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Dates to Remember

June 13 GameNight!
 July 3 Board Meeting
 July 5 Bulletin Deadline
 July 16 GameNight!

Current event schedules at:
www.obsidians.org

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To submit articles for publication, please send directly to:
bulletin@obsidians.org

The New Obsidian Website is Live!

OUR NEW WEBSITE OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED ON MAY 24, 2024. It's been a long, complicated project, and we are very grateful to John Jacobsen for continuing to maintain the former website and database, which he designed 24 years ago and announced the launching in the *October 2000 Bulletin*. Thank you, John!

If you have not yet signed in with the email address or user name that you used on the old website, and reset your password, please do so as soon as possible. Until you do, you will be unable to sign up for activities...and you don't want to miss any!

There are still some remaining issues which the developer is working on. If you have any questions, please contact:

Carla Cooper ccooperk1@mac.com 541-517-6785

Dave Cooper dvwcoop@yahoo.com 541-868-5427

Lana Lindstrom лана_lindstrom@hotmail.com 541-683-1409



TIME TO CHECK YOUR FIRST AID KIT

Lyndell Wilken, Safety Committee

IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR TO GO THROUGH YOUR FIRST AID KITS to replace any supplies that have expiration dates, and to refamiliarize yourself with the contents. Each person who participates in Obsidian activities should carry a kit. The kit should contain some general items, as well as those that fit your specific needs. If you acquired first aid supplies from our supply give-away last year, you will already have the items below with the exception of some of the medications.

Suggested contents are:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Tylenol, Aspirin, Advil, and Benadryl
<i>(tablets for your pain and swelling)</i> | Rolled elastic bandages 3" wide |
| Personal meds | Emergency blanket (space) |
| Disinfectant pads | Moleskin |
| 5 Band-Aids, 1" x 3" | Lip protection |
| 5 Band-Aids, 2" x 4 1/2" | Sunblock |
| Sanitary pad (for bleeding wounds) | Protective gloves |
| Surgical tape 1" | Safety pins #3 |
| Butterfly strips | Triangular cloth bandage |
| Insect bite treatment <i>(optional)</i> | Duct tape (wrapped around a pencil) |
| | Foam sit-upon <i>(makes a splint)</i> |

Obsidian Bulletin: July Issue Delay

THE JULY BULLETIN SCHEDULE HAS BEEN PUSHED BACK BY ONE WEEK. Therefore the dates have changed as follows:

Deadline for submissions to the July Bulletin is July 5

Online version will be available approximately Sunday July 14.

Paper version of the Bulletin will be mailed out on Wednesday July 17

NOTE: The Bulletin is not published in August.

(Deadline for the September issue will be: August 30.)

IN MEMORIAM

JOYCE NORMAN AUGUST 9, 1928–MARCH 3, 2024

JOYCE JOINED THE OBSIDIANS IN 1967 AFTER CLIMBING SOUTH SISTER while attending the Todd Lake Summer Camp. She rejoined in 2001 and went on 16 bus trips. Her obituary was in the June 1, 2024 *Register-Guard*. No service is planned.

GEORGE HERMACH SEPTEMBER 10, 1922–APRIL 30, 2024

GEORGE AND HIS WIFE RUTH JOINED THE OBSIDIANS WHEN THEY CLIMBED DIAMOND PEAK IN 1950. He led twenty-three trips and seven climbs. He was preceded in death by his wife Ruth in January 2023. George led his last trip on February 4, 1995—a cross country ski trip from the old Santiam Lakes Trail and Pacific Crest Trail to the Three Fingered Jack saddle, where they then had *nice open [downhill] runs and easy trail running*.

A complete obituary was in the *Register-Guard*, May 12, 2024. A Celebration of Life will be held at Richardson Park Campground, Fern Ridge Reservoir, Shelter #2, June 29, 2024, at 2:00 PM.

MYRON COOK JULY 6, 1929–MAY 6, 2024

FROM 2006 TO 2011 MYRON WENT ON 55 TRIPS WITH THE OBSIDIANS. Darko Sojak kept in touch with Myron and wrote an article *Where is Myron?* for the October 2013 *Bulletin*. Darko led Myron's last trip, May 27, 2017 to Elijah Bristow State Park.

Darko shared these words about Myron: *Surrounded by spiritual books and his beloved Zen poetry, 94-year-old Myron Cook passed away peacefully on May 6, 2024. From his turbulent youth in the southern US to his graceful aging on the West Coast, and everything in between, Myron's life was driven by moral values. He enjoyed meditation, and playing chess. He had been living in a care facility in Springfield for the past several years. On his last trip 88-year-old Myron expressed delight at the abundance of wildflowers at Elijah Bristow State Park.*

RUTH ROMOSER AUGUST 27, 1943–MAY 19, 2024

RUTH JOINED THE OBSIDIANS IN 1999 AROUND THE TIME THAT SHE RETIRED AS A SCHOOL LIBRARIAN from the Springfield School District. Participating in 171 trips, she received her 25 Leader award in 2008 and her 100 Trip award in 2009. Her upbeat and positive personality is apparent in her trip reports, as when she stated, *River walks are so much fun!*

She also joined the Altairs where she made many friends while participating in their activities. She liked to travel and went on over 100 *Road Scholar* trips. Recently on her first day of exercise class at the Campbell Center, she told an Obsidian that her annual Arizona hiking trip was *so much fun*. Several of her friends shared that she often remarked, *What a hoot!* Anyone who knew Ruth can hear her say those words. Her sense of humor was ever-present in her enjoyment of life.

On an Obsidian hike to Larison Rock in 2006, hikers were confronted with a gigantic tree to crawl over. Ruth looked at the petite space underneath the tree and easily rolled under and started hiking again. That was typical of Ruth who cheerfully maintained her membership and faithfully supported the Obsidians mission.

A complete obituary was in the *Register-Guard*, June 2, 2024. A service is planned on June 12, at 1:00 PM at St. Mary's Episcopal Church on 1300 Pearl Street in Eugene.

