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Dates to Remember

October 7	GameNight!
October 10	Annual Meeting
October 15	Board Meeting
October 24	October Potluck
October 31	Bulletin Deadline
November 5	Board Meeting
November 6	GameNight!

Current event schedules at:
www.obsidians.org

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please send directly to:

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Award Announced in Recognition of Stewardship

Andrew McIvor

WE WERE EXCITED TO HEAR ARIEL LISSMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE EUGENE PARKS FOUNDATION (EPF), ANNOUNCE AT THE RECENT PARKS TALK EVENT that the *entire* Obsidians organization has earned the Parks Legacy Award for 2025. This award is in recognition of a long-time, synergistic relationship that our organization has had with Eugene parks through our stewardship projects.

The Eugene Parks Foundation is a 21-year-old organization working hand-in-glove with Eugene Parks and Open Space to enhance local recreation areas. Each year it bestows an award on a person or entity which has contributed time and resources to making Eugene Parks the best they can be. The award to the Obsidians recognizes years of trail maintenance and stewardship efforts, to say nothing of encouraging community members to use the trails through countless hikes and events.



*Ariel Lissman
announces
the award.*

The EPF Legacy Award will be bestowed at the forthcoming Parks Talk at 5:30 PM on November 20, 2025 at the Shedd Institute, 868 High Street, Eugene, OR 97401. The speaker will be Benjamin Helphand, formerly of Eugene, and Director of NeighborSpace, which preserves and sustains community gardens, speaking on *The Playful City—Trails and Hot Lava Paths in Chicago*. All Obsidians are invited to attend and show their support. There is a suggested donation of \$15 with complimentary hors d'oeuvres. Register on the website: eugeneparksfoundation.org.

REMINDER

OBSIDIANS ANNUAL MEETING

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10 AT THE LODGE

A SOCIAL HALF HOUR WILL BEGIN AT 6:30 PM WITH ICE CREAM DONATED BY PRINCE PUCKLERS, FOLLOWED BY THE MEETING AT 7:00. Two new Board members and one renewing member for 2026 will be elected. We will be voting on elevating Dave Cooper to Honored Member due to his distinguished service to this organization over many years. Awards will be presented at the meeting. We will also remember those Obsidians who have passed since our last meeting.

IN MEMORIAM

MAX BROWN

November 3, 1937–January 12, 2025

MAX JOINED THE OBSIDIANS IN 1995 AND JUST THREE YEARS LATER WAS INVITED TO CO-CHAIR THE LODGE AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE. He did so again from 2002–2004. From 2005 to 2006 he served as Grounds Chair. A quiet, unassuming man, Max attended Board meetings for many years, always thanking the volunteers who lent a hand. His contributions were practical and thoughtful, creating six new parking spaces and selecting and planting the dogwood tree that welcomes visitors at the entrance to the Lodge.

Max made time to go on 338 trips including trail maintenance for Deception, Fall Creek, and Brice Creek trails. He was one of the Club's three top hikers in 2002. One of his favorite hikes was Matthieu Lakes. On a Horse Creek hike, his co-leader Effie Neth wrote in the trip report: *A hike not frequently on our trips schedule, but it is definitely a two-thumbs-up hike on a sunny, spring day. Max helped 17 other hikers discover the delights and surprises of this trail, which is near Sea Lion Cave.*

This past year, Max received care at the VA Roseburg Health Care hospital. He is survived by his wife Joan, his daughter, and son-in-law. Joan's address is 87418 Hal-dorson Rd, Eugene 97402.

BRIAN HAMILTON

WE HAVE RECEIVED WORD that Brian Hamilton, who was Obsidian president in 2008, passed away on Monday, September 29. His memorial will be in the November *Bulletin*.

ATTENTION!

People who park in the Target parking lot on West 11th for carpooling purposes:

WE WERE ADVISED TO PARK OUR CARS CLOSER TO THE STORE RATHER THAN NEXT TO WEST 11TH. The security team informed us that people break into the cars then hop on the bus for a clean getaway.

We appreciated the warning and felt it needed to be shared.

Safe parking and happy hiking!

Three Must-Read Features in the October issue of *National Geographic*

The Power of Aging Athletically:

What science is discovering about exercise and longevity.

Is Everest Really the Tallest Mountain?

A new way of measuring could reorder the world's mightiest peaks.

Mercator's Masterpiece:

A game-changing historic map

It's too soon to find copies at the Downtown Library or at used bookstores—both of which depend upon donated copies. But if you don't subscribe to the magazine, you probably have a friend who does...

—Janet Jacobsen

OBSIDIANS

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405

Website: www.obsidians.org

Officers & Board of Directors

Denise Rubenstein, President
Lisa Van Liefde, Vice President
Angie Ruzicka, Secretary
Sue Zeni, Treasurer
Dave Cooper, Jean Harris,
Mark Hougardy, Lana Lindstrom,
Nancy Whitfield

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 Wim Aarts
Concessions Carla Cooper
Conservation/SciEd Angie Ruzicka
Entertainment Ane McKee
Extended Trips Lana Lindstrom
Finance Susan Zeni
Lodge Building Dave Cooper
Lodge Grounds J. Northrop & N. Whitfield
Librarian/Historian Bea Fontana
Membership Diane Schechter
Online D. & C. Cooper & L. Lindstrom
Publications Lou Maenz
Publicity D. Rubenstein & L. Van Liefde
Safety Maryanne Reiter
Stewardship Darko Sojak
Summer Camp Lana Lindstrom
Trips Dave Cooper

The OBSIDIAN Bulletin

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The Obsidian Bulletin

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405

Deadline

for November Bulletin
Friday, October 31

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Carla Cooper, Bea Fontana

Assembly/Mailing Team

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Barbara Gunther, Jane Hackett, Yuan
Hopkins, Judy Newman, Barbara
Schomaker, Tom Woxell

CENTENNIAL PLANNING BEGINS

100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION TO TAKE PLACE THROUGHOUT 2027

Make no little plans. They have no magic to stir men's blood.

Daniel H. Burnham, architect (1846-1912), instigator of the 1893 Chicago World's Fair.

WE WON'T BE HOSTING A WORLD'S FAIR, BUT WE CAN THINK BIG. Not many organizations can claim to have lasted 100 years. The Obsidians are almost there. It is an accomplishment to celebrate and a time to reflect on what has gone before.

The 50th anniversary featured a Golden Jubilee Banquet at the Black Angus Restaurant, with Everest climber and Eugene native Willi Unsoeld as guest speaker. The 75th anniversary also featured a banquet, this time at the Country Inn, with President Rick Ahrens presenting a priceless slideshow of Obsidian history. That was followed by a 75th Anniversary Supplement to the *Bulletin* with reminiscences and recollections (and congratulations) from every living former Obsidian President. The 90th anniversary featured an open house at the Lodge to browse photo albums, summit books, personal log books, heritage photos, Lodge artwork, and historical artifacts.

