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November 17	ExploraTalk/Potluck
December 6	Board Meeting
December 29	Bulletin Deadline

Current event schedules at:
www.obsidians.org

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Dalen Willhite Earns 10 Peak Leader and 25 Trips Leader Awards

Maryanne Reiter, Climbs Chair

THE CLIMBS COMMITTEE IS PROUD TO PRESENT DALEN WILLHITE with both the prestigious 10 Peak Leader award and the 25 Trips Leader award. The 10 Peak Leader award is the hardest and most challenging award to earn in our club since leading a group of climbers safely up and down a mountain can be difficult.



Dalen (on the right) on the summit of Mt. McLoughlin for his 10th peak lead.

I caught up with Dalen to ask him some questions about his award and his climbing background.

Did you have outdoor experiences when you were young? Dalen, a native Oregonian, said his family frequently went camping and skiing. When he went to Montana State University to pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering, he took the opportunity to rock climb, backpack, and hike. He then came to Eugene in 2009 for a job with Eugene Water and Electric Board.

When did you get involved with the Obsidians? After arriving in Eugene, he started hiking and doing trail maintenance with the Obsidians. Someone suggested he try climbing and so he signed up for a climb of Mt. Washington in 2010. He kept climbing with the Obsidians and eventually became a climb leader in 2014 with his lead of Mt. Thielsen. This fall he led his 10th peak with a successful lead of Mt. McLoughlin.

What are the challenges of leading? Dalen indicated that being responsible for a team where there are different experience levels can be very challenging. Leading, he said, is more than just physical ability and technical skill, it is assessing the skill of the team and accommodating people's diversity.

Rewards of Leading. For Dalen, the most rewarding part of being a leader is to be able to put all the pieces together (understanding and appreciating the team, the weather, the route) into a fun trip. It is also rewarding for him to look around and see how everyone is doing instead of being so focused on the route.

Training to be a Leader. Dalen got his training from the Obsidians by assisting with Climb School and also from Eugene Mountain Rescue by doing the technical rescue classes. He stresses the importance of finding a mentor and having the one-on-one time with a good climber and leader. Finally, it is realizing you have the technical and people skills that make you a leader.

(Continued on page 2)

(Dalen Willhite, continued from page 1)

Favorite Obsidian climb story. When I asked Dalen about his favorite climb he said it was his first lead of Diamond Peak when everyone was so supportive of Tom Rundle getting to the summit (see the June, 2016 *Bulletin* for Tom’s story of the climb). Tom was turning 71 that month and had a goal of getting to the top of a mountain. Dalen said everyone waited below the summit so that Tom could be the first on top. It is moments where everyone pulls together for a common purpose that make climbing so memorable for Dalen.

Thank you Dalen for being willing to lead climbs for the Obsidians. We all really appreciate it.

Note: Other members who have received the Ten Peak Leader Award are Brian Hamilton 2014, Wayne Deeter 2008, Doug Nelson 2003, John Pegg 1998, Ken Ball 1992. Deceased: Bud Proctor 1988, Dick Moffitt 1980, Lee Hatch 1979, Frank Moore 1978.

Welcome New Members!

Tom Bachelder
Eugene, OR 97404

Janet Madrone
Eugene, OR 97405

Andrea Wuenschel
Eugene, OR 97401

Leland Barron
Eugene, OR 97401

Bojana Stefanovska
Eugene, OR 97401

Marsha Ginsberg
Eugene, OR 97405

Heather Walloch
Eugene, OR 97405

Renewals

Due Now!



IF YOU WANT TO REMAIN ACTIVE, we must receive your dues no later than December 1.

Renewal forms are on the website, OR you can just send a check with any information that has changed and indicate whether you want the *Bulletin* mailed or online.

Obsidians, PO Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405

Reminder:

This is the last issue of the *Bulletin* until January 2024. To submit articles for January, the deadline is December 29.

Have a safe and happy holiday season everyone!

OBSIDIANS

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405
Website: www.obsidians.org

Officers & Board of Directors

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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The Obsidian Bulletin

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Deadline

for January *Bulletin*
Friday, December 29

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Graphics Design & Desktop Publishing:

Carla Cooper, Bea Fontana, Stewart Hoeg

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Assistant Manager: Nancy Raymond

Team: Tom Adamcyk, Don Baldwin,
Barbara Gunther, Yuan Hopkins,
Judy Newman, Barbara Schomaker

IN MEMORIAM

CAROLYN HIGGINS

5/28/1939–9/26/2023

CAROLYN AND HER HUSBAND CORK JOINED THE OBSIDIANS AFTER ATTENDING THE 2000 SUMMER CAMP in the Sawtooth Mountains. They attended six summer camps, the last one in 2008, also to the Sawtooths. From their home on Mt. Tom Road, Cork and Carolyn led a loop hike in 2006 and 2007. It was a unique experience for hikers to visit their special places on the ridge for views of the coast range and valley floor. Carolyn went on 38 Obsidian trips and was also an avid cyclist, skier, runner and walker. Cork and Carolyn knew each since they were teenagers and were married 61 years. He died in 2020. Carolyn is survived by her children, Clay, Holly, and Quinn, her grandchildren, nieces, nephews, friends, and students.

Editor's Note: A complete obituary was in the Register-Guard October 8, 2023.

Cork and Carolyn were interviewed for a feature article in the May, 2007 Bulletin: [http://www.obsidians.org/bulletin/Issues/2007 Bulletin/2007_05 Bulletin.pdf](http://www.obsidians.org/bulletin/Issues/2007%20Bulletins/2007_05_Bulletin.pdf)

GARY KIRK

2/19/1933–10/10/2023

GARY JOINED THE OBSIDIANS IN 1961 and was Obsidian President in 1968 and 1969. He was the Climbs Chair in 1967, Search and Rescue Chair 1968–1971, and a founding member of Eugene Mountain Rescue. He assisted with practice climbing sessions for many years at the Coburg Hills where he spent hours building and maintaining trails.

For the 75th Anniversary *Bulletin*, Gary wrote about two major Lodge projects during his tenure: constructing extra parking spaces and adding the cloak room and the McLaughlin/Clark Climbing Wall. At the 2006 Lodge renovation open house, Gary donated the plaque for the memorial wall honoring his Obsidian friends, Mark McLaughlin and Jerry Clark who were tragically killed after summiting Mt. McKinley.

At Lodge activities, Gary liked to share stories about his first ascents in the Umpqua area and the challenges when he led the Devils Den hikes such as taking off one's pack to push through the tiny hole while down on your belly using your toes to push yourself through in the dark. From 2001–2011 Gary had permission to lead an Obsidian hike each year to the Coburg Hills to share this special place. After his last trip in 2011, he wrote: ...[we hiked] *over to the Whale where we used to do a lot of Obsidian Climbing Schools along with the Main Caves, in the past. Lots of memories for me there.*

Gary spent his last few months in a memory care facility sharing a room with his wife Lee. His daughter Robin Greene said that his Celebration of his Life will be held in the spring.

Editor's Note - For additional information see these Obsidian Bulletins

Search and Rescue - [Obsidian Bulletin May 2018, Page 6](#)

75th Anniversary - [Obsidian Bulletin November 2002, Page 6 of Supplement](#)

Coburg Caves and Climb Chairs - [Obsidian Bulletin March 2018, Page 4](#)

In Memoriam for 2023 Annual Meeting

Prepared by the Librarian/Historian Committee

Presented by Fred Crafts

INACTIVE

Age 75 John Hartman

A cross country skier and an astronomer, he often quoted these words from the poem *The Old Astronomer and his Pupil: ... I have loved the stars too truly to be fearful of the night.*

Age 79 Marian West

A skier, hiker, biker and accomplished ballroom dancer. It was a joy to watch Marian and Peter dancing with such grace and style. Marian was always upbeat with her quirky sense of humor.

