



# The **OBSIDIAN** Bulletin

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## Dates to Remember

August 23-29	Summer Camp
September 2	Board Meeting
September 4	Bulletin Deadline
September 15	GameNight!

**There will be no  
August Bulletin.**

Current event schedules at:  
[obsidians.org](http://obsidians.org)

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### Bulletin Submission Policy

To submit articles  
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please send directly to:  
[obsidians-bulletin@googlegroups.com](mailto:obsidians-bulletin@googlegroups.com)



*Zak showing his skill in hanging around the Lodge.  
Photo by Jamie Sullivan.*



*At the columns. Isac's first rappel!  
Photo by Maryanne Reiter.*

*Snow day at Mt Hood.  
Photo by Dalen Willhite.*

# 2026 CLIMB SCHOOL

*Steve Davis*

*Climbs Committee co-Chair*



**T**HE CLIMBS COMMITTEE WRAPPED UP A SUCCESSFUL BASIC CLIMB SCHOOL after multiple reschedules of field sessions, in order to work around the weather. Lack of local snow sent the Obsidians to Timberline for the snow field session. To avoid poor weather, the rock field session was split into a day at the Lodge and two evenings at The Columns. It worked out well, and all Climb School participants were psyched and ready to head to the mountains on Obsidians climbs! The Diamond Peak graduation climb, rescheduled twice, was not run due to avalanche conditions. The May Mt. Thielsen graduation climb was a great success after being rescheduled to avoid thunderstorms.

**For details and more pics: See the Climbs trip reports on pp. 13-15, & p. 24.**



*Berit beaming after climbing the fixed line.  
Photo by Maryanne Reiter.*



*Thielsen Summit! Photo by Jamie Sullivan.*

# Thanks for the Memories

JIM NORTHPROP SHARED THE JUNE *BULLETIN* WITH HIS 94-YEAR-OLD AUNT in Bend, Kitty (Shaw) Holden. She climbed with the Obsidians in the 1950s and earned the Three Peak Award. She sent this email about the article, *What's in a Committee Name?* that highlighted Frank Sipe, first Scientific Committee Chair in 1947.

*It was a nice surprise to see the photo of Frank Sipe. I met him thanks to the 1953 Girl Scout Camp, when I was a counselor at Cleawox. He took small groups of campers to look at tide pools. I was in charge of seeing that everyone got back. I rode with Mr. Sipe on one of the trips and he talked enough for me to think of him as knowing a lot, and being quiet and kind. I was 21. His genius at that time, for me, was teaching how to look and be curious. He was good at that. Thanks for the memory.*

Jim added: *Had my aunt kept up her Obsidian membership, either she or my mother would likely be the Obsidians with the longest memberships. Had my aunt not accepted a job teaching art at Bend High School, my aunt would likely still be an Obsidian along with her friends Natalie and Boyd Morgan.*



## Nominees for the Board of Directors

**T**HE NOMINATING COMMITTEE'S JOB IS TO RECOMMEND THREE CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS for three-year terms beginning January 2027.

Gordon Sayre's name was presented at the June 2026 Board meeting. Lisa Van Liefde and Sue Zeni have agreed to serve another term.

Qualities that the committee considered important included: demonstrated leadership, a variety of skill sets, and commitment to the club. Our new nominee, Gordon, has led both summer and winter trips, has presented at Potlucks and Presentations, and helped research club history. Lisa and Sue have been dedicated Board members for the last 2½ years. As Vice President and co-chair of the publicity committee, Lisa has been instrumental in expanding the work of the publicity committee to broaden the club's visibility in the community. As Treasurer and chair of the Finance Committee, Sue has developed processes for managing both the day-to-day operations and solidifying the long-term financial health of our club.

All three will be voted on at the October 9 Annual Meeting. According to the Bylaws, up to three additional nominees may be submitted by petition to the secretary before the September Board meeting; signatures of five voting members are required. Bios of the nominees will be published in the September *Bulletin*.

If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee: Lana Lindstrom, Maryanne Reiter, Jorry Rolfe, Angie Ruzicka, Sandra Sigrist, Dorothy van Winkle, or Karen Yoerger.



**C**OME AND CELEBRATE OBSIDIAN MEMBER COLLEEN MILLIMAN'S 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY AT TWO EVENTS.

The first will be a 100 meter 'race' July 23 on Hayward Field to commemorate the many world and American records she shattered. All well-wishers will join her on the track for this event. Gates open at 4:00 PM for the Oregon Track Club's All Comers Meet.

On August 22 we will all gather at the Obsidian Lodge from 1 to 4 PM to sing Happy Birthday to Colleen and wish her well. No gifts. Just come yourself, eat some cake, and drink some punch in celebration.

## OBSIDIANS

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405  
Website: [obsidians.org](http://obsidians.org)

### Officers & Board of Directors

Angie Ruzicka, President  
Lisa Van Liefde, Vice President  
Jean Harris, Secretary  
Sue Zeni, Treasurer  
Dave Cooper, Steve Davis  
Mark Hougardy, Sandra Sigrist,  
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 ..... Jim Northrop  
Climbs ..... Wim Aarts & Steve Davis  
Concessions..... Carla Cooper  
Conservation/SciEd..... Angie Ruzicka  
Entertainment..... Ane McKee  
Extended Trips ..... Lana Lindstrom  
Finance..... Susan Zeni  
Lodge Building ..... Dave Cooper  
Lodge Grounds..... Nancy Whitfield  
Librarian/Historian..... Bea Fontana  
Membership ..... Diane Schechter  
Online ..... C. Cooper & L. Lindstrom  
Publications..... Lou Maenz  
Publicity..... D. Rubenstein & L. Van Liefde  
Safety ..... Maryanne Reiter  
Stewardship..... Darko Sojak  
Summer Camp ..... Angie Ruzicka  
Trips ..... Dave Cooper

## The OBSIDIAN *Bulletin*

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*The Obsidian Bulletin*

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### Deadline

for September *Bulletin*

Friday, September 4

### Editorial Team

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*Copy Editors:*

Ethel Weltman, Karen Yoerger

*Graphics Design & Desktop Publishing:*

Carla Cooper, Bea Fontana

### Assembly/Mailing Team

*Managers:* Lou Maenz, Nancy Raymond

*Team:* Tom Adamecyk, Don Baldwin,  
Barbara Gunther, Jane Hackett,  
Anne Hollander, Yuan Hopkins,  
Judy Newman

# SOUTH EUGENE MEADOWS TRAIL UPDATE

*Janet Jacobsen*

**S**OUTH EUGENE MEADOWS, PURCHASED BY THE CITY IN 2006, INCLUDED A FEW TRAILS AND A SMALL TRAILHEAD PARKING LOT on Blanton Road. Hikers wondered if this park could be connected to the well-used Ridgeline trailheads at 52<sup>nd</sup> and Willamette Street. It turns out the answer was yes, by leveraging property along dead-end 52<sup>nd</sup> Ave, thanks to some intrepid exploration by Eugene Parks Foundation members John Winquist and Kevin Shanley. The Eugene Parks

Foundation led the effort and fundraising for the SEM trail connection. The city funded, and is now close to completing, the construction of the new parking lot at 52<sup>nd</sup> and Willamette to provide much-needed access to the Ridgeline Trailheads and the new SEM trail. Watch for Obsidian hikes on the schedule.

To learn more about the South Eugene Meadows trail, read Andy McIvor's article in the [June 2023 Bulletin](#).

Below are our most recent photographs of the two projects. (Photos by Janet.)



*Safer crossing of Willamette Street, between the old Willamette & 52<sup>nd</sup> lot on the east side, and the new SEM parking lot on the west, is in the works.*



*Several members who have hiked the new trail are impressed with the design to accommodate the steep, narrow space.*



*Kiosk and toilets-enclosure at the south end of the parking lot, near access to the trails.*



*Six fiberglass bridges make it easier for hikers.*

## **OBSIDIANS MISSION:**

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

# THE MEMORIAL CLIMBING WALL

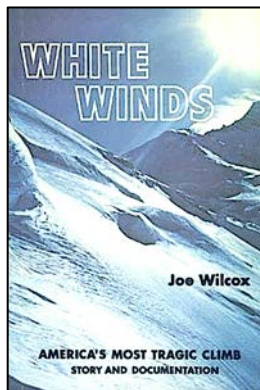
## Librarian/Historian Committee

HAVE YOU NOTICED THIS STONE PLAQUE  
BY THE LODGE FRONT DOOR?

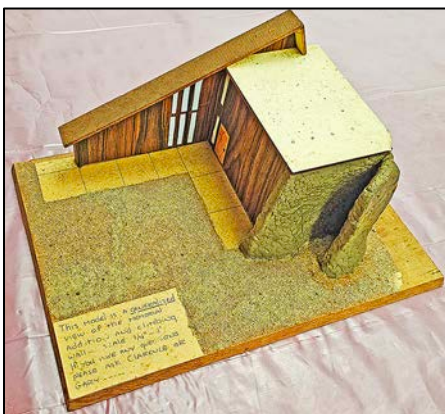


### WANT TO KNOW MORE?

**M**ARK McLAUGHLIN (AGE 23) AND JERRY CLARK (AGE 31) WERE TWO OF THE SEVEN OUT OF TWELVE CLIMBERS WHO DIED on the tragic 1967 Wilcox Expedition. Mark joined the Obsidians as a junior member in 1960, earned the Ten Peak Award, chaired Search and Rescue, served on the Board and would have been next President of the Club. From Indiana, Jerry had been a member for one year. The 11-page *Disaster on Denali* article by *Bulletin* editor Marshall Kandell in the [January 2007 Bulletin](#) (p.5) and an update in the [September 2007 Bulletin](#) (p. 7) narrate personal perspectives of the three books written about the climb.