Here are some ideas being floated for the 100th Anniversary so far:

- Adopt 'Pico the Pika' as the Centennial Mascot. No animal is cuter. Create an Obsidian Centennial poster in 1920s art deco style.
- Plant 100 trees for 100 years.
- A historical reenactment climb of the Middle Sister, complete with 1927 period clothing and climbing gear.
- An Oregon Field Guide segment on Oregon Public Broadcasting featuring the Obsidians (1927) and the Chemeketans (1928). The segment could include the aforementioned historical reenactment climb.
- Centennial Celebration notecards
- A Spencer Butte 100 summits in 2027 challenge. The Wednesday morning regulars will be halfway there.
- A banquet and repeat slideshow by Rick Ahrens
- A 100th anniversary history and photo album: *THE OBSIDIANS: The First 100 Years*.
- Commission artist Peter Helzer (Mt. Pisgah pedestal, Ken Kesey downtown statue) to design a bronze mountain-locator sculpture on Spencer Butte, dedicated by the Obsidians for the 100th anniversary.
- Offer a centennial celebration patch for hiking 100 miles in 2027.
- Historical supplements to the *Bulletin*.
- Build a Centennial Kiosk at the Lodge gate to publicize our activities to hikers heading to the Ribbon Trail.
- A centennial celebration art piece for the Lodge gate.
- An open house at the Lodge.
- Sponsor an Obsidian Centennial Trail from the Ribbon Trail near the Lodge through Black Oak Basin park, Bloomberg park, Coryell Ridge park, to Moon Mountain park.

The Obsidian Board is seeking volunteers to chair or co-chair and to serve on an ad hoc Centennial Celebration Committee. If you are interested, contact Obsidian President Denise Rubenstein. Also, attend the October 10 Annual Meeting at the Lodge to share your ideas on how to celebrate this momentous event. Every Obsidian should consider how they can contribute to the celebration—100 years only happens once!

COOL IDEA

Mike Smith

THE SMALL, GURGLING STREAM NEARBY HAD MY ATTENTION. Should I or shouldn't I?

I was brushing and logging out Lowder Mountain while working with a sore foot. The affected appendage gave me three good hours, but during the fourth, I started having discomfort, and I still had to hike out. At lunch, near a barely flowing stream, I remembered a few weeks back in the Dia-

mond Peak Wilderness, the same sore foot, but additionally a sore toenail, worsened by wearing an extra sock. During lunch, I took off the boot, hoping it wouldn't be a mistake. It wasn't. It felt great. I pulled off the extra sock, the one underneath, and let the foot air out. It felt even better. After ten minutes, I put the other sock back on and then the boot. My foot still hurt, but I could finish the day.

Remembering, I again removed my boot. Same feeling, same questions. Should I or shouldn't I? It's difficult to put a sweaty sock back on a wet foot. So what? I have been on my

(Continued on page 4)

knees all morning, two of us removing brush on every bit of the trail through the large last meadow, although admittedly we spared the scarlet gilia and the western coneflowers. It's hot. I can use the top of the sock to wipe my foot dry. We have to wait anyway for two others returning from having gone further up to check out the summit; we had time. I deserve a break, and so does my foot.

I took off boot and sock, let my bare foot get some delightful fresh air, then put the boot back on and hobbled over to the stream to where the trail crossed several flat rocks with perhaps a half inch of water flowing slowly over them. I moved carefully off the trail, under an arch of branches, found a rock I could sit on near a small pool of water maybe six inches deep. Perfect. I sat down on the rock, removed my foot from the boot, and stuck it in the water.

Wow. Cold and great. Within 30 seconds, I felt no cold. I should have come over a half hour earlier and eaten my lunch here. The gravel bottom was fine. I could sit here for an hour or all afternoon. I wouldn't, of course, but I got a chance to

look upstream at the steep grade with a narrow chain of rivulets. It was shady and out of the way. I had hiked by this stream at least ten other times and never knew what was back here. But today I discovered it. Twenty minutes later, it was time to do some work, so I removed my foot which dried in two minutes. I put the sock on, then the boot, stepped back on the trail, and five minutes later the other two showed up. The hike out went fine.

I don't swim in Oregon because the water is too cold for me, an old man with thin skin and not much insulation. Or I am a chicken. It's great others can. Last time I swam was 2017 by a campground in the North Cascades. Several of us had just finished a hot hike. There was a lake and a boat ramp. I stripped down to shorts and ran right into the lake, the best way I can deal with cold water. I wasn't going to swim and didn't, immediately getting right out. But I was cooled down for the rest of the day. Swims do that.

See you on the trail, but probably not in the water.

SEPTEMBER BOARD NOTES

September 3, 2025

From Minutes by Angie Ruzicka

Denise Rubenstein called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Board members present: Dave Cooper, Jean Harris, Mark Hougardy, Lana Lindstrom, Angie Ruzicka, Lisa Van Liefde, Nancy Whitfield. Others present: Carla Cooper, Jim Northrop, Maryanne Reiter.

AGENDA ITEMS

Welcome Mark Hougardy

Kudos to: *Bea Fontana* for hanging Florence Sims' alpenstock and Gary Kirk's ice ax on the wall with explanatory placards, *Jean Harris* for her efforts to personalize thank you notes for donations. *Janet Jacobsen* for doing research to help personalize donation thank you notes and the *Bulletin* In Memoriam articles, *Lana Lindstrom* and *Steve Johnson* for Summer Camp—folks had an amazing time, *Sue Wolling* for leading a "biking around the city" trip and pointing out routes that folks that might find useful, *all leaders that are being creative in coming up with new hikes, especially Mark Hougardy and Joanna Alexander.*

Board Meeting Minutes (Angie Ruzicka): July minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report (Sue Zeni): We have received \$4,215 in donations in July and August! Revenue was \$9,405 and expenses were \$3,408 in July/August. We received a \$1,000 payment to the General Fund from the Summer Camp Fund (96 members @ \$10 and 2 nonmembers @ \$20). July/August expenditures were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Update on Property Tax Appeal (Jim Northrop): Jim received notification that the Oregon Tax Court Magistrate Division granted our request for a property tax exemption for the Obsidians Lodge. Lane County Counsel agreed in their written argument that the Obsidians were a charitable organization. The remaining question was whether the Lodge is

used primarily for charitable purposes. The magistrate found that it is. The land is valued at \$582,448 and the structures at \$594,000. The property tax for the 2024-2025 tax year was \$5,318.07. Dave described the potential for increasing the use of our property for classes and supporting the trail work of the Scorpions and other groups. Our shed could be used for storing tools which aligns with our mission of community service.

Email blast – Notes from the President (Denise): Denise will send an email with three things: 1) update our charitable donations, (about \$8,000 toward our goal of \$15,000) and appeal for donations, 2) explain the need for new summer camp leadership and 3) ask for volunteers who are interested in planning the 100-year celebration.

Agenda for Annual Meeting on Friday, October 10 (Denise): 6:30 Ice Cream Social—Janet Jacobsen will arrange with member Rick Sanford for Prince Puckler's ice cream donation. The agenda includes: Presidents Address (Denise), Treasurer Report (Sue), Membership Report (Diane), Board Member Nominating Process (Angie), Honored Member (Denise), Leader and Trip Awards (Angie will prepare and Denise will present), In Memoriam (Fred Crafts), and a membership vote for new board members. Jean will serve ice cream and will recruit another volunteer. Angie will bring all toppings, and Carla will take pictures.

Interim Safety Chair (Maryanne Reiter): Maryanne is working with John Miller and Lyndell Wilken to get up to speed with Safety Committee priorities. We need a member from the Trips committee to be on the Safety Committee, Dave Cooper volunteered.

Thank You for Letter of Support (Denise): Denise received a thank you from Philip Richardson of the City of Eugene for a letter of support Obsidians provided. The City received \$991,000 from the Local Government Grant Program, a state lottery-funded grant program administered by

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(Continued from page 4)

the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. The funds will be used for improvements to Suzanne Arlie Park and the Ridgeline trail.

OLD BUSINESS

Document Storage and Archiving: We need to form a committee to look at document storage and archiving. Angie and Lisa will look at Google Drive for nonprofits.