Age 84 Liz Reanier

Bus chair for ten years, she led 50-plus bus trips including several Eagles N' More trips to Klamath Falls. For Liz, 'More' meant that Obsidian bus trips were to be remembered — she wrote: *The eagles starred as usual, but had to share top billing with the snow geese, which started arriving in their "V" formations just before 5 PM, filling the sky as far as you could see in all directions. ...As we drove on, we saw them landing and turning a field absolutely white.*

(Continued on page 4)

(In Memoriam, continued from page 3)

Age 88 Rod Wood

Rod joined the Obsidians in 2002 and up until 2011 was very active, leading his favorite hike, Mt. Fuji, six times.

Age 91 Christy White

Seventy-eight of her ninety-eight trips were bus trips traveling with Obsidians to Yellowstone, Canada, Astoria, Lake Chelan, Trinity Alps, and other places in the Northwest.

Age 92 Margit Hollerud

Born in Tyrstrand, Norway, she lived through the German occupation. She joined the Obsidians in 1982 and was assistant cook at several Obsidian Summer Camps.

Age 95 Ruth Hermach

Conservationists, Ruth and her husband George, joined the Obsidians when they climbed Diamond Peak in 1951. They climbed Diamond Peak two more times so that their four young sons could be junior members. They enjoyed wilderness adventures all throughout Oregon and California travelling in a red Volkswagen bus.

ACTIVE

Age 91 Mary Ellen West

An avid hiker, she led 115 trips including 26 bus trips and served as Summer Trips Chair. Her six popular Bus Food Trips connected riders with local farms, produce, bakeries, and other tasty food production. On her last food bus trip in 2017, she wrote: *Riders had a 'full' day, the eating was good.* A few months before she died, Mary Ellen donated the Cy Fulton painting *Breaking Camp* of the 1946 Mt. Jefferson Summer Camp, now hanging at the Lodge with two other Fulton paintings.

Our last two join the list of 150 plus Obsidian women who climbed the Three Sisters, holding onto their friendships through the years and valuing their Club membership.

Age 92 Natalie Morgan

She was an Obsidian member for 73 years. By 1959, Natalie, her sister, and her mother had climbed the Three Sisters to receive their Three Peak Patch. The longest continuous member, Natalie attended the 90th anniversary celebration at the Lodge.

Age 96 Velma Shirk

Velma joined the Obsidians in 1975, and within five years earned the Three Peak and Ten-Peak Awards. She went on to receive her 200-Trip and 50-Leader patches. Velma was Trail Maintenance Chair in 1991/1992 and with her husband led monthly work parties to Fall Creek, Black Canyon Campground Nature Trail, and South Willamette Trail. She wrote in one report: *The satisfaction and pride from seeing a trail built or improved by your own hands is hard to describe.*



Climate and Environment



What's the Buzz?

Jorry Rolfe, co-chair CSE Committee

THE NEWS IN OCTOBER WAS BUZZWORTHY: there is a new Oregon license plate, the “bee plate”. It is the OSU Department of Horticulture Pollinator Paradise license plate. Available starting November 1, you can pay a \$40 surcharge that is due at first issuance of the Pollinator Paradise plates, and every 2 years, for renewal. According to ODOT, the surcharge funds will go to OSU to support research programs focused on keeping pollinator populations healthy.

The health of bees is important because bees play a key role in maintaining biodiversity and mitigating climate change through pollination. In Oregon we have many instructional programs on safeguarding bees. That is good news because today, bees, pollinators, and many other insects are declining in abundance.

An image of the new “bee plate” is at <https://agsci.oregonstate.edu/home/oregon-pollinator-license-plate>. There you can click on a link to be notified when plates are available, and learn about the young artist who designed the plates and also learn about the two bees featured on them. Maybe it is appropriate that OSU and the state of Oregon are so beeeeeeever friendly!

2023 President's Annual Address

Dave Hawkins

WELCOME TO THE 96TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE OBSIDIANS. This is an organization totally dependent on volunteers and many of you here are those volunteers who keep the Obsidians functioning. Thank you for the time and effort each of you contribute to keeping this body running and healthy.

We are also fortunate to be a nonprofit organization that hasn't had financial struggles, at least over the period I've been an Obsidian. Hopefully as things invariably change in the future we can remain financially healthy.

A major project and expenditure over nearly two years now is the development of our new website and database. We didn't anticipate either the length of time or cost when this began, but we're hoping we'll be up and running with the new website soon. A number of you have had some involvement in this process and will be called upon again for your help as it is finalized.

After making revisions to the Obsidian Policies and Practices last year, the Board is presenting this evening revisions to the Bylaws as they needed a number of updates and simple areas of cleanup. You have been given the opportunity to review the proposed revisions and we'll vote on them later in this meeting.

Before I begin the business meeting, let me again thank all of you who have volunteered this year, and I encourage those who haven't to step up and join in making this an even healthier organization.



Dave preparing to start the meeting. Seated are Board Members Laura Osinga, (Treasurer and outgoing), Jean Harris, and Denise Rubenstein.



Board Members: Maryanne Reiter (outgoing), Jorry Rolfe, Denise Bean (outgoing), and Angie Ruzicka.

Obsidian Website Project Report

Dave Hawkins

AS YOU MAY KNOW, we have been working on a new website and database for nearly two years now. We contracted with Revolution Design locally and we believe we're nearing the completion of this project.

The Board and John Jacobsen saw the website and database for the first time in late April this year. John was very helpful in identifying technical design issues with the database. A group of 12 reviewed the website in May and provided feedback to Revolution. The database changes required extensive coding which has taken a good deal of time.

This year alone, we've had many meetings with Revolution. In fact, our last meeting was yesterday afternoon which included Lana, Maryanne, Dave Cooper, and me. Lana, Maryanne, and Dave Cooper will immediately begin testing the product and making a list of things needing fixing. Shortly after that we'll bring in another ten or so Obsidians to continue to test in finding additional fixes before going live.

We didn't initially anticipate the full cost of the project. The time and cost has been painful for both the Obsidians and Revolution; they didn't understand the scope of what they were getting into. At this time, the estimated cost upon completion will likely be in the \$55,000–\$60,000 range.

One major goal is to have the new website not need nearly the hands-on work that is currently required. We thank John Jacobsen for being willing to continue his work with the existing website as we get the new one in place.

We anticipate having one or more sessions at the Lodge for those members who wish help in getting familiar with the new site. Revolution will be available for a number of months after we're up and running to continue fixing things that crop up. That should hopefully incur relatively minor expenditures.

Our existing database is very complex and so it's taken a good deal of time for Revolution to first understand and then create what's needed. Thanks in advance for your patience as we navigate to a new design and way of doing business.



Board members Jean Harris, Denise Rubenstein, and Angie Ruzicka get the ice cream and sundae toppings ready for the social before the Annual Meeting. Thanks again to Rick Sanford and Prince Puckler's for providing the ice cream. Photo by Darko Sojak.

ANNUAL MEETING NOTES

October 13, 2023

From minutes by Angie Ruzicka

President Dave Hawkins called the meeting to order.

Board members present: Denise Bean, Jean Harris, Laura Osinga, Maryanne Reiter, Jorry Rolfe, Denise Rubenstein, and Angie Ruzicka. 28 Total Members in Attendance.