In 1968, with a contribution by the McLaughlin family, the Obsidian Board authorized The Mark McLaughlin-Jerry Clark Memorial Fund. Clarence Landes presented the proposal and sketch: *The north entry and storage area of the Lodge will be extended and a rock wall erected to be used for climbing practice, thus benefiting all who come to the Lodge by relieving crowded conditions, and providing a site for actual performance of all different types of mountain climbing techniques.* [April 1968 Bulletin](#) (p. 2)



*Scale model of the entry addition with memorial rock-climbing wall made by Gary Kirk on display at the Annual Meeting October 11, 1968.*

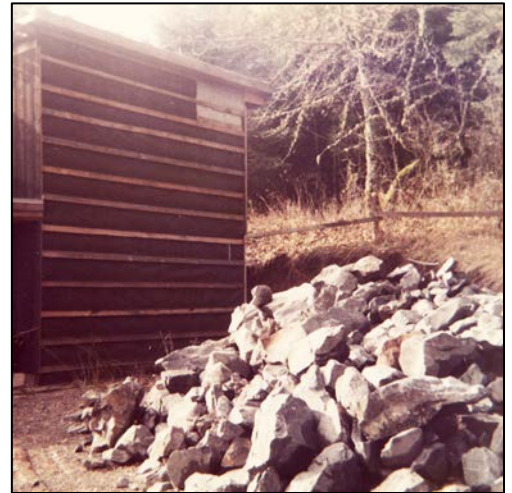
*Gary supervised the placement of each handhold and foothold as the wall was built.*

**June 1974:** *The rock facade on the north end of the Lodge is up, and Clarence Landes deserves a big hand for all the work connected with getting bids, supervising and other*

*chores connected with this mammoth job. The total cost will run something over \$3000.*

*Rock was piled for the wall January 1973.*

*Photo by Mary Castelloe.*



**July 1974:** The dedication of the wall was held for Mark's parents, Mr. & Mrs. Stewart McLaughlin and a few close friends. (Stewart P. McLaughlin was made an Honorary Member in 1970.)



*Completed Wall. Photo by Mary Castelloe.*

The wall was immediately put to use. Members needed to register by telephone for the practice sessions from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. each Thursday starting July 11.

**Climbing wall features:** The cone-shaped left end was sloped, so you could free climb up to the flat concrete roof at the top. Three anchors were embedded in the concrete slab, a couple of feet from the edge of the roof, so that as many as three people at a time could clip in, to belay climbers as they scaled the vertical mid-section of the wall, using the projecting hand- and footholds. And the right end of the wall curled around to form a 'chimney' for climbers to practice that technique.

The September 1974 *Bulletin* reported: *Fifty-four persons in six sessions have used the Rock Wall.*

# 2004–2006 LODGE RENOVATION—DO WE KEEP THE WALL?

*John Jacobsen - Ad Hoc Construction Chair*

**I**N LATE SEPTEMBER 2004, A *DANGER—DO NOT ENTER* SIGN WAS PLACED ON THE OBSIDIAN LODGE ENTRANCE after severe dry rot was discovered in the entry structure, which had been added to the main Lodge in 1967. The deterioration was significant enough that the entry addition was deemed unsafe and scheduled for demolition as quickly as possible.



*Lodge with danger warning on entry door. Photo by John Jacobsen.*

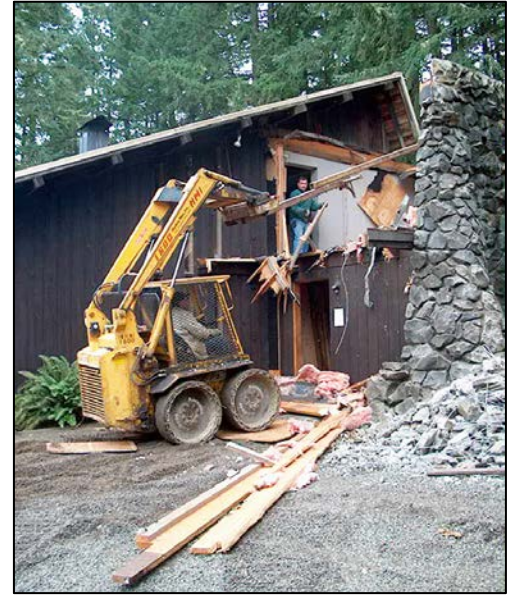
As plans for reconstruction began to take shape, an important question emerged: should the Memorial Wall be preserved, or should it be demolished along with the damaged entry structure?

A structural engineer was consulted to evaluate the wall. His assessment concluded that the climbing wall could likely be saved and would remain stable as a free-standing structure until the entry area was rebuilt. As a result, the decision regarding the wall's long-term future was deferred and incorporated into the broader planning process for the Lodge's restoration and possible expansion.

Although removing the Memorial Wall was considered due to potential liability concerns and the additional flexibility it would provide for future expansion, it soon became clear that a strong majority of Obsidian members viewed the wall as a central feature and focal point of the Lodge. Given its significance to the membership and the Lodge's history, the decision was made to preserve the wall as part of the renovation project.

So, was that the end of the saga of "the wall"? Not quite. Things moved relatively smoothly as architects were selected, renovation scenarios were developed, and meetings were held with the Obsidian membership. By March 2005, a plan was in place that included expanding the Lodge along with numerous updates and improvements to the Main Lodge.

As design work got underway, however, it became clear that a significant structural change was needed to reinforce the wall. That change added about \$25,000 to the original cost estimates and required construction of a structural CMU wall beside the Memorial Wall, tied to it with wires drilled and epoxied into the wall and rebar drilled and epoxied into the footing. In addition, strapping was required between the wall and the existing fireplace to meet earthquake standards.



*Entry addition coming down.*

*Photo by John Jacobsen.*

June 2006: A thumbs up from the city inspector, a massive last work party of volunteers, and just like that, it's over. But what a 21-month journey it was with hundreds of decisions, scores of Construction Committee meetings, thousands of volunteer hours, dozens of disappointments, and let's not forget the generous donors. [June Bulletin 2006](#).



*The wall stands alone.*

*Photo by John Jacobsen.*

At the October 2 Lodge Renovation Open House, Gary Kirk, who donated the stone plaque, rededicated the McLaughlin-Clark Memorial Wall. Mark's brother, Austin McLaughlin, sat quietly at the back of the room. [October 2006 Bulletin](#) (pp.1, 6–7)

*Note: Janet Jacobsen located Jerry Clark's siblings in Indiana, who learned for the first time that a McLaughlin-Clark Memorial Wall existed. She then arranged for 1967 Wilcox Expedition leader Joe Wilcox to present his story and slides on December 16, to a packed Lodge. See: [January 2007 Bulletin](#) (p. 17) article by Marshall Kandell, including John's photo of Austin shaking hands with Joe.*



*A small section of the Virgo galaxy cluster, photographed recently by the Rubin Observatory. Credit: NSF-DOE Vera C. Rubin Observatory.*

## **I spent years trodding trails on Earth. My son decided to explore the heavens.** *by William L. Sullivan*

**W**HO'S GOING TO SAVE THE EARTH FROM A KILLER ASTEROID? Well, possibly my son, Ian Sullivan.

He's the local kid from South Eugene High School who is now an astrophysicist, organizing the data from a giant new telescope in Chile. One of his jobs is to map thousands of previously unknown near-Earth objects.

Allow the proud dad to explain—and to share news of the Vera C. Rubin Observatory. Saving the planet is just one part of the telescope team's work.

If you've followed my "Oregon Trails" columns over the years, you may recall that Ian once launched a rocket from White Sands, New Mexico. As a doctoral student at Caltech he built an infrared camera to take pictures of background radiation from the Big Bang. His goal then was to beat the James Webb telescope into space, hoping to learn more about the origin of the universe. To succeed, he needed to send his camera 120 miles straight up, above the Earth's infrared light,

The rocket worked. The camera worked. But the project failed because the rocket itself became so hot that it gave off infrared radiation of its own.

At a price tag of over \$3 million, the experiment seemed at first like a waste of money, even to a proud dad. But it turns out that giving real rockets to young astrophysicists can be a good investment. How else can they learn rocket science?

After several years building radio telescopes in the desert of Western Australia, Ian signed on to a team with a much bigger astrophysical goal: building the largest telescope camera in the world. The project would take more than 10 years and cost nearly a \$1 billion, but it might save the planet.

At first the project had the mumbo-jumbo name: "Large Synoptic Survey Telescope," or LSST. To find asteroids, the plan was to take high-resolution pictures of the night sky over and over for 10 years. By comparing the pictures, scientists could tell what moved or changed, including previously unknown asteroids.

Seed money for the LSST came from private donors, including \$10 million from Bill Gates. Then Congress bought in. The National Science Foundation ponied up half the money, figuring that the giant telescope camera would find supernovas, variable stars and distant galaxies as well as dangerous asteroids.

The rest of the funding came from the Department of Energy. Why? Rumor has it the bureaucrats there were told the telescope could unravel the mystery of "dark energy." Although it's true the project might discover what unseen force

is causing the universe to fly apart, it's unlikely dark energy could be tapped to heat our homes.

