

Inside This Issue

New Members	2
Board Notes	6
Trip Reports	7-10
Upcoming Events	11 - 15
Potluck	14
Calendar	15
Classifieds	15
Features	
Color Team	1
President's Message	1
Adventurer Extraordinaire	3
Curtain Call for Josh	5
Get to Know Committees	5
Barb's Sampler	11

Dates to Remember

Mar 13	SciEd-Global Warming
Mar 23	Potluck - Camp Rally
Mar 30-Apr 1	Crater Lake Trip
Apr 4	Board Meeting
Apr 10	SciEd-Gait Analysis
Apr 12,14,15,19,21	Climb School
Apr 15	Equipment Swap
Apr 17	Trip Leaders Meeting

Camp Pegg
July 28 - August 11
 See Registration Insert.
 Rally Info on Page 14.

Potlucks Moved
 No, not the actual potlucks,
 just where you find info on
 them in the Bulletin.
 See Potluck Review Page 10
 & Potluck Preview Page 14.

Lodge's Color Team Combines Work with a Little *Chianti!*

By Janet Jacobsen

EVERY TIME I go down the driveway to our lodge I feel welcomed by the tranquil scene: the attractive structure trimmed in green, nestled naturally in its forested surroundings. Of course, the building didn't just *grow* there, like the trees around it; someone had to make critical design decisions...like what color scheme to use for it.

Bea Fontana, Pat Dark and Sharon Duncan -- members of the "Color Team" -- met with John Jacobsen at the lodge on March 26, 2006. Bea remembers it this way:

"I was concerned about choosing a color dark enough to contrast with the etched glass. I experimented with a piece of etched glass backed by a half dozen paper samples I borrowed from work: black, dark green, a couple of browns, a burgundy and dark blue. My first choice would probably have been black, followed by a green or a brown. The suggestion that we choose the red surprised me; but, since all of the colors I had brought in had my tentative



Jim and Sharon Duncan "At Work!"

(Continued on page 4)

President's Message:

Individualism and Communitarianism

By John Pegg

DURING LAST MONTH'S trail maintenance outing on Spencer Butte, I was thinking how balanced Obsidians are in their enjoyment of the outdoors. Between throwing out shovels of gravel on part of the Ridgeline Trail off of Fox Hollow, I reflected on the two great opposing tendencies in American life: individualism and *communitarianism*. And I saw how this applied to our approach to the outdoors. Individualists see the wilderness, the forests and the mountains as places where self-reliance is the key to success. Mountaineering, skiing, backpacking and other outdoor pursuits require individual initiative. The dangers of ignorance or lack of preparation can be fatal. Communitarians, on the other hand, see the best chance for success in cooperation. The outdoors holds dangers, but overcoming these dangers is best achieved by sacrificing together for the common good.

Obsidians seem to have found the balance. Lovers of the outdoors are for the most part very individualistic. We recognize that in the mountains and vast forests of the

(Continued on page 2)

Welcome!

New Members

AUGUSTSON, KEN (Active)
3086 Bailey Lane, Eugene 97401
685-1213 augie@efn.org

BALDWIN, NEIL (Active)
1941 Argonne Drive
Walnut Creek, CA 94598
925-689-7961
neilbaldwin@sbcglobal.net

CRISTE-BALDWIN, ROSEMARY (Active)
1941 Argonne Drive
Walnut Creek, CA 94598
925-689-7961
rcriste.baldwin@sbcglobal.net

GOLLY, KATHRYN (Active)
1218 Pleasant St, Springfield 97477
736-0885

MANCUSO, DARLENE (Associate)
280 Regal Court, Eugene 97401
343-0565

WINTER, JANET (Active)
3535 High Street, Eugene, 97405
870-9739 janetwinter@comcast.net

Reinstated Members

HUNT, SCOT (Active)
1046 Archie St., Eugene, 97402
912-2201 scot_hunt@yahoo.com

Name/Phone/Address Change

ANDRESKI, Zella 521-3335

Club in the News!

THE OBSIDIANS were a front page feature in the March issue of Northwest Senior and Boomer News. The article by David R. Newman focused on the activities of our Bus Committee and included pictures from recent bus trips.



The article can be viewed on our website, along with other "From the Press" features:

<http://www.obsidians.org>

President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

northwest, we must depend foremost on ourselves, even in a group. Whether we are attempting a summit or hiking a trail, we carry the 10 essentials and are confident we have the skills to enjoy our adventures within calculated parameters of safety. We know how to read the weather and dress appropriately; we know our physical limitations and do not go (too much) beyond them. But we also know the advantages of sharing our skills and our resources. Mountaineers rope up for common security and it is part of the code of the outdoors that help is freely offered, not only to others in the group, but to anyone in trouble.

BUT IT GOES beyond that. Obsidi-

ans love the solitude of distant horizons and quiet forests. They appreciate and seek out places only accessible by hard work and individual initiative. Some of my best memories are of the eerie peace that surrounds you at the summits of mountains. But Obsidians also prize the society of others and enjoy the comradeship of friends. They understand the extra dimension that comes from sharing common loves. Rock climbing and mountaineering have created bonds for me that will last forever.

We join groups to further our individual goals. No one is entirely individualist or communitarian, and we are at different places on the scale in different endeavors. Obsidians have found, in my opinion, just the right balance.

OBSIDIANS, INC

P.O. Box 322, Eugene, OR 97440

Website: www.obsidians.org

Board of Directors

President - John Pegg
Vice President - Stewart Hoeg
Secretary - Laurie Funkhouser
Treasurer - Sheila Ward
Marianne Camp Jim Duncan
Brian Hamilton Barb Revere
Anne Dhu McLucas

Board meetings are held at 6 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month, except August, at the Obsidian Lodge.

Committee Chairpersons

Byways-By-Bus Liz Reanier
Climbs Larry Huff
Concessions Laurie Funkhouser
Conservation Deb Carver
Entertainment Kathy Hoeg
Extended Trips Lana Lindstrom
Finance Stewart Hoeg
Lodge Building Brian Hamilton
Lodge Grounds John Jacobsen
Librarian/Historian Lenore McManigal
Membership Julie Dorland
Online Wayne Deeter
Publications Barb Revere
Publicity Ann Dhu McLucas
Safety Doug Nelson
Science & Education Joella Ewing
Summer Camp Jim Duncan
Summer Trips, Janet Jacobsen/Barb Revere
Trail Maintenance Peter Green
Winter Trips Jim Pierce
Youth Scott Hovis

The OBSIDIAN Bulletin

© 2007

Published monthly, except August. Articles, story ideas, letters to the editor and other editorial submissions may be emailed to:

bulletin@obsidians.org

Although email is preferred, submissions may also be sent to:

The Obsidian Bulletin

P.O. Box 51424, Eugene, OR 97405

For reprint rights, contact above.

Deadline

for April 2007 Bulletin

Saturday, March 31, 2007

Assembly/Mailing Team

For February Bulletin

LaRee Beckley, Marc Hansen, Yuan Hopkins, Marshall Kandell, John and Lenore McManigal, Bill & Margaret Prentice and Vera Woolley; and Crew Chief Barb Revere, with Lou Maenz in training

Editorial Team

Writing & Editorial Staff Janet & John Jacobsen, Marshall Kandell, Lou Maenz & Barb Revere
Copy Editor Marshall Kandell
Graphics, Design & Desktop Publishing.... John Jacobsen & Stewart Hoeg
Assembly & Mail Manager..... Barb Revere

Ed Lovegren:

Adventurer Extraordinaire or... Just a Glutton for Punishment?

By Marshall Jay Kandell

IT'S UNLIKELY too many Obsidians would sign up for a trip that promised weeks of tortuous hiking at altitudes above 15,000 ft. and a fair chance of getting really sick or injured in locations too remote for rescue. And, oh yes, it'll cost you a few thousand dollars.

One club member who has not only signed up for such a trip, but has done so seven times (so far) is Ed Lovegren. These are more than mere hikes, of course; they're *treks*. Ed has been on treks in Bhutan, Pakistan, Peru and *four times* in Nepal.

Now 75, Ed is a retired Lane County tax appraiser, who comes out of a lumber family and had a fling at a real estate career that got sidetracked by a love affair with mountaineering that began in 1963 with the Obsidians. A check of the trip logs reveals that Ed's 87 climbs are, by far, the most in the club. Frank

Moore is second with 61; with club president and still active climber John Pegg a distant third with 56.

Of course, not all of Ed's climbs were official Obsidian trips. He says he's climbed 172 mountains. He still tries to do one or two a year. His last climbs were in 2005 – South Sister and the east side of Diamond Peak.

"I'm lucky I haven't had any joint problems," he says. "I spent 40 years training on Mt. Baldy, climbing it once or twice a week."

And, yet, Ed calls himself a "mediocre climber," because he was always reluctant to lead climbs and has no desire to take on the Himalayan peaks or Mt. McKinley – although he says he did have a chance to go on the tragic 1967 Denali climb that claimed two Obsidian friends and has been documented in recent Bulletins.

ED'S FIRST TREK was the Snowman-Lunana in Bhutan, which he still calls the hardest he's ever done. It was 27 days, of which 20 were "very strenuous, high altitude hiking" across seven high passes ranging in altitude from 14,961' to 17,847'. And the trek leaders didn't even have a first aid kit! He remembers there were a couple of doctors along with

some supplies, but not even a helicopter could have reached them in an emergency.