Treasurer's Annual Report 2023 (Laura Osinga):

Our financial position remains strong. As of September 30, 2023, the club's balance sheet had financial assets of \$257,000, including a Capital/Contingency fund balance of \$62,000 and an Endowment Fund balance of \$89,000. These numbers represent an overall increase from last September of \$29,000, the bulk of which is due to the receipt of an incredibly generous \$20,000 tax-deductible member donation received in late 2022.

Funds from membership dues are up. Membership numbers improved throughout 2023, with 80+ additional members added to our roster as we head into the fall renewal period. In addition to membership dues paid, \$2,200 has been donated to the Contingency and Endowment Funds thus far in 2023.

Capital expenditures in 2023 included \$11,000 spent on the new website. with completion anticipated in late 2023/early 2024 and \$2,850 for upgrading the Lodge's electrical panel allowing for more efficient LED lights as well as installation of a ceiling fan switch.

I would like to thank Sue Zeni, Finance Chair, and members of the Finance Committee for coordinating our insurance renewals, developing the annual budget, and performing annual financial audits of the General Fund and other funds. I would also like to thank Pam Caples and Dave Hawkins for keeping the books for Summer Camp and Bus committees respectively. Pam and Dave provide monthly financials for inclusion in the club's monthly financial updates reported to the Board.

Lastly, the Treasurer's duties are greatly facilitated by dedicated members who submit timely revenue and expenditure vouchers including committee chairs who collect and deposit trip fees, member dues, concession sales, and Lodge rental payments as well as members who provide copies of receipts for various building and grounds repairs, extended trip down payments, permits, printing and mailing, and much more.

Fundraising Reminder (Jim Northrop): Obsidians need funds for web design, re-graveling driveway, new stairwell, and planning a celebration for our 100th year. Now that we're a 501c3, dues are deductible, Jim invited people to consider donating, including the Obsidians in your estate planning, or contributing mandatory withdrawals from IRAs. Looking for volunteers. We need committee chairs: bus trips, climbs, grounds, Lodge, online committee, and youth committee. We also need folks to volunteer time and skills—leading hikes, work parties.

Membership Report (Diane Schechter): Current membership is 535 which is 85 more members than this time last year. The biggest factor in the growth is the bylaw change no longer requiring three hikes before becoming a member. We have approximately 10 new members per month. This is double the number of new members we had monthly prior to the change. The Get Acquainted hikes, started by Janet Jacobsen and now coordinated by Dorothy van Winkle have been a factor in our growth. A



Dave Hawkins gets the meeting started. Photo by Darko Sojak.

(Continued on page 7)

(Annual Meeting Notes, continued from page 6)

3-mile hike meets the needs of people new to hiking. Because the hike starts at the Lodge, interested folks get to see the Lodge in the daylight and see what we're about. We estimate that 50% of new members have gone on a Get Acquainted hike.

We are seeing a shift in the preferences of our membership. Currently 72% of our members request an online *Bulletin* and 28% request a mailed *Bulletin*. Almost all new members now request a *Bulletin* online vs. a mailed *Bulletin*. This year we changed our renewal process and only included a renewal form to those members requesting a mailed *Bulletin*. All other members received an email with a renewal form to download. With the new website, we will be able to offer payments for memberships and renewals online. Renewals will no longer be on an October schedule. They will run on a calendar year from your previous payment with a reminder sent prior to the due date.

Strategic Planning Report (Maryanne Reiter): Gave an update on the mission statement, values, and goals.

Mission: *Connecting our community to the mountains, waters, and trails of the great outdoors through exploration, education and stewardship.*

Values: Community, Adventure, Natural Environment, Inclusion, Education, and Continuity

Goals and Strategies:

Stewardship: Community Service, Advocacy, and Preservation

Goal 1 Create a Stewardship Committee: *Completed*

Goal 2 Develop Guidelines for Stewardship Projects: *Completed*

Goal 3 Maintain a List of Stewardship Partners: *Ongoing*

Education: Skills, Culture, and History

Goal 1 Expand the Obsidians' outdoor skills offerings: *Ongoing*

Goal 2 Increase outdoor education in the community: *Ongoing*

Goal 3 Preserve the history and legacy of the Obsidians: *Not formally started*

Community Outreach: Communication, Marketing and Diversity

Goal 1 Increase Community Participation: *Pending*

Goal 2 Updating the Obsidian Website: *In process*

Goal 3 Encourage and promote a welcoming atmosphere: *In process*

Growth and Involvement: Leaders, Leadership and Activities

Goal 1 Increase the number of leaders: *Completed*

Goal 2 Increase the types of activities: *Ongoing*

Goal 3 Increase involvement in committees, Board and other administrative Obsidian activities: *Pending*

Administrative Goals

Goal 1 - Expand the technological resources of the club: *will revisit at a later date*

Goal 2 - Consider paid administration: *Pending*

Goal 3 - Investigate changing the club's tax status to 501c3: *Completed*

NEW BUSINESS

Election of New Board Members (Lana Lindstrom): Lana explained the process for recruiting new board members and introduced the three members the committee is recommending and conducted a vote. The following three members were elected: Lisa Van Liefde, Sue Zeni, Dave Cooper.



Jorry Rolfe reads the nomination article for Lana Lindstrom to be an honorary member. Photo by Darko Sojak.

Bylaws Amendments Vote (Dave Hawkins): Defined active member, clarified who can act as a board member and vote, annual dues language has been simplified, defined the role of the board secretary, removed the language of the treasurer and the Board to sign checks, added language about non-discrimination, added language about the dissolution of the Obsidians. Vote to approve the changes was unanimous.

Honorary Member Vote (Jorry Rolfe): Jorry nominated Lana on behalf of the Board and read the article from the September 2023 Obsidian *Bulletin*, describing Lana's distinguished service to the club. Lana was elected by a unanimous standing vote, she is the 23rd member so honored. Lana expressed her surprise at learning of the award at the September Board meeting and how honored she is to join previous recipients who have been awarded honorary membership.

(Continued on page 8)

(Annual Meeting Notes, continued from page 7)

2023 Trip and Leader Awards Presented by Dave Cooper and Maryanne Reiter

10 Peaks Leader Award, 25 Leads Award: Dalen Willhite

50 Leads Award: Denise Rubenstein

75 Leads Award: Jorry Rolfe

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

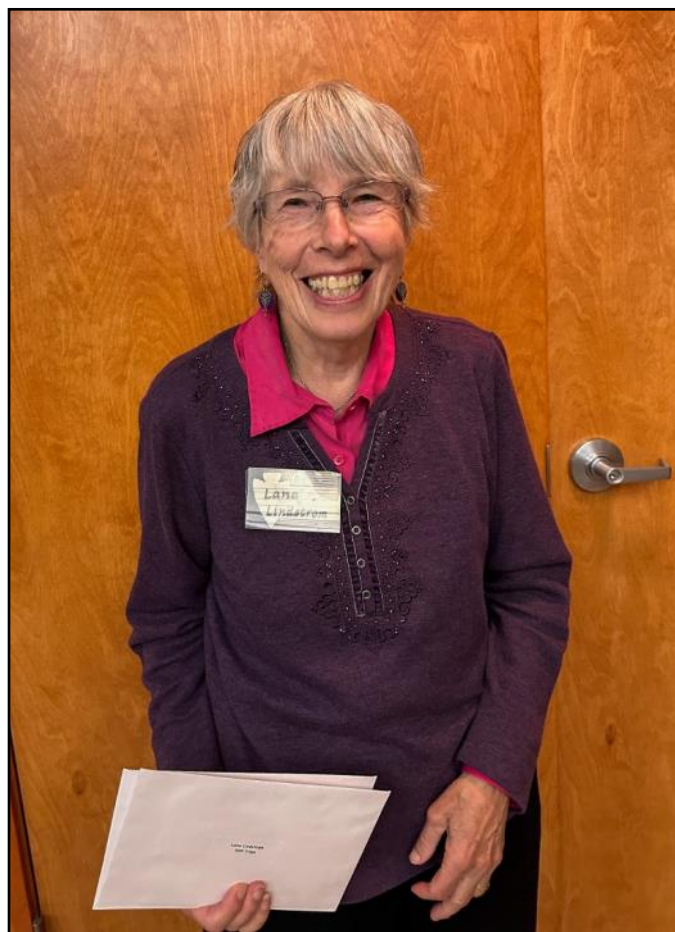
200 Trips Award: Jennifer Baer, Matthew Bell, Elizabeth Grant, Scott Hovis, Steve Johnson