Construction of the observatory began in 2015 atop Cerro Pachón, an 8,684-foot mountain in the desert of northern Chile, where the sky is dark and cloudless. In 2019, when the giant 28-foot primary mirror was trucked to the mountaintop, the observatory won a new name. Instead of LSST, it would honor Vera Rubin, the American astronomer many believe should have won the Nobel Prize.

Rubin's research showed that galaxies do not rotate as they should, given the gravity of their visible stars. This was the first evidence of dark matter. We now know that most of the universe seems invisible because it is not lit up in stars.



*The Rubin Observatory tops a mountain in the desert of northern Chile. Credit: Ian Sullivan.*



*Ian Sullivan recently visited the Rubin Observatory (seen on the mountain in the background) where his software is used. Credit: Ian Sullivan.*

Ian's job has been to design the telescope's software. This doesn't sound as exciting as launching rockets, but it turns out

***Sullivan (Continued on page 7)***

## Sullivan (Continued from page 6)

that most rocket science is drudgery, failure, determination—and only then success.

Consider the challenges Ian's team faced. The observatory's camera is the largest in the world, the size of a car, with an optical sensor the size of a garbage can lid. The camera takes a 3.2-gigapixel picture every 35 seconds, producing 1.3 petabytes of data each year.

A petabyte is a thousand times more than a terabyte, which is a thousand times more than a gigabyte. Sorting and storing this much data requires tapping into the largest supercomputers in the country. And yet the project demands that alerts be posted about new discoveries within 60 seconds of observation.

On top of all that, Ian's software has to detect and delete more than 10,000 man-made satellites that would otherwise confuse the images. Ian shuddered when he told me that Elon Musk's Starlink project plans to launch another 34,000 satellites into near-Earth orbit.

Satellites are already compromising a third of the Rubin Observatory images. If more satellites are launched, he says, collisions are likely to strew millions of debris fragments around the Earth, effectively blocking telescope research — and any hope of launching rockets with humans safely into space.

Ian lives in Seattle, where he works at the University of Washington. He's in charge of a team of seven, but winds up

handling much of the complicated software work himself.

When the Rubin Observatory became operational last fall, he had hoped for vacation time. In fact, he's been working harder than ever. Glitches come up that have to be solved. His data is being made accessible to scientists all over the world for free, and they all seem to be barraging him with questions.

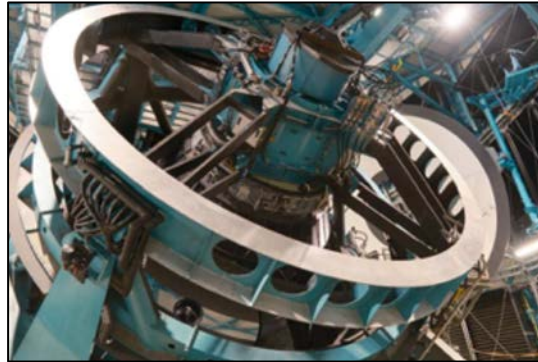
Recently Ian flew to Chile to tour the observatory in person. He'd been there once before, but now there was a tone of earnest celebration. Everything was working, with a few hiccups.

Tens of thousands of new asteroids had already been discovered, none of them yet a threat to Earth. The observatory expects to catalog millions of supernovas, 17 billion stars and 20 billion galaxies.

Ian prolonged his recent visit to Chile for four days, finally taking a genuine vacation. He and a colleague rented a car, drove to a remote hut at the end of a dirt track and hiked into the Andes. The rocky llama trails went straight up for thousands of feet, from forest to an alpine wonderland surrounded by jagged peaks.

I think he learned with me that hiking in the mountains is a stress-free form of astrophysical adventure. Without a rocket, without a telescope, it's possible to climb close enough to the sky that you're in a different world—a calmer, saner world above the troubles below.

That, I believe, is the true lure of astrophysics.



*The telescope mount in the Rubin Observatory contains a 28-foot diameter mirror.  
Credit: Ian Sullivan.*

This article first appeared in *Lookout: Eugene-Springfield* (May 14, 2026): <https://lookouteugene-springfield.com/>

## CHASING MAGMA

*EPF Talk at the Shedd Saturday, September 19*

**R**EGISTER EARLY. The Parks Talks sponsored by Eugene Parks Foundation have sold out in the past.  
<https://www.eugeneparksfoundation.org/parks-talk-chasing-magma>

You're Invited to a  
**PARKS TALK**  
EVENT

📅 Saturday, September 19th  
🕒 5:30 - 7:00 pm  
📍 Shedd Institute

**CHASING MAGMA.**  
Dr. Jeffrey B. Johnson Parks Talk

**FIELD WORK AND VOLCANO  
SCIENCE FROM AROUND THE WORLD**

**Speaker: Dr. Jeffrey B. Johnson**, National Geographic Explorer,  
Professor of Geophysics, Boise State University

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# UNDER THE SWIFTS

*Mike Smith*

*A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.*

*Wilderness Act of 1964*

I AM ALONE AT 9,453 FEET, ON A MOUNTAIN TOP the way I imagine one, a tenth acre, no trees, steep drop-offs. Above me, swifts are catching insects, their swept wings making identification easy. I am dehydrated after hiking up on a hot June day, the 32-ounce drink I brought at the start long gone from my body before I reached Josephine Saddle at 7,200 feet. I am more than a vertical mile above Green Valley, and five miles from the trailhead. A million people live below in the area I can see, and not one of them is within three hours of me by hiking, the only way up here.

My thirst doesn't matter; I am higher than any other person in southern Arizona, seeing a wonderful sunset I will never forget, the reds and oranges stunning. It was worth hiking up from my Baldy Saddle campsite to the top. I must leave soon, as it is starting to get dark, and some of the trail will not be safe in darkness. I will awaken tomorrow, away from the rush hour traffic of a large city, in one of the wilderness areas of Arizona, the trailhead little more than an hour's drive from my house. Few ever see this place, the Mt. Wrightson Wilderness, my favorite spot in southern Arizona, where I myself am a visitor and will not long remain.

I camped on Baldy Saddle five different times, once alone in a snowstorm, warm inside my sleeping bag, hearing the snow accumulate and then slide down the tent. It's a tough slog carrying a pack up Old Baldy Trail, as it is known, but one hikes in a beautiful oak woods below, pine, and surprisingly, some Douglas fir near the summit of this sky island wilderness. I have taken day hikes, once playing hooky from work for a few hours to come up in a snowstorm, returning to my job that afternoon, completely soaked, but happy and absolutely

thrilled to be alive. I have hiked up here and down the other side to Gardner Canyon, because I had never seen the Gardner Canyon trailhead. I then turned around and came back up and over. I came up the north side one day and stayed too long, hiking down in the dark with no flashlight, in old growth forest, an owl's sudden hoot making me almost jump off the trail. That was a great hike. They all are. I know the trails like old friends.

From Baldy Saddle, reached from the west by 33 switchbacks, I see Green Valley below, and the Santa Catalina mountains north of Tucson, 60 miles away. To the east, if I take about 30 steps, I see Sonoita, Sierra Vista, and south into Mexico. From the top, I see all of these by just turning, as is the Earth.

It took much effort to get up here, but that makes wilderness special. I am getting my reward tonight. I earned this view, through thirst endured and soreness tolerated. I don't yet know that later tonight, I will hear a cougar close by. I need wilderness. I can't explain it or put a dollar sign on the value; I need it. Periodically, I reach a time in my life where I know I need to get outside and hike somewhere. It doesn't have to be long, but it has to be away from people. I can't prove it, but I suspect others might become happier if they went into the wilderness, even a short distance, where they too would not long remain. I think perhaps all humans still need wilderness, but perhaps the need has been allowed to atrophy too much. I needed Mt. Wrightson tonight. Right now, however, I need to return to my campsite, pronto. The swifts call, still catching bugs, as I start down the rocky trail, rapidly darkening woods below, the last bit of red still visible in the west.

See you on a wilderness trail.

---

## JUST RIGHT

### A fortuitous coming together of two organizations

*Nancy Whitfield, Lodge Grounds Chair*

HAVE YOU EVER HAD A MOMENT WHEN YOU KNEW SOMETHING WAS SO RIGHT? A situation where you can almost hear the pieces click into place?

Here's the story. The Obsidian grounds have undergone some major changes in the last year, all in the name of defensible space. Areas have been cleared and cleaned up in an effort to provide a space around the Lodge more easily defended from wildfire. Along this journey, an instructor teaching many aspects of wildfire fire service rented the Obsidian Lodge, providing training for wildfire fighters. A chance conversation between myself and Ross Nettleship, the instructor, led to the formulation of an idea between us. A year ago the conversation went something like this:

"Wow, you guys are doing a great job on your defensible space," Ross said.

"Thank you very much. We have just begun our journey. It's nice to hear that from someone who works with wildfires," I replied.

"I also teach chainsaw classes and am always looking for places for the students to have a chance to practice," Ross said thoughtfully. "Hmm."

"Hmmm. Is this a place that would work for your students?" My heart thumped a little harder. As the new

*(Continued on page 9)*

## ***Just Right (Continued from page 8)***

Grounds Committee chair, I had just begun to realize the enormity of the work needing to be done. My antennae had been up all the while, trying to figure out how it could be accomplished.

Ross enthusiastically answered, “Oh yes, this is perfect. Give me a call around the first of the year.”