Hard to believe, but he says that trek was more difficult than his 2003 Kangchenjunga (third highest mountain in Nepal) trek, when he fell in a Bangkok bathtub and embarked upon the adventure with a couple of broken ribs. If that sounds painful, then consider this: he also came down with bronchitis. That trek took 29 days, of which 23 involved dif-

ficult, high altitude (17,060' max.) hikes *with no rest days*. Combine broken ribs with bronchitis, coughing and lack of oxygen and even Ed uses the word "brutality" when discussing this experience.

HE WAS ACTUALLY supposed to do this trek the year before, in 2002, but all his luggage got lost between Bangkok and Katmandu. He flew into the little Suketar air-

port with his fellow trekkers and then hoped they wouldn't get too far ahead of him while he waited hopefully for all his gear to arrive. When it didn't, he flew back to Bangkok, bought some clothes and decided to tour Vietnam while he was already *in the area*. What he didn't know was that during his short stay in Nepal he picked up some parasitic hitchhikers and came home 20 lbs. lighter, with a distended stomach and a bad case of *giardia* that left him sick as a dog for three months.

His 2001 Cordillera Blanca Trek in Peru – a comparatively short 14 day adventure with 8 days of moderate to strenuous hiking (maximum altitude 16,072 ft.) – also had a stomach churning twist when the cooks didn't boil the water enough and everyone got sick for a couple of days.

Ed's other treks were:

1996 – Ultimate Everest Trek, Nepal – 25 days, including 20 days strenuous hiking at high altitude (18,300' max.), including Everest base camp at 17,600.'

1999 – Around Annapurna Trek, Nepal – 31 days, including 24 days strenuous hiking at high altitude (17,771' max.).

(Continued on page 4)



Ed with K2 in background.

Adventurer Extraordinaire...

(Continued from page 3)

2000 – Pakistan K2 Trek – 27 days, including 19 days strenuous hiking at high altitude (16,500' max.). K2 is second only to Everest in height.

2005 – Mustang, Forbidden Kingdom Trek, Nepal – 15 days, 10 of which were strenuous hiking (max. altitude 13,100'). The destination on this trek in a closed, permit only area, was Lo Manthang, a 15th century fairy tale walled city unlike anything else in Nepal. Although not at as high altitude as other treks, this was made exceptionally difficult by its constant up and down challenges.

Not that it makes the treks easy, but at least there were experienced guides and Sherpas to lead, porters to carry the loads (aided by yaks, horses, donkeys) and cooks to prepare the meals in camp. Trekkers, carrying just their daypacks, tend to go at their own paces and can get strung out, arriving in camp at different times. The hours trekking are more important than the miles, Ed says. Only once, on the 2005 trek, did Ed hit the wall, straggling into camp last.

Although usually the oldest trekker in the group, Ed is in great shape, but admits aging does take its toll. "You lose the ability to absorb oxygen over the years," he says. "I felt good, but couldn't move as fast as the 45-year-old kids."

AS FOR THE CULTURAL differences he found on his treks,

Ed says "it's easy to fall in love with the Nepalese." The Pakistani's "had a harder edge." One group leader beat his wife when she got out of line. Ed didn't experience any anti-Americanism in Pakistan, but it was pre-9/11. His trek group did have to pay a ransom to a Maoist rebel band in Nepal... where he was advised to say he was English, since the ransom was less for Brits than for Americans.

Ed has recently been slowed down a bit. Having survived all the described treks and climbs, he ironically slipped on some local concrete and banged up his hip. It hasn't stopped him from reviewing trek company brochures, however. He'd love to do a trek to Angel Falls in Venezuela...despite the dangers of travel to that country at present.

"I'm an adventure nut," Ed exclaims, "I can't explain it. The beauty of the treks is just unbelievable! Trekking in foreign countries is like living in a National Geographic Magazine!"

Such a trip, however, would have to overcome a serious discussion with his wife, Vay, who understandably thinks enough might be enough. Although she hasn't trekked or climbed with Ed, the two have visited more than 75 countries over the past 25 years.

Ed has kept detailed journals on all of his treks and taken hundreds of photos. If you're interested in trekking, give him a call. But be prepared to spend a while. Ed's still living all of his treks and has a lot to share.

Lodge's Color Team

(Continued from page 1)

approval, and we could all agree on a red, we searched the paint charts for one that was right and chose one (as a team).

"**WE LEFT OPEN** the option of repainting the wall (behind the door) black, if the red should turn out to be too light. The red on red choice showed up just fine, so we left it alone," says Bea. Some members on the "Color Team" wanted a brighter choice, since there already was plenty of black trim in the lodge. According to the color charts John provided, the final choice for the Three Peaks Door was *barn red*.

"I believe *Chianti* was the final choice," says Sharon.

Jim and Sharon Duncan hauled the door, in pieces, back to their own garage and rushed to get the painting done to meet the timeline for installation in the lodge and before their scheduled trip to Alabama. Upon their return, all the pieces were still in their garage and they turned their attention to the lodge's various doors and windows.

The team chose *Tarrytown green* for the doors, side doors and trim around the windows. For the entryway and Scherer Room, the lighter green, *dried chervil*, was a good match. Gold buff, a soft yellow, was chosen for the bathrooms and the cupboard sliding doors in the kitchen. The ceilings and hallway walls would have the lightest color, *candlelight ivory*. Some members of the team began to worry the colors would be too dark or too light. At the open house, according to Pat, "It was a relief to see we made the right decisions."

The Duncans opened the can of green paint and experimented with a few strokes on the side door. Sharon said, "We thought it was too light so we added some black. It took several coats to get the doors to look just right."

AT FIRST THE GREEN doors seemed too bright, but as the painting crew continued to add the green trim on the windows and the entry posts, there was a dramatic transformation of the lodge. The green gave elegance to our cabin in the woods. As the days progressed, all of the painting crew felt right at

home with the green.

At night, as light beams a warm invitation through the windows, stand outside and look in through the windows at the glass etchings on the Three Peaks door. Magical!

By the October 1st open house, it was difficult to remember the lodge's previous colors. For example, does anyone remember the color of the bathrooms before they were painted yellow? In May 1962, during the original lodge construction, board notes reveal that "Helen Smith bought the paint, and she and Adeline Adams have painted the Ladies Powder Room. It is done in pink and it looks just lovely."

One wonders, in 20 years will there be speculation about the 2006 color choices? Will anyone think *barn red* or *chianti* are "just lovely?" Pat Dark said with a laugh, "Twenty years from now, I'll most likely be too old to even notice."

Well, if anyone in 20 years wonders who in the heck picked such colors, all they'll have to do is check back to this month's Bulletin!

Curtain Call for Josh Emmons

By Janet Jacobsen

THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD Josh Emmons, a junior Obsidian, was on the front page of the Register-Guard Art Section for his Feb. 18th performance in *The Mitten* at Springfield's new Wildish Community Theater. He was one of the students of the Bridgeway House autism center, which presented the folk tale by Jan Brett (adapted and directed by Jennifer Barwood with music by Emily Jensen).

Josh played the part of a squirrel, who helped move the mitten around the stage. I am sorry I missed this performance. From all accounts, it was a lively and joyous event. The student cast members took many bows.

I talked with Josh about his theater debut. Was he nervous? "Not really. I really enjoyed it. I liked being an animal," he replied. Asked if he'd like to be in another play, he quickly responded, "When?"

JOSH HAS ATTENDED several summer camps with his grandfather, Allan Coons. Through the years, Josh increased his participation in the evening campfires. At last summer's camp, Josh presented an award to the cooks for making the best brownies (although he only got one). At the 2003 Wind Rivers summer camp, Josh assisted with a reenactment of Bob Cox's rope trick. When the rope was told to move, Josh and I stood behind the tree and "sorta" pulled the rope up with dental floss. On the awards night, Josh gave a Kindness Award to Colleen Milliman.

Perhaps his thespian talents began with the Obsidian campfire entertainment. At his next summer camp, I need to make sure to cast Josh in a summer camp play.

Congratulations, Josh!



Josh much earlier in his acting career, here taking a curtain call after a skit for the President's Tea at Camp Jacobsen III in 2001. On the right is skit director Janet Jacobsen.

Photo by John Jacobsen

Getting to Know Our Committees - and Their Chairpersons

Editor's Note: We've asked each of our committee chairpersons to share with the membership a little bit about themselves and their committees. Each month, we'll present a few of their profiles.

Jim Pierce, Chairperson Winter Trips Committee

IHAVE BEEN an Obsidian since 2000... should have joined 25 years ago. I started as a climber and still enjoy climbing, hiking, jogging, snowshoeing, taking pictures and writing stories. I also enjoy being a chemical engineer... and they pay me.

I want to expand the Winter Trips Committee to be more like Summer Trips...many hands, light work. The team has done a super job! Our goal is to have more trips and more participants than ever before. We are well on our way. There are a lot of administrative issues that need attention. A good guidebook for future Winter Trips Committees is my goal.



Peter Green, Chairperson Trail Maintenance Committee

IAM VERY EXCITED to be chairing the Trail Maintenance Committee this year. I hope to continue the Spencer Butte project as well as organize some trail maintenance outings in the Willamette National Forest. I have been an Obsidian for less than a year and am thankful to all those who have so warmly welcomed me to the club. My outdoor interests are in rock and alpine climbing,

mountain biking, snowboarding and long distance backpacking. When I am not outdoors I enjoy playing chess and creating artwork. I work as a professional picture framer and am a member of Eugene Mountain Rescue.