OBSIDIANS

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

Officers & Board of Directors

Dave Hawkins, President
Denise Rubenstein, Vice President
Angie Ruzicka, Secretary
Laura Osinga, Treasurer
Dave Cooper, Russ Davies, Jean Harris,
Maryanne Reiter, Lisa Van Liefde,
Sue Zeni

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 Maryanne Reiter
Concessions.....Carla Cooper
Conservation/SciEd..... Angie Ruzicka
Entertainment.....Ane McKee
Extended Trips Lana Lindstrom
Finance..... Susan Zeni
Lodge Building Dave Cooper
Lodge Grounds (Interim) Jim Northrop
Librarian/Historian..... Bea Fontana
Membership Diane Schechter
Online (Interim) Bob Eriksen
Publications.....Lou Maenz
PublicityD. Rubenstein & L. Van Liefde
SafetyLyndell Wilken & John Miller
Stewardship..... Darko Sojak
Summer Camp.....Lana Lindstrom
Trips Dave Cooper

The OBSIDIAN Bulletin

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bulletin@obsidians.org

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The Obsidian Bulletin

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405

Deadline
for July Bulletin
Friday, July 5

Editorial Team

Writing & Editorial Staff:

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,

Barbara Gunther, Jane Hackett,

Yuan Hopkins, Judy Newman,

Nancy Raymond, Barbara Schomaker

Welcome New Members!

Norma Barton
Eugene, OR

Chandra Bigelow
Eugene, OR

Rick Griffin
Eugene, OR

Matthew Lockfeld
Eugene, OR

Alex Lockhart
Ashland, OR

Sarah Lockhart
Ashland, OR

Rae O'Brien
Eugene, OR

Emily Parent
Albany, OR

Emily Shelton
Eugene, OR

Tonya Stein
Salem, OR

Hank Wright
Eugene, OR

Changes in Dues Coming Soon

Dave Hawkins

THE OBSIDIANS HAVE HAD A VERY SOLID FINANCIAL POSITION AS A RESULT OF MEMBER DUES, DONATIONS, AND PRUDENT FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP. But we have faced a myriad of increased expenses. These include the development of the website and the ongoing costs to maintain it. We are very fortunate that our reserves were able to cover the development costs. In addition, there are many other costs that have increased. These include repairs to our fence from the ice storm, along with increases in our insurance, utilities, and overall Lodge maintenance.

The Board evaluated our dues at the May meeting. They considered the dues of other outdoor clubs and past increases in our dues. Obsidian dues increases have been few and far between. We have increased our dues only twice in the past 18 years. After careful consideration, the Board voted to increase membership dues to \$50 beginning in July for new

members, and in October for renewing members.

New memberships and renewals will now be active for a full calendar year. In addition, members will be able to pay their dues online beginning with our October renewal. Our new website will also give members the option to automatically renew if they choose.

We are exploring additional options to both reduce our expenses and increase revenue. These include increasing our Lodge rentals, expanding opportunities for donations throughout the year, and evaluating other ways we can cut costs.

Our membership continues to grow. We are enthusiastic about our ability to reach more people in the community with our new website, additional outreach opportunities, and our wide offerings of activities. We hope you will support these changes so the Obsidians can continue to thrive.



OBSIDIANS BOOKMARKS

THE PUBLICITY COMMITTEE CREATED THESE FUN OBSIDIANS BOOKMARKS, using photos taken on Obsidian trips, to hand out at various events. There are just three designs so far, but they hope to add to the collection with pics taken at the upcoming Obsidian Summer Camp. Start your collection now!

Can you name the locations on the bookmarks?



Join Us Outdoors

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Skiing • Snowshoeing
Cycling • Paddling
Summer Camps
Bus Trips • Education
Trail Maintenance

Friends and Fun!



Visit us online
to learn more and join:
www.obsidians.org



Front Photo: Smith Rock S.P. by Scott Wilkinson
Photo Above: Obsidian Climb School

TURNING AROUND

Mike Smith

I REACHED YOUNG'S ROCK AFTER AN HOUR'S HIKE with a half-mile elevation gain from Camper's Flat and promptly ran into snow on the north side. While the snow wasn't deep, I had the first inkling that I might not be able to reach Moon Point. I continued a quarter mile further until three large logs, covered in snow, blocked my way. The first I could cross, the second was more than three feet in diameter—too big to climb over, nowhere to go under. The downhill bypass involving a steep drop I didn't want any part of. Going uphill offered wet snow, and was slippery, steep, and impassable.

I turned around. I didn't spend much time thinking about it, I just reversed course. Even if I could have gotten through, the trail was going to have more snow, and I had to do the log crossings on the return, doubling the probability of having a problem. Moon Point was not going anywhere; I would try again. Six weeks later, I made it, and I led the hike three months after that, but from road FS 2129, a full thousand feet above Camper's Flat, making the trek more reasonable.

It wasn't the first time I had turned around because of obstructions. Years earlier, snow stopped me just short of the summit of Mt. Wrightston in the wilderness of the same name in southern Arizona. This was one of my favorite hikes, rising four thousand feet from the valley, but because there was no safe way to cross one stretch without my being at significant risk for sliding 50 or more feet. I failed to reach the summit, with its splendid views. I still had a morning off work, got to hike in deep snow in southern Arizona, and returned safely to work later that day, wet feet and all. It was great.

Sometimes it isn't what is on the ground but what is coming down that changes plans. I led a late season hike to Crescent Mountain in November 2015. I thought we would miss the rain, but I was wrong, and the steep trail had small waterfalls all the way to the beginning of the meadow, about 1,300 feet vertical above Maude Creek. There we encountered wind, snow, and fog. We were still warm, if wet, but it didn't seem like a great idea to go to the summit for nonexistent views. We turned around, and back at the parking lot tried unsuccessfully to dissuade two young women from starting out, especially with them wearing running shoes, and their feet in plastic bags.