OPEN AGENDA ITEMS

Lana provided an update on the website and issues regarding renewing membership and the difference between *Unsubscribing* and *Managing Notifications*. She requested “see something, say something”—as glitches arise, please share with Lana, Carla, and Dave so they can problem-solve and reach out to our developer as needed. See the Online/Webmaster committee report for additional details.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Climbs (Wim Aarts): Two successful climbs in July and four in August. The Lodge practice and teaching evening of the third Gym to Crag class was held with four participants on July 30 by Patrick McMurdo and Maryanne Reiter.

Concessions (Carla Cooper): Sales from Summer Camp totaled \$488. A big thank you to Nancy Whitfield and Charlie Ashmore for handling sales at camp!

Entertainment (Ane McKee): We held another fun GameNight! on July 17. None was held in August.

Extended Trips (Lana Lindstrom): Lisa Van Liefde and Jean Harris are leading a three-night trip to the California Redwoods, staying at Elk Prairie State Park cabins.

Lodge Building (Dave Cooper): In July and August we had two rentals and received payment for a rental in 2026. Rentals are getting busier now. There are four in September and a probable one in October. On Sept 11 the Lodge and Grounds Committees will hold a major work party in an effort to have our facility in good shape before these rentals and the return of potlucks.

Lodge Grounds (Jim Northrop and Nancy Whitfield): The Grounds Committee is continuing with work parties to create a fire-defensible space around the Lodge buildings.

Librarian/Historian (Bea Fontana): Per a request from Jim Northrop—who liked what we did with Florence Sims’ alpenstock—we moved Gary Kirk’s ice axe from the fireplace mantel and hung it with identical hooks on the same wall as the alpenstock. We provided information on Natalie Morgan’s history with the Obsidians to Jean Harris to use in her thank you note to Boyd Morgan who donated \$1,000 in memory of his wife (Natalie). We provided information to Sheary Clough Suiter about the Woodland Carvings near the Lodge front door by Lorie Cross. He was a student of her grandfather, Art Clough. We also sent additional information about Art’s connections with the Club. We researched information for Sam Miller about his trip reports on Mt. St. Helens before and after the eruption. We also located a nice pic in our archives of the mountain before the eruption, to add to Sam’s article in the September *Bulletin*.

Membership (Diane Schechter): We have 472 members.

Online/Webmasters (Lana Lindstrom, Carla Cooper, Dave Cooper): We had a major update to the website/database at the end of July, primarily to fix membership issues. Once again, we discovered that while some issues were resolved, other connections were broken in the process. Our developer calls it “whack-a-mole”; the database has been

customized so much that it’s difficult to keep track of every thing. We also discovered that about 40 current members have unsubscribed

from email notifications. That includes ten leaders who are not being notified when folks sign up or cancel from their trips. The result: none of the unsubscribed folks will receive a 30-day notice when their membership is about to expire, nor if they move from the *Wait List* to *Confirmed* on a trip, nor if they forget their password and need to reset it. We will be sending an email to each of them that they will be resubscribed unless we hear from them otherwise. We suspect that some of them may have many items checked under “Notifications” on their User Dashboard and as a result, were getting too many emails. We reviewed our website metrics and the traffic continues to increase. We went from an average of 50-100 *impressions* (how often someone types *obsidians* into a search engine) per day during March through May to 150-200 from June through August. That includes both internal (Obsidians looking for a trip), but also external. It will be interesting to see what happens as our offerings decrease in the fall and winter.

Safety (Maryanne Reiter Interim Chair): The Safety Committee Interim Chair and the former Chair have been meeting to hand off committee duties and materials.

Stewardship (Darko Sojak): Thank you to all Obsidians stewards who over the last two hot summer months worked on a total of five in-town work projects.

Summer Camp (Lana Lindstrom): Summer Camp based at Wallowa Lake Camp was a huge success. There were 98 attendees—96 members and two out-of-area guests. Twenty-one were first timers. The grounds were beautiful; the full breakfasts and dinners were delicious and plentiful. The folks who stayed in the cabins and houses (38) and the bunkhouses (26) appreciated not having to set up tents; 13 persons stayed in seven trailers and vans. In addition to beautiful hikes—rivers, creeks, alpine lakes and meadows, Hells Canyon—many folks enjoyed spending time in Joseph, riding the pedal-powered rail bikes, and touring the Valley Bronze Foundry. Because there were no chores, there was more time to play games and socialize; having a comfortable covered area and a big lawn facilitated leisure activities including a movie night after campfire. Overall, the camp felt more relaxed than usual—no take-down, asking members to pick up breakfast and lunch supplies, lead folks, washing dishes, etc. Thanks so much to the Summer Camp committee members, specifically Steve, Angie, Pam, and Lana who started planning for the camp in November 2024. We brainstormed how to register for camp due to the many lodging options and set the fees. Thanks are due to Camp Boss Steve Johnson for scouting the site and managing the camp; Angie Ruzicka and Treasurer Pam Caples for tracking the registrations, cancellations, and lodging assignments; and Sue Wolling for entertaining and educational *Bulletin* articles. Bea Fontana built a beautiful free standing, folding easel, organized the materials on it, and collected the sign up sheets. Darko Sojak, Marguerite Cooney, and Alex Lockhart helped set-up. Lynn Meacham and Angie were once again the greeters. There are no plans for future camps; hopefully someone will step up to lead or co-lead.

Trips (Dave Cooper): In July and August the Trips committee sponsored 59 trips. We collected \$74 from nonmembers.

ADJOURNMENT

So much to see & do. So little time...

HIGHLIGHTS OF CAMP RUBENSTEIN

SUMMER CAMP 2025 WAS LOCATED NEAR THE BEAUTIFUL EAGLE CAP WILDERNESS NEAR WALLOWA LAKE. As in past summer camps, this year's camp was named after our club president, Denise Rubenstein. This was probably the most unique summer camp we've had in that it was held at a private resort campground, owned by the Methodist church, that offered a wide range of camping options for our participants. In addition to the traditional tent and RV sites, we also had dormitory housing plus sixteen cabins ranging in size from one to three bedrooms. This facility came with a dining hall and a complete kitchen staff to cook our meals and wash our dishes, which meant that there was very little setup and no assigned jobs for the week, giving our campers more time to enjoy all the diverse activities in the area...

Read Steve Johnson's full Wallowa Lake Summer Camp trip report on page 15.

THE HIKE



Signe crossing the West Fork Wallowa River.



Ice Falls.



Getting up into views and wildflowers.



Ice Lake.

ICE LAKE

A CHALLENGING BUT GORGEOUS HIKE with over 3,000 ft. of elevation gain in fifteen miles. Needless to say, only the fastest hikers could hope to return to camp in time for dinner. The reward: great mountain views, waterfalls, wildflowers, and one of the most beautiful lakes in the Wallowas.



Mountain goats at Ice Lake.

Photos by Alex Lockhart.

HURRICANE CREEK

THE MOST POPULAR HIKE OF THE WEEK, the options ranged from easy to difficult, depending upon your turn around point.



Sacajawea Mountain from Hurricane Creek trail. Photo by Lyndell Wilken.



Happy hikers on Hurricane Trail. Photo by Lyndell Wilken.



A view of Hurricane Creek tumbling through the slot canyon below Slick Creek. Photo by Dave Hawkins.



Barby Bakke at the Royal Purple viewpoint on Mt. Howard. Eagle Cap is visible in the far distance behind her. A friend used Barby's phone to snap the picture.