Board Notes

March 7, 2007

By Laurie Funkhouser, Secretary

Board members present: VP Stewart Hoeg (presiding), Treasurer Sheila Ward, Secretary Laurie Funkhouser, Brian Hamilton, Jim Duncan, Barb Revere and Marianne Camp. Other members present: Larry Huff, Wayne Deeter, Scott Hovis, Liz Reanier, Lenore McManigal, John & Janet Jacobsen, Julie Dorland, Kathy Hoeg, Joella Ewing, Jim Pierce and Lana Lindstrom. February minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: Board approved payment of outstanding bills.

Old Business

Tree Removal: Leaning tree is down, John Jacobsen reported. Pat Adams has contacted several companies about taking down additional trees, but hasn't had anyone look at them.

Winter/Summer Trips Bylaws: Board approved language presented by Jim Pierce changing the definition of Summer/ Winter Trips Committees to primarily focus on the time frames covered by the respective committees.

New Business

Mass Membership Email: After discussion it was decided the club would not make mass membership email available. Email addresses are available online for members to communicate with each other, with the Bulletin the primary method of communicating information to the membership at large.

Board Room Heaters: Due to recent incidents, it was decided to adopt the policy of turning off the heaters after using the board room.

Lodge Rental: Brian Hamilton received a request from Mt. Pisgah Arboretum to rent the lodge at a discounted rate. Brian will determine the appropriate fee.

Committee Reports

Summer Trips (Barb Revere/Jan Jacobsen): 140 trips currently on schedule, which will be posted online April

1. See Trip Leader meeting, Page 15.

Winter Trips (Jim Pierce): 18 trips reported in February (5 X-Ski, 5 snowshoe, 8 hikes); 6 canceled trips; 2 rescheduled trips. 124 participants (107 members, 17 nonmembers). Revenues \$192.

Climbs (Larry Huff): Climb schedule and link to register for climb school are online. See Climb School story, Page 14.

Trail Maintenance (Peter Green): Monthly maintenance continues on Spencer Butte. Highlight of the sunny trail maintenance day was driving the automatic wheel barrows. Members who participated were Matt Bell, John Pegg, and Peter and his wife, Monica. Next trail maintenance day: March 25, 9a.m.-noon, meet at main parking lot.

Byways-By-Bus (Liz Reanier): 25 participated in the Eagles-n-More trip, with 13 new riders and 9 nonmembers. About 60 attended the Bus Rally. All proposed trips are going ahead. See upcoming bus trips story, Page 13.

Summer Camp (Jim Duncan): See Potluck story, Page 14.

Extended Trips (Lana Lindstrom): Chris Stockdale's ski trip in the Wallowas had 11 participants who had a great time. April ski/snowshoe trip to Crater Lake led by Sharon Ritchie has 41 participants signed up with 2 on the waiting list. Early June trip to Malheur/French Glen/Steens led by Marianne Camp has 20 participants signed up with a waiting list.

Youth (Scott Hovis): No one signed up for the snow day. Scott sought ideas regarding communicating to members about the youth events, as well as assisting in the events.

Publications (Barb Revere): Everyone thanked for submitting items for publication in a timely manner and reminded that all email submissions should be sent to bulletin@obsidian.org rather than to individual Bulletin crew members.

Entertainment (Kathy Hoeg): 57 attendees at February potluck, 65 for the presentation. Fees collected: \$68.

Sci-Ed (Joella Ewing): 21 attended the Jacobsens' slide show on Switzerland. Fees collected: \$19.35. See Sci-Ed story, Page 14.

Membership (Julie Dorland): Six applications approved by board and one reinstatement. Total members to date: 557.

Publicity (Anne Dhu McLucas): Committee members met for a brainstorm session, resulting in a variety of ideas. It was requested that the board discuss the scope and goals of the committee.

Concessions (Laurie Funkhouser): \$104.45 in sales in February.

Online (Wayne Deeter): Spam protection has been reduced somewhat due to problems with emails bouncing back.

Library/Historian (Lenore McManigal): Lenore reported on lodge bookings for club events. All trips have been recorded.

Lodge Building (Brian Hamilton): Reynolds Electric checked the load to the circuit breaker, but did not find any reason for it to be tripping. Will continue to keep track of the problem and consider replacing the 100-amp main breaker. Reynolds Electric replaced a scorched wall heater cover. Midgley's sent a technician to adjust the damper and flame on the gas stove, which should resolve the pilot light going out. Preparation of the Lodge Operation and Maintenance Manual has begun and is currently stored in a cupboard along the west wall of the kitchen. Committee is considering purchasing a 4-drawer cabinet to store materials, summer camp records, etc. Byways-By-Bus submitted a \$100 check for the lodge use fees.

Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): Work party with Pat Adams and Sue Meyers took place Feb. 28, at which time a downed tree was cleaned up and the grounds spruced up. John will be meeting with Max Brown to plan the restoration of the disturbed areas from construction, with a work party scheduled to do the planting and restoration.

TRIP REPORTS & OTHER ACTIVITIES



Snow Shoe Trips

Odell Lake Moon Walk

February 3, 2007

Leader: Scott Hovis

4 miles, 300 ft. (Moderate)

WE USED OUR headlights a lot. The moon didn't come out this night. Our snowshoes were mostly for traction. There hadn't been any new snow. The shelter had no one staying in it; however, the previous week a lot of people were spending the night in the area shelters. I was surprised coming home late that everything in Oakridge was closed Saturday night by 10. Members: Jim & Kathleen Floyd, Scott Hovis, Daphne James, Rich Romm, Ellen Sather and Kaushik Vaidyanathan.

Salt Creek Falls/Eagle Rock

February 10, 2007

Leader: Barbara Bruns

4 miles, 0 ft. (Moderate)

Photo by Barb Revere



WHO WOULD HAVE believed! Weather forecast was quite dubious; however, six of us persevered and were rewarded for our efforts with a successful outing. We began with Plan A to snowshoe at Salt Creek Falls. However, at that destination, rain was substantial. So, we continued on to Plan B -- Gold Lake Sno-Park. Going from 4,000 feet to 5,000 elevation made a BIG difference. Rain was now snow. We snowshoed to Westview Shelter and on to Eagle Rock and a view of Odell Lake. As the day progressed, snow changed to clouds. By the time we had our picnic lunch, the sun was trying to peak through and we saw spots of blue sky. Many

thanks to Jim and Kathleen Floyd for having room for all of us in their car. And, welcome to Ken Augustson for completing his third trip with Obsidians and eligibility for membership. Members: Ann-Marie Askew, Barbara Bruns, Jim & Kathleen Floyd and Barb Revere. Nonmembers: Ken Augustson.

Rosary Lakes

February 15, 2007

Leader: Stewart Hoeg

8 miles, 600 ft. (Difficult)

IT WAS CLOSE TO 50 degrees and raining when five slightly crazy snowshoers met at the South Amazon parking area to head up into the mountains, where rain was also being forecast. We arrived at Willamette Pass to 39 degrees and more rain. Unfazed, everyone got out their snowshoes, pulled up their rain hoods and began dodging puddles in the parking lot as we headed east and into the snow. The first two and half miles of the trail was old, compressed snow that was littered with debris. Views were limited by fog and rain. As the group got higher, conditions improved. The rain stopped and we found ourselves walking on fresh snow. At the first lake, a lunch break was taken -- standing up (to avoid sitting in wet snow). Pulpit rock was hidden in the mists, but the overall view was ethereal and appealing, if not spectacular. After lunch, our intrepid group continued on up to the second and third lakes. The trip back down was highlighted by occasional views of Odell Lake, hidden by the mists on the way up. We got back to the car just before a resumption of steady rain. Although the conditions had been less than perfect, everyone enjoyed the trip and agreed it was far superior to spending the day indoors. The damp, but happy group included members Jim and Kathleen Floyd, Daphne James, Sue Meyer and Stewart Hoeg.

Gold Lake Shelter

February 17, 2007

Leader: Zella Andreski

Co-Leader Jane Allen

5 miles, 200 ft. (Moderate)

WE UNANIMOUSLY decided in lieu of going the Gold Lake Bechtel Shelter way, we would venture to the Gold Lake Shelter, to scope out our next week's

snowshoe trip. It was a beautiful and unseasonably dry warm day. The snow was crusty and quite icy in some places. We saw less than a half dozen people and had most of the wilderness to ourselves. We considered it a treat. One of the Marilyn Lakes was totally snowed over, an incredible sight to behold. Members Jane Allen, Linda Hovey and I were privileged to enjoy it all.



Ski Trips

Kitson Ridge

January 27, 2007

Leader: Bob Huntley

X-Ski 6 miles, 400 ft. (Moderate)

LARRY DUNLAP was the only one to sign up to go with me. There hadn't been any new snow in 10 days or so. We expected it to be icy, and it was. So was the road. We were supposed to go to Fawn Lake, but a truck had jackknifed about four miles east of Oakridge, blocking the highway. We decided to put chains on and went 2.8 miles up Kitson Ridge Road. The snow was too deep to go further. We skied about three miles up the road, had lunch in a sunny spot, and skied back down. There were lots of animal tracks, mostly elk. There were some pretty good views of Salt Creek Canyon.