When Ross once again rented the Lodge in May to teach a class for firefighters, Dave Cooper, the Lodge Committee chair, brought up the idea again. The time was right and the arrangements were made for his students to experience a couple practice days clearing brush and falling some dead trees on our property after the classroom instruction. Voila!

On the first day of the outside-the-classroom practice, I opened the Lodge and was on site for several hours. I arrived at 7:58, two minutes early, to open the gate. As I pulled up to the gate, a line of vehicles and young men were waiting and chatting. Personal introductions and *good mornings* were politely and freely given—a real pleasure to hear the friendliness, politeness, and enthusiasm. Numerous times, the students and instructors said how they love the Lodge and grounds and are grateful to be able to have classes there.

service in Lowell. After retirement, they became instructors in the private sector. Through this connection, Ross and his brother Wes became the next generation of instructors. They now teach together many of the NWCG (Northwest Coordination Group) fire courses. Ross counts his work with Ron the greatest honor in his career. Here is a sample of the classes he teaches: Annual Fireline Safety Refresher Training, Annual Training Review, Entry Level Firefighter Course, Firefighter Training with Field Day—these are just a few—I counted two dozen classes on his list.



*The Firefighter work crew,  
practicing on the Obsidian Lodge grounds.  
Photos by Nancy Whitfield*



During the morning, I tackled a few small tasks. As I worked, I heard the voices of the firefighters—enthusiastic, polite, considerate, happy sounding. Before work began, instruction was provided in small groups.

Back to Ross. He has been a firefighter for 27 years, an instructor for 12 years. Firefighting has taken him all over the western USA. He works with his brother, Wes.

As a crew boss he started attending every new firefighter class so he could cherry pick the best candidates for his crew. His instructors were the best, Ron and Larry Kintzley. They had spent their entire careers working for the forest



Working with this crew has been a fulfilling and delightful experience. All work was completed efficiently and skillfully. The instructors and crew were conscientious and paid attention to detail. And, they love the Obsidian Lodge and grounds. What more could we wish for?

If you have need for someone to complete fuels reduction work, Ross can point you in the right direction. Every spring, the fire crews are looking for work while waiting for a dispatch.

To quote Ross, “On behalf of McKenzie Fire and Rossavik LLC, we would like to express our gratitude in being able to use your beautiful facility to train.”



# Summer Camp: Bigger Than Us

*Karen Yoerger, 2026 Summer Camp Boss*

AT THE END OF MAY, ANGIE RUZICKA, SANDRA SIGRIST, AND I TOOK A FIVE-DAY SCOUT TRIP to check out the Strawberry Mountains and Grant County in preparation for Summer Camp. On our way to Lake Creek Youth Camp, we drove to tiny Seneca and pulled up to a bright red building, *Bear Valley Stores*. The entrance was flanked by two carved wooden bears, and the storefront sported rusted tools, bleached antlers, antique thermometers, and a sign that began, "All employees are advised to take a bath before reporting to work." (Stop by to read the rest!) The porch had collected wooden benches, bird houses, a bulletin board, metal artwork, and a sign, *Open*. We went in. The owner had a little of everything, he said. Was there something that he could help us find? We explained Summer Camp, then cruised the store, locating basic groceries, a variety of snacks, camping and fishing gear, batteries, and more. Ice cream bars! Excellent homemade sandwiches! He told us that he would have ice for sale by August if, he added with a wink, he could perfect the recipe by then.

Angie discovered the *Java Jungle & Tropical Tan* on our first morning. It's an unassuming storefront in downtown John Day. The friendly barista/manager makes Seriously. Good. Coffee. We didn't tan, but we returned for coffee daily. By Friday, the owner's dog was running to the door to greet Sandra.

The recreation director at the Prairie City Ranger District Office was especially helpful. We spread out a map and she patiently answered our questions about the hikes in our camp booklet, road and trail conditions, and additional places that might be worth a visit including the location of their family reunion campout. In a small world moment, it turns out she is the daughter-in-law of the camp director who we would meet the next day. She was excited that two seasonal employees were about to begin work, and worried because the transmission had just failed on their only road grader. We appreciated her time, especially considering that she now has more than one title and additional responsibilities. With staff retirements and budget cuts, it is hard to get everything done. A Malheur National Forest pin was only a dollar at the front desk, and it would look great on your Obsidians hat or vest!



*Angie at the Harney County Museum.  
Photo by Sandra Sigrist.*

Check out Marti Gerdes' article in the May *Bulletin* about the Kam Wah Chung Museum. We really enjoyed the tour! The Grant County Museum in Canyon City was much larger and had more displays than we expected, including photographs, tools, books, period furniture and clothing, historical information, and the Joaquin Miller Cabin. We reminisced about similar items that our grandparents had. I donated a quarter to the museum slot machine, and it is totally untrue that Angie was seen riding the palomino horse.

***(Continued on page 11)***



*Sandra at Strawberry Lake. Photo by Karen Yoerger.*

## Summer Camp: (Continued from page 10)

Lake Creek Youth Camp was lovely, shady, and green. Deborah, the camp director, showed us around, answered all of our questions, and is clearly very committed to the camp. It was established in part by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, and is now operated under a special use permit from the Malheur National Forest. Deborah's background in business enables her to run the camp as efficiently as possible with a volunteer board and staff. The previous weekend, ten volunteers came to clean, paint, repair, mow, and remove downed trees. The dining hall/lodge is beautiful, the bunkhouse cabins are pleasant, the area for tents along the creek is spacious and inviting, and there is a big lawn for games. We were awed by the bathhouse with NINE showers and sinks (with four more in another bathhouse). No waiting! We heard from local folks that kids and teachers were looking forward to an upcoming outdoor school, and several group retreats and family events are already on the schedule.

Strawberry Lake was gorgeous, nestled amid boulders and green forest, backed by snow-clad peaks. Up the trail, we navigated some blowdown and crossed several log bridges, including one that was partially collapsed. Strawberry Falls

was running full and splashing down on moss-covered rocks. Sparkling icicles decorated the cliff. Above the falls, patches of snow still covered the trail. I slipped and strained a leg muscle. The return over the collapsed bridge would be hard, but Angie and Sandra were already across, in steady positions. I made it over safely, helped by their outstretched hands.

I originally intended to write about what we could do at Summer Camp to build a greater sense of community within our own organization. But after this scout trip, what I really want to tell you is this: Grant County is *home* for everyone that we met. They are excited to have us visit, and they are offering us an opportunity to enjoy their home—the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness, lakes, trails, museums, backroads, history, stores, the Lake Creek Youth Camp—*everything*. We often hear that western Oregon and eastern Oregon don't understand each other's values and problems, that we seem unable to bridge our differences. While we're at Summer Camp, let's accept their offer and reach back to them, with appreciation, curiosity, consideration, friendly conversation, and yes, by buying something. Let's do what we can to build more connection, find ways to cross the bridge, and add more understanding to our photos and memories. Summer Camp can be bigger than us.

## Reminder of Summer Camp Cancellation Policy

**I**F YOU ARE NO LONGER INTERESTED IN ATTENDING SUMMER CAMP, EITHER SIGNED UP OR STILL ON THE WAIT LIST, please cancel online promptly, so that others may move up the list.

Due to fixed costs, \$50 of the total camp fee is nonrefundable for all cancellations. Registrants who cancel online by July 15 will receive a refund, less the \$50. Registrants who cancel online on or after July 16 will not receive a refund unless your vacancy is filled, in which case you will receive a refund less \$50.

## JUNE BOARD NOTES

June 3, 2026

### From minutes by Jean Harris

Angie Ruzicka called the meeting to order. Board members present: Dave Cooper, Steve Davis, Jean Harris, Mark Hougardy, Angie Ruzicka, Lisa Van Liefde, Nancy Whitfield, Sue Zeni. Others present: Carla Cooper, Karen Yoerger .

### AGENDA ITEMS

**Kudos:** From Dave to Lynn Stearney, who will be the backup for the trips committee. From Nancy - wow to the person who teaches firefighting practices. He used the Lodge for training with no rent charged in exchange for tree removal and brushing. Excellent results. Angie to Steve Davis for all the time spent on the liability work.

**Minutes:** May board meeting minutes approved.

**Treasurer's Report (Sue Zeni):** Revenue was \$806 (not including donations) and expenses were \$10,143 in May for a total net revenue of \$-9,336. Our large expenses include a \$4,800 payment to NOLS for the Wilderness First Aid class, Revolution Design (\$1,800) and the tax accounting bill

(\$1,800). 2025 state and federal taxes have been filed. \$182 in Oregon taxes were paid. We also paid a deposit of \$372 on an extended trip. May expenditures approved.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Onboarding Board Members Proposed Project (Mark Hougardy):** Mark is working on a Masters degree in nonprofit leadership that includes 150 hours of experiential learning. For his capstone project he proposes to review the Club's processes and documentation to develop a one-page document for new Board members. His work will include reviewing documents and meeting with people. Mark shared several documents describing his plan for the next several months and will share his results at the November Board meeting. The final document will be completed by January. The Board approved the project, Angie will be the sponsor and Mark the manager.

### OLD BUSINESS

**Nominating Committee Update (Angie):** The three nominees are Lisa van Liefde and Sue Zeni, who will continue, and Gordon Sayre. Names will be shared in the July

*Bulletin*, bios in the September *Bulletin*, and a vote at the annual meeting in October. Thank you to these three!