100 Trips Award: Dan Gilmore (all trail maintenance), Karla Rusow, Sandra Sigrist, Lisa Van Liefde

(Continued on page 9)



Matt Bell earned his 200 Trips Award. 164 of those trips were Trail Maintenance work parties which he led. Photo by Carla Cooper.



Lana Lindstrom earned her 500 Trips Award and is the Obsidians' newest Honorary Member. Photo by Carla Cooper.



*Angie Ruzicka and Lynn Meacham looking happy to have earned their 300 Trips Award.
Photo by Carla Cooper.*

*Denise Rubenstein and Jorry Rolfe earned both trip and leader awards.
Photo by Carla Cooper.*



(Annual Meeting Notes, continued from page 8)

COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS

Bus Trips (Jim Northrop - interim): The Bus Trips Committee is in crisis, with just one bus trip (a day trip to Odell Lake Lodge) scheduled for 2023. A doubling in the cost of renting a bus and the lack of trip leaders have made it difficult for the committee to continue. The committee is in search of an energetic permanent chair to take charge and continue the grand tradition of Obsidian bus trips. Any volunteers?

Climbs (Maryanne Reiter): In 2023 the Climbs Committee developed two new classes to fulfill the Strategic Planning Education Goal to “Expand the Obsidians’ outdoor skills offerings”. These new classes taught the advanced rock-climbing skills of anchor building (which utilized our skills board upstairs in the Lodge) and outdoor lead climbing. In addition, we increased the number of students for Climb School to 30. We had 9 successful climbing trips. Unfortunately, several climbs were canceled due to climb and weather conditions. We also brought in two new climb leaders and

a new assistant leader. The Climbs Committee total revenue was \$4,669, but since we share the Climb School revenue with Eugene Mountain Rescue, our net revenue was \$2,863 for the year.

Concessions (Carla Cooper): Our year started off with us replenishing supplies of the most popular merchandise and requests—smaller sized t-shirts, hats, and travel tumblers. We have also been working diligently at selling items we have had in our boxes for a few years. Consequently, we have had \$1,445 worth of sales so far this year. Door prizes at potlucks still seem to be a favored activity as well as the games we played at Summer Camp.

Conservation/SciEd (Jorry Rolfe and Angie Ruzicka): Tours seem to be the focus of this year’s activities. Groups visited the Rexus recycling center, the Zeni tree farm, and the Museum of Natural and Cultural History to see the Oregon’s Kelp Ecosystems exhibit. Marli Miller will present Northwest Geology at November’s potluck.

(Continued on page 10)

(Annual Meeting Notes, continued from page 9)

Entertainment (Ane McKee): Monthly potlucks and presentations were held throughout the year, except for June, July, August and December. The November potluck is an Explora-Talk presented in collaboration with the Conservation, Science and Education Committee. Each month, with the exception of a busy August, we continued to hold fun GameNight! evenings. Lastly, in conjunction with the Bus Committee, we co-sponsored a successful Mother's Day Pancake & Rhodie Hike in May.

Extended Trips (Lana Lindstrom): Three trips were offered this year: Shelter Cove and Crater Lake, both snow trips, and Columbia Gorge hiking based at Menucha Conference Center. A trip to Mt. St. Helens was cancelled due to a landslide on the highway.

Finance (Susan Zeni): Insurance We purchase insurance policies for liability, accident insurance, and Board and Directors. Our insurance costs went up this year, particularly our accident insurance. We utilized this policy last year (we were glad we had it!), and it will have an effect on our costs for the next few years. Our goals are to carry insurance and work hard to not utilize the policies!

Audits The Summer Camp books were audited last month, and the General Fund books will be audited in October. The summer camp books were in excellent shape. **Budget** The Finance Committee is working on a 2024 draft budget to present to the Board in December. The 2024 Budget will be finalized in the January Board meeting. **Payment Systems** We experimented this year with taking electronic payments via STRIPE. The trial group consisted of multiple climbers for Climb School and at least two general memberships. The system works well, and it will be less manual once STRIPE is hooked up to our future website. We will continue to experiment with the system as we get ready for the digital age.

Lodge Building (Dave Cooper): Rentals that were lost to COVID have returned. We rented the Lodge four days in September and have a rental a month slated in October, November, and December. Interestingly, these are all repeat customers. The railings along the east walkway have been cleaned and stained. The handicapped parking area has been repainted. The lighting in the main room is now all LED. The same for the kitchen, which now has new fixtures. No more finding the right breaker to operate the main room fans. The switch is just below the hallway panel.

Lodge Grounds (Jim Northrop - interim): The Grounds Committee held three work parties this year to mow, weed, prune, and otherwise keep the vegetation in check. All three work parties were well attended by anywhere from ten to fifteen volunteers. Thank you volunteers. The Grounds Committee is still in need of a permanent chair. Any volunteers?

Librarian/Historian (Lenore McManigal): Certificates and Trip and Leader patches were organized to be presented at the Annual Meeting. The year 2023 awards have been entered on each awardee's online database trip summary. The deceased tributes were prepared for the Annual meeting. During the year the Committee provided information for the *Bulletin's In Memoriam* and historical articles and answered email enquiries. Lenore has kept up to date recording members' trips in the logbooks from *Bulletin* trip reports. Lenore is now at Emerald Valley Assisted Living after a fall in her home. The committee will be meeting to discuss how to ar-

chive the active, inactive, and deceased logbooks that are now stored at Janet's home.

Membership (Diane Schechter): Current membership is 535 which is 85 more members than this time last year. The biggest factor in the growth is the change to the bylaws for becoming a member. We have approximately 10 new members per month. This is double the number of new members we had monthly prior to the change.

The Get Acquainted hikes, started by Janet Jacobsen and now coordinated by Dorothy van Winkle have been a factor in our growth. A 3-mile hike meets the needs of people new to hiking. We estimate that 50% of new members have gone on a Get Acquainted hike. We are seeing a shift in the demographics of our membership. Currently 72% of our members request an online bulletin and 28% request a mailed *Bulletin*. Almost all new members now request a *Bulletin* online vs mailed. This year we changed our renewal process and only included a renewal form to those members receiving a mailed *Bulletin*. All other members received an email with a renewal from to download. With the new website, we will be able to offer payments for memberships and renewals online. Renewals will no longer be on an October schedule. They will run on a calendar year from your previous payment with a reminder sent prior to the due date.

Publicity (Marci Hansen): Publicity posted events, hikes, and climbs on Facebook and Instagram. Publicity also worked with the Banff Film Festival to have a table and give away prizes to the audience. Obsidians Instagram has 424 Followers. Obsidians Facebook has 1,300 Followers.

Safety (Lyndell Wilken): The Safety Committee updated the existing first aid kits with fresh supplies. The walkie talkie batteries were replaced for Summer Camp use. There were no events organized by the committee in 2023.