Midnight Lake Loop

February 10, 2007

Leader: Glen Svendsen

X-Ski 6 miles, 300 ft. (Moderate)

Photo by Laurie Funkhouser

AFTER LEAVING A DRIZZLY Eugene and driving through rain to get to Gold Lake Sno-Park, our hardy party started for Midnight Lake in a light mist. We headed to Pengra Pass and the PCT, playing leap frog with members of the Lane County Sheriff's Search and Rescue team on a weekend drill. After about half-hour, the mist turned to snow and so, the climb to Midnight Lake turned out to be very pretty, with large flakes drifting down through the trees. While watching the snow at Midnight Lake was very enjoyable, the consensus was that heading

down to Bechtel shelter would be a better lunch spot. Janet (a soon-to-be Obsidian) started a fire while we settled down to eat lunch and warm up. As we finished lunch, the sun came out to make the ski down the main trail very quick and fun. Members: Laurie Funkhouser, Carol Petty and Glen Svendsen. Nonmember: Janet Winter.



Janet, Nancy & Glen at Midnight Lake

Three Fingered Jack

February 10, 2007

Leader: Steve Goins

X-Ski 12 miles, 2,000 ft. (Difficult)

AFTER A MONTH of dry weather, a weak storm finally came in and dropped a couple inches of wet snow on top of the hard snow pack. This was felt to be adequate for our trip, so our seven skiers departed for Three Fingered Jack. Fortunately, a few more inches fell at the upper elevations as we skied, which greatly enhanced the enjoyment of the trip. Leaving Santiam Sno-Park at 9 a.m., we quickly made it to the west facing bowl below the saddle of Three Fingered Jack's south ridge. On skins, skiers ascended the bowl halfway before encountering a sheet of blue ice, which halted the ascent. Nonetheless, our group got lots of turns while descending the bowl and on the way out. We were somewhat surprised at our speed, since we arrived at the cars just after 2 p.m. Skiers included members John Cooper, Steve Goins and Harold Thompson; and nonmembers Dainis Irbe, Galen Ohmart, Gary Rayor and Chris Stebbins.

Ray Benson

February 10, 2007

Leader: Bill Johnson

10 miles, 400 ft. (Difficult)

WE DROVE TO the Ray Benson north loop parking lot, and set out for the Circle Lake cutoff. From there, we continued to the Island Shelter, which had been totally demolished and rebuilt since I was last there. We had lunch there and headed out for the south loop, which we took down to the South Shelter, but found it

had been demolished and replaced with another shelter at a different location. At this point, we lost the blue diamonds and just headed southwest to find it. After skiing some distance we found the south loop and took it back to the parking lot. It was a good long ski and we were home by 5 p.m. Members: Bob Huntley, Bill Johnson and Sue Wolling. Nonmember: Jesse Rapp.

Fawn Lake

February 25, 2006

Leader: Brian Hamilton

8 miles, 850 ft. (Moderate)

THIS TRIP HAD BEEN postponed one week because little snow had fallen for so long and then rain had been forecast for the Cascades on the weekend of the trip. What a difference waiting a week made! A new storm had dumped about 16 inches of fresh snow on our trail. The five skiers took turns breaking trail and it was a little like wading in three feet of water! Although the blue diamond markers have been removed from the trail, we were still able to follow some old tracks. Even without the tracks, we may not have had too much trouble finding the lake as some hiker with little confidence in his route-finding skills had recently hacked new blazes in trees along the upper part of the trail. We arrived at Crescent Lake Sno-Park at 10 a.m. A solid pace got us to Fawn Lake by noon. We enjoyed about a half hour of sunshine during the trip to the lake and then it began snowing lightly. The temperature stayed slightly below freezing all day. After a 15-minute lunch break, we headed back down the trail and were at the trailhead in 90 minutes. Enjoying a rigorous workout were nonmembers Russ Mecredy and Matt Henschen on their first Obsidian outing; and members Rich Peevers, Dave Jensen, and Brian Hamilton.

to the West Eugene Wetlands. We started out by taking a slight detour to Stewart Pond to check out the bird activity. After spending a little time there we connected with the Fern Ridge path and proceeded through the wetlands. We were very fortunate Rick Ahrens was with us and he made the hike a wonderful educational experience, not just an opportunity for good exercise. Not only did he talk about the history of the wetlands, but he spotted birds I would certainly have overlooked. We saw kites, kestrels, harriers, meadowlarks and more subspecies of Canada geese and ducks than I knew existed. Thanks, Rick, for sharing your wealth of knowledge. After stopping for a snack at Meadowlark Prairie, we turned around and walked back to Danebo St., where we caught a city bus for a short ride back to our cars. While that was the official end of the hike, some of us went to the north side of town to hopefully see the falcated duck that blew in from Asia. Luck was with us and we enjoyed watching him display his beautiful markings in an attempt to catch the eye of the ladies. Time will tell if he was successful. The members who enjoyed a great day were: Rick Ahrens, Jennifer Barnes, Max Brown, Daniele Delaby, Walt Dolliver, Julie Dorland, Jim & Sharon Duncan, Paul Flashenberg, Sam Houston, Sachiko Iwasaki, Joanne Ledet, Mary Morrison, Margaret Prentice and Beth Roy.

Mount Pisgah - N. Trailhead

February 4, 2007

Leader: Marc Hansen

4 miles, 1,000 ft. (Easy)

THE BUFORD Recreation Area is becoming increasingly popular. Twenty cars at the north trailhead on a cold Sunday at 9 a.m. No one had signed up for the hike. Telephonic hikers did not arrive...so the hike consisted of me, myself & I. Fairly dry trail, sunny skies, spring awaits.

Island Park to Autzen Bridge

February 6, 2007

Leader: Barb Revere

5 miles, 0 ft. (Easy)

Photo by Barb Revere

FOUR GREAT BLUE HERONS stood sentinel in the cottonwoods as we entered Wilamut Park at the end of the "D" Street greenway in west Springfield. We'd started our hike a mile earlier in Island Park, where we searched in vain for the one-legged goose that panhandles there



Hikes

West Eugene Wetlands

February 3, 2007

Leader: Joanne Ledet

7 miles, 0 ft. (Moderate)

ON A CRISP and slightly overcast day, 15 hikers -- all members -- met at the Safeway on W. 11th for a hike

daily. Once under the roaring I-5 freeway, we took the canal trail and spotted pairs of widgeons, buffleheads, gadwalls and mallards, all dabbling for food in the murky water. At the east Alton Baker Park pond, one lone bufflehead paddled, perhaps looking for a mate. We took a chip path to get to Autzen Bridge and marveled at how quickly the river level had dropped over the recent cold and dry spell.



Springfield Street Gang

Our return route was the bike path proper along the Willamette, where we spotted a merganser pair on the brushy shore. Under partly sunny skies, raindrops spattered a few sunglasses, but our hardy group pressed onward unfazed. The original plan was to lunch together at a café, but with our group of 22 it would have been unmanageable. We split into several groups and said our goodbyes. Gwen Kephart and Heather Stolen were our only nonmembers. Members were Joan Abel, Tom Adamcyk, LaRee Beckley, Myron Cook, Daniele Delaby, Walt Dolliver, Jim & Kathleen Floyd, Janet Jacobsen (sweep), Marshall Kandell, Sandra Larsen, Kathy Lindstrom, Lou Maenz, Darrell & Nancy McBee, Mary Morrison, Barb Revere, Ruth Romoser, Ellen Sather and Barbara Schomaker.

West Eugene Wetlands
February 16, 2007
Leader: Chris Cunningham
5 miles, 0 ft. (Easy)

OUR QUIET (nearly) five-mile walk began at Meadowlark Prairie Overlook on Greenhill Road. We crossed Amazon Creek and continued to Danebo Ave., by way of Willamette Daisy Meadow. Melodies of song sparrows filled the air. An occasional red-tailed hawk and multitudes of mallards and Canada and snow geese gave us reason to stop and gaze. We passed several black tarp-like structures, evidence of numerous native plant restoration projects that someday will transform this landscape into one more

closely replicating what the Native American Kalapuyan knew and revered. On our return, we took the Tsanchiffin Walk, a half-mile loop that gave us a much closer look at tufted hairgrass and cattails -- by way of bridges and boardwalks made of recycled materials. Members: Chris Cunningham, Jim & Kathleen Floyd and Pete Peterson. Nonmembers: Jens Andersen and Kathryn Golly.

Urban/Nature Walk
February 17, 2007
Leader: Joanne Ledet
4 miles, 500 ft. (Easy)

SINCE THIS HIKE has never been led before and is definitely not in any Bill Sullivan book, I was in a quandary as to what I should call the hike, how long it was and what the elevation gain might be. So I gave it my best shot for advertising purposes and, when 14 hikers met at the Churchill Shopping Center, I asked them to give me their opinion on those measurements at the end of the hike. We started out by walking along Warren St. for about 3/4 mile then cutting into the woods and up a steep, paved path. When we got to the top we walked along a residential street for about 1/2 mile. At one point, we had to stop while six deer ambled down the street and eventually wandered into someone's yard to graze. I now felt justified in calling this hike a "nature walk." We started our descent at another wooded area, but this time we followed a small creek that was swollen by recent rains. We crossed Timberline St., but kept on the paved path until we reached Brittany St. At that point, we stayed on city streets, cutting through the playground at McCornack School and eventually winding up at our cars.

Everyone had an opinion on mileage and elevation gain and the consensus was four miles maximum with an elevation gain of around 500 feet. Marshall Kandell, being a man who has a way with words, suggested I call it SW Eugene Hills Walk, which I will do if I lead it again. The hikers who enjoyed some good exercise on a beautiful day were: Pat Hutchins and Carol Stern, both nonmembers; and members Max Brown, Daniele Delaby, Walt Dolliver, Sharon Duncan, Jim & Kathleen Floyd, Bob Foster, Marshall Kandell, Marilyn Kerins, Margaret Prentice, Barb Schomaker and Joanne Ledet.