This year, I cut short both a snowshoe and a ski attempt to deal with my adopted winter trails, the 9.5-mile trek on the PCT from Willamette Pass to Maiden Peak Saddle and Tait's Trail. I was too exhausted both times to finish, and it took me fewer than ten seconds to make the decision to turn around early. I had no regrets, other than not having the



*Blowdowns near Young's Rock, April 2016.
Photo by Mike Smith.*

stamina. Winter trips are dependent upon snow conditions, and either the wrong equipment or the wrong snow (or both) will make for an arduous, perhaps unsuccessful outing. I finally completed the loop, checking and replacing the blue diamonds as needed, but it was April and excellent snow conditions before I succeeded.

In late spring 2009, I turned around at Bridalveil Creek in Yosemite, because I wasn't sure I could get across the spring-time flow safely. I looked and looked, finally said no, not worth the risk, and reversed course with no regrets.

See you on the trail. If a trail is unknown, especially in early season, consider that snow, downed logs, streams, weather, or physical ability may stop you. Turning around is not failure; stuff happens. Listen to your gut. If you are uncomfortable, turn around. You know the way back. Hiking should be enjoyable.

Mike's trip reports can be found on the Newsletter link on the website.

[October 2016 Bulletin](#) (page 4): Young's Rock, Moon Point. September 1, 2016

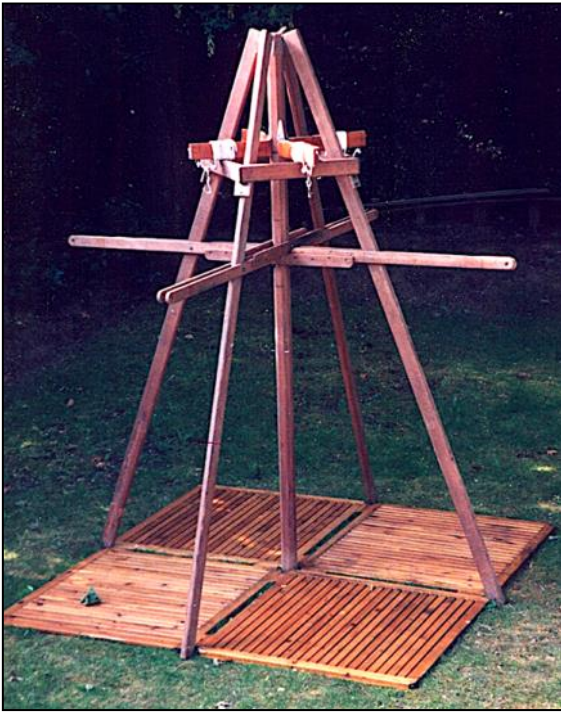
[January 2016 Bulletin](#) (page 10): Crescent Mountain. November 1, 2015

Obsidians Mission:

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

Summer Camp Show(er) & Tell

Sue Wolling



The freestanding support structure with the slatted floors.

THE MOST IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF SUMMER CAMP IS GREAT **H**IKING. A close second is lots of good food. Certainly, on the list of Must-Haves for a successful Summer Camp is showers. Obsidians are rather picky about showers: they really don't want showers DURING a hike, but they definitely want them AFTER the hike. Fortunately, we haven't had to worry about how to shower at camp for many years, thanks to Bea Fontana.

In the early Summer Camps, you were on your own for bathing. Sometimes there was a lake or stream nearby to jump into. If not... well, maybe people just relied on forest bathing, which would cleanse their spirits, if not their bodies. In some years, campers might have stayed up late for a meteor shower.

But as the number of people attending Summer Camp increased, a more systematic approach to bathing became necessary. Enter Bea Fontana—always a *fontan* of good ideas and clever designs, well-executed.

Bea recognized that the Obsidians needed a shower facility that could be used in any location to provide (1) a clean, private place to sit/stand (2) a place to hang clothes and (3) a way to keep your feet out of the mud. So she designed and built four stalls, with a pulley system to hang your shower bag high enough to achieve your desired water pressure. (Peer pressure, meanwhile, kept the line of those waiting for a shower flowing smoothly!) For the curtain call, Bea took out her own sewing machine to stitch together curtains, and the shower system debuted at the 1983 Summer Camp.

That first version was really just a *baby shower*. It required that the pulleys and stalls be hung between a couple of trees, using poles found onsite that were lashed to the trees. Anyone who has ended an exhausting day of backpacking with an aimless search for a tree suitable for hanging a bear bag knows that sometimes you can't find the trees for the forest! So, Bea then added a freestanding support structure that could be set up in an open, treeless space. The four stalls, which also serve as dressing rooms, are in a pinwheel form, with the entrance to each in a different direction for extra privacy. Granted, this privacy is a bit like that of a private, first class in an Army barracks, because while no one can see you, you can carry on an animated conversation with the person in the next stall, even if you don't know who it is you're talking to!

Initially, the Obsidians provided the shower bags for campers to use. Camp leaders, however, quickly learned that they would find themselves in hot water if the water provided for the showers was only lukewarm. They bagged the idea of providing shower water, and instead asked campers to bring their own solar shower bags. As a result, now when Obsidians are off grunting and sweating their way up mountain trails, their shower bags are back at camp basking in the sun. After hiking, campers reclaim their shower bags, and the shrieks and sighs coming from the shower stalls reveals who was most successful in achieving ideal water temperatures.

In 2021, Steve Johnson rigged up an on-demand hot water system that serves two of the stalls. It has faced challenges, but hopefully will help ensure hot showers for Camp Fontana, even on cloudy days.

Ironically, Bea is among the Obsidians who doesn't bother with the shower from her solar bag. She continues to rely on the tried-and-true Sierra cup dipper and 2-gallon bucket that is provided in each stall for a quick low-tech washup.

Thanks to Bea's fierce vigilance when the showers are being set up, packed and stored, the 40-year-old system continues to serve us well. So don't forget to shower Bea with thanks and praise as you wash up after hiking at Camp Fontana!

Reminder of Cancellation Policy:

If you cancel for Summer Camp by June 30, you will receive a refund of your registration fees (minus \$40). If you cancel after June 30, you will receive a refund only if someone else takes your place.