Stewardship (Jorry Rolfe & Darko Sojak): More than twenty activities in 2023 had us out there tree planting; cleaning trail drainages, beaches and lakes; brushing trails and cutting back brush; a blood drive; ivy removal, and more. Kudos to the leaders and participants who volunteered—we thank you. Consider what our Obsidian mission means to YOU: connecting our community to the mountains, waters, and trails of the great outdoors through...stewardship.

Summer Camp (Lana Lindstrom): Summer Camp in the Sawtooths, Idaho, was enjoyed by 84 participants: great hikes, good weather, no smoke, and delicious food.

Summer Trips (Dave Cooper): Through the end of September there have been 188 trips completed. We have had 49 leaders. But we seem to be getting away from part of our mission. That is to explore! Our urban hikes provide exercise and community, but it seems that when you have 188 outings and 140 are urban, we are missing out on what the Northwest has to offer. We have only had 20 leaders that have led something outside of the immediate Eugene/Springfield area. The Summer Trips Committee would like to hear your thoughts on this situation.

Winter Trips (Dave Cooper): For this past winter trips season we had 118 trips. Of these, 17 were snow trips. Trip fees collected totaled \$144. Special thanks to the 30 trip leaders.

OCTOBER BOARD NOTES

October 18, 2023

From Minutes by Jean Harris

Denise Bean called the meeting to order. Board members present: Denise Bean, Jean Harris, Maryanne Reiter, Jorry Rolfe, Denise Rubenstein. Others present: Sue Zeni, Carla Cooper, Dave Cooper, Jim Northrop, Lisa Van Liefde. The Board approved the minutes for the September 6 meeting.

Treasurer's Report (Laura Osinga): There's a pause (per Dave Hawkins) on sending payment for the most recent invoice from Revolution until we've had a chance to test their most recent changes. The Vanguard investments are down approximately \$4,500 in September. The Board approved the bills.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Climbs (Maryanne Reiter): We had a climb scheduled for mid-Sept. but rescheduled it to Oct. due to the high temperatures in northern California where we were going to climb Mt. Hubris. In keeping with the Strategic Planning Education Goal 1 (*Expand the Obsidians' outdoor skills offerings*), the Climbs Committee sponsored a class on advanced outdoor sport climbing. It was a two-evening, one-weekend-day class that taught how to set up and clean anchors for top rope routes. The five students were so motivated that they were able to lead climb outdoors by the end of the field day at Eagles Rest, which exceeded our expectations.

Concessions (Carla Cooper): September sales totaled \$55.

Conservation/SciEd (Jorry Rolfe and Angie Ruzicka): Look for three CSE-sponsored activities on the fall calendar: a Zeni Farm tour, an urban tree walk and UO museum visit in late October, and a Potluck/ExploraTalk in November with Marli Miller.

Entertainment (Ane McKee): After our three-month break from potlucks over the summer, we reconvened Sept 29 and folks really enjoyed the opportunity to visit with each other over dinner. There were several nonmembers who willingly took membership forms. Obsidians' member, Randy Sinnott, was our featured speaker and gave a great presentation about the birding trip he took to Colombia this spring. We continued holding our GameNight! evenings over the summer, but took August off because of our crowded calendars. We met again in September and played a variety of games.

Finance (Susan Zeni): The Finance Committee audited the Summer camp financials in September, and is scheduled to audit the 2022 General Fund in October. The Summer Camp Financials were in excellent shape. The details of the Summer Camp audit are stored on a Google Drive and everyone on the Financial Committee can access it. I have prepared a draft

budget to start the budget process for 2024. People will look at the budget for their area to see if my guess was adequate. The goal is to improve this draft budget so we can present it to the Board in December.

Lodge Building (Dave Cooper): In the past month we have rented the Lodge to the Eugene Gleemen, the UO Geography department, and the UO Environmental Studies group. Our income from these rentals was \$560.

Stewardship (Jorry Rolfe & Darko Sojak): In September, if you participated in a stewardship activity, thank you! On National Trails Day a total of twenty of us either worked on our beloved local trail to clean out drainage areas or cleaned our nearby ocean beach. Let's make that thirty next year!

Summer Trips (Dave Cooper): In September the number and type of outings dropped a little. We had 26 outings and they tended to stay local. Smoke and closures were a factor. Special thanks goes to Mark Hougardy for leading five hikes in various parts of the Finley Refuge.

OLD BUSINESS

Climbs Instructor Agreement (Maryanne Reiter): This agreement is modeled after other climbs programs to develop skills and training. Patrick McMurdo agreed to teach for Obsidians for a \$250 stipend. This is beneficial to both climb school and Patrick. Discussion followed and motion was approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Policies and Practices Revision (Denise Bean): Section 6 of Obsidians Policies & Practices moved to Bylaws to align with changes made and the membership vote at the annual meeting.

Insurance and Alcohol at Lodge (Sue Zeni): Sue researched thoroughly and made comparisons to similar organizations and found a wide variety of policies and costs (\$75–\$250). She explained the details and suggested we keep the same language. If alcohol is requested, renters need additional insurance. Denise Bean will check in with an insurance friend for advice. No decisions made at this time.

Audit of Obsidian Accounts (Sue Zeni): The Summer Camp audit is complete with minor changes. The general audit will happen on November 12 with several participants involved.

OPEN AGENDA ITEMS

A card for Lenore's 98th birthday was passed around. Her birthday is October 27.

ADJOURNMENT

Obsidians Mission:

Connecting our community to the mountains, waters, and trails of the great outdoors through exploration, education and stewardship.



Be Prepared for Winter Driving

John Hegg, Obsidian Safety Committee

WITH THE APPROACH OF WINTER AS WITNESSED BY THE RECENT SNOW ACCUMULATION IN THE CASCADES, it's a good time to think about winter driving. This article will cover basic vehicle maintenance and safe driving techniques to review as winter approaches. Below are some of the key elements to ensure you and your vehicle are prepared for winter driving:

Preparation

In addition to regular maintenance, here are some tips to winterize your car before you head out:

- ◆ Check vehicle headlights, flashers, turn signals, and brake lights. Drive with your lights on. Note: Grime on headlights reduces the ability of others to see you.
- ◆ Test your battery and replace as needed; battery power drops as temperatures decrease.
- ◆ Make sure cooling system is in good working order and has enough antifreeze to prevent freezing.
- ◆ Check wiper blades and replace as needed.
- ◆ Insure windshield fluid is full of de-icer.
- ◆ Consider using all-season tires with a deeper, more flexible tread.
- ◆ Check tire pressure and tread depth; replace if less than 2/32 of an inch.
- ◆ Keep the gas tank at least half full to avoid gas line freeze.

Getting Underway

- ◆ Prior to heading out check the current weather report and road cams. If the forecast looks iffy, delay travel until conditions improve.

- ◆ Equip your vehicle with a small snow shovel, ice scraper, brush, flashlight, cell phone charger, road maps, first aid kit, and some blankets for the cold.
- ◆ If equipped, clean your car's external camera lenses and side mirrors.
- ◆ Remove ice and snow from any safety sensors to allow assistive-driving features like automatic braking to work.
- ◆ In freezing weather, you may want to warm up the car and remove accumulated snow and ice before you drive.
- ◆ IMPORTANT -- Share your travel plans and route with someone before you leave.

Driving in Snow

AAA offers the following driving tips:

- ◆ Keep control of vehicle by avoiding the use of cruise control in wintry conditions.
- ◆ Accelerate and decelerate slowly. Avoid sudden braking.
- ◆ Increase following distance to 8 to 10 seconds so you have plenty of time to stop.
- ◆ If possible, don't stop when going uphill. Snow can cause tires to lose traction on hilly areas.
- ◆ Avoid using the parking brake in cold, rainy conditions.