Amazon Creek/W. Eugene Wetlands
February 21, 2007
Leader: Melody Clarkson
4 miles, 0 ft. (Easy)

SHELLY and David Call and I enjoyed a crisp, grey morning in the West Eugene Wetlands.

Washburne/China Creek
February 22, 2007
Leader: Marshall Kandell
5 miles, 400 ft. (Easy)

FOUR DIFFERENT weather forecasts gave four different prospects...all wet, more or less. As far as our hike was concerned, none was right! With the sun struggling with a variety of cloud covers, we traversed the shiny, wet sand and spent a few minutes exploring tide pools left accessible by a minus tide. The sea was frisky, however, and a little sneaker wave did just that...sneaked up and grabbed the legs of one of our hikers, only releasing her when it ran back into the surf. Being a real Obsidian trooper, she continued on -- feet dampened, but spirit intact. The Hobbit Trail is but a hint of its old self...with only a few yards of grooved and tunneled trail likely to appeal to hobbits before turning into just an ordinary forest trail (the original route now overgrown and its lower access obscured by brush). The beaver pond was also a disappointment, its tall reeds dry, brown and broken. Hopefully, spring weather will return it to its natural beauty. With the mild, dry weather prevailing, lunch at the meadow was most pleasant and relaxing. The China Creek Loop gave us a look at the first bright yellow skunk cabbage blossoms of the year...and a marching unit of five salamanders. The only other "wildlife" we spotted was a very odd spongy something or other on the beach, slightly larger than a softball, covered with thousands of tiny egglike sacs...some open and empty. No one knew what it was, but a few theories of alien beings were expressed. Only time will tell. As we approached our cars, the rain and hail gods said, "Enough is enough" and returned us to Oregon coast February reality. On the way home a bunch of us stopped to check the cobra lillies at Darlingtonia Botanical Garden and soup and hot beverages at Alpha-Bit. Members on the hike included Jim and Sharon Duncan, Jim and Kathleen Floyd,

Stewart Hoeg, Marshall Kandell, Mary Morrison and Margaret Prentice; and nonmember Kathryn Golly.

Amazon to Dillard Rd. February 24, 2007 Leader: Margaret Prentice 4 miles, 500 ft. (Easy)

HEARING DIRE predictions of wind and rain, eight people showed up prepared for the elements. At this time of year the understory is lush with a variety of mosses, ferns, etc., all in varying shades of green. We heard a few birds, probably winter wrens, and encountered runners and other hikers, some accompanied by their dogs. As expected, the trail was muddy in parts and some of the gravel has washed off the trail, but it didn't slow us down or mar our enjoyment of the morning. The wind blew through a couple of times, but our luck held, the rain held off for us until we returned to the cars -- and then the heavens opened in earnest. Out enjoying this nearby hike were members Max Brown, David Call, Ellie Maliner, Mary Morrison, Margaret Prentice and Nola Shurtleff; and nonmembers Kathryn Golly (completing her third qualifying hike) and James McConkey (on his first Obsidian trip).

McKenzie River Trail February 27, 2007 Leader: Barb Revere 8 miles, 200 ft. (Moderate)

THE WEATHERMAN almost stopped this trip before it began with a forecast of snow in the valley and freezing rain. McKenzie Bridge Ranger Station said they'd had a half-inch of snow and were expecting more overnight. Most signers wanted to go and were advised to plan for cold, wet weather with lots of extra warm gear in their packs. We also planned to ride the bus out to the ranger station in the morning, no matter what, and make an evaluation then, based on the amount of snow at the trailhead. All fuss and bother over nothing! The temperature had warmed a few degrees and the snow had melted. We saw snow piled in the brush occasionally and had a few light flurries as we hiked, but no rain. Everything was the greenest green Oregon can offer and the trail was relatively free of mud holes (the worst, at a private drive to a cabin across the river, seemed to have had drainage work recently and was filled with gravel). We reached Belknap Springs and had a nice lunch. Only two of us were adventurous enough to don suits and dip in the 103-degree pool. We were rewarded with periods of weak sun overhead -- pure heaven! Others walked the

grounds, or toured the hotel halls, hung with many wonderful historical photos.

Too soon, it was time to load up for the quick hike out. We realized we were ahead of schedule at Paradise Campground and decided that, rather than have to wait 30 minutes for the bus at the ranger station, we would tour the campground, one of the nicest up the McKenzie. After the campground loop, we double-timed to the ranger station, arriving in time for a fast pit stop and a choice of seating on our LTD chariot. We did the entire hike with only a scattering of funny little barrel-shaped snowflakes, until we were within a quarter mile of the station. The snow began to fall in earnest then, huge wet fat flakes that would have soaked us through in no time. It snowed all the way back until Walterville, where it turned to rain. Here's a little tip from those of us who took the trip: If you ride this LTD route on a cold and rainy/snowy day, don't sit in the back of the bus. The buses have inadequate defrost systems; when the windows fog up, they open a window near the back to clear the condensation. We froze! Thanks to all my companions for a great trip and to Dave Call, who was my sweep. Members: Jane Allen, David & Shelly Call, Walt Dolliver, Sachiko Iwasaki, Sue Meyers, Mary Morrison, Barb Revere and Pat Soussan.



February Potluck Review:

Picture Perfect Presentation

By LaRee Beckley

I THINK I HAVE SEEN HEAVEN, and it is located in Austria. After viewing the pictures Sandy and Chuck Reul showed at the Feb. 23rd potluck from their bicycle tour of the country's Salzkammergut region (also known as the Lake Area), I can't imagine a more perfect place to be.

To begin with, there is the outstanding scenery, including pristine lakes, surrounded by majestic mountains, glacial peaks, rolling hills, lush farmland and quaint villages. And there is the Bavarian architecture right out of "The Sound of Music." (The movie was filmed in the area.)

Then, there was the food. Austrians "eat early" (breakfast begins at 6 a.m. in most hotels, with dinner at 5 p.m. and finished by 7). Chuck showed pictures of a few mouth-watering dishes. One in particular that looked as good as it might have tasted consisted of pork medallions sprinkled with parmesan cheese, over spaghetti, with cherry tomatoes. However, a popular dish the Reuls decided not to try consisted of balls of pork fat dipped in paprika.

THE REULS WERE on their 12th tour offered by Headwaters, a British firm. Upon arrival, they were taken to their first hotel,

where they were issued bikes, instructions and maps. Thus began their self-guided tour from hotel to hotel, connected by exclusive paved bike trails or small roads. The paths had strategically placed benches and trash receptacles. There was no litter and very few people along these trails.

There were more activities than the Reuls had time for. The tour company provides a "blue book" listing activities available in each village or town, plus critiques to help decide what to see or do. A favorite of the Reuls was a museum of sanitation, where elaborate and quite beautiful toilets and urinals were on display. At a musical instrument museum, which included a horn attached to a violin, an employee demonstrated how to play such a rarity.

THE "SALTZ" in Salzburg refers to salt and the mines that made the area wealthy. The Ruhls finished their tour with a visit to Salzburg, the oldest city in the area, known as the birthplace of Mozart and for its historical fortress and cathedral, which the Ruhls also visited.

There is so much more to commend a visit to the Salzkammergut: the beautiful flowers; ferry rides; trams ascending steep mountains and accessing well-signed and maintained hiking trails; and more. Chuck invites you to contact him if you want information about making it your own vacation destination.

Barb's Sampler: Thru April 15, But Not Too Taxing

By Barb Revere

Sat., Mar. 24 – Indian Ridge Lookout – *X-Ski, difficult*. The area of this trip, reached via the Fall Creek drainage, is on one of the snowy ridges to the east that can be spotted from town. The area is known for beautiful woody scenery and views of the Willamette and McKenzie Valleys. The climb involves some work on this 12-mile, 2,000-foot trip, but the ride down is sure to be exhilarating. Led by Brian Hoyland.

Same Day (Mar. 24) – SOLV Beach Cleanup – *Hike, easy*. SOLV was formed in 1966 by government and community leaders to *Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism*. The first beach cleanup occurred in 1984. Last year, we had *loads* of fun picking up *loads* of trash -- so join us in putting pride back into our beaches! Bags and gloves are provided by local sponsors. All trash is sorted and recyclables are recovered in this genuine community effort. Plan to cover about 1-2 miles of shoreline.

Sun.-Tues., Mar. 25-27 – Blacklock Point/Teen Campout – *Extended trip, camp & hike, easy/moderate*. There are several trail options in this little known state park near Coos Bay and Langlois. The park is largely undeveloped except for trails and is bordered by the Pacific Ocean and the Sixes River. Hikes will take in beach, sea stacks, cliffs, waterfalls and river. Leader Scott Hovis plans this trip for teens, but encourages volunteer chaperones.

Sat.-Sun., Mar. 31-Apr. 1 – Snow camp/overnight – *X-Ski, easy*. Leader Wayne Deeter wants to introduce you to the strategies of safe winter camping on this extended trip. If you've never camped out in the snow, or had a less than idyllic experience, here's your chance to campout in winter with a convivial group of Obsidians -- all on an easy X-Ski outing! There will be a pre-trip meeting Thursday March 29, 6:30 p.m., at the lodge, where you'll be

able to ask about gear that will help keep you safe and comfortable. The camp will be in the neighborhood of Westview Shelter (distance 2 miles, 100 ft. elevation gain).