MT. HOWARD TRAM & EAST PEAK SPRINGS



On our way to East Peak. Photo by Steve Johnson.

STEVE JOHNSON NEGOTIATED A HECK OF A GROUP DISCOUNT FOR THE OBSIDIANS and virtually everyone at camp took advantage of the deal. The ascent in the gondola is an experience in itself. Once on top, some simply enjoyed a meal at the Summit Grill, and others did the easy hikes to one or all of the three viewpoints. Three groups hiked to East Peak Springs.



Top of the Tram-Angie, Zack, Darko, Diana, Lynn, and Silva. Photo by Steve Johnson.



Silva and Darko at the Valley Overlook on Mt. Howard. Photo by Zack Marin.

VIEWS OF HELLS CANYON

Photos by Steve Johnson.



*Vern, Kathie, Randy, Lynn, & Marguerite:
Lunch at Hat Point with a view of Hells Canyon.*

OBSIDIANS WERE ABLE TO SNAG VIEWS OF HELLS CANYON FROM SEVERAL VANTAGE POINTS. To name a few: Eureka viewpoint, Hells Canyon overlook, and Hat Point, as well as from the top of Mt. Howard.

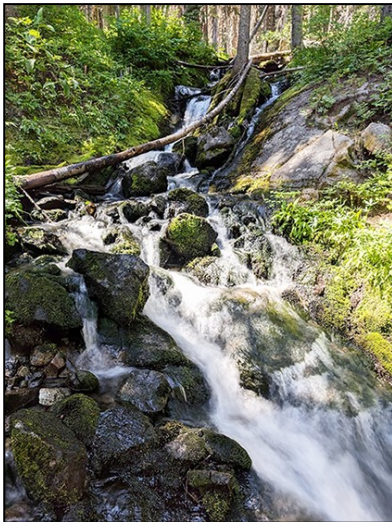


Lunch break at the Eureka viewpoint. Photo by Steve Johnson.

Photos by Steve Johnson.

CHIMNEY LAKE

A DIFFICULT HIKE—2,400 FT. IN 10.2 MILES—leads to this pretty alpine lake in the Eagle Cap Wilderness.



Bowman Creek.



*Eagle Cap viewed from the trail
above Chimney Lake.*

*Pikas were heard whistling,
but remained elusive
on the hike to Chimney Lake.
Lynn Meacham still got her
photo op with the stuffed toy
she carried in her back pack.
Mr. Pika at Chimney Lake.*

Photos by Alex Lockhart.



Creek crossing. Lynn and Kathie.



CHIEF JOSEPH MOUNTAIN TRAIL & BC FALLS

A PRETTY HIKE THAT WAS POPULAR DUE ITS PROXIMITY TO CAMP WITH SEVERAL OPTIONS. One could hike to the falls in the cool of the morning, and still have time to drive in to Joseph for other activities.

*Diana and Emily
at BC Falls.*

Photo by Lyndell Wilken.



ANEROID LAKE

A DIFFICULT HIKE THAT CLIMBS ALMOST 3,000 FEET IN SIX MILES if you go all the way to the lake. For a more moderate hike you can turn around at a waterfall a little over half way to the lake.



Monica on the trail.

Photos by Alex Lockhart.



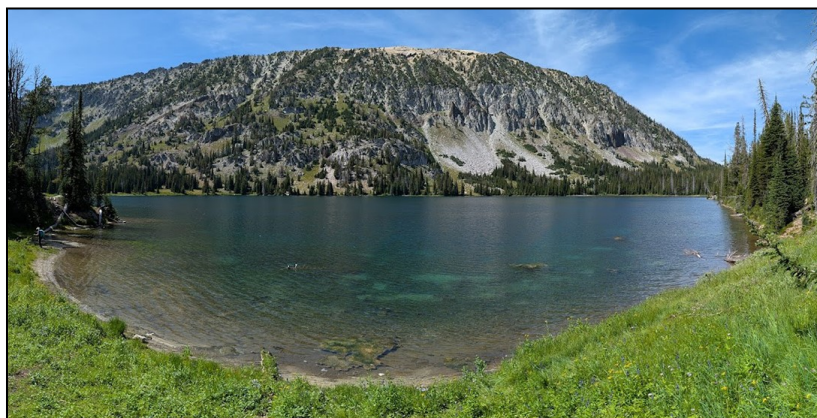
Abby, Lynn, Monica, Linda, Alex, and Becky.



*The group gets their first good look at Bonneville Mountain.
(Becky snapped the pic, using Alex's phone.)*



A view up the West Fork Wallowa River



A view of Bonneville Mountain across Aneroid Lake.



4. parsnip-flower buckwheat



3. gentian



2. hawkweed



1. sagebrush mariposa lily



5. monkey flower



6. bluebells



7. yellow columbine



8. mountain monardella



9. fringed grass-of-Parnassus



10. St. John's wort



Emily up to her armpits in flowers. Photo by Lyndell Wilken.



12. ghost pipe



11. skyrocket

Flower Photographers:
#1: Hally McCabe
#2-12: Alex Lockhart

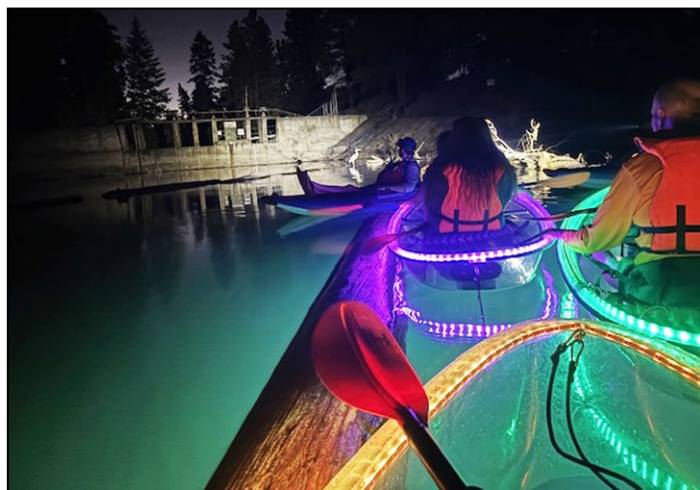
OTHER FUN ACTIVITIES

HORSEBACK RIDING



Kathie Carpenter gives Chip a thank-you pat at the end of a gorgeous trail ride. (Photo taken by the trail guide.)

KAYAKING ON WALLOWA LAKE



A heron was spotted at the after-dark kayak trip on Wallowa Lake. Photo by Jorry Rolfe.

RAIL RIDING



Dorothy, Pam, and others on Joseph Railriders. Photo by Holger Krentz.



Judy Newman paddled six miles, from the Marina near camp to the far end of Wallowa Lake. As she was contemplating the long paddle back to the Marina, a nice young couple offered her (and her kayak) a ride back on their (motorized) pontoon boat. She happily accepted.

THE TOWN OF JOSEPH



Photo by Steve Johnson.



Photo by Barby Bakke.

SOME OF THE MANY BRONZE STATUES THAT LINE THE STREETS OF JOSEPH

You could easily spend your entire week exploring Joseph. There is just one gas station, limited places to buy groceries, and good luck finding a copy shop. (The nearest one is in Enterprise.) But there are plenty of good places to eat. And the town is packed with art galleries of every description. If you're not feeling rich, you can still enjoy window shopping.



Photo by Barby Bakke.



Photo by Barby Bakke.

TOUR OF JOSEPH'S BRONZE FOUNDRY



Bronze foundry tour. Photo by Barby Bakke.



Bronze foundry tour. Photo by Barby Bakke.

