolution will work with us for the first 6 months). Denise R. contacted one potential company, Nick Wiley from Eagle Eye Media and the costs seemed reasonable. Once we have a better sense of what we need we will get quotes from him and additional companies.

NEW BUSINESS

Lodge Rental Policy changes (Dave Cooper): Dave described a few minor changes to the short-term rental contract: drop 'Inc.' where it occurs and allow service animals. A motion was made and passed. Motion was made to allow McKenzie River Trust to have beer and alcohol for an upcoming one-time rental. We will gather information about the going rental rates at local meeting places and consider whether we may want to raise our rates.

New honorary member election matter (Dave Hawkins): Lana Lindstrom is the newest honorary member. There will be an article in the September *Bulletin*.

Climbs instructor & scholarship (Maryanne Reiter): We have a member who would like to take classes from the Alpine Mountain Guide Association to get certifications so that he can teach classes for Obsidians. After discussion, the board reached consensus in support of reimbursing him for part of the cost of his obtaining certifications. Maryanne will work with him to make a proposal.

Annual meeting agenda discussion (Dave Hawkins): President's address with highlights of achievements, website progress, Bylaw vote, vote on new board members, a visual showing membership numbers, call for leaders, awards for leaders/trips/climbs, In Memoriam, fundraising.

ADJOURNMENT



Friday, October 27, 2023, 6:30 PM

Trekking in Patagonia

with Valerie Metcalfe



IF YOU'VE EVER DREAMED OF TREKKING IN THE PATAGONIA REGION of South America, you can whet your appetite by joining us at our Obsidians Potluck & Presentation. Obsidians member, Valerie Metcalfe, made her dream come true last November after she signed up for a two-week tour to the Patagonia Wilderness. Beginning in Buenos Aires and finishing in Ushuaia, we will relive her journey with her as she shows her stunning photos and shares her experiences of hiking up to Laguna de Los Tres to a glacial lake surrounded by jagged peaks, of listening to thundering ice cracking, and of camping and trekking in the famous Torres del Paine National Park. In addition to experiencing such spectacular views, she saw a variety of animals, including guanacos and sweet little penguins nesting. As an added plus, she will share hints of how to pursue such travel independently, outside of paying a tour group.

Potluck
Friday, October 27, 2023
Obsidian Lodge
Social 6:05 PM
Potluck 6:30 PM, Program 7:30 PM

Bring your favorite potluck dish to share along with your own plates, utensils, and cups to be washed at home.

OBSIDIAN CALENDAR

October

10 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M**. Young 941-780-4156
 11 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M**..... Smith 520-488-9569
 12 Thu GameNight!..... Anson 228-8722
 14 Sat Get Acquainted/Ribbon Trail Hike **E**..... van Winkle 485-7416
 14 Sat Annular Solar Eclipse Hike **E** Sojak 799-9199
 14 Sat Annular Solar Eclipse—Pisgah Hike **E**.... Lindstrom 683-1409
 16 Mon Four-In-One Cone Hike **M**..... Smith 520-488-9569
 17 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M**. Young 941-780-4156
 18 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M**..... Clifford 915-5434
 21 Sat Shotgun Park/Drury Ridge Hike **E**..... Marsonette 600-5332
 21 Sat Upper Alpine Trail Hike **M**..... Sojak 799-9199
 24 Tue Fall Color Bus Trip to Odell Lake Lodge... Northrop 343-3426
 24 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M**. Young 941-780-4156
 25 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M**..... Cooper 868-5427
 27 Fri Pisgah East Side Loop Hike **M** Hawkins 505-0119
 27 Fri Patagonia Potluck—Valerie Metcalfe **Potluck**
 28 Sat Trail Maintenance **M**..... Bell 503-884-8829
 28 Sat Tree Walk & Museum Visit Hike **E** Rolfe 206-9501
 28 Sat Mt. Pisgah Sunset/Moonrise Hike **M**..... Jacobsen 206-1251
 31 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M**. Young 941-780-4156

November

1 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M** Miller 808-282-5201
 7 Tue GameNight!..... McKee 554-1364
 8 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M** Miller 255-6254
 11 Sat Veterans Day Hike **E** Smith 520-488-9569
 15 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M** Miller 255-6254
 17 Fri OR and WA Roadside Geology w/ M. Miller **Potluck**
 25 Sat Trail Maintenance **M** Bell 503-884-8829
 26 Sun Mt. Pisgah Sunset/Moonrise Hike **M** Jacobsen 206-1251

December

7 Thu GameNight!..... Anson 228-8722
 21 Thu Mt. Pisgah Winter Solstice Hike **M**..... Jacobsen 206-1251
 26 Tue Mt. Pisgah Sunset/Moonrise Hike **M** Jacobsen 206-1251

January

11 Thu South Beach SP Yurts ExtTrp **E**..... Nagy 514-4110
 26 Fri Campfire Tales Bill Sullivan **Potluck**

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



Fall Color Bus Trip to Odell Lake Lodge

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Leaders: Jim Northrop and Sheridan Gates

Cost: \$60 (\$63 Nonmembers)

Sign up online



*Salt Creek Falls, one of the stops on the way to Odell Lake.
 Photo by Carla Cooper.*



GAME NIGHT! IS A MONTHLY GATHERING AT THE **OBSIDIAN LODGE 4:30 PM TO 7:30 PM**. Come join the fun! *(In case of unexpected schedule changes, please confirm the date in the Online Activity Signup page before arriving.)*

Upcoming GameNight! Dates are:

October: Thursday, 10/12

November: Tuesday, 11/7

December: Thursday, 12/7

Questions? Contact:

Ane McKee

entertainment@obsidians.org



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October 2023



*The beautiful Umpqua River. Photo by Darko Sojak.
See the Elkton Plants and Butterflies trip report on page 10.*

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