Thurs., Apr. 5 – Brice Creek – Hike, moderate. This close-in hike, just east of Cottage Grove, offers many wonderful views of rushing cascades and waterfalls in its 5.5-mile length. The trail follows the mossy riverbed closely so you won't be straining to see through dense trees or brush. April and May are the best time for "waterfall viewing" and this hike, led by Marc Hansen, will leave lichen-lovers, waterfall-worshippers and fern-fanciers well sated.

Fri., Apr. 6 – Portland Tram/Ride & Walk – *Hike, easy*. This new trip was recently featured by Bill Sullivan in the Register-Guard. You'll ride the new Portland Aerial Tram and walk part of the Marquam Trail, climbing to Portland's highest point at Council Crest Park. Many spots along the trail feature views of Mt. Hood, Mt. St. Helens, the Willamette River and downtown Portland. Led by Janet Jacobsen, this trip is not to be missed! You may not want to "dress like an Obsidian" in sophisticated Portland, but make sure your shoes are "capable of walking" the four miles of undulating trail, with approximately 100 feet of elevation gain.

Tues., Apr. 10 – Ridgeline Trail – *Hike, moderate*. South Eugene's Ridgeline Trail offers a "deep forest" experience without the long drive, and, this time of year, we may see early flowering trillium, fawn lily and calypso orchid. We'll also likely encounter mud and smart hikers will wear good boots. We are usually finished by lunch, so pack raingear and a snack and you'll be ready for the approximately six undulating miles of trail. Led by Barb Revere (that's me!).

Sat., Apr. 14 – Orchard Point – *Bike, easy*. Your destination point is the

north end of Fern Ridge Reservoir, but the real reason to take this trip is all the lovely scenery you'll see on the ride itself. Touring some of the nicest farmland in the Willamette Valley, you'll take several back roads west out of Eugene before arriving at the dam that was built by the Army Corps. of Engineers in 1941. This is a good place to keep an eye out for resident and migratory birds, so bring binoculars and your birding guide. Led by Sharon Ritchie.

Same Day (Apr., 14) – Mt. Pisgah/ east side – *Hike, easy*. It's a rarity to walk the summit trail at Mt. Pisgah and not run into another Obsidian, but co-leaders Janice Marshal and Marc Hansen plan to take the "road less traveled" on this hike up the east side of Mt. Pisgah. Marc has spent many years combing Buford Park and knows all the trails and how they connect. Don't miss this opportunity to learn a different face of Pisgah. The trip is rated *easy* at 5 miles and 1000 ft. of elevation gain.

Sun., Apr. 15 – Three Creek Lake – *X-Ski, difficult*. In the Sisters area, this trip travels on trail and snow-covered road to reach the lake that sits in a natural bowl formed by Tam McCarthur Rim. There are stunning views of the high Cascades if the weather cooperates. Led by Anne McLucas, the trip covers 12 miles and 1,440 feet of elevation gain.

Notes:

- A winter trip classified as "*easy*" is not a *lesson*. Participants in winter trips should test and know how to use their equipment before the trips. Contact Eugene Parks Department's winter schedule for lessons.

- If you will be leading a trip and would like us to highlight it in next month's Sampler, tell us what's so special about the trip in an email to:

bulletin@obsidians.org

Events at Mt. Pisgah

For reservations and information about the following events, call 747-1504. Membership refers to Arboretum membership, not Obsidian membership.

SPRING EQUINOX HIKE to Summit , Wed., Mar. 21, 6–8 p.m. -- Celebrate the vernal equinox with site manager Tom LoCascio. Learn about the ecology and history of the site and enjoy the sunset on the way down! Suggested donation: \$3 (members free). Meet at visitor center, rain or shine.

WILDCRAFTING WEEDS WALK, Sat., Mar. 24, 1–3 p.m. -- Learn which weeds are beneficial, and edible! Join herbalist Sue Sierralupe on a walk around the arboretum discovering characteristics of edible plants, sustainable harvesting techniques and what *not* to eat. You'll taste some example plants you may not have known were food.

Copies of recipes provided. Meet at visitor center, rain or shine. Suggested donation: \$3 (MPA members free).

ELDER WALK, Friday, APRIL 6, 12:30–2:30 p.m. -- Join nature guide Harold Schyberg and other nature-loving seniors on an ecology walk along blooming trails. Enjoy refreshments and conversation. Meet at arboretum office, rain or shine. Suggested donation: \$4 (MPA members free).

SPRING FIELD BOTANY, Sat. & Sun., April 14 & 15, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. -- In this two-day intensive workshop botanist Tobias Policha will help participants improve their identification skills and knowledge of our local flora. Topics include plant anatomy, family characteristics and using a botanical key to aid in identification. The focus will be on flowering plants. This is a

hands-on class, so be prepared to go outside. Recommended text for class: Gilkey and Dennis' Handbooks of Northwestern Plants (2001 edition). Pre-registration required. Fee: \$55 (\$50 members.)

BIRD WALK, Sat., April 14, 8–10 a.m. -- Join birders Dick Lamster and Maeve Sowles. Meet at visitor center, rain or shine. Suggested donation: \$3 (MPA members free). Coffee served!

WILDFLOWERS FOR DUMMIES: A Guided Nature Walk, Sun., April 15, 10 a.m.–Noon -- Join wildflower enthusiasts Chandra LeGue and Julie Polhemus and immerse yourself in the splendor of the arboretum's native spring wildflowers. Meet at visitor center, rain or shine. Suggested donation: \$3 (MPA members free).

Events at REI

The following events will be at REI, 306 Lawrence St., Eugene

GPS Basics -- Tues., March 20, 7 p.m.

Baffled by your new GPS unit? Join REI navigation experts for a comprehensive "101" and learn how to set waypoints, track your journey and use GPS with a map. Bring your handheld GPS unit and instruction booklet. Free for REImembers, \$15 for nonmembers. Register by calling REI Eugene Customer Service at 465-1800, stop by the service desk or email your contact information to memmons@rei.com with "GPS REGISTER" in the subject line.

Environment Ecology for the Human Body – Thurs. March 22, 7 p.m.

Yoga states, "as is the macrocosm, so is the microcosm." This means that by creating health and well-being in our own bodies and lives we can keep the planet healthy. This presentation will highlight the connection between the earth and our bodies, using the five-element theory of Chinese medicine and Ayurveda. Practical techniques for improving the quality of our life will be explored. Learn how to increase your overall well-being and work towards improving the health of the planet as a whole. Presenter and yoga instructor Noah is a clinical Ayurvedic specialist, yoga teacher and Ayurvedic chef. **Contact:** Noah Volz at 513-7750 or volznoah@hotmail.com. Free, no registration required.

Backpacking Southbound: PCT & AT – Thursday, March 29, 7 p.m.

Most hikers along the Pacific Crest Trail are familiar with what it takes to thru-hike northbound, while heading southbound seems to remain a complete mystery. The trails receive heavy environmental impact because 90% start in the south, taxing the ecosystem more than if we had half starting in the north. Join author Francis Tapon and unravel this enigma and gain the courage to either section hike or thru-hike southbound. This presentation will have video and photos from the PCT and the Appalachian Trail. Information: REI Eugene Outreach Specialist Michelle Emmons at 465-1800, ext. 252; or memmons@rei.com. Free, no registration required.

Nearby Nature Volunteer Opportunities

LOVE NATURE? Enjoy kids? Learn all about leading school nature walks in Alton Baker Park this spring as well as other Nearby Nature volunteer opportunities. No experience needed -- free training provided in early April. Questions? Call Nearby Nature at 687-9699, email info@nearbynature.org or see www.nearbynature.org.



Upcoming Bus Trips

A DAY IN THE COUNTRY: Harrisburg, Junction City, Long Tom Trail

Date: Wednesday, March 21

Leaders: Mary Ellen West, Liz Reanier

Cost: \$50 (\$52 nonmembers). Includes cost of catered lunch at Tuscan Villa at Pfeiffer's Vineyard

Reservations//Checks to: Janet Speelman (344-3019) 1496 West 28th St., Eugene 97405.

In Harrisburg, the museum houses miniature exhibits. In Junction City, we will visit several house museums and enjoy our coffee break on the porch of the Mary Pitney House. There should be daffodils on Ferguson Road. We will visit the alpacas at April's Acres and visit the gift shop. A catered lunch will be served at the Tuscan Villa at Pfeiffer's Vineyard. We will make other stops as time permits, with our final stop at Lingo's Sheepbarn Antiques to look over their \$2,000,000 inventory.

OREGON COAST AQUARIUM & HATFIELD CENTER

Date: Tuesday, April 10

Leaders: Bette Hack and Liz Reanier

Cost: \$40 (\$42 nonmembers)

Reservations/Checks to: Mary Lee Cheadle (689-1085) 3225 Richard Ave., Eugene 97402.

There will be a scenic ride to the coast for a leisurely visit to the Oregon Coast Aquarium and the recently refurbished Hatfield Marine Science Center. You will lunch on your own in the aquarium cafe. We will return via an alternate route, seeing country we seldom travel.

A DAY IN PORTLAND AS A TOURIST

Date: Tuesday, May 1

Leaders: Barbara and Paul Beard

Cost: \$63 (\$65 nonmembers)

Reservations/Checks to: Mary Lee Cheadle (689-1085) 3225 Richard Ave., Eugene 97402.