A peek inside one of the stalls.

Photos taken by Bea.

MAY 19 AT THE LODGE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FIRST AID CLASS



Wrapping a hypothermic hiker.



Lana getting a sling put on for an injured shoulder.



Emily practicing putting on a sling.

THE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CLASS TAUGHT BY LAURIE MONICO AND ASSISTED BY FIVE WILLAMETTE PASS SKI PATROL MEMBERS, guided 14 participants through several scenarios where a group had to determine what the problem was and how to organize a response. After some lecture and discussion, the group practiced bandaging and splinting. The afternoon sun allowed for practice outdoors addressing two possible scenarios—a hypothermic hiker, and a bleeding emergency to the lower leg. Everyone departed feeling more knowledgeable as to how to respond if an accident or illness should occur on an Obsidian trip.

Lyndell Wilken, Safety Committee

See also: The Emergency Preparedness trip report on page 10.



Instructor Laurie Monico applying a splint to an injured Sue's forearm.



Rolling an injured person and placing a mat under them.



Preliminary drill before putting hands under the injured person to be lifted and transported.

TRIP REPORTS



Climbs

Smith Rock

May 3, 2024

Leader: Trina Reiter

THIS WAS A ONE-DAY TRIP TO SMITH ROCK STATE PARK TO GO ROCK CLIMBING. It was scheduled for two days but the weather on Saturday looked terrible and indeed it rained overnight, then on Saturday, which is not conducive to climbing. We had two people who had never been to Smith, so it was fun to introduce them to the park. Everyone did really well climbing. Good times! Members: Jane Leng, Maryanne Reiter, Linda Sato, Sandra Sigrist, Miranda Trieston.



Hikes

Kelly Butte

April 25, 2024

Leader: Vern Marsonette

Hike: 4 miles, 450 ft. (Easy)

THE KELLY BUTTE HIKE WAS A GREAT IN-TOWN TRIP. We made a loop from Island Park over Kelly Butte to Centennial Blvd., to Rainbow St., to the river trail, across the Willamette River, and back to our starting point. Intermittent rain kept the temperature a comfortable 50 degrees. Members: Steve Adey, Vern Marsonette.

Pisgah with Pacific Source

May 1, 2024

Leader: David Cooper

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

WE GOT A MID-WEEK BREAK FROM THE RAIN. Enjoyed our time with people from Pacific Source Health Plans who were in town for a regional meeting. They had scheduled time with us to get outside and take a break from meetings. Members: Norma Barton, Keiko Bryan, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Vicky Hanson, Lana Lindstrom, John Miller.

Wild Iris Ridge

May 2, 2024

Leader & Photographer: Lisa Van Liefde

Assistant Leader: Kristen Anderson

Hike: 4.4 miles, 616 ft. (Moderate)

EIGHT HAPPY HIKERS MET AT THE WILD IRIS RIDGE TRAILHEAD for this lovely evening outing. We were treated to a beautiful rainbow and a few moments of spring showers. The



Great group and a rainbow.

wild irises were vibrant and plentiful! Members: Kristen Anderson, Kathie Carpenter, Annie Chan, David Clinger, Jennifer Crim, Gwyneth Iredale, Diane Schechter, Lisa Van Liefde.

Finley Wildlife Refuge

May 5, 2024

Leader: Jane Hackett

Hike: 5 miles, 100 ft. (Easy)

WE WERE LUCKY. WE MISSED THE RAIN THAT CAME LATER IN THE DAY. Although it was a little misty, no real rain. What we had was a lot of mud. The other thing that we had was a lot of poison oak. The ice storm put vines and small trees full of poison oak onto the trail. To offset this, at headquarters we saw a pair of wood ducks with the male in full breeding plumage in the pond behind headquarters. Also at headquarters, we had a pair of killdeer perform the broken-wing dance. They had laid four eggs right along the sidewalk where everyone walks. We visited the blind off of Bruce Road. No birds with the exception of swallows and one osprey looking for a snack. We completed the Mill Pond loop plus a stop at the gift shop. Then we went back to Herman Campbell Boardwalk. The back trails are open now so we were able to hike along the dike. We did a loop back to our cars. I found a covered viewing area off of this trail. That was new for me. The wildflowers were well on their way. Members: Jane Hackett, Jeff Lange, Kate Lange.

St. Vinnie's Greatest Hits

May 9, 2024

Leader: Kathie Carpenter

Hike: 11 miles (Moderate)

YOUR TRIVIA QUESTIONS FOR THE DAY: 1) What year, and where, was the first St. Vincent de Paul founded? [1833, in Paris], 2) How many countries do they currently serve? [150 countries], 3) What year, and where, was the first St. Vinnie's in the US? [1845, in St. Louis], 4) When did St. Vinnie's first come to Lane County? [1954]. And, your bonus question: What is the largest non-profit human services provider in Lane County? Answer: St. Vincent de Paul, of course, as

eight civic-minded Obsidians found out one sunny day in May when we set off on a walking tour of nine different St. Vinnie's sites. We were treated to staff presentations and tours at the First Place Family Center, the Lamb Building Veterans Services, the 410 Garfield Safe Sleep site, and the Cleveland Warehouse and Recycling Center. We also walked by several affordable & sustainable housing sites, tiptoeing so as not to disturb the residents. Highlights included: seeing a mattress get eviscerated so all the parts could be recycled (St. V de P pioneered mattress recycling and now mentors other nonprofits on how to do it.); watching three refrigerator-sized bags of styrofoam get compressed into a recycling-ready lump no bigger than a breadbox (St. Vinnie's is the only place in Lane County where you can recycle styrofoam.); peeking inside the tidy tent of a proud, formerly unhoused man who now sleeps safely at 410 Garfield. (They are doing a great job, but they have a wait list of 1600 people!); stepping into a cozy closet that was lined floor-to-ceiling with stuffed animals to be given as gifts to children from unhoused families or, even better, for those children to take as gifts to their friends' birthday parties so they don't feel left out because they had no gift to bring; hearing the director of Veterans Services talk about the grants his office keeps getting in order to take care of 'his guys'. In keeping with the spirit of urban hiking, we ate our picnic lunch in a parking lot and rode the bus part of the way, but we still racked up 11 miles from start to finish. Even though the hike was educational, it was also really, really fun. We were so impressed by the breadth and high quality of the services that we learned about, as well as the pride and enthusiasm of all the St. Vinnie's employees who hosted us. Members: Linda Anson, Kathie Carpenter, Annie Chan, Vicky Hanson, Vern Marsonette, Emily Rice, Nancy Whitfield, Sue Wolling.