**Summer Camp Update (Karen Yoerger):** Karen, Angie, and Sandra visited the camp in May, received a great tour, including cabins, dining hall, and activities. Options are basic cabins, camping along a creek, and RV spaces. They visited local places, forest service people were helpful, and the Grant County locals are proud of their area. They hiked many trails. Exciting!

**Archiving Documents Next Steps (Angie):** Moved to next month.

**Liability Waiver Continued (Angie/Steve):** Steve shared a four-page liability waiver and risk statement that he and Jim created and continue to improve. We discussed next steps, what to do right away and what to do later. Angie is working with the Center for Nonprofit Law for guidance. Carla advised on website use.

#### OPEN AGENDA ITEMS

**Jean:** Request for support for a Marion County campground restoration grant project, writing a letter of support from the Obsidians.

**Dave:** Change to Lodge rental wording.

**Sue:** Fraud exists for other nonprofits, need to continue checks and balances.

**Nancy:** Project—discussion of what holds the Obsidians together.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Climbs (Wim Aarts & Steve Davis):** The Climbs Committee ran two climbs in May. After a climb up icy snow, 9 Obsidians topped Middle Sister Memorial Day weekend in sparkling skies and calm weather. Maryanne Reiter led and was assisted by Miranda Trieston and Steve Davis. The Mount Thielsen graduation climb, rescheduled from early May due to thunderstorms, was successfully completed May 30 with 5 graduates of the 2026 Basic Climb School. Even in late May conditions were ‘Alpine’ with snow and rime ice. Maryanne Reiter led and Jamie Sullivan assisted.

**Concessions (Carla Cooper):** Sales at the May potluck totaled \$34, plus we had one prepaid order for a vest. Thank you to Nancy and Marguerite for working the potluck.

**Entertainment (Ane McKee):** May’s Potluck & Presentation had Franziska Adair of [HikeOregon.net](http://HikeOregon.net) talk about how wildfires have affected several trails in Oregon. We hosted 56 diners, and 68 folks attended the presentation. We collected \$5 from the donation box.

**Librarian/Historian (Bea Fontana):** We wrote Bill McWhorter’s In Memoriam for the June *Bulletin*. We wrote an article for the June *Bulletin*, about the history of the Science/Conservation/Sci Ed committee, attempting to sort the twisted threads of its various incarnations. Since there was no way to make it simple, or to give all the chairs due credit, we contented ourselves with a few highlights, then posted a PDF of Janet’s detailed, chronological spreadsheet with the Historical Items in Members Area of the Obsidian website.

**Lodge Building (Dave Cooper):** We had two rentals in May providing us \$450 income. Fire extinguishers and emergency lighting checks are up to date.

**Lodge Grounds (Nancy Whitfield):** Much was accomplished on the upkeep of the grounds this month. The handicap parking area was power washed, beds were refreshed and weeded, shiny geranium was tackled, four yards of mulch were delivered and spread, mowing and weed whacking kept the weeds and grass at bay, wood was cut up and cleanup continued along the fence.

**Membership (Diane Schechter):** 459 members.

**Online/Webmaster (Lana Lindstrom & Carla Cooper):** Overall, the website continues to operate well despite some recent annoyances. The Obsidians are in the developer’s queue to increase the amount of time before we are logged off and also to figure out why some leaders are no longer being notified when someone signs up or cancels for their trip. In addition, in accordance with the Oregon bill which was recently enacted to itemize the possible risks folks assume when engaging in outdoor activities, we will be substantially increasing the length of our Release of Liability statement.

**Publications/Bulletin (Lou Maenz):** We published the *Bulletin* and mailed 200 copies.

**Publicity (Denise Rubenstein & Lisa Van Liefde):** The Obsidians had a successful tabling event at Mt. Pisgah’s Wildflower Festival May 17. The activity poster board and vintage climbing gear continue to draw attendees. Thank you to our volunteers: Heidi Anderson, Mandy Lund, Steve Davis, Denise Rubenstein and Lisa Van Liefde. The Publicity Committee is seeking assistance with social media posting (FaceBook & Instagram). If interested, contact Lisa Van Liefde.

**Safety (Maryanne Reiter):** The Safety Committee performed the monthly check on the AED, added some first aid supplies to the cabinet where the AED is stored in case of injury during Lodge events. The Committee also wrote a short article on the current thinking about first generation antihistamines.

**Science Education (Angie Ruzicka interim):** We had one activity in May—a trip to the Eugene Natural History Society May speaker.

**Stewardship (Darko Sojak):** Obsidian stewards worked on three projects in the area. In addition, our dedicated volunteers have participated in numerous volunteer projects near and far. Thank you everyone.

**Summer Camp (Angie Ruzicka):** Our long-awaited scouting trip to the Strawberry Mountains was very productive. We familiarized ourselves with Lake Creek Camp layout and facilities; explored local services and attractions in John Day, Prairie City, Canyon City and Seneca; and checked out several trailheads. Emails with lodging assignments will be sent this week to all folks signed up.

**Trips (Dave Cooper):** 26 hikes and 1 kayak.

# TRIP REPORTS



**Climbs**

## 2026 Basic Climb School

March 10, 2026

Leader: Dalen Willhite

Assistant Leader: Steve Davis

Climbs (Moderate)

**T**HE 2026 CLIMB SCHOOL HAD A GREAT GROUP OF STUDENTS AND VOLUNTEERS but we were met with difficult weather and conditions for our field days. In the General class and Snow-focused class, we were able to cover the basics of what to expect in a climb, basics for your pack, equipment, safety and so much more. The Snow Field session had to be held at



*Snow day practicing rope travel. Photo by Dalen Willhite.*

was moved inside due to rain. The students learned to ascend and travel horizontally on fixed lines. They also did mock rappels and learned how to build climbing anchors. Then, on two evenings in April, we did real climbing and rappelling.

Everyone learned new things and had fun. It will be great seeing our graduates attend their Graduation Climbs and beyond. Participants: Steve Adams, Melissa Asher, David Ball, Daniel Conklin, Donna Ellickson, Berit Everhart, Sarah French, Evan Goulette, Zoe Hansen, Hilary Harris, Randy Jeremiah, Zak Johnson, Lisa King, Kara Lonberg, Henry Lopez, Thea Peck, Isac Pederson, Kathryn Reynolds, Joel Rice, Hobe Robin, Ken Robinson, Martin Thompson, Jack V., Jasmin Wheeler, Sean Wuilliez.

## Middle Sister Climb

May 23, 2026

Leader: Maryanne Reiter

Assistant Leader: Steve Davis

Climbs: 18.0 miles, 5,300 ft. (Difficult)

**WE HAD NINE OBSIDIANS CLIMBERS ON MIDDLE SISTER OVER MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND.** When we got to our high camp, the wind made setting up tents daunting. We then had a practice session to review traveling on a fixed line on snow. In



*Learning the ropes at the Columns. Photo by Sandra Sigrist.*

Timberline due to a lack of sufficient snow in our local hills. The students had a great Rock intro class at the Lodge, where they learned knots, how to care for soft goods (ropes, etc), climbing technique and more. The next evening, we were at the Willamalane Bob Keefer Center in Springfield for some time on the rock wall. The students learned how to belay and climb, as well as more technique practice on the boulder wall at the rock gym. Every student was belay certified for climbing the Willamalane Rock Wall. The April 11 outside rock session



*Heading up the mountain. Photo by Miranda Trieston.*

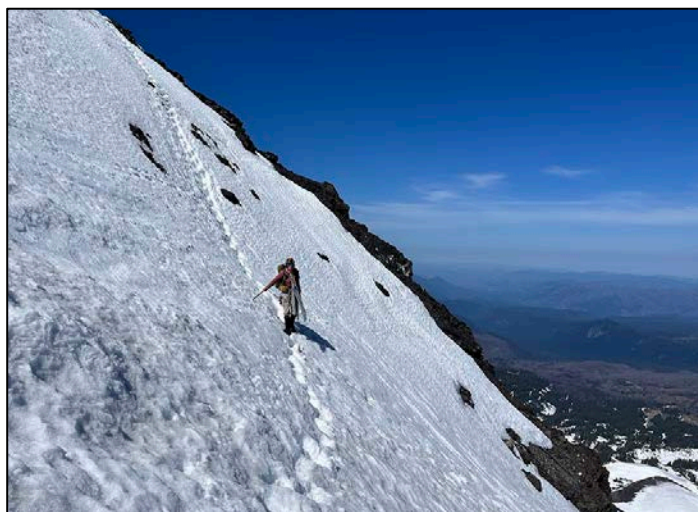
the middle of the night, the wind died down, and when we got up at 4 AM, it was calm. The strong team started out at 5:15 AM and was on the summit around 9:30. We had an uneventful



*Summit of Middle Sister. Photo by Julie Polhemus.*



*Evan chilling on the summit in his chair. Photo by Maryanne Reiter.*



*Maryanne picking up all the gear on the way down. Photo by Miranda Trieston.*

descent from the steep upper part of the mountain, and then took off harnesses and crampons and were able to glissade in some spots before getting back to camp. The hike out was quick. Participants: Steve Davis, Berit Everhart, Evan Goulette, Mark Kintigh, Henry Lopez, Isac Pederson, Julie Polhemus, Maryanne Reiter, Miranda Trieston.