IN CAMP



*Yay! Concessions. Nancy & Charlie.
Photo by Zack Marin.*



*Welcome crew busy at work - Hi Ane & Hally!
Photo by Darko Sojak.*



*The outdoor dining area at our campsite.
Photo by Steve Johnson.*



An evening of games. Photo by Steve Johnson.



Evening 'campfire'. Photo by Zack Marin.



A fox in camp! Photo by Holger Krentz.



Holger & Alice at their cabin. Photo by Darko Sojak.

Obsidians Go to Church Camp -- 2025

When we came to the Wallawas, we had no idea
That lights would turn on and water run free

The camp is deluxe, we really quite like it
The food, games, and trails are just the right fit

A bathroom with lights and a shiny new sink
Is more glam than this group ever would think

A surprising delight was extra fine dining
We could get used to this and find ourselves pining

For features of comfort for these creatures of habit
And for shepherds like Peggy, who says, Please don't grab it!

The food is divine, from Yukon golds to fresh tacos
Piled high in beans, greens, and smashed avocados

The best treat of all is the fine folks who feed us
Who clock in at dawn-thirty and leave late with no fuss.

The coffee's the best, without any doubt
It powers our mornings and helps us get out

On the trails and creek sides in high mountain air
In this land of the Nimi Puu that you steward with care

From David's cuisine to Peggy's instructions and all in between
We are grateful to you for this beautiful scene

Wallowa Creek roaring out to the sea, the dark sky bursting in six-point stars
Your nurture of nature has made your world ours

Thank you for your generous spirits—from the Obsidians of Eugene.

Brenda Johnson Kame'enui
August 12, 2025

You Know Denise

Denise, a lofty leader, our pres for a year
Has done a swell job, it's really quite clear

Her platform is outreach, she's serious about it
She brings in new folks for the Obsidians fit
The club mission is golden—to Denise it's an art
Connecting community to waters, mountains, and trails is dear to her heart

In the high-brow position of Obsidians boss
She has a reputation for collaboration, removing the moss

Denise takes fine photos of mountains, morning, and moon
Makes posters and bookmarks from pictures of loons

Ninety campers can be fussy, but not us 'cause we're seasoned
It's a big job to please folks—I can do this, she reasoned

Denise tends to dozens of delicate camper details
Success of Camp Rubinstein we surely hail

She climbs mighty mountains and fords roaring streams
Takes to new hikes like coffee to cream

When Denise leads a hike, you know where you're going
She keeps hikers happy and conversation flowing

This fierce little force could kayak to Baja
She can show you the way to Bonnie Lakes or Wallowa

What makes our official so calm, cool, and collected?
This holiday hurricane so wildly respected?

It's not tai chi, tennis, or ballet in the breeze
It's yoga she's into, on a mat in the trees

The calming effect is just what we need
The spell that abounds brings all pleasant peace

And spurs this great nation to Denise's great mission
To love nature and nurture without division

Brenda Johnson Kame'enui
August 10, 2025



*Thank you to the Wallowa Camp staff. Brenda reads her verse.
Photo by Darko Sojak.*

**THANK
YOU**

*Obsidian President
Denise Rubenstein.*

Photo by Darko Sojak.



President's Tea, Lisa, and Denise. Photo by Nancy Whitfield.

TRIP REPORTS



Summer Camp

Wallowa Lake Summer Camp

August 8–13, 2025

Leader: Steven Johnson
Camp Rubenstein

SUMMER CAMP 2025 WAS HELD AUGUST 8–13 NEAR THE BEAUTIFUL EAGLE CAP WILDERNESS AT WALLOWA LAKE.

As in past summer camps, this year's camp was named after our club president, Denise Rubenstein.

This was probably the most unique summer camp we've had in that it was held at a private resort campground, owned by the Methodist church, that offered a wide range of camping options for our participants. In addition to the traditional tent and RV sites, we also had dormitory housing plus sixteen cabins ranging in size from one to three bedrooms. This facility came with a dining hall and a complete kitchen staff to cook our meals and wash our dishes, which meant that there was very little setup and no assigned jobs for the week, giving our campers more time to enjoy all the diverse activities in the area.

There was no need to haul in our traditional summer camp equipment, so no huge rental truck was needed. We did have a small Setup crew arrive a day early to set up the game area, bulletin board, and registration table, and to prepare for the complicated check-in process of making sure everyone got to their assigned lodging. Summer Camp officially started at 3 PM on the 8th. By that evening, all 98 of those who had signed up for Summer Camp had arrived.

The evening activity at Summer Camp is usually a campfire; but due to the fire danger, campfires were banned, so instead we got together in the outdoor dining area each evening to hear trip reports and announcements. Sunday night was set aside to honor our club president, Denise Rubenstein, for taking on a very challenging job.

Hiking is always our primary activity during Summer Camp, and our great location at Wallowa Lake gave us convenient access to this area's beautiful hikes to alpine lakes, waterfalls, and mountain tops. By Summer Camp's end, our group had gone on at least fifteen different hikes, not only in the Eagle Cap Wilderness, but also in nearby Zumwalt Prairie, and at several Hells Canyon overlooks. The most popular hike of the week was Hurricane Creek with 55 hikers, followed by the Chief Joseph trail with 37 hikers. Other popular hikes were Mt. Howard and East Peak Springs, both requiring a 15-minute ride on the Wallowa Lake Tramway. The longest hike of the week was a 19-mile trek up the Lostine Valley to Mirror Lake by Jane Leng. She didn't return to camp until 10:45 at night.

Our location at Wallowa Lake also gave us access to other activities besides hiking. Several of our group went kayaking at night on Wallowa Lake with clear-bottom kayaks. The

nearby town of Joseph offered a very pleasant collection of museums and gift shops for those who were looking for a relaxing stroll. Some of our group took a tour of the bronze foundry in Joseph, and at least ten Obsidians went on a rail-riding adventure. Closer to Wallowa Lake, some participated in miniature golf, and even took a horseback ride. And right in camp, the extensive lawn gave our members plenty of room to enjoy an assortment of games, including cornhole, badminton, ladder golf, tossing a Frisbee, and more.

After participating in eleven summer camps, this was probably my favorite. The location, food, housing, and weather were all excellent, and the staff that runs the camp were wonderful people. My one disappointment with this year's camp was that it was too short. We deliberately made this camp a day shorter because of the extra cost; however, there was just so much to do and not enough time to experience it all. I'd like to encourage everyone who enjoyed this year's camp to express your appreciation to the Wallowa Lake United Methodist Camp by leaving a positive online review.

For Summer Camp to happen, a lot of volunteers come together to take on the many tasks that need to be done. I am always surprised and grateful for all the talented and generous people that we have in the Obsidians. I wish to express my sincerest thanks to the people who helped make this year's Summer Camp a success: the Summer Camp Committee of Lana Lindstrom (Committee Chair), Pam Caples (Summer Camp Treasurer and in charge of registration), Angie Ruzicka (Entertainment, duty assignments, nametags, and hiking sheet), Sue Wolling (wrote all of the Summer Camp articles for the *Bulletin*), and Holger Krentz (Camp Book editor); and the Setup Crew of Marguerite Cooney, Bea Fontana, Alex Lockhart, Lynn Meacham, Angie Ruzicka, and Darko Sojak.