This will be a great day to enjoy the flowers of May Day and tour the sights. There will be a drive by some interesting new construction; possibly a ride on the new tram that goes from the river up to Oregon Health Sciences University; the Japanese Gardens; Pittock Mansion; and a movie at OMNI-MAX. **Included in price:** Lunch at Sweet Tomatoes. Back in Eugene by 6 p.m.

-- Lenore McManigal

Crater Lake Weekend Sound Good? Hey, Maybe You'll Get Lucky!

THE CRATER LAKE ski and snowshoe weekend on March 30 to April 1 is about to happen. Although the trip is full, there's always the possibility of a cancellation. No deposit is required unless an opening occurs. You will find additional details about the trip on the club website at www.obsidians.org; or you can call Sharon Ritchie at 342-8435 or email her at rehugr@comcast.net.

Bill Sullivan to Lead August Backpack in Wallowas

ON AN OFFICIAL TRIP sponsored by both the Obsidians and the Chemeketans, Bill Sullivan will lead a backpack in the Wallowas Friday to Sunday, August 3-5. The destination will be McCully Basin, located in a beautiful, rarely visited corner of the Eagle Cap Wilderness.

The trip is classified as "difficult." The backpackers will hike six miles with 2,500 ft. elevation gain to base camp on Friday; do an optional nine-mile off-trail scramble up 9,702-foot Aneroid Mountain (gaining 2,000 ft) on Saturday; and hike out on Sunday.

Those intending to do this as a three-day trip from Eugene/Salem will have to leave at 3 a.m. to be at the trailhead by noon on Friday. It will be a 900-mile round-trip drive.

The group will be limited to 12 members. Sign-up will be directly with Sullivan, who can be contacted at 541-683-6837 or sullivan@efn.org.

Obsidians & Emeralds Together Again August 17th

IN SPRING a young man's fancy turns to love...but only because the Eugene Emeralds don't start their season until June! Then it's, "Take me out to the ball game!"



On Friday night, August 17th, the Obsidians will make our second annual pilgrimage to Civic Stadium to cheer on the Ems...while getting our fill of hot dogs, burgers, coleslaw, potato salad...and a bit of brew.

Save the date and watch for sign-up information. Jim Duncan is team manager on this project, with Stewart Hoeg co-managing. Everyone who went last year had a blast. Some of us even watched the game!

AT THE LODGE



POTLUCK

MARCH 23 PREVIEW :

Camp Pegg - Summer Camp Rally

OF COURSE YOU WANT to go to Summer Camp!! How could you beat camping near Yellowstone National Park with your friends in a secluded campground reserved for the Obsidians. We'll be camping about 20 miles west of the West Entrance to Yellowstone, but far removed from the usual tourists. And, this year we plan to get out of camp earlier than usual by starting breakfast a little earlier and by having lighter breakfasts on some days. For those planning to hike into the back country in Yellowstone, and those planning to sight see, an earlier start will allow us to beat the crowds that flock to the Park later in the day.

Want to hear more about it? Then be sure to attend the Summer Camp Rally Potluck Friday, March 23 at the Lodge.

YOU'LL MEET the staff for Camp Pegg, see slides of the camp and some of the best hikes, hear about plans for meals, what to bring and tips for a successful camping experience. If you haven't camped with us before this will be a great chance to learn how we do it. If you're an old hand, the slides

of this beautiful area will inspire you to dust off your gear.

We will accept completed registration forms with the \$20 deposit (checks only) the same evening. One form is included in this month's Bulletin - additional forms may be downloaded from (www.obsidians.org). See the registration form for detailed registration information. With two sessions of camp and up to 75 at each session, we expect that everyone who wants to go to camp this year will be able to do so.

-- Jim Duncan, Summer Camp Chair

March Potluck

Friday, March 23, 2007, Obsidian Lodge
Potluck, 6:30 p.m. Rally, 7:30 p.m.

Bring your favorite potluck dish to share...along with your own plates, utensils and cups...and \$1 to help cover lodge expenses. Parking at the lodge can get crowded, especially for potlucks. Please consider carpooling.

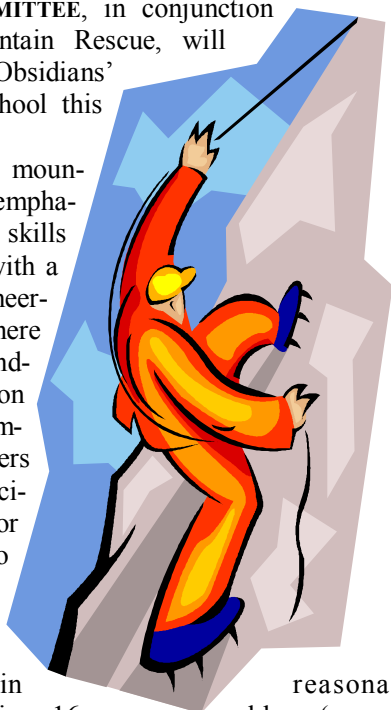
Spring Climb School

Begins April 12

THE CLIMBS COMMITTEE, in conjunction with Eugene Mountain Rescue, will once again present the Obsidians' annual spring Climb School this year.

This is an entry level mountaineering class with an emphasis on providing the basic skills needed to climb safely with a group in alpine mountaineering environments -- where travel may involve ascending glaciers or negotiation of steep rock. It is recommended for new climbers who would like to participate in any "technical" or roped climb; or those who would like to refresh their climbing skills. Prerequisites for the course include being in

reasonably good physical condition; 16 or older (or at least 13, if accompanied by a parent or responsible adult).



CLASSES TO BE TAUGHT BY Obsidian and EMR volunteers include two evening classroom sessions (April 12 and 19) and two full-day field sessions (rock, April 14 or 15; and snow, April 21). The cost is \$75, payable in advance. Members of Obsidians or EMR receive a \$25 discount. All proceeds go to support the Obsidians and EMR.

The climb school will be offered first to Obsidians and EMR, then to the general public. Class size is limited. For more information, contact Larry Huff at 915-9071 or climbs@obsidians.org. To register, contact George Baitinger at 344-9345 (home), 346-2927 (work) or gbaiting@uoregon.edu.

SciEd Tuesday - April 10

Featuring On-the-Spot Gait Analysis

WEAR YOUR FAVORITE walking or running shoes to the Tuesday, April 10th, SciEd program at the lodge and get an on-the-spot visual gait analysis. Kit and John Olsen from *A Step Beyond* walking and running store will discuss the technology behind shoes and how they are created. They will also provide information about how correct shoes can prevent injuries and show various demonstration models. Then, you can have your own walking or running gait analyzed by these professionals. The program starts at 7 p.m.

-- Joella Ewing, SciEd Chair

Summer Trips Leaders

Meeting - April 17th

THE ANNUAL summer trips leaders meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 17th, at the Obsidian Lodge.

Get your new Leaders' Guides and leaders' packets, hear presentations from a short lineup of speakers and, perhaps, win some neat prizes while having a lot of fun.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND? Experienced leaders, new leaders and *maybe sorta wannabes*.

Anyone leading a trip this year should attend to receive your packet and the newly revised Leader's Guide, which you'll find of value for several years. If you think you might like to lead a hike this year, but aren't sure, attending the meeting might clear up your doubts.

Experienced leaders...please remember back to that first trip you led for the Obsidians. Did it all go as planned? Did you forget to include a vital piece of information on your sign-up sheet? Did you forget something about the trail that caused a problem? What have you learned over your years of leading? We will ask experienced leaders to share their "best tip for a first-time leader" at the meeting.

The 2007 summer trips schedule is well underway. We thank all the leaders who have stepped forward with the fabulous lineup of trips already on the working schedule. We will have the schedule published online by April 1 and in the April Bulletin.

ALL LEADERS: If you haven't been contacted by our committee asking for your 2007 trips, we apologize and want to hear from you. Please call Janet Jacobsen at 342-8030 or Barb Revere at 726-4989 or email us at summer-trips@obsidians.org.

Remember, it is never too late to add a trip! We will accept new trips on the schedule throughout the season and we rely on late additions to help fill in weekend days in the fall.

-- Barb Revere, Summer Trips Co-Chair

Put More Steps in Your Spring!

CALLING ALL TRIP LEADERS! There is still time to add your favorite spring hike or late season ski or snowshoe outing to the trips schedule. Please send your plans to winter-trips@obsidians.org. Thanks.

-- Jim Pierce, Winter Trips Chair

Bulletin Classifieds

Obsidian Goodies

T-shirts, \$10 (no matter design or size); sweatshirt, \$15; cap, \$15; mug or tumbler, \$10; whistle, \$3.

Contact Laurie 206-2303 or lafunkh@aol.com.

Note: There is no charge for placement of Obsidian Bulletin Classified ads; however, only members can place ads and preference will be given to ads that relate to the club's mission and our members' outdoor activity interests.