## **Mount Thielsen Graduation Climb**

**May 30, 2026**

**Leader & Photographer: Maryanne Reiter**

**Assistant Leader: Jamie Sullivan**

**Climbs: 10.0 miles, 3,800 ft. (Difficult)**

**SEVEN STRONG OBSIDIANS BRAVED ALPINE CONDITIONS TO SUMMIT MOUNT THIELSEN.** The snow, rime ice, and sometimes limited visibility did not stop us from climbing. We had to wait for the



*Up the cold slope.*



*Happy Hobe after climbing the fixed line.*

hard snow to soften and then continued on. The summit block was dry and we easily climbed it, and then had an exciting rappel into the mist. Participants: Berit Everhart, Evan Goulette, Steve Mokrohisky, Isac Pederson, Maryanne Reiter, Hobe Robin, Jamie Sullivan.

**Mount Bailey Climb With Mount Scott Option:  
Happy Father's Day!**

**June 21, 2026**

**Leader: Steve Davis**

**Climbs: 10.0 miles, 3,200 ft. (Difficult)**

SIX EAGER AND ROBUST OBSIDIANS CLIMBED MOUNT BAILEY ON A SPARKLING CLEAR MOUNTAIN DAY. After hiking the increasingly steep and rocky trail to timberline, we stopped for a few



*Rock sculpture on the summit ridge. Photo by Jane Leng.*



*The crew descending the loose and steep climbers trail. Photo by Jane Leng.*



*Steve, Ricky, and Jeff traversing the climbers trail. Photo by Marti*

minutes to admire a beautiful, small volcanic crater. From there, we ascended to the summit ridge and followed the climbers trail, gingerly in places, to the summit. While on the summit, we admired views stretching from Mt. Jefferson in the north to Mt. McLoughlin in the south to Mt. June in the west. Hundreds (thousands?) of California Tortoiseshell butterflies fluttered around and past us the entire time we were on the summit. On the descent, a few of us took a short side excursion to see the Hemlock Butte Ski Cabin, then continued down the trail past some freshly sprouted sugar stick saprophytes. A great day in all! Participants: Steve Adams, Steve Davis, Marti Gerdes, Jane Leng, Jeff Orendorff, Ricky Orendorff.



*Jane carefully descending to the rock step. Photo by Marti Gerdes.*



**Bike Trips**

**Row River Trail, Whole Length**

**June 14, 2026**

**Leader: Darko Sojak**

**Assistant Leader: Angie Ruzicka**

**Bike: 33.0 miles, 1,390 ft. (Moderate)**

**A**N EARLY START WAS A GOOD DECISION, EVERYONE AGREED. From Bohemia Park in Cottage Grove, along the scenic Row River, Mosby Creek, and Dorena Lake, all the way to Culp Creek. After our lunch break, we cycled back, stopping at Dorena Dam. The reward of a June morning was beautiful weather, friends, and ripe wild cherries. It was 88°F by noon

when we finished our ride. Our 33-mile jaunt reminded us that life is better on bike wheels. Participants: David Clinger, Clara

Emlen, Jessica Johnston, Kate Lange, Jeff Lange, Robert Messick, David Morris, Kirk Powell, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Marian Sparks.



Clara Emlen with her new trike. Photo by Darko Sojak.



Wild cherries were ripe.

Photo by Darko Sojak.



Jessica, Angie, and Marian. Photo by Jessica Johnston.



## Hikes

### Evening Hike: Spring & 30<sup>th</sup> to Hendricks Park

May 27, 2026

Leader: Lisa Van Liefde

Assistant Leader: Mandy Lund

Hike: 2.7 miles, 449 ft. (Easy)

**A** WARM EVENING HIKE WAS ENJOYED BY ELEVEN MEMBERS AND ONE NONMEMBER. Hendricks Park was lovely to explore and enjoyed by all. Participants: Steve Adey, Marguerite Cooney, Margot Cortez, Whitney Gould, Vicky Hanson, Gwyneth Iredale, Sandra Larsen, Mandy Lund, Evelyn Nagy, Ginny Reich, Lisa Van Liefde, Sina Wibstad.

### Marion Mountain

June 2, 2026

Leader: Steven Johnson

Hike: 12.0 miles, 2,000 ft. (Difficult)

**T**HE SNOW IS GONE AND SUMMER WEATHER IS ALREADY HERE, SO I've started the hikes I normally don't do until July. Our hike up Marion Mountain enjoyed perfect weather, a side trip to Marion and Gatch Falls, and even a quick dip into Marion Lake. Participants: Steve Adams, Jacquie Fern, Marti Gerdes, Whitney Gould, Steven Johnson, Mark Kintigh, Lynn Meacham, Marian Sparks.

### Nelson Trails / Butte Disappointment

June 9, 2026

Leader: Roy Nelson

Assistant Leader: Jean Harris

Photographer: Darko Sojak

Hike: 5.0 miles, 1,400 ft. (Moderate)

**W**EATHER WAS PERFECT FOR THE HIKE, cool and no rain.



Coming down the Butte.



*Rim road and Lookout Lake.*

Participants: Robin Armstrong, Mari Baldwin, Jean Harris, Roy Nelson, Guy Pritchett, Darko Sojak.

### **Canyon Creek Meadows**

**June 10, 2026**

**Leader: Steven Johnson**

**Hike: 8.0 miles, 1,400 ft. (Moderate)**

CANYON CREEK MEADOWS IS ALWAYS A BEAUTIFUL HIKE and this time was no exception. Due to the lack of snow, I scheduled this trip more than a month earlier than previous years. I'm happy to report that the snow is almost gone and there are no mosquitoes. The only problem we had was a good-sized tree had blocked the road three miles from our trailhead; however, our group of 12, with help from Robert Messick's SUV, was able to budge the tree far enough for us to drive by. The views from the summit were great, but it was cold. Participants: Ben Brown, Kathie Carpenter, David Clinger, Steven Johnson, Mark Kintigh, Jane Leng, Lynn Meacham, Robert Messick, David Morris, Rae Obrien, Marian Sparks.

### **Evening Hike: Dorris Ranch**

**June 10, 2026**

**Leader: Lisa Van Liefde**

**Assistant Leader: Mandy Lund**

**Hike: 4.5 miles (Easy)**

TWELVE OBSIDIAN MEMBERS AND ONE GUEST ENJOYED A HIKE THROUGH THE HAZELNUT ORCHARDS and along the riverbank path at Dorris Ranch. Participants: Marguerite Cooney, David Cooper, Margot Cortez, Jennifer Crim, Alan Foley, Whitney Gould, David Hawkins, Don Kanare, Mandy Lund, Vern Marsonette, Ginny Reich, Lisa Van Liefde, Sina Wibstad.

### **Iron Mountain**

**June 12, 2026**

**Leader: Steven Johnson**

**Hike: 8.0 miles, 1,900 ft. (Moderate)**

IRON MOUNTAIN IS ALWAYS A FAVORITE FLOWER HIKE IF IT'S A GOOD FLOWER YEAR, and it appears to be. Our group hiked clockwise from Tombstone Pass up to the Iron Mountain lookout, then continued on to the Cone Peak saddle, where we had our lunch. From there, we hiked the last three miles through the beautiful, flower-draped Cone Peak meadows. Participants: David Clinger, Jacquie Fern, Marti Gerdes, Steven Johnson, Tracy Livernois, Lynn Meacham, Robert Messick, Rae Obrien, Angie Ruzicka, Marian Sparks, Sue Wolling.

### **Get Acquainted / Ribbon Trail**

**June 13, 2026**

**Leader: Dorothy van Winkle**

**Hike: 2.5 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)**

WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS ON TODAY'S HIKE INCLUDED A YOUNG DEER, a lone turkey, and what we think was a gopher snake. The tiger lilies were nearly spent. A special thanks to Sam for providing extra help to one of our guests. Participants: Marguerite Cooney, Wendy Edmonds, Louella M., Barbara Maki, Cameron Padilla, Sam Tracer, Dorothy van Winkle.

### **Hardesty Mountain**

**June 15, 2026**

**Leader: Jeff Orendorff**

**Hike: 10.0 miles, 3,300 ft. (Difficult)**

THIS WAS A GREAT HIKE UP HARDESTY. There were very few bikes on the trail and it was nice to be hiking in the shade. It is always nice to see the giant Doug fir trees along this trail. Participants: Jeff Orendorff, Ricky Orendorff.

### **South Cinder Peak**

**June 17, 2026**

**Leader: Steven Johnson**

**Hike: 13.4 miles, 2,200 ft. (Difficult)**

FOR OUR HIKE UP SOUTH CINDER PEAK, WE BEGAN AT THE CABOT LAKE TRAILHEAD. Unfortunately, the road into this trailhead is in very rough shape, passable, but I recommend a high-clearance vehicle. The first two miles pass through the 2003 B&B burn area, so there is lots of sun exposure. At five miles in, we passed Carl Lake and began a two-mile climb to the summit of South Cinder, where we enjoyed excellent views of the Cascades. On the way out, we stopped at Carl Lake, and some of us had a very cool and refreshing swim before hiking out to our trailhead. Participants: David Clinger, Steven Johnson, Mark Kintigh, Jane Leng, Vern Marsonette, Lynn Meacham, Sandra Sigrist, Marian Sparks.