Ash Swale / Eagles Rest

May 18, 2024

Leader & Photographer: Jean Harris

Hike: 5 miles, 1,600 ft. (Moderate)

TEN HAPPY HIKERS ENJOYED A LOVELY STROLL THROUGH OLD AND YOUNG FORESTS. Rhodie blooms were beginning, calypso orchids still gave us joy, trillium were fading. Ash Swale shelter provided a rest stop for us, as it did nearly a



Dorothy, Holger, Marguerite, Lynn, Vern, Angie, Lana, Darko, Steve

century ago when it was used to get supplies to Eagles Rest and Mt. June Lookouts. The top of Eagles Rest, at 3,024 feet, provided a view of upper Lost Creek and nearby high points. Lunch and conversation happened as we sat at the top. The return trip did give a different view, even though it's the same trail. Members: Marguerite Cooney, Jean Harris, Steven Johnson, Holger Krentz, Lana Lindstrom, Vern Marsonette, Lynn Meacham, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Dorothy Van Winkle.

Marys Peak

May 26, 2024

Leader & Photographer: Lisa Van Liefde

Hike: 8.5 miles, 2,000 ft. (Moderate)

HIKERS WERE IN LUCK WITH BEAUTIFUL WEATHER AND GREAT VIEWS AT THE TOP. Trails were in perfect condition. Everyone enjoyed the day, including a stop afterwards at Long Timber Brewing. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Annie Chan, Lynn



Sandra Sigrist. Interesting trees.

Meacham, Sandra Sigrist, Gretchen Sotomayor, Chris Stockdale, Lisa Van Liefde, Dorothy Van Winkle, Kim Whitley, Bill Whitley, Paul Winther, Karen Yoerger.



Marys Peak View.

Amazon Headwaters / Ridgeline Trail / Spencer Butte Hikes
Hikes: 3.4–6.2 miles, 633–1,530 ft. (Easy–Moderate)
Various Leaders

Randy Sinnott: 4/24 11 Members
Mike Smith: 5/1 12 Members, **5/29** 17 Members
Janet Jacobsen: 5/8 13 Members
Denise Rubenstein: 5/15 7 Members
John Miller: 5/22 3 Members
Lisa Van Liefde: 5/23 3 Members



Janet Jacobsen on the summit of Spencer Butte. May 8 was Janet’s 155th lead for the Wednesday hike. Photo taken by Mike Smith.

Blanton Ridge Hikes
Hike: 8.5–11.7 miles, 1,000–1,740 ft. (Moderate)
Various Leaders



Ridgeline Long Route hikers, enjoying a mid-hike lunch break. Blanton to Baldy hike on May 23. Photo taken by Sandra Sigrist.

Tommy Young: 4/30 4 Members, **5/21** 3 Members, **5/28** 5 Members
Denise Rubenstein: 5/7 3 Members
Sandra Sigrist: 5/14 9 Members
Sandra Sigrist, Heidi Anderson: 5/23 6 Members

Mt. Pisgah Hikes
Hike: 5.3–6.6 miles, 1,100–1,375 ft. (Moderate)
Various Leaders

David Hawkins: 4/26 9 Members
Heidi Anderson: 5/10 8 Members

At the Lodge

Mother’s Day Pancake Breakfast & Rhody Walk

May 12, 2024
Leader: Jim Northrop
Photographer: Jean Harris
Event & Hike

APPROXIMATELY FIFTY OBSIDIANS, NEIGHBORS, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY ENJOYED BLUEBERRY PANCAKES, fruit platters, little sausages, coffee, and orange juice at the Mother’s Day Pancake Breakfast at the



Bonnie Ledford, Bonnie’s daughter from Idaho, Donna Eimstad, and Joella Ewing conversing at the Pancake Breakfast.

Lodge. Obsidian Colleen Milliman arrived in style in a cherry-red, open-top Datsun Roadster, chauffeured by her son Greg. Four generations of a family attended after seeing a flyer posted in Hendricks Park. After breakfast, twenty hikers started off on the Ribbon Trail to view the flowering rhododendrons in Hendricks Park. Thirteen hikers returned to the Lodge with hike leader Jim Northrop, a 35 percent attrition rate, exceeding the allowable loss of 10 percent. Many thanks to volunteers from the Bus and Entertainment Committees who helped put on another successful Mother’s Day event.

Class

Emergency Preparedness—First Aid

May 19, 2024

Leader: Lyndell Wilken

INSTRUCTOR LAURIE MONICO WORKED WITH FOURTEEN PARTICIPANTS on responding to an emergency in the outdoors. Assessing an injured or ill person, formulating a plan of action, and providing care were the focus of the eight-hour class. The weather cooperated and allowed for outdoor scenarios along with the indoor discussions and practice of bandaging and splinting. Those in attendance left feeling more confident on how to respond to an emergency that might happen during our Obsidian activities. Members: Julie Barnas, Therese Bauer, Kathie Carpenter, Mark Hougardy, Richard Hughes, Lynn Lary, Lana Lindstrom, June Miller, Jeff Orendorff, Emily Rice, Paula Rich, Lisa Van Liefde, Lyndell Wilken. Nonmembers: Mary Frazer.