Participants: Kristen Anderson, Linda Anson, Charles Ashmore, Barbara Aten, Linda B, Barby Bakke, Marsha Barr, Teresa Bowen, Kelsey Caples, Pam Caples, Kathie Carpenten, Annie Chan, Daniel Conklin, Marguerite Cooney, Audrey Cottrell, Hope Crifo, Lorraine Cuevas, Kim Davidson-Ruby, Diana Dinn, James Dinn, Donald Doucette, Lynn Drazinski, Larry Dunlap, Donna Ellickson, Clara Emlen, Patricia Esch, Joella Ewing, Jacquie Fern, Bea Fontana, Irene Fries, Abby Gershenzon, David Hawkins, Nancy Hoecker, Christiane Hougardy, Mark Hougardy, Gwyneth Iredale, Steven Johnson, Gennett Johnson, Brenda Kameenui, Peter Kay, Jane Kay, Uli Knorr, Holger Krentz, Alice Krentz, Jeff Lange, Kate Lange, Jane Leng, Kathy Lindstrom, Becky Lipton, Alexander Lockhart, Mandy Lund, Igor Marin, Zack Marin, Silva Marin, Vern Marsonette, Sheila Marsonette, Helen Martz, Diana Masarie, Hally McCabe, Verlean McCoy, Andrew McIvor, Ane McKee, Kevin McManigal, Lynn Meacham, Carol Mosman, Ed Mosman, Judy Newman, Monica Ozwoeld, Ken Parramore, Deborah Porter, Emily Rice, Pierre Robert, Ken Robinson, Jorry Rolfe, Michael Rowe, Denise Rubenstein, Angie Ruzicka, Gordon Sayre, Diane Schechter, Randy Sinnott, John Skarda, Joan Skarda, Darko Sojak, Pat Soussan, Bojana Stefanovska, Jean Stover, Sam Tracer, Lisa Van Liefde, Dorothy van Winkle, Susan Wanser, Christine Watts, Diana Wheat, Nancy Whitfield, Lyndell Wilken, Sue Wolling, Hank Wright, Signe Wright, Sue Zeni.



Hikes

Trail, Tram, Trolley, Train (Portland)

August 30, 2025

Leader & Photographer: Mark Hougardy

Hike: 8.0 miles, 1,000 ft. (Mixed)

THIS TRIP EXPLORED A MULTI-MODAL WAY TO ENJOY PORTLAND, OREGON: TRAIL, TRAM, TROLLEY, AND TRAIN (4T). Our trip began in Eugene at the Amtrak station with catching the 7:45 AM departure. The ride to Portland was uneventful, and we encountered no delays. Arriving at Union Station, we began the Trolley section of our day, taking the Orange line south to South Waterfront Station. Joining us on the trolley was a person carrying a large see-through plastic container with a python inside. Arriving at the station, we walked for about ten minutes to our next destination. We passed a person walking her dog, a large Afghan hound that had painted-on tiger stripes. Arriving at the Aerial Tram, we boarded and were whisked over freeways. At the top station,



Riding the Aerial Tram. The 4T trail.



Hiking on the 4T Trail.

we had some great views of Portland. Next, we meandered our way through the Oregon Health & Science University to the Trail section of our day. On the trail, we had lunch at the Marquam Shelter. The temperatures that day were in the high 70s to low 80s, but the high humidity made 2.5 miles of the trail feel steep! At Council Crest, some low-level clouds prevented us from viewing nearby mountains. After a brief rest, we continued downhill, crossing over the freeway via a bridge, and to the Oregon Zoo parking area, where we caught the MAX Train into downtown Portland. We had a quick break at Tanaka's sandwich shop. This was a hidden "T" destination in the trip. If time allowed, the plan was to visit the historic sternwheeler Tugboat moored on the Willamette, but we were running short on time and would visit the sternwheeler on another trip. We spent the last couple of hours exploring Powell's Books. At 5:30 PM, we left Powell's and walked to Union Station for our 6:09 PM train. Everyone made it onto the train, but the conductor would not allow the Obsidian president to board, and she had to run back to the ticketing desk to obtain a paper ticket. Both the president and the trip leader barely made the train! Then, the conductor informed the passengers that the train would not depart on time due to freight train traffic, and our train sat at the station for about 40 minutes. We arrived back in Eugene about 9:30 PM. Thanks to Marguerite for researching the garage next to the Hult Center, which can be utilized for parking on future day trips to Portland. This trip was sponsored by the letter "T". Participants: Kathie Carpenter, Marguerite Cooney, David Hawkins, Christiane Hougardy, Mark Hougardy, Evelyn Nagy, Guy Pritchett, Denise Rubenstein, Sandra Sigrist, Karen Yoerger.

Threemile Lake—Tahkenitch Dunes

August 30, 2025

Leader & Photographer: Lisa Van Liefde

Hike: 6.8 miles, 748 ft. (Moderate)

WHAT A FABULOUS DAY! PERFECT WEATHER, AND A WONDERFUL GROUP OF PARTICIPANTS, including two who had not been to this trail before. We enjoyed lunch while sitting on a



Lunch on the driftwood log.

huge driftwood log, and enjoyed watching a flock of pelicans hang out at the water's edge. All enjoyed a quick stop in Florence for an ice cream after the hike. Participants: Marsha Barr, Gwyneth Iredale, Allison Knight, Diane Schechter, Jean Stover, Lisa Van Liefde, Dorothy van Winkle.

Evening Hike: Dorris Ranch
September 2, 2025
Leader & Photographer: Lisa Van Liefde
Hike: 4.5–5.0 miles, 177 ft. (Mixed)

THE WARM, HUMID EVENING FELT MORE REFRESHING WALKING ALONG THE RIVER! We found and read a poem left in the hollow of a log. And under darkening skies, we were greeted with a colorful sunset, then thunder and rain, just as we made



Colorful sunset.

it back to our cars. Participants: Mari Baldwin, Scott Fuchise, Elizabeth Grant, Gwyneth Iredale, Tracy Johnson, David Madeira, Debra Messinger, Valerie Metcalfe, Guy Pritchett, Lisa Van Liefde.

Forest Ranch Walking Tour
September 6, 2025
Leader & Photographer: Joanna Alexander
Assistant Leader: Dorothy van Winkle
Hike: 2.5 miles (Easy)

JOHN WINQUIST OF THE EUGENE PARKS FOUNDATION (EPF) AND MAUREEN HUDSON AND HER COLLIE, LOCHLAN, GREETED US AT THE TRAILHEAD for this rare, enchanting preview of future City of Eugene parkland. For most, this was the first



Mark & Christiane Hougardy, Elizabeth Grant, Dave Predeek, Jorry Rolfe, Karla Rusow examine indigenous grinding stone.



Going uphill among lush understory toward the spring.

visit, and exclamations of delight filled the cool air. Our guides shared the natural and human history of the 73 acres and how it will fit into the EPF's vision of trails encircling Eugene. Participants: Joanna Alexander, Annie Chan, Elizabeth Grant, Mark Hougardy, Christiane Hougardy, Dave Predeek, Jorry Rolfe, Karla Rusow, Dorothy van Winkle.

Get Acquainted / Ribbon Trail
September 13, 2025
Leader: Dorothy van Winkle
Hike: 2.5 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

THIS LIVELY GROUP OF TEN HAD A VERY ENJOYABLE HIKE WHILE SHARING INFO ABOUT THE CLUB. Guests were quite impressed with the Lodge and with the variety of things we do. Thank you, members who came to help. Participants: Marguerite Cooney, Chris Dill, Vicky Hanson, Don Kanare, Isac Pederson, Jorry Rolfe, Gina Schroeder, Dorothy van Winkle, Sina Wibstad, Karen Yoerger.