Obsidian Calendar

March

17 Sat	- Sand Mtn Bushwack, X-Ski, B.Johnson.....	746-1513
21 Wed	- Harrisburg area Bus, M. West	343-5492
23 Fri	- Summer Camp Rally.....	Potluck
24 Sat	- Coast Hike - TBA, B.Montgomery.....	736-8955
24 Sat	- Indian Ridge Lookout, X-Ski, D, B.Hoyland.....	338-9881
24 Sat	- Beach clean up, Hike/Trail Maint, B.Revere.....	729-4989
24 Sat	- Sweet Creek Falls, E, D, & S.Call.....	954-7733
25-27 Sun-Tue	- Blacklock Pt, teens, S.Hovis.....	345-7788
25 Sun	- Spencer Butte, Trail Maint, P.Asai	933-3927
29 Thu	- Snow camp, Pretrip, W.Deeter.....	942-0824
30-Apr 1 Fri-Sun	- Crater Lake, S.Ritchie	342-8435
31-Apr 1 Sat-Sun	- Snow camp W.Deeter.....	942-0824

April

2 Mon	- Mt. Pisgah sunrise, hike, Royal Murdock	345-8305
3 Tue	- Amazon to Spencer Butte, Janet Jacobsen	343-8030
5 Thu	- Brice Creek, hike, Marc Hansen	343-5114
6 Fri	- Council Crest/Tram, hike, Janet Jacobsen	343-8030
7 Sat	- Alton Baker Bike Tr, hike, Ruth Romoser	726-8154
8 Sun	- Kentucky Falls, hike, Barbara Revere	726-4989
10 Tue	- Ridgeline Trail, hike, Barbara Revere	726-4989
10 Tue	- Oregon Coast Aquarium, Bus, B.Hack.....	345-3650
12 Thu	- Kelly & Willamette Hts, hike, Janet Jacobsen	343-8030
14 Sat	- Mt. Pisgah east side, hike, Marc Hansen	343-5114
14 Sat	- Orchard Point, bike, Sharon Ritchie	342-8435
15 Sun	- Three Creek Lake, X-Ski, D, McLucas.....	485-5608
17 Tue	- Larison Cr, hike, Margaret Prentice	687-5850
17 Tue	- Leader's Meeting,	7PM at the Lodge

Clothing & Outdoor Equipment Swap - April 15

By Lana Lindstrom

DO YOU STILL HAVE those barely worn boots that don't quite fit, but you just can't bring yourself to give them to Goodwill? Or the skis you haven't used in years because you now prefer snowshoeing? Or the office dress you haven't worn since you retired in 2002? We offer a perfect excuse to get rid of that clutter!

The Voluntary Simplicity Group is sponsoring a clothes and recreational/fitness equipment swap from 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 15, at the lodge. The only cost is a \$1 lodge use fee. The clothes and equipment are free.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS. Bring your "stuff" to the lodge between 1 and 3 p.m. We'll designate specific areas for clothing and equipment. Sift through what others brought and, if you see something you like, take it. Come early and stay late, since items will arrive throughout the afternoon. Whatever is left over will be donated to local charities.

WHAT IS "STUFF?" Casual, sporty and dressy clothing in good, clean condition. Functional fitness and recreational equipment. Please don't bring "junk." Use some discretion. This is a swap. There's a good possibility another Obsidian will be interested in your gently used items.

If you have any questions, call or email me at 683-1409; лана_lindstrom@hotmail.com; or one of our other Voluntary Simplicity Group members: Ann-Marie Askew, LaRee Beckley, Joan Bradley, Lou Maenz, Effie Neth, Judy Newman, Leila Snow or Clare Tucker.





Salt Creek Falls - Photo by Stewart Hoeg

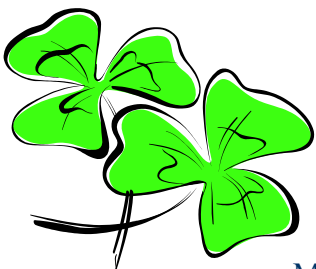


OBSIDIANS, INC.
P.O. BOX 51424
EUGENE, OR 97405

OBSIDIANS, INC. IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

PRESORTED STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
EUGENE, OR
PERMIT 803

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



March 2007

CAMP PEGG - SUMMER CAMP 2007 - REGISTRATION FORM

See the reverse side for registration information.

Each camper must submit a separate form.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ E-Mail: _____

City, State, Zip _____ Age, if under 18: _____

I prefer: Session 1 (Jul 28-Aug 4) Session 2 (Aug 4-11) It doesn't matter; I'm flexible
 If space is available, I would like to stay for both sessions. Only one \$20 deposit required.

Cost/session: Free Age 0-5 \$105 Age 6-11 \$205 Age 12-Adult Member \$245 – Age 12-Adult Non-member

Base Cost: \$105(6-11), \$205 (12 - adult member), \$245 (12 - adult non-member)	\$
*** Bear spray 7.9oz. w/ holster @ \$48.00/each (\$24 if sharing – see below)	
Sub-Total	
(Minus non-refundable deposit of \$20 which is attached)	(\$20)
Balance Owed - to be paid no later than June 1, 2006	\$

*** I would like to share a bear spray with someone in the other session.

A **non-refundable** deposit fee of **\$20.00** must be included for **each** registration. Make the check payable to "Obsidian Summer Camp Fund." A single check may be used for multiple registration forms mailed in the same envelope. Mail to:

Obsidians, Summer Camp Registration
P. O. Box 51424
Eugene, OR 97405

Is this your first Summer Camp? Yes No

Would you like to be considered for a responsible person position? Yes No

Please indicate your dietary restriction: No restrictions Semi-vegetarian (fish & chicken) Vegetarian

Do you have limitations that should be considered when the duty roster is made up (e.g., bad back, etc)? If so, specify.

If you are camping in a RV, what will you bring? Type _____ Length _____ ft.

RV parking is limited. Are you willing to tent if RV parking places are not available? Yes No

RECOGNITION OF RISK AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY

I, THE UNDERSIGNED, am aware that outdoor activities can be dangerous and present occasional hazards not encountered in everyday life. I am prepared to deal with and accept all risks of this activity and associated activities as my own responsibility. I am responsible for providing my own equipment, including first aid supplies and medicines. In consideration of OBSIDIANS, INC. sponsoring and granting permission for me to participate in this activity, I release OBSIDIANS, INC., its officers, agents and members from all claims on account of my death or injury resulting from any act, or failure to act, even if negligent, during my participation in this activity, including travel to and from the activity, and any associated activities.

By your signature below, you certify that you have read and understand all the conditions listed above and on the reverse side.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

If minor under 18, parent or guardian must sign instead.

You may download this form at www.obsidians.org on the Summer Camp page.

CAMP PEGG - SUMMER CAMP 2007 - REGISTRATION INFORMATION

See the reverse side for the registration form.

Registration/Deposit: You may register in person at the Friday, March 23 Summer Camp Rally (see below) or mail your registration beginning March 23. All forms postmarked from March 23 thru April 1 will be treated the same, i.e. as though they were received on the same day. Members will have preference over non-members.

To register, complete the registration form on the reverse side and return one for each member of your party, along with a non-refundable deposit of \$20 per person. One check for multiple registrations in the same envelope is OK. Make the check payable to "**Obsidian Summer Camp Fund**" and bring to the March 23 Summer Camp Rally or mail to:

<p>Obsidians, Summer Camp Registration P. O. Box 51424 Eugene, OR 97405</p>
--

Final Payment: The balance of the camp fee is due on or before **June 1, 2006**.

Cancellation Policy: The Summer Camp Committee recognizes that sometimes cancellations are unavoidable. However, because there are some fixed costs, and in fairness to those on the Waiting List, the cancellation policy is as follows:

- ▶ The original deposit of \$20 is non-refundable.
- ▶ Cancellations made prior to July 1: a full refund, less the deposit, will be made.
- ▶ Cancellations made on or after July 1: if your vacancy is filled, the full fee, less the deposit, will be refunded after camp. If your vacancy is not filled, no refund will be made until after all camp expenses have been paid in full. At that time, funds permitting, the fixed costs of camp will be determined and a percentage of the fee will be refunded.

Waiting List: Each session of camp is limited to 75 persons. If more register initially, we will hold a lottery. If one session fills, but the other doesn't, those who checked "I am flexible" on their registration will be slotted into the session with vacancies. Those names not drawn in the lottery will be placed on a waiting list. If a waiting list is in effect, all others who submit their registration forms after April 1 will be placed on it in the order of the postmark date.

Persons on the waiting list will be told their position on the list will by April 15, or as their registration arrives, if after the 15th. If you want to remain on the list, your check will be deposited. If your name moves to the Final List, you will be contacted again; final payment will be due by June 1. If you decide to remove yourself from the Waiting List, your deposit will be refunded, if done before you are moved to the Final List. Those persons remaining on the Waiting List when camp starts will receive a deposit refund after camp.

Bears: We will be camping and hiking in bear country and appropriate precautions must be taken. Every group going into the backcountry should carry at least one (preferably two) canisters of bear spray. If you would like the Summer Camp Committee to purchase a canister for you, add it to the registration form. You may also elect to share a canister with someone in the other session by checking the appropriate box on the registration form – the Committee will coordinate the exchange.

Summer Camp Rally: Friday, March 23 is the Summer Camp Rally at the Lodge - potluck at 6:30 PM, rally at 7:30. We'll discuss camp logistics and show slides of the campground and surrounding area. You may turn in your registration form and check at the Rally or mail it in.

Booklets: A Summer Camp booklet which contains detailed information regarding the campsite, the area, what to bring, etc. will be provided to registrants who have paid in full (one per family). It will be available for pickup at the June 22nd potluck at the Lodge.

Check-in: Campers are welcome to arrive after noon (12:00 PM) on the first day (Saturday) of each session. All food will be provided beginning with dinner the first night and ending with lunch fixings and breakfast on the last day.

Questions: See the Summer Camp page on our website: www.obsidians.org or contact:

Registrar - Sharon Ritchie	342-8435	trehugr@comcast.net
Camp Boss - John Jacobsen	343-8030	johnwjacobsen@comcast.net
Asst. Camp Boss - Carolyn Higgins	995-8060	corkcarolyn@hotmail.com