Byways By Bus

Wildlife Safari and More

May 9, 2024

Leader: Jim Northrop

Various Photographers

TWENTY-FOUR MEMBERS AND SIX NONMEMBERS ENJOYED BRIGHT SUNSHINE AND WARM TEMPERATURES on a bus trip to the historic Creswell Schoolhouse, the Wildlife Safari in Winston, and the Douglas County Museum in Roseburg. Obsidian Verlean McCoy greeted us at the Creswell Schoolhouse with coffee and pastries from the Creswell Bakery across the street. Verlean explained the years-long effort to transform a dilapidated building into a light-filled community center. At Wildlife Safari, our guide Denise provided an informative and entertaining tour of the wildlife of Africa, Asia, and North and South America. After lunch at the Safari Village, we finished the day with a walk back through time at the Douglas County Museum. Kudos to our bus driver Danele for maneuvering our motor coach through the gates of



Sharon Duncan and Yuan Hopkins check out the antique car at the Douglas County Museum. Photo by Janet Jacobsen.



Cheetah. Photo by Diane Repp.

the lion, bear, and tiger enclosures with just inches to spare. Members: Judy Adamcyk, Thomas Adamcyk, Mari Baldwin, Barbara Beard, Paul Beard, Paula Beard, Marcia Claypool, Sharon Duncan, Larry Dunlap, Rebecca Eastwood, Clara Emlen, Nikki Frank, Judy Garwood, Yuan Hopkins, Gwyneth Iredale, Janet Jacobsen, Helen Martz, Andrew McIvor, Jim Northrop, Don Payne, Ginny Reich, Diane Repp, Robin Risque, Pat Soussan. Nonmembers: Patricia Cleall, Alan Curtis, Sandra Dunlap, Sharon Gadowski, Gisele Laceda, Jean Whitley.



Some members gather in the shadow of the bus, prior to departing for home. Photo by Pat Soussan.



Stewardship

Amazon Headwaters Drainage

April 27, 2024

Leader: Matt Bell

Photographers: Pat Soussan & Matt Bell

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

WE SET OUT FOR A LEISURELY STROLL THROUGH THE WILDFLOWERS AND TO DO A LITTLE DITCH AND CULVERT CLEARING in Amazon Headwaters Park. We hiked in along the Ridgeline Trail, scraping ditches and clearing culverts and outflows before hiking back along the lower multi-



Clara cuts back blackberries that are encroaching onto the Fox Hollow parking lot.



Three volunteers with the right tools. Photo by Matt.

use trail. Along the way, we were treated to calypso orchids (fairy slippers), carpets of bleeding hearts, houndstongue, false Solomon's seal, inside-out flower, Oregon iris, dogwood, fawn lilies, and trillium. Members: Matt Bell, Clara Emlen, Janet Jacobsen, Pat Soussan.



Janet amongst bleeding heart plants that are blocking a culvert.



Matt uses a pitch fork to remove dirt and duff.

Green Island, McKenzie River Trust Stewardship

May 11, 2024

Leader: Darko Sojak

Work Party: 1 mile, 10 ft. (Moderate)

THE ENDLESS WRESTLE WITH BLACKBERRIES CONTINUES. Thank you volunteers. Members: David Cooper, Clara Emlen, Holger Krentz, Darko Sojak.

**Spencer Butte Trailhead Beautification
May 29, 2024
Leader: Matt Bell
Photographer: Pat Soussan
Trail Maintenance:**

FOR THE FIRST WEDNESDAY EVENING OUTING OF OUR SUMMER SCHEDULE, we met Robin Thompson from the City to work to beautify the main trailhead. Our small group divided up the tasks into individual or paired projects. Matt and Dan worked on painting the porta-potty surrounds that the City replaced due to being smashed by falling fir trees during this past winter's ice storm. Janet started on the steps while Jennifer started on the kiosk. Pat and Robin started with the string trimmers cutting back plants from along the trailhead steps and accessible trail. After beautifying the trailhead, we went to the meadow where Matt and Dan used the string trimmers to cut back the grass from around 'Spencer henge' and the picnic tables. We then enjoyed a delicious treat at the newly spruced up picnic area. Special thanks go to Jennifer for blowing off the steps to ensure that they had the look of being cleaned by Clara. Special thanks also go to Janet for bringing the delicious sweet potato bread for everyone to enjoy. Members: Matt Bell, Jennifer Crim, Dan Gilmore, Janet Jacobsen, Pat Soussan.



Dan painting.



Contemplating moving the toilets so that the structure could be painted.



Power blowing the steps.



Jennifer cleans the kiosk.



Final chore: Matt and Dan weed whack around picnic tables.

National Trails Day

June 1, 2024

Leader: Matt Bell

Photographers: Matt Bell & Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 2 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

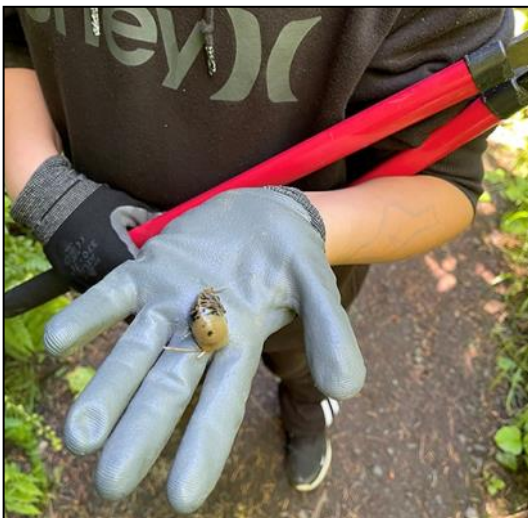
IN HONOR OF NATIONAL TRAILS DAY OUR GROUP OF SEVEN SET OUT to brush the trail sides of the Ridgeline Trail. The bulk of our time was spent hiking, which made for a very pleasant trip up to the Tie Trail Junction from the Willamette and 52nd trailhead. The boys had a great time finding termites, spiders, banana slugs, and lancetooth snails in addition to their work clipping, lopping, and sawing. Special thanks go to Janet for bringing energy balls and marionberry bread as snacks. Members: Matt Bell, Fletcher Bell, Nathaniel Bell, Oliver Bell, Janet Jacobsen, Doug Leonard, Dorothy van Winkle.