Yoran Lake Loop
September 14, 2025
Leader: Jeff Orendorff
Hike: 12.0 miles, 1,300 ft. (Difficult)

THIS WAS A WONDERFUL HIKE THROUGH THE DIAMOND PEAK WILDERNESS. We enjoyed beautiful lakes, mountain views, and a bit of the Pacific Crest Trail. Participants: Elena Cantoran, Jeff Orendorff.

Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte
September 16, 2025
Leader: Jorry Rolfe
Photographer: Janet Jacobsen
Hike: 8.5 miles, 1,740 ft. (Moderate)

WE WERE A LARGE TUESDAY MORNING HIKING GROUP AS THIS WAS TOMMY YOUNG'S FINAL HIKE WITH US before his move to Florida. Janet brought treats to share while Tommy reflected on his first Obsidians hike, on May 15, 2013. Janet was the leader that day, and Tommy almost didn't go because it was raining, but he thought better of that idea and showed up late. When he arrived, Janet immediately said, "You are the last one—let's GO!" He has become a friend to many and we are surely glad he lived among us for a while.



Stopping at the 52nd & Willamette Trailhead to share memories of hiking together.

Participants: David Cooper, Jacquie Fern, Whitney Gould, Janet Jacobsen, Jonathan Jost, Margot McDonnell, Lynn Meacham, Roy Nelson, Christine Paige, Jorry Rolfe, Denise Rubenstein, Sandra Sigrist, Karen Yoerger, Tommy Young.

Thurston Hills

September 19, 2025

Leader: David Cooper

Hike: 5.5 miles, 830 ft. (Moderate)

A VERY PLEASANT HIKE ON THE SWITCHBACK TRAILS. Lots of conversations today, in particular about the expanding trails system in Eugene and the Obsidians' role in supporting the efforts of the City and the Eugene Parks Foundation. In addition to these conversations about Eugene, some plans were starting to emerge for other hikes in the Thurston Hills. Participants: David Cooper, Elizabeth Grant, David Hawkins, Gwyneth Iredale, Holger Krentz, Lana Lindstrom, Kelley McHugh, Lynn Meacham, Jorry Rolfe, Diane Schechter, Chris Stockdale.

Vivian Lake via Salt Creek Falls

September 21, 2025

Leader: Jeff Orendorff

Hike: 8.0 miles, 1,600 ft. (Moderate)

THREE BEAUTIFUL FALLS, WITH DIAMOND CREEK FALLS BEING ESPECIALLY BEAUTIFUL TODAY. We had some sun most of the morning. There were a few trees across the trail past the halfway point, but nothing insurmountable. Clouds came in at the end of our lunch break at Vivian Lake, and we had a slight sprinkle of rain for a bit. We kept a good pace and were back at the trailhead early. This was a very enjoyable hike with excellent hiking weather. Participants: Kathie Carpenter, Steven Johnson, Andrew McIvor, Lynn Meacham, Jeff Orendorff, Jorry Rolfe, Randy Sinnott.

Amazon Headwaters / Ridgeline Trail / Spencer Butte Hikes

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

Various Leaders

Eva Mogart: 9/3 9 Participants

Lynn Meacham: 9/10 15 Participants

Jane Leng: 9/17 16 Participants

Denise Rubenstein: 9/24 10 Participants

Blanton Ridge Hikes

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

Various Leaders

Janet Jacobsen: 9/2 6 Participants

Jorry Rolfe: 9/9 7 Participants

Mt. Pisgah Hikes

Hike: 3.0–4.0 miles, 1,040–1,300 (Easy-Moderate)

Jeff Orendorff: 8/31 4 Participants 9/10 2 Participants 9/12

2 Participants 9/17 2 Participants 9/19 2 Participants 9/22 12

Participants 9/24 2 Participants

Mari Baldwin: 9/7 4 Participants



Extended Trip

Redwoods—Elk Prairie State Park

September 19–22, 2025

Leader: Lisa Van Liefde

Assistant Leader: Jean Harris

Extended Trip

THE REDWOODS ARE A MAGICAL PLACE! Over several days, our Obsidian group enjoyed the feeling of being dwarfed by these breathtakingly huge specimens of nature. Part of the



*Tiny travelers on the Stout Grove Trail.
Photo by Denise Rubenstein.*



Photo by Pam Caples

group headed down on Thursday. The remainder arrived at Jedediah Smith Redwoods National Park on Friday, hiking two different trails before meeting up with the Thursday group for dinner on the wharf in Crescent City. Saturday, several groups hiked around Elk Prairie campground. On Sunday, everyone made their way to the coast, exploring and hiking Fern Canyon and the adjacent trails. What a special place! This quote, found on a trail memorial marker on one of the hikes near Fern Canyon, summed up our experiences: “You shall walk where only the wind has walked before and when all music is still, you shall hear the singing of the stream and enter the living shelter of the forest” (John Glascock Baldwin). Participants: Linda Anson, Marsha Barr, Pam Caples, Annie Chan, Marguerite Cooney, Jean Harris, Lubos Hubata-Vacek, Denise Rubenstein, Karla Rusow, Jean Stover, Lisa Van Liefde, Dorothy van Winkle, Sue Wolling.



Climbs

Mt. Washington

August 17, 2025

Leader: Danneille Harris

Assistant Leader: Sheri Gabert

Climb: 10.5 miles, 3,000 ft. (Difficult)

FIVE HARDY CLIMBERS SUMMITED MT. WASHINGTON. The partly cloudy skies limited the views but kept temperatures bearable. Everyone worked together really well to help manage rope and ensure safety on the rappels. The rain on the day before and clouds apparently kept other teams away as we had the entire mountain to ourselves. A fabulous day with a strong team. Participants: Sheri Gabert, Melanie Glock, Danneille Harris, Mark Samuelson, Jamie Sullivan.

Introduction to Trad Climbing

September 19–21, 2025

Leader: Eddie Pszczolkowski

Assistant Leader: Hannah Waight

Class

WE HAD AN ENGAGED EVENING AT THE LODGE, with the lecture running a bit long followed by a demo of anchors on the anchor board. We shifted the crag day to the next morning (Saturday) due to the rain forecast for Sunday, and all folks were able to accommodate that last minute shift. At the columns, we had a round of participants placing gear of various types at ground level, and we talked through each placement together as a group on the good points and improvement points of each. We had good questions and discussed cleaning gear, and even battled with a stuck hex. We then got onto the main buttress with three top ropes for mock leading after a harness inspection. Participants climbed either the right-most or left-most crack system, and an instructor was on top rope belay in between them giving feedback as they went up and came down. The other instructor on the ground kept an eye on participants belaying to ensure safety. We padded the lip at the top of the instructor line which was a good thing as, by the end of the day of swinging side to side, the mover’s blanket had been worn down where the rope bent over the sharp edge. Much better than the rope! After a few rounds of mock leads and feedback, with periodic discussions on questions asked, we got to the ground to demo some gear anchors. We then debriefed as a group, talking through how things went, what folks could do as next steps to further their knowledge and experience, as well as how to safely get out for leading their own lines. We wrapped up after about eight hours there, with positive reports from the participants. Things I would change for next time would be to have 30 extra minutes for the lecture portion, as things got a bit rushed. The crag day was good, but it got hot in the sun by the early afternoon, so perhaps running the course in cooler months or starting a touch earlier could be good. Participants: Melanie Glock, Sam Hillmann, Jane Leng, Eddie Pszczolkowski, Alicia Shupe, Hannah Waight.