Always drive at a speed that matches current road and weather conditions. If visibility or conditions becomes restricted, find a safe place to pull off the road and stay put until conditions improve.

Know before you go. Visit www.tripcheck.com for current Oregon road conditions. Cell phone alternative: Call 503-588-2941 to check individual highway conditions.

TRIP REPORTS



Climbs

Mount Hubris—Castle Crags

October 6, 2023

Leader: Maryanne Reiter

Photographer: Marci Hansen

Climb:

SIX STRONG CLIMBERS SCALED THE BEAUTIFUL MOUNT HUBRIS in Castle Crags State Park of Northern California on Sat., Oct. 7. We got an early start (up at 4 AM and on the trail by 5:15 AM) to hike in the three-mile, 2,200 ft. approach to the climb. After a mile or so in the dark, one of the team members shouted up to me that she saw headlamps behind her. We feared that another party would compete for the start of the climb. We hurried along. After a little while, it was evident that the headlamps weren't moving and were actually lights from the campground below. Whew! We could slack the pace a little. Once on the climb, the three rope teams of two climbers sailed effortlessly to the glorious summit. We had a relaxed hike out. Another perfect day on Mt. Hubris. Members: Marci Hansen, Juli McGlinsky, Meg McNabb, Maryanne Reiter, Miranda Trieston. Nonmembers: Marge Huseman.



Marge and all the ropes.



Bus Trips

Fall Color Bus Trip to Odell Lake Lodge

October 24, 2023

Leader: Jim Northrop

Assistant Leader: Sheridan Gates

Photographer: Holger Krentz

TWENTY-SIX OBSIDIANS AND GUESTS LUCKED OUT with the weather, sneaking in a fall color bus trip to Odell Lake Lodge before the snow fell later that night. Stops included the Lowell Covered Bridge Interpretive Site, the Willamette Fish Hatchery, Odell Lake Lodge for lunch, and Salt Creek Falls. A bonus stop was at Trapper Creek near Shelter Cove Resort to see the kokanee (landlocked sockeye salmon) spawning. The creek was teeming with fish, but we did not see any bald eagles feeding, as is usually the case. The diorama of stuffed mammals, birds, even a rattlesnake, captivated bus riders at the Willamette Fish Hatchery museum, as did a nine-foot sturgeon in an outside pond. Russ, our guide, explained how salmon find their way back to the stream or creek of their birth by imprinting smells and other waymarks. When juvenile salmon were barged around the Columbia River dams, the salmon did not imprint the route home, and would swim up the Deschutes River instead. All in all, a great trip with a great group of people. Members: Judy Adamcyk, Thomas Adamcyk, Barbara Beard, Paul Beard, Paula Beard, Patricia Cleall, James Dinn, Sharon Duncan, Clara Emlen, Nikki Frank, Judy Garwood, Sheridan Gates, David Hawkins, Yuan Hopkins, Michael King, Holger Krentz, Verlean McCoy, Craig Molitor, Jim Northrop, Ken Parramore, Lis Sorrell, Meg Stewart Smith. Nonmembers: Joanna Molitor, Lynn Corbett, Robin Whitley, Jean Whitley.



The Lowell Covered Bridge.



Loading the bus at Valley River Center.



Hikes

Cleawox & Bear Lakes, Hike & Swim

September 30, 2023

Leader & Photographer: Darko Sojak

Hike: 3 miles, 300 ft. (Moderate)

HOW TO ENJOY THE LAST DAY OF SEPTEMBER? Hike steep dunes, bushwhack, and jump into the cold lake. Members: Vern Marsonette, Pierre Robert, Angie Ruzicka, Joan Skarda, John Skarda, Darko Sojak, Lis Sorrell, Mitch Temple.



Lis Sorrell leading the way along the dunes.

Maxwell Butte

September 30, 2023

Leader: Steven Johnson

Photographer: Lorraine Cuevas

Hike: 10 miles, 2,500 ft. (Difficult)

FALL HIKES ARE ALWAYS A GAMBLE WITH THE WEATHER. This day's hike turned out to be dry, but cool and cloudy; the condensation on the brush in the morning soaked most people's pants and shoes. Even with the clouds, the view from the 6,200-foot peak of Maxwell Butte was beautiful. After the hike, most of our group stopped at Takoda's for a well-earned dinner. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Lorraine Cuevas, Robert Eriksen, Jacquie Fern, Marti Gerdes, Steven Johnson, Jonathan Jost, Lynn Meacham.



A brief stop at Twin Lakes.

Rosary Lakes

October 2, 2023

Leader: Jean Harris

Hike: 8 miles, 850 ft. (Moderate)

WHAT A PERFECT FALL DAY AT PASS LEVEL. Recent rains had dampened everything and the leaves were fresh, clean, and shimmering. Fog swirled about, occasional breezes blew, and the group soaked it all up. The timber was exquisite on the hike up the slope. All three lakes had that grayness and greenness with cloud cover and sun breaks. Members: Julie Barnas, Greg Carter, David Cooper, Jean Harris, Holger Krentz, Mitch Temple.

Clear Lake

October 7, 2023

Leader: Kathie Carpenter

Photographer: Steve Johnson

Hike: 8 miles, 600 ft. (Moderate)

WE BEGAN OUR MORNING WITH BREAKFAST at the Lucky Logger Cafe in Walterville. With a great name like that, we expected a groovy local PNW vibe, and we were not disappointed. Logging art on the walls, wooden tables filled with wilderness firefighters, good menu, good prices, good service, and good food. We all agreed we'd go back. Dishes sampled included generous portions of omelets, mega-burritos, pancakes, eggs, and French toast. Thus fortified, we completed the drive to Koosah Falls and hiked the east side of the McKenzie across to Clear Lake, then continued counter clockwise around the lake for a late lunch at a lakeside picnic table by the resort. We continued to our cars on the west side of the McKenzie, making a big 9.5-mile figure eight. The leaves that had turned were spectacular but not quite peaking. Beautiful day, beautiful people, beautiful autumn colors! Members: Gabriel Buchbinder, Kathie Carpenter, Marguerite Cooney, Lorraine Cuevas, Robert Eriksen, Steven Johnson, Jonathan Jost, Pierre Robert, Lis Sorrell, Mitch Temple.



Clear Lake and the Three Sisters.

North Bank Habitat Management Area

October 7, 2023

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Assistant Leader: Karen Yoerger

Hike: 8 miles, 1,800 ft. (Moderate)

IT WAS A VERY WARM DAY FOR OUR HIKE on the old ranch roads on the hills above the North Umpqua River. The red

poison oak leaves were the bright spots on the hills. In the first mile we met a few hikers, runners, and unsuccessful hunters. Then we had the hills to ourselves. We enjoyed the views, a quiet trail, and good conversation. We were happy to find a shady spot for lunch with a view of river, but not so happy with yellow jackets interested in our lunch. With our steady pace, we made good time back to the trailhead and Karen's air-conditioned car—a welcome sight for me. Members: Janet Jacobsen, Karen Yoerger.