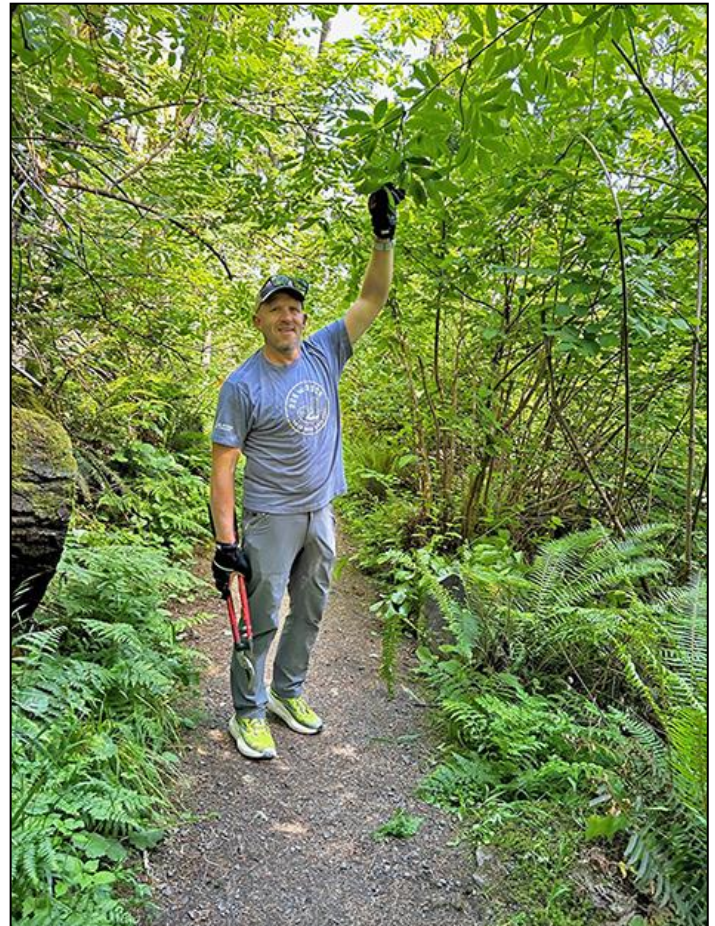
Hacklemesh weaver spider found by Oliver Bell in a snag.



Everybody hard at work.



Small banana slug found by Oliver Bell



*Doug Leonard checking the height of hanging branches.
Photo by Janet.*

MAY BOARD NOTES

May 1, 2024

From minutes by Angie Ruzicka

Dave Hawkins called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Board members present: Dave Cooper, Jean Harris, Maryanne Reiter, Denise Rubenstein, Angie Ruzicka, Lisa Van Liefde, Sue Zeni. Others present: Carla Cooper, Lana Lindstrom, Jim Northrop, Diane Schechter, Karen Yoerger.

The Board approved the minutes of the April Board Meeting.

Treasurer's Report (prepared by Laura Osinga and presented by Sue Zeni): Sue presented the year-to-date income and expenses as well as the balance sheet. Of note: The stock market took a hit the later half of April; Vanguard investments lost \$5,400. The Board approved the expenses.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Climbs (Maryanne Reiter): The Climbs Committee had another fun and educational Climb School this year that ended with a day of rock-climbing skills at the Skinner Butte Columns. We also had the first climb of the season with 12 students of the 2024 graduating class summiting Diamond Peak. The Committee is also working on a Crevasse Rescue class for May as well as trying to get leaders for other climbs.

Concessions (Carla Cooper): We took in \$123 at the April potluck, with \$84 of that for prepaid vests. We will no longer be ordering vests until the fall.

Entertainment (Ane McKee): Our April Potluck and Presentation had Morgan Watson from Crux Rock Gym share his climbing experiences around the world. Forty-eight people attended the potluck portion of the evening and 70 were there to enjoy Morgan's presentation. We continued to work with Jim Northrop to publicize the Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast and Rhody Walk to be held on May 12. We held another GameNight! on April 18.

Finance (Susan Zeni): We received our offer of liability/Lodge building insurance through Liberty Mutual. The annual price is \$4,992, which is a \$335 increase (6%) from last year's insurance. We will receive a quote for our accident insurance in May. We continue to receive credit card payments on STRIPE for the Wilderness First Aid Class and Crevasse rescue. In addition, we have received credit card payments for Lodge rental and annual membership. The credit card payments reduce the time spent receiving and depositing checks, but that convenience has a cost. A \$35 membership payment costs \$1.07, and a \$240 Wilderness First Aid payment costs \$5.58. We should be considering the cost when we set the price of the membership or class!

Lodge Building (Dave Cooper): Lodge rentals have picked up this year and the new process is working well. By using signable pdf agreements and Stripe for billing the process is quick and efficient. None of our repeat renters have indicated any qualms about the increase in rent. And one new customer will be renting for two weeks this summer.

Lodge Grounds (Jim Northrop-interim): A joint Building and Grounds work party occurred on April 11, with 18 volunteers. Out on the grounds, volunteers mowed, weed-whacked, trimmed, hand-weeded, transplanted, and moved mulch. Thank you to Jennifer Baer for donating four sword ferns and

to Clara Emlen for putting in extra hours clearing brush.

Librarian/Historian (Bea Fontana): We researched info for three articles in this month's *Bulletin*: National Trails Day, revisiting the *Obsidians Spirit* relief mural by member Dallas Cole, and working with former member George Jobanek to reprint his 1990 piece on the naming of the Three Sisters. Bert dug out photos and other historical items for Gary Kirk's celebration of life at the Lodge on April 20.

Membership (Diane Schechter): We have not been able to process new members or renewals during the website transition. We have had 10 new members and 4 renewals this past month. These individuals have all been contacted about the delay in activating their memberships. Membership - 492. (This includes the 14 members whose memberships are on hold.)