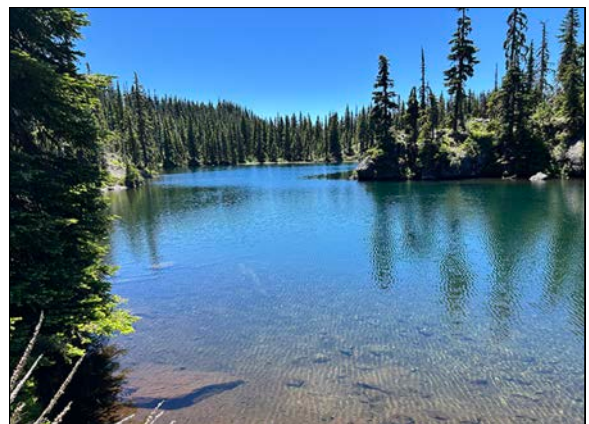
### **Old McKenzie Hwy. 242 (Proxy Falls, Texas Lake, Dee Wright)**

**June 20, 2026**

**Leader: Lisa Van Liefde**

**Hike: 6.7 miles, 825 ft. (Moderate)**

EIGHT OBSIDIANS ENJOYED SPECTACULAR WEATHER and gorgeous trails along recently reopened Highway 242. We



*Texas Lake. Photo by Lisa Van Liefde.*



*Proxy Falls. Photo by Gwyneth Iredale.*

warmed up with a short hike to Proxy Falls, then hiked to Tenas Lake for lunch, and finally visited Dee Wright Observatory for jaw-dropping views of the Three Sisters and Mt. Washington. Participants: Kathie Carpenter, Marguerite Cooney, Alan Foley, Gwyneth Iredale, Holger Krentz, Gina Schroeder, Marian Sparks, Lisa Van Liefde.

**Mt. June + Sawtooth Ridge  
June 20, 2026**

**Leader: Randy Sinnott**

**Hike: 7.0 miles, 1,200 ft. (Difficult)**

**ONLY TWO HIKERS THIS MORNING.** We drove up Mt. June in mist (and missed the turn to the planned trailhead) and began hiking from the lower trailhead. The trail is well designed with lots of switchbacks. On the ridge line, the trail to the summit heads steeply uphill. We climbed above the mist and had great views. We saw no hikers until we began backtracking. We hiked an out-and-back two miles to see the south facing meadows above the Layng Creek drainage and admired the many wildflowers in their prime. This area deserves all the roadless protection possible as it is a gem close to Eugene/Springfield. Participants: Randy Sinnott, Sue Wolling.

**Waterfall Trifecta and Bakery Stop  
June 21, 2026**

**Leader: Kathie Carpenter**

**Hike: 5.2 miles, 800 ft. (Moderate)**

**IT WAS AN EXCELLENT DAY TO EXPLORE THE UMPQUA NATIONAL FOREST.** After stocking up with cinnamon rolls, hand pies, coffee, and sourdough at the Creswell Bakery, we visited Spirit, Moon, and Pinard Falls, in that order. The forest was fragrant and lush, and each waterfall was lovelier than the last. Since this trip involved more ‘seat time’ than most Obsidians excursions, we finished the day with the two-mile Swordfern Loop at Rujada Campground, just to stretch our legs before the drive back. We were delighted to welcome the Heinzke family, Jen, Mark, and Cohen, on their first Obsidians hike, and hope to see them on the trail again soon. Participants: Kathie Carpenter, Whitney Gould, Mark Heinzke, Jennifer Heinzke, Cohen Heinzke, Gwyneth Iredale, Guy Pritchett, Marian Sparks.

**Golden Lake**

**June 24, 2026**

**Leader: Steven Johnson**

**Hike: 15.0 miles, 1,500 ft. (Difficult)**

**I ALMOST CANCELED THIS HIKE BECAUSE THE WEATHER FORECAST WAS CALLING FOR HIGH TEMPERATURES,** making this already difficult and exposed hike possibly dangerous. Surprisingly, we ended up with mostly cloudy skies and a cool breeze, giving us the perfect weather for this gorgeous hike. It was a challenging day with miles of trekking through flower-draped meadows, numerous stream crossings, and spectacular mountain views. We took a cool but refreshing swim in Golden Lake before our last stretch through the Pole Creek burn to finish this 15-mile trek. Participants: Kim Davidson-Ruby, Marti Gerdes, Jean Harris, Steven Johnson, Tracy Livernois, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Marian Sparks.

**Amazon Headwaters / Ridgeline Trail /  
Spencer Butte Hikes**

**Hikes: 3.5–6.2 miles, 950–1,530 ft. (Easy–Moderate)**

**Various Leaders**

**Eva Mogart, Janet Jacobsen: 6/3** 12 Participants

**Margot McDonnell: 6/10** 11 Participants

**Darko Sojak: 6/12** 2 Participants

**Jeff Orendorff: 6/17** 8 Participants

**Lisa Van Liefde: 6/24** 5 Participants

**Blanton Ridge Hikes**

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

**Various Leaders**

**Lynn Stearney: 6/2** 6 Participants

**Jorry Rolfe: 6/9** 5 Participants

**Jacquie Fern: 6/16** 6 Participants

**Lynn Meacham: 6/23** 5 Participants

**Mt. Pisgah Hikes**

**Hike: 4.0 miles, 1,300 (Moderate)**

**Jeff Orendorff: 5/29** 3 Participants **6/5** 4 Participants



**Stewardship**

**Wild Iris Ridge Tread & Drainage**

**April 25, 2026**

**Leader: Matt Bell**

**Photographer: Janet Jacobsen**

**Stewardship (Mixed)**

**O****N THIS OUTING, THE LAST SATURDAY MORNING OF OUR FALL THROUGH SPRING SCHEDULE,** the City asked us to work in Wild Iris Ridge Park to improve trail tread and drainage. We tried meeting at the main trailhead on Bailey Hill Road but the small lot was packed. So, we switched gears and met up at the neighborhood connector trail on Bailey View Drive. We hiked down the trail looking for chocolate lilies, to no avail. We were

able to admire poison oak in its varied forms as we went. When we reached the drainage ditches below the powerline corridor, we began our work, expertly avoiding the poison oak. We were able to work our way down to the drainage ditch above the bridges. We hiked back to Bailey View Drive to enjoy juice



*Sony swinging hard to reestablish the drainage ditch through heavy grasses.*



*David filling a scour in the tread while Matt clears a drainage ditch.*



*Dave, Matt, and David working on the last ditch of the day.*

and treats, as well as share Tecnu to prevent poison oak rashes for those of us unlucky enough to have interacted with it today. Special thanks go to Clara for cutting back blackberries at the trailhead, and to Janet for bringing scrumptious treats. Participants: Matt Bell, David Cooper, Clara Emlen, Janet Jacobsen, Sony Sawad, David Schwieger.

## **Ridgeline and Tie Trail Brushing**

**May 27, 2026**

**Leader: Matt Bell**

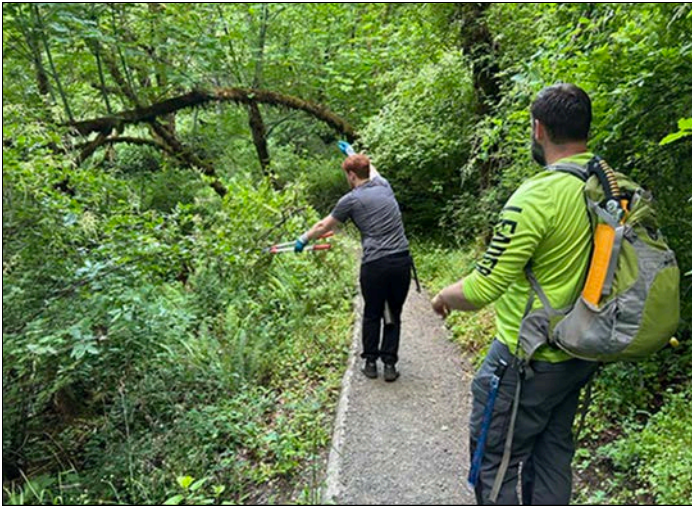
**Photographer: Janet Jacobsen**

**Stewardship (Mixed)**

FOR THE FIRST WEDNESDAY EVENING OUTING OF OUR SUMMER SCHEDULE, the City asked us to cut back woody vegetation from the sides of the Ridgeline and Tie Trails coming up from the Fox Hollow Trailhead. We hiked up, working lightly as we went, until our group reached the open drain on the Tie Trail. Then we worked our way back to the trailhead. Our group realized that the trails actually need brushing focused on



*Dan moving a long cut piece of hazelnut off the trail.*



*Hobe throwing brush off the trail while Matt supervises.*



*Group shot before work. Photo by Mrs. Winkelman.*



*David and Dave clearing the trailside.*



*Dave Predeek.*



*Alton Baker Park pond*

softer-stemmed plants, due to the copious stinging nettles and blackberries growing near and overhanging the trail. On our way, we enjoyed pointing out rare plants including golden chinquapin, phantom orchid, and a rare, red, non-chlorophyllous plant—we're not certain of the name. Special thanks go to Clara for meticulously cutting back blackberries from the edges of the Fox Hollow Trailhead parking lot, and to Janet for bringing delicious treats. Participants: Matt Bell, David Cooper, Clara Emlen, Dan Gilmore, Janet Jacobsen, Eva Mogart, Hobe Robin, David Schwieger.

**SOLVE Spring Into Service: Community Clean-up & Food Drive**  
**May 31, 2026**  
**Leader & Photographer: Darko Sojak**  
**Stewardship: 1.5 miles, 10 ft. (Easy)**

INSPIRED, WE DRAW OUR OWN PICTURE OF LIFE. Nine Obsidians and a few others joined the cleanup and food drive organized

by Ellie Winkelman, Miss Pacific Northwest 2026, in partnership with SOLVE Oregon. We cleaned up along the multi-use trails in Alton Baker Park and collected some goods for our local food bank. Participants: Teresa Bowen, Vicky Hanson, Richard Hughes, Lana Lindstrom, Dave Predeek, Jorry Rolfé, Angie Ruzicka, Mike Smith, Darko Sojak.