Water Trips

Kayaking at Clear Lake

September 12, 2025

Leader: Dorothy van Winkle

Water

WHAT A PERFECT DAY WE HAD FOR A PADDLE ON BEAUTIFUL CLEAR LAKE. Only three people rented kayaks—all the rest had their own—which was quite different from when we did this trip last year. Two people stated it was their first Obsidian outing and felt very welcomed. I expect we will see them again. Participants: Heidi Anderson, Kathie Carpenter, Annie Chan, Elizabeth Grant, Jean Harris, Randy Jeremiah, Diane Schechter, Steve Scott, Mary Scott, Dorothy van Winkle, Sue Wolling.

BE THE CHANGE—SEPTEMBER

September 2, 2025

Leader & Photographer: Darko Sojak

Stewardship: 2.6 miles, 20 ft. (Easy)

ON A DRY AFTERNOON WHEN THE TEMPERATURE CLIMBED TO 92° F, TEN OBSIDIANS SHOWED UP for this month's BE THE CHANGE litter pick-up. Our group did a great job cleaning the dusty, grassy areas along the Amazon



In addition to the usual trash, we also collected a lot of reminders of



Thank you volunteers.

Trail. In addition to the usual trash, we also collected a lot of reminders of some tragic social behaviors. Bad news at the end—someone stole an electric-assist tricycle from one of our volunteers. Participants: Linda Anson, Teresa Bowen, BJ Campbell, Bill Campbell, David Cooper, Donna Ellickson, Clara Emlen, Lana Lindstrom, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak.

Rosary Lakes

September 10, 2025

Leader & Photographer: Lyndell Wilken

Stewardship: 7.0 miles, 800 ft. (Moderate)

THE ROSARY LAKES ARE READY FOR FALL SEASON HIKERS and hunters, thanks to the Obsidians who defied the possibility of thunderstorms to spend the day cleaning the lakes. The shorelines were checked, the fire rings cleaned and rebuilt, and the trash was removed from campsites. As always, we



Red elderberries along the shore.



Chris, Eva, Lindell, Paul, Ian. (Ian took the selfie.)

found some unusual objects which were carried out. The lakes were beautiful with clouds and sun coming and going throughout the day. We had a light shower on the hike out but managed to be mostly dry by the time we reached the car. Thanks to the volunteers for their stewardship. Participants: Jan Danforth, Eva Mogart, Chris Stockdale, Lyndell Wilken, Paul Winther, Ian Wright.

Lodge / Grounds Workday
September 11, 2025
Leader: Nancy Whitfield
Photographer: Carla Cooper
Stewardship

A VERY ENERGETIC CREW OF 14 WORKED ON THE LODGE AND THE GROUNDS. Two people who were new to the work parties jumped right in and earned their pay. Of course, the wages are always of the non-material sort—perhaps a feeling of a job well done and working for the good of the feeling of a job well done and working for the good of the



Sue Zeni, Maryanne Reiter, Jim Northrop, and Charlie Ashmore. club within a supportive group? The inside of the Lodge was dusted and cleaned. Bathrooms were cleaned. A kick plate was attached to the outside door, windows were cleaned, and the trim on the windows was touched up. The handicapped parking area received a cleaning. Outside, work continued on the maintenance of beds, and on removing debris and vegetation from close to the building and from defensible space. Dave Cooper, our newest Honored Member, was feted with chocolate zucchini bread (made and donated by Janet Jacobsen), pears, and sparkling water. A list of all Lodge Committee chairs was compiled by Bea and Janet and presented to Dave. An interesting statistic: either Doug Nelson or Dave has been the Lodge Chair 25% of the years since the opening of the Lodge. Once again, the volunteerism in this group is awe-inspiring. It is what makes this group work! Participants: Charles Ashmore, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Randy Jeremiah, Tracy Johnson, Doug Nelson, Jim Northrop, Maryanne Reiter, Denise Rubenstein, Pat Soussan, Susan Wanser, Nancy Whitfield, Sue Wolling, Sue Zeni.



Randy Jeremiah cleaning the high parts!



Susan Wanser needs a ladder, too, while Nancy Whitfield chooses the ground.



Nancy and Pat Soussan in the weeds.

AT THE LODGE



POTLUCK

Friday, October 24, 2025

Cycling the GAP and C&O Canal Trail, Pittsburgh to D.C.

with Lana Lindstrom & Sue Zeni

LANA LINDSTROM AND RICHARD HUGHES RECENTLY RODE THEIR BIKES ON THE GREAT ALLEGHENY PASSAGE AND THE CHESAPEAKE & OHIO CANAL TRAIL, a 330-mile traffic-free route from Pittsburgh, PA, to Washington, DC. Sue Zeni did a similar trip last year. They accomplished the route through two different experiences—one used a company to transport luggage and make the lodging and restaurant arrangements; the other was done as a self-supported camping trip.



Lana.



Sue.

Join these intrepid Obsidians as they share their experiences and different perspectives of their parallel journeys.

You do not need to be an Obsidian member to attend; no signup is necessary. All are welcome.

Visit www.obsidians.org/events/category/entertainment for more information.



Richard on the Great Allegheny Passage.

*Lana on the
Mason & Dixon Line.*



Potluck & Presentation

Friday, October 24, 2025

Obsidian Lodge

Social Time 6 PM

Potluck 6:30 PM, Presentation 7:30 PM

*Bring your favorite potluck dish to share
along with your own plate, bowl, utensils, and cup
that you'll take home to wash.
A small donation will gladly be accepted.*

OBSIDIANS EVENTS

**FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE AND COMPLETE INFORMATION
ABOUT ALL OUR ACTIVITIES, SEE THE OBSIDIANS WEBSITE**

www.observians.org

Regularly Scheduled Tuesday and Wednesday Hikes

Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Various Leaders

Distance: 8.5 mi. Elevation gain: 1,740 ft.

Tuesdays:

October 7, 14, 21, 28
November 4, 11, 18, 25

Amazon Headwaters to Spencer Butte Various Leaders

Distance: 6.2 mi. Elevation gain: 1,530 ft.

Wednesdays:

October 8, 15, 22, 29
November 5, 12, 19, 26

CHECK FOR DETAILS AND SIGN UP ONLINE

observians.org/events/

Mt. Pisgah Sunset Full Moonrise

Various Leaders

Distance: 3 miles round trip Elevation gain: 1,000 ft.

November 5

Guests welcome

**CHECK FOR DETAILS
& SIGN UP ONLINE**

observians.org/events/

GET ACQUAINTED HIKES

Second Saturday of the Month:

October 11, November 8, December 13

**Members and nonmembers, please join us!
Sign up online.**

**We need a leader for the
November 8 Get Acquainted hike.**

*This is an easy and always enjoyable
romp through the woods.*

**Please contact Dorothy for the particulars
(including if you need keys to the lodge).**

dorothyvanwinkle@yahoo.com

(541) 485-7416, land line, no texting

Thank you!



Upcoming GameNight! dates are:

Tuesday, October 7
Thursday, November 6
Tuesday, December 9

4:30 –7:30 PM at the Lodge

**Questions? Be sure to check the Obsidians
calendar before you arrive in case of a change
in date or time.**

**For more information, go to the Entertainment
page on observians.org**



UPCOMING STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SPENCER BUTTE TRAIL MAINTENANCE

**Saturdays 9:00 AM–Noon
October 25, November 29
None in December**

Have a question?

Contact observians-stewardship@googlegroups.com

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



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October 2025



Allison admires the lake.

*Photo by
Lisa Van Liefde*

*See: Threemile Lake–
Tahkenitch Dunes
trip report on page 16.*

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