Publicity (Denise Rubenstein & Lisa Van Liefde): The Publicity Committee participated in the Siuslaw PlayShop event in Florence this past weekend. The focus of the event was outdoor fun and the Obsidian focus was to gain exposure in the area and make connections. A poster and bookmarks were made and are now available for all to use. They are quite lovely. The committee continues to post end of month photo reviews that highlight club activities.

Safety (Lyndell Wilken): The AED was tested in April.

Stewardship (Darko Sojak): In April 2024 Obsidians volunteers worked on two trail maintenance projects.

Trips (Dave Cooper): There were 20 trips in April. No fees this month.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual dues & life membership increase decision (Lana Lindstrom, Dave Hawkins): After discussion about increasing expenses (insurance, property taxes, utilities, website, cost of online payments) and a variety of ways to increase revenue the Board approved increasing the annual dues to \$50 and the cost of a lifetime membership to \$1,000 effective July 1. In addition, the Board approved a motion to reduce the requirement for a lifetime membership to being a member for 5 years (reduced from 15 years).

Treasurer replacement progress (Dave Hawkins, Sue Zeni): Moving forward, Sue Zeni will work with Laura to manage the treasurer responsibilities.

Donations acknowledgement in Bulletins (Jim Northrop): An ad hoc committee was formed to explore encouraging and acknowledging donations. The committee will report to the Board at the July meeting.

Resolution for US Bank authorizations (Dave Hawkins): The board approved a resolution to update the Authorized signatures for the US Bank Account.

OLD BUSINESS

Website and data project report (Lana Lindstrom, Dave Cooper): A group has been working on testing the functionality of the website. Many issues have been resolved; the next step is to move photos from the old site to the new site. Due to tight timing the Summer Camp registration will take place on the *old* website on May 11.

ADJOURNMENT

OBSIDIAN CALENDAR

June

9 Sun Waldport, city trails & lunch *Hike 6 mi. M*.....Jane Hackett
 14 Fri Pisgah East Side Loop *Hike 5.25 mi. M*..... Holger Krentz
 17 Mon Belknap Crater *Hike D* Buzz Blumm
 20 Thu 52nd to Blanton Ridge *Hike 3. mi. E*..... Lisa Van Liefde
 20 Thu Mt Pisgah Summer Solstice *Hike 3.5 mi. M* Sandra Sigrist
 21 Fri Pisgah East Side Loop *Hike 5.25 mi. M*..... David Hawkins
 23 Sun Banks–Vernona Bike *Bike 44 mi. D*..... Darko Sojak
 26 Wed Trail Maintenance *Work Party 2 mi. M* Matt Bell
 28 Fri Macduff Mountain *Hike 5 mi. M* Steven Johnson

July

4 Thu Obsidians Butte to Butte *Hike 4 mi. E* Darko Sojak
 6 Sat Tam McArthur Rim *Hike 5.3 mi. M* Buzz Blumm
 10 Wed North Umpqua Car Camp *10 mi. M*..... Valerie Metcalfe
 13 Sat Get Acquainted/Ribbon Trail *Hike 2.5 mi. E* TBA
 20 Sat Mt Thielsen- Graduation *Climb 10 mi. D* Maryanne Reiter
 21 Sun Annual Beach Barefoot *Hike 7 mi. M*..... Darko Sojak
 28 Sun LaPine Area Boating *Extended Trip M*.....Lana Lindstrom
 31 Wed Trail Maintenance *Work Party 2 mi. M* Matt Bell

August

11 Sun Mt Washington *Climb 10.5 mi. D*Danneille Harris
 12 Mon Camp Fontana-Mt Baker WA SummerCmp *M* Steven Johnson
 28 Wed Trail Maintenance *Work Party 2 mi. M*.....Matt Bell

September

15 Sun Crown Z, Perkins and Pacific *Hike 9.1 mi. M*..... Darko Sojak
 21 Sat Mt Hubris/Cosmic Wall *Climb 7 mi. D* Maryanne Reiter
 27 Fri Mushrooms Along Our Trails – Bruce Newhouse **Potluck**
 28 Sat National Public Lands Day *Work Party 2 mi. M*..... TBA

October

25 Fri Carrying On a Hiking Lifestyle – with Buzz Blumm .. **Potluck**
 26 Wed Trail Maintenance *Work Party 2 mi. M*Matt Bell

November

22 Fri Norway & the Northern Lights – Lana Lindstrom **Potluck**
 30 Wed Trail Maintenance *Work Party 2 mi. M*.....Matt Bell

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

Regularly Scheduled Tuesday and Wednesday hikes

Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Various Leaders

Leaving from the Blanton Trailhead at 6:45 AM
Distance: 8½ mi. Elevation gain: 1,740 ft.

Every Tuesday in June & July:
 June 4, 11, 18 & 25 and July 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

Amazon Headwaters to Spencer Butte Various Leaders

Leaving from the Martin Street Trailhead at 8:00 AM
Distance: 6.2 mi. Elevation gain: 1,530 ft.

Every Wednesday in June & July
 June 5, 12, 19 & 26 and July 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31

SIGN UP ONLINE:
obsidians.org/events/



Upcoming GameNight! dates are:

Thursday, June 13

Tuesday, July 16

(none in August)

Questions? Contact: Ane McKee

entertainment@obsidians.org

TRAIL MAINTENANCE SUMMER SCHEDULE

THE MONTHLY SPENCER BUTTE TRAIL MAINTENANCE
 WORK HAS SWITCHED TO ITS SUMMER SCHEDULE:

5:30–8:00 PM.

on the last Wednesday of the month

Make a note of these dates:

June 26, July 31 & August 28.

For information email:

Matt at Matthew.v.bell@gmail.com.





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June 2024



*South Falls in Silver Falls State Park on April 30.
Valerie, Lynn, Ben, Steve, Rachelle, and Vern stop on a bridge to admire the tremendous force of the rain-swollen falls.
There was a LOT of rain coming down this day. Photo by Kathie Carpenter.*

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