**Willamette Confluence**  
**June 5, 2026**  
**Leader & Photographer: Darko Sojak**  
**Stewardship: 1.5 miles, 10 ft. (Easy)**

EXPERIENCING ANOTHER PART OF THE 1,300 ACRES OF THE WILLAMETTE RIVER CONFLUENCE WAS PRECIOUS. After more than a decade of restoration work, in 2023 The Nature Conservancy handed over this property to the McKenzie River Trust to support the long-term care and stewardship of this

special place. Obsidians joined the group and, as part of the McKenzie River Trust's *First Fridays at the Willamette Estuary* series, worked on eradicating blackberries along a future path of tours for people with limited mobility. It was great to cherish the moments with the volunteers. Thanks



*Eradicating blackberries along a future path of tours for people with limited mobility.*



*Brenda Kame'enui.*



*Meg Stewart Smith.*



*Pudding Pond.*

everyone. Participants: David Clinger, David Cooper, Denny Ellis, Renee Etienne, Darko Sojak.

**Trail Maintenance, National Trails Day  
June 6, 2026  
Leader: Matt Bell  
Photographer: Eva Mogart  
Stewardship (Mixed)**

IN OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL TRAILS DAY, and after community reports of copious stinging nettles and trailing blackberries, we returned to the Ridgeline and Tie trails for this past Saturday's



*Janet getting ready to meticulously rake debris from the trail.*



*Dave trimming back hazelnut.*

outing. Braving thorns, poison oak, stinging barbs, and rain showers, our group of seven volunteers set out from the Fox Hollow Trailhead to cut back pain-inducing vegetation from the sides of the trails. We hiked up to the Junction Meadow and began working our way back down. We practiced our golf swings by swinging weed cutters through the plants along the trail sides. We made sure to spare the rare flowers along the



*Dave, David, and Sony cutting back the trailsides.*

trail, and to stop and check out the phantom orchid that's almost blooming near the golden chinquapin on the Tie Trail. We also enjoyed seeing blooming tiger lilies along the Ridgeline. Special thanks go to Janet for bringing much needed energy balls and strawberry bread as treats. Participants: Matt Bell, Dan Gilmore, Janet Jacobsen, Eva Mogart, Dave Predeek, Sony Sawad, David Schwieger.

### **Lodge / Grounds Workday**

**June 12, 2026**

**Leader: Nancy Whitfield**  
**Stewardship**

ELEVEN OBSIDIANS WORKED HARD ON THE VARIOUS JOBS and accomplished much: trimming weeds, mowing, weeding beds, and more! The grounds look spiffy and tidy. The efforts of these volunteers continue to fill me with awe. Participants: Mari Baldwin, David Cooper, Larry Dunlap, Clara Emlen, Elizabeth Grant, Jean Harris, Doug Nelson, Roy Nelson, Jeffrey Rusow, Nancy Whitfield.

### **Green Island Work Party**

**June 16, 2026**

**Leader: Darko Sojak**  
**Stewardship: 1.5 miles, 10 ft. (Easy)**

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE SHADE, we beat some blackberries, dust, and pollen. Thank you, volunteers. Participants: Holger Krentz, Mike Smith, Darko Sojak.

### **Ridgeline Brushing**

**June 24, 2026**

**Leader & Photographer: Matt Bell**  
**Stewardship (Mixed)**

FOR THIS OUTING, OUR GROUP OF INTREPID VOLUNTEERS MET UP at the Willamette & 52<sup>nd</sup> parking lot to find it nearly devoid of vehicles, likely due to the evening's heat. We enjoyed ample parking. I distributed waters to all participants before grabbing tools and hiking up to the junction of the Ridgeline and Tie trails. Along the way we spooked a deer off into the brush.



*Matt, Hobe, David, Janet, Dan, and Eva showing off their waters.*

After reaching the junction, we began working our way back to the trailhead, cutting back soft-stemmed plants with weed cutters and woody brush with loppers and hand clippers—we even used a saw once. As we worked our way back, we stopped near an old log and were stunned to see a garter snake resting atop it. As we enjoyed the view, another garter snake slithered over the log. We hiked out quickly and cut back poison oak and trailing blackberries as we went. Back at the trailhead, we enjoyed snacks and drinks. Special thanks go to Janet for bringing the energy balls to keep us going and the bread to help us have the energy to get home. Participants: Matt Bell, Clara Emlen, Dan Gilmore, Janet Jacobsen, Eva Mogart, Hobe Robin, David Schwieger.

## **LOST**

**T**HE LIBRARIAN/HISTORIAN COMMITTEE IS LOOKING FOR THIS METAL TRAIL MARKER that was displayed in one of the bathrooms at the Lodge.



Larry Cash donated his award to the Club. Larry was an Obsidian member from 1974 to about 1986, climbing three mountains and doing 14 hikes. He became involved with the Pacific Crest Trail Association in 1970 and was their President from 1986–1993. He was instrumental in ensuring that the PCT's end points were marked with monuments. He received the PCTA Lifetime Achievement Award in 1997. He died in 2010.

If you have any information about the whereabouts of the missing sign (award) please contact Janet Jacobsen or Bea Fontana, Librarian/Historian Committee.

# OBSIDIANS EVENTS

TO FIND THE MOST UP-TO-DATE AND COMPLETE INFORMATION ABOUT ALL OF OUR ACTIVITIES, SEE THE OBSIDIANS WEBSITE.

## Regularly Scheduled Tuesday and Wednesday Hikes

### Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Various Leaders

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

Tuesdays:  
July 7, 14, 21, 28  
August 4, 11

### Amazon Headwaters to Spencer Butte Various Leaders

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

Wednesdays:  
July 8, 15, 22, 29  
August 5, 12, 19, 26

CHECK FOR DETAILS & SIGN UP ONLINE

[obsidians.org/events](https://obsidians.org/events)

## Get Acquainted Hikes

Second Saturday of the Month:  
July 11, August 8, September 12  
Members and nonmembers, please join us!  
Sign up online.

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

Please contact Dorothy for the particulars.

[dorothyvanwinkle@yahoo.com](mailto:dorothyvanwinkle@yahoo.com)

541-485-7416, land line, no texting

Thank you!

## Mt. Pisgah Sunset Full Moonrise

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

July 27, August 25, September 24

Guests welcome  
CHECK FOR DETAILS  
& SIGN UP ONLINE

[obsidians.org/events](https://obsidians.org/events)



## Upcoming GameNight! dates are:

No GameNight!s in July & August  
Tuesday, September 15

4:30 – 7:30 PM at the Lodge

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 [obsidians.org/entertainment](https://obsidians.org/entertainment)



## STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### Spencer Butte Trail Maintenance

5:30–8 PM  
Wednesday, July 29  
Wednesday, August 26

### Trail Maintenance, National Public Lands Day

9 AM–noon  
Saturday, September 26

Have a question?

Contact [obsidians-stewardship@googlegroups.com](mailto:obsidians-stewardship@googlegroups.com)



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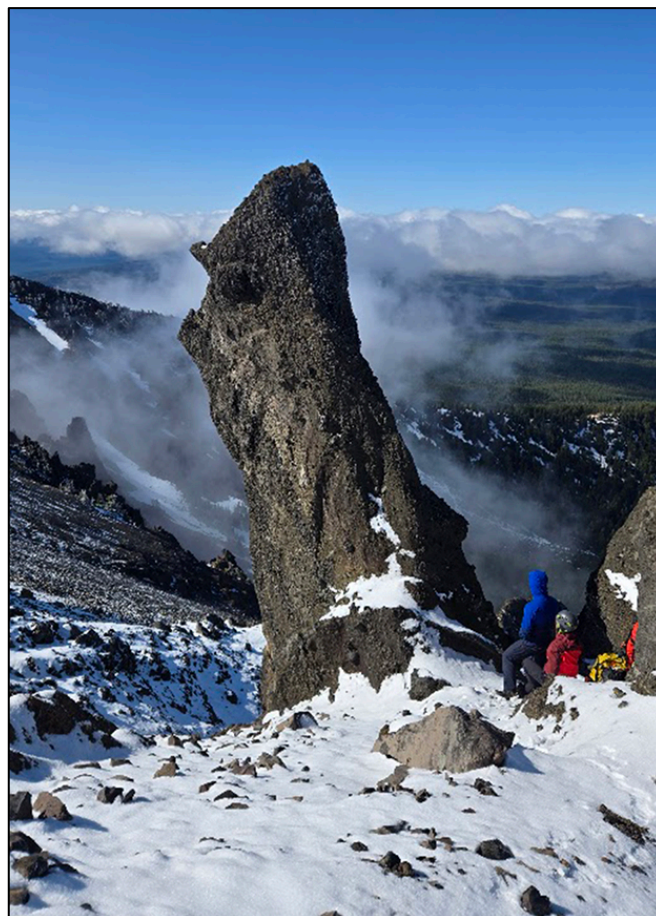


July/August  
2026

*Waiting for the snow  
to soften.*

*Photo by  
Evan Goulette.*

*See the Mt. Thielsen  
Graduation Climb  
trip report on page 14.*



ENJOY the photos in color!  
ONLINE *Bulletin* at  
[obsidians.org/newsletter](https://obsidians.org/newsletter)