Proxy Falls / Tenas Lake / Dee Wright

October 8, 2023

Leader & Photographer: Lisa Van Liefde

Hike: 6.5 miles, 750 ft. (Moderate)

FALL COLORS AND WARM WEATHER GREETED US on the beautiful drive up picturesque Hwy 242. First stop was a short hike to Proxy Falls, and then on to the Scott Lake trailhead to Tenas Lake. Bright yellow and red leaves popped against the dark basalt backdrop—a very dramatic scene. Our last stop was Dee Wright Observatory, which was a first-time experience for two members. Clear blue skies allowed us to see the gorgeous vista of Mt. Washington, The Sisters, and more. Members: Marsha Barr, Kathie Carpenter, David Clinger, Marguerite Cooney, Diana Dinn, James Dinn, Whitney Gould, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Lis Sorrell, Lisa Van Liefde, Maureen Whalen.



At Dee Wright Observatory.

Annular Solar Eclipse—Pisgah

October 14, 2023

Leader: Lana Lindstrom

Hike: 3.7 miles, 1,000 ft. (Easy)

WE LUCKED OUT! As we started out from the north trailhead, low clouds obscured the peak. But by the time we reached the top, joining at least 50 other hopefuls, the clouds were starting to break up. Slivers of the eclipse could be seen. It got noticeably colder quickly, and then it briefly cleared enough for us to see the full ring. It was very satisfying to view this special event, especially with friends! Where will you be for the next full eclipse on 4/8/24? Members: Kristen Anderson, Steven Johnson, Jeff Lange, Kate Lange, Lana Lindstrom, Lynn Meacham, Diane Repp, Michael Rowe, Sandra Sigrist, Susan Wanser, Sue Wolling, Signe Wright. Nonmembers: Julie Dehart.

Get Acquainted / Ribbon Trail

October 14, 2023

Leader: Dorothy van Winkle

Hike: 2.5 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

THREE GUESTS JOINED TWO MEMBERS for a leisurely walk through the woods, exploring and talking as we went. We met at 2:00 instead of 10:00 to accommodate the eclipse, which could have accounted for the low turnout. The leader particularly enjoyed being in the company of a ten-year-old. Members: Marguerite Cooney, Dorothy van Winkle. Nonmembers: Priscilla Gibson, Bojana Stefanovska, Leland Barron.

Clear Lake Loop

October 17, 2023

Leader: Karla Rusow

Assistant Leader: Judy Terry

Photographer: Carla Cooper

Hike: 5.4 miles, 200 ft. (Easy)

EIGHT OF US TOTALLY ENJOYED THE FANTASTIC WEATHER and the gorgeous fall colors on our hike around Clear Lake. We were definitely not in a hurry and moseyed down the trail, taking ample time to soak in the views. We also took time to focus on the array of various fungi that were popping out in the forest, and the mosses and lichens decorating the trees and rocks. A bald eagle was sighted perching on a snag surveying its surroundings. Thank you, Andrea, for identifying flora and birds all along the trail. All in all, I do not think that we could have enjoyed it more. Members: Carla Cooper, David Cooper, James Dinn, Karla Rusow, Judy Terry, Nancy Whitfield. Nonmembers: Denise Lutz, Andrea Wuenschel.



Clear Lake never disappoints in the fall.

Shotgun Park / Drury Ridge

October 21, 2023

Leader: Vern Marsonette

Hike: 4.2 miles, 1,000 ft. (Easy)

STARTED OUT HIKING ON THE SHOTGUN CREEK LOOP TRAIL. At the intersection with Drury Ridge trail, some elected to hike that longer trail, while others took the lower, shorter Tiki Trail back to the park. We regrouped and had a nice lunch with ice cream and cupcakes to celebrate recent birthdays. Weather was good at about 60 degrees, but foggy, so we elected not to include the second portion of the trip to Coburg Hills. Members: Whitney Gould, Steve Hennes, Holger Krentz, Vern Marsonette, Annette Pfautz, Diane Repp,

Dorothy van Winkle. Nonmembers: Andrea Wuenschel, Bojana Stefanovska, Leland Barron.

Upper Alpine Trail

October 21, 2023

Leader & Photographer: Darko Sojak

Hike: 7.2 miles, 1,450 ft. (Moderate)

IN THE EXTRAORDINARY OCTOBER WEATHER, we finished the fourth and final segment of the great Alpine Trail. Members: Marti Gerdes, Jorry Rolfe, Angie Ruzicka, Randy Sinnott, Darko Sojak, Lis Sorrell, Mitch Temple.



Near Elk Creek Shelter.

Diamond Creek Falls

October 23, 2023

Leader: Jean Harris

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

FALL IN THE CASCADES CAN BE DELIGHTFUL; crisp air, damp surroundings, colorful leaves and many, many mushrooms. The group of eight enjoyed everything from the new bridge approach near Salt Creek Falls to seeing the place not covered with snow (some have only snowshoed this loop). The trail to the bottom of Diamond Creek Falls is much improved with a new bridge to arrive in the future. We had lunch near the upper platform view of Diamond Creek Falls, then meandered up the trail into the Diamond Peak Wilderness. Our turnaround point was near Fall Creek Falls. As we approached the parking lot, the sun was shining and a breeze was scattering leaves. Nature definitely revives us. Members: Marti Gerdes, Jean Harris, Debra Higbee, Barbara Orsi, Sandra Sigrist, Lis Sorrell, Mitch Temple, Dorothy van Winkle.

Amazon Headwaters / Ridgeline Trail / Spencer Butte Hikes

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

Various Leaders

Jorry Rolfe: 10/4 13 Members

Mike Smith: 10/11 12 Members

Janet Jacobsen: 10/18 16 Members

David Cooper: 10/25 15 Members

Blanton Ridge Hikes

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

Leader, Tommy Young: 10/3 7 Members, 10/10 6 Members, 10/17 5 Members, 10/24 2 Members



Stewardship

Scott & Hand Lakes Love a Lake Cleanup

October 5, 2023

Leader & Photographer: Meg Stewart Smith

Work Party: 4 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR TROWELING, HAULING, DIGGING, AND RAKING. A flexible team, we arrived in three autos like three families of geese landing sequentially. Working with trowels, gloves, & buckets, we removed cold ash from metal fire pits and scattered it in the forest. We collected small bits of aluminum, paper, and plastic, unearthed a cache of old tin cans, and hauled large, partially burnt logs into the forest or water. We completed 14 campsites and enjoyed spectacular views, hikes, and fall color. Members: Nikki Frank, Scott Hovis, Karla Rusow, Meg Stewart Smith, Judy Terry. Nonmembers: Lynn Corbett, Paula Rich.



Paula Rich and Meg cleaned out eight fire rings.

Skinner Butte Work Party

October 7, 2023

Leader & Photographer: Darko Sojak

Work Party: 2 miles, 100 ft.

IT WAS SUPERB OCTOBER WEATHER and our work party went well. It was satisfying to see the joy of volunteers gaining new skills and experience while caring for the community and improving the environment around us. Thank you for that! Members: Heidi Anderson, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak. Nonmembers: Dylan Pidek, Delaney Pidek, Kim Cobbs.



Tagging seedlings.

Tides

Mike Smith

ECLIPSE DAY ON GREEN ISLAND, OFF THE COAST OF CAIRNS, AUSTRALIA, and by morning twilight I was on the beach, ready. We had arisen at 1 AM, were aboard the boat from Cairns at 2 and were on the island by 3. I had plenty of room on the beach, which should have been a warning.

The eclipse began shortly after sunrise, and so did morning high tide, a true spring tide, a king tide. With a total eclipse, by definition the Sun, Moon, and Earth were in a straight line and the Moon was near perigee, its closest point to us. The beach where I had stood was soon several feet under water. I had to rather unceremoniously move inland, apologizing to the locals that I lived in a desert and didn't appreciate how quickly water levels change with tides. The eclipse was stunning; so were the tides.

We live in a celestial neighborhood where the Sun runs the gravity show but the Moon is large enough and close enough to run the tidal show. It is the beauty of mathematics which explains it and the beauty of the universe that we experience it here. I think it is equally interesting to understand more—dare I say?—in depth about tides.

King tides, a non-scientific term, are high tides when the Earth is closest to the Sun in its orbit (*perihelion*), which happens to be early January, the Moon is new or full, and is close (*perigee*) to the Earth. The lineup doesn't have to be perfect. There is one new and one full Moon a month, and for each of about three days for three consecutive months there will be such tides. Boundaries of ecosystems are special places with unique habitats that have specific life adapted to the area. The presence of tides of different strength enhances biodiversity by allowing multiple habitats to occur in the four parts of the intertidal zone and supratidal or splash zone, with varying degrees of salinity, water depth, and sun exposure. Spring tides occur when the Sun, Moon and Earth are in alignment (*syzygy*), the Moon is new or full. For a day or two on either side of that alignment, there isn't much difference. Both the Sun and Moon pull on the Earth; the Sun has 45% of the tidal effect of the Moon. I experienced king tides in Australia for the November 2012 eclipse. A month later, at new Moon, the tides were still higher. The Moon wasn't then in exact alignment with the Earth-Sun, but it was closer than it was in November, the Earth closer to the Sun, and celestial proximity overcame the loss of perfect alignment.

Why is the tidal effect of the massive Sun so much less than that of the Moon when its gravitational effect is far more? After all, we orbit around the Sun. Every object exerts a gravitational attraction with every other object—your phone with you; two people with each other, Saturn with a car—proportional to the product of the two masses divided by the *square* of their distance. The Sun, 33,000,000 times more massive than the Moon, wins the gravity contest, despite its being nearly 400 times further away. When it comes to tides, however, the force depends not upon the square of the distance but the *cube* (third power). The Moon wins the tidal contest even though it is a much smaller body because it is so much closer. We are held in place by the Sun's gravity; the Moon is responsible for our tides. In early January, when all bodies line up closest to each other, lunar and the smaller solar tidal contributions combine, and we have a king tide!

Bottom line: There is a king tide in mid-January on the coast, and it's worth seeing.



View the King Tides on an Extended Trip!

South Beach State Park Yurts

January 11, 12, 13, 2024.

Leader: Evelyn Nagy

Extended Trip

ENJOY THE KING TIDES on the beautiful Oregon coast at South Beach State Park. We will be staying in yurts.

Registration opens December 14, 2023, at 7:00 AM.



Photo by Evelyn Nagy.

In the Scherer Room

OBSIDIAN PUBLICATION CHAIR LOU MAENZ'S OUTDOOR PAINTINGS are now on exhibit in the Scherer Room at the Lodge. Lou has an extensive background in both art and writing as a teacher and a freelancer, owned a campground in Maine, and canoed, hiked, and camped, from Mt. Katahdin in Maine to Key West in Florida, and a good bit of Canada. She moved here in 2005 and two years later joined the Publications Committee.



Diane Schechter admiring Lou Maenz's paintings on display in the Scherer Room..



POTLUCK

ExploraTalk



Friday, November 17, 2023, 6:30 PM

Assembling the Northwest: A roadside view of Oregon and Washington's Geology *with Marli Miller*

IF YOU HAVE EVER WONDERED ABOUT HOW NORTHWEST LANDSCAPES WERE FORMED, join us at our Obsidians potluck and presentation. With its spectacular mountain ranges, lush valleys, and tumbling rivers, the Northwest landscape attracts nature lovers and travelers from around the world. But the rain-soaked coast range, snow-covered volcanoes, and expansive high desert didn't appear overnight. Geologist and photographer Marli Miller will describe the geologic processes that formed the landscapes over millions of years. She will take us on a photographic "roadtrip" up the Columbia Gorge to illustrate younger features.

Miller is the author of *Roadside Geology of Oregon, 2nd Edition*, *Roadside Geology of Washington, 2nd Edition*, which she wrote with Darrel Cowan of the University of Washington, and most recently *Oregon Rocks! A Guide to 60 Amazing Geologic Sites*. She is a Senior Instructor II in the Dept. of Earth Sciences at the University of Oregon. Copies of her books will be available at the event.



Potluck

Friday, November 17, 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

November

7 Tue GameNight!McKee 554-1364
 7 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike M..Young 941-780-4156
 8 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike MMiller 255-6254
 10 Fri Pisgah East Side Loop Hike M..... Anderson 805-798-1842
 11 Sat Veterans Day Hike ESmith 520-488-9569
 14 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike M..Young 941-780-4156
 15 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike MMiller 255-6254
 17 Fri OR and WA Roadside Geology w/ M. MillerPotluck
 19 Sun Pisgah Long Route w/Options Hike DYoerger 510-2832
 21 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike M..Young 941-780-4156
 22 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike M
 25 Sat Trail Maintenance MBell 503-884-8829
 26 Sun Mt. Pisgah Sunset/Moonrise Hike M Jacobsen 206-1251
 28 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike M..Young 941-780-4156
 29 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike M

December

6 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike M
 7 Tue GameNight!McKee 554-1364
 13 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike M
 20 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike M
 21 Thu Mt. Pisgah Winter Solstice Hike M..... Jacobsen 206-1251
 26 Tue Mt. Pisgah Sunset/Moonrise Hike M..... Jacobsen 206-1251
 27 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike M

January

1 Mon Spencer Butte Hikes, E, M, and D
 9 Tue GameNight!McKee 554-1364
 11 Thu South Beach SP Yurts ExtTrp E.....Nagy 514-4110
 13 Sat Get Acquainted/Ribbon Trail Hike E
 26 Fri Campfire Tales Bill Sullivan Potluck

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

Start the New Year with a Hike!

New Year's Day

Monday, January 1, 2024

11th Annual Spencer Butte Hikes

CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR by signing up for one of the three hikes offered from different Ridgeline trailheads to the top of the butte: 6.2 miles with Mike Smith, 5.2 miles with Denise Rubenstein, or 2.2 miles with Janet Jacobsen. Hikes are limited to 15, so sign up early, in mid-December.



EUGENE PARKS FOUNDATION Eugene Parks Foundation Event

Prescribing Parks: Enhancing Community Health through Exceptional Parks (and Trails)

Thursday, November 16, 5:30–7:30 PM at The Shedd

SOCIAL GATHERING, with small plates and wine followed by speakers from the health care community.

For more information visit the EPF website:
<https://www.eugeneparksfoundation.org/prescribing-parks-event/>

Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased at
<https://tickets.theshedd.org/8888/901>

FOR SALE

Exel cross country ski poles.
 Made in Finland—150 cm.
 \$12

Sandra Larsen 541-687-2589 or skiersandra6@gmail.com

Please call after November 8.



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:

November: Tuesday, 11/7

December: Thursday, 12/7

January: Tuesday, 1/9

February: Thursday, 2/8

Questions? Contact:

Ane McKee

entertainment@obsidians.org



LOOKING FOR JUST A BIT OF VOLUNTEERISM with a great group of Obsidians?

The *Bulletin* folding committee needs a few once-a-month volunteers to fill in when needed. We meet on Wednesday from 10:00 to 11:30 AM at the Lodge on the second week of the month. That's all it is!

Contact Nancy Raymond

Nancyjraymond@comcast.net



OBSIDIANS
IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
P.O. BOX 51510
EUGENE, OR 97405

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Nov/Dec 2023



*Diamond Creek Falls from the bottom. Photo by Jean Harris.
See the Diamond Creek Falls trip report on page 16.*

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