

Inside This Issue

New members	2
Board Notes	6
Conservation Corner	7
Trip Reports & Activities	8-10
Other Group's Events	11
Events At the Lodge	14
Summer Camp Preview	15
Calendar	15
Features	
Brian Hamilton	1
President's Message	2
Olympic Trials Club Plans	3
Holiday Gifts	5
Janet's Jottings	12
Barb's Sampler	13
Picture of the Month	16

Dates to Remember

Dec 14	Search & Rescue Potluck
Dec 18	Benton - SciEd Tuesday
Jan 2	Board Meeting
Jan 10	Otrials Orientation



**Camp Hamilton
Summer Camp 2008**

It's happening.
See Page 15

Brian Hamilton:

**New Club President Took
Interesting Route to the Lodge**

THIS PROFILE of Brian Hamilton begins with his birth right here in Eugene and concludes with his recent election last month as Obsidian board president for 2008. And, while it might seem that the distance from downtown to the lodge isn't that far, Brian took a somewhat circuitous and interesting route.

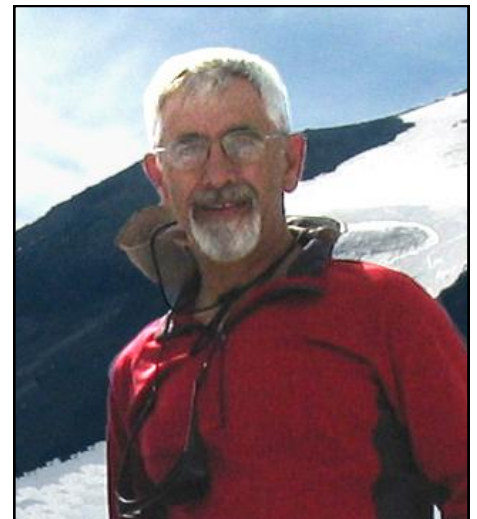
When he was about 10, his family moved to Southern California, where he graduated from West Covina High School and took some classes at Mt. San Antonio College. Although he always had some drawing and art skills -- and now thinks he always wanted to be an architect -- pursuit of such a profession did not occur right away.

For a number of years, he fought forest fires, worked on fishing boats and even worked at a couple of cemeteries, one of which his grandparents owned in Coos Bay. And, oh yes, he did some hiking, backpacking, bow hunting and climbing.

HE EVENTUALLY RETURNED to Eugene and, in 1985, earned his bachelor of architecture degree from the University of Oregon. A member of the American Institute of Architects, he is a certified construction specifier and a certified construction contract administrator. He is an associate, project manager and CADD manager with the prestigious Robertson/Sherwood/Architects firm, where he's worked since 1991. He has served as president of AIA's Southwestern Oregon chapter and also served on the board of AIA's Oregon chapter. He also is a professional member in the Construction Specifications Institute.

The design and construction of buildings is a team effort, with lots of hands in the mix. You can find Brian's touch in the brick veneer and precast concrete trim on the outside of the new Eugene Public Library, in the Police Department's forensic lab and in numerous out-of-town projects, including aquatic centers across the state. For some, he was project manager and he says, "I am proud of them, although it's not easy to 'point at them' for people. A recent one that turned out very nice is the Her-

(Continued on page 4)



*Photo by Brian Hamilton
Brian on Middle Sister last summer.*

**** As We Go To Press ****

Late word was received that Bill Prentice, an active Obsidian member and husband of Margaret Prentice, passed away December 7. A private service will be held. An obituary will be published in the January Bulletin

President's Message:

Spilling Club Secrets!

YOU CAN SHARE this secret: Obsidians, Inc., is one great outdoor club!

In a few days, I will step down as president of your board, so I'm sharing all the secrets. One of the big ones is that I have served on the board of directors with very special people: Marianne Camp, Anne Dhu McLucas, Brian Hamilton, Stewart Hoeg, Jim Duncan, Laurie Funkhouser and Barb Revere. They have my gratitude and my respect.

Here is another secret: a lot of people do a lot of work for you. This last year has been an incredible experience and deepened my admiration for the sheer effort, creativity and personal sacrifice that makes this club operate at such a high level. Most of us, engaged in our favorite Obsidian activities, can easily overlook the contributions of the all-volunteer staff that make it seem so effortless and easy.

The final secret is not really secret: the Obsidian spirit is alive and well. With a membership exceeding 600 members, nothing happens by accident. Each year is a challenge and that challenge is met only because so many peo-

Welcome!

New Members

ESSENBERG, MARGARET (Active)
942 Lawrence Street, Eugene 97401
343-1733 margess@biochem.okstate.edu

ESSENBERG, RICHARD (Active)
942 Lawrence Street, Eugene 97401
343-1733 ressenberg@gmail.com

Reinstated Members

BAKER, SUSAN (Active)
2144 West 16th Way, Eugene 97402

ple give so unselfishly of themselves. This is a tribute to all of us. Sometimes we just sign up and show up; sometimes we are leaders. My term as president was just part of our Obsidian tradition.

You can share in my confidence that your organization is in good hands. The new board members join a dedicated and competent group of Obsidians ready to meet the challenges of 2008. The Obsidians have been a part of my life for going on 25 years, and it has been a pleasure this year to be your president.

- John Pegg

OBSIDIANS, INC

P.O. Box 322, Eugene, OR 97440

Website: www.obsidians.org

Board of Directors

President - John Pegg

Vice President - Jim Duncan

Secretary - Laurie Funkhouser

Treasurer - Stewart Hoeg

Marianne Camp Anne Dhu McLucas

Brian Hamilton Barb Revere

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

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The Obsidian Bulletin

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For reprint rights, contact above.

Deadline

for January 2008 Bulletin

Saturday, December 29, 2007

Assembly/Mailing Team

For November Bulletin

Marc Hansen, Yuan Hopkins, Janet Speelman, Verna Kocken, Don Baldwin, Vera Woolley and Lou Maenz, crew chief.

Editorial Team

Writing & Editorial Staff Jean

Coberly, Janet & John Jacobsen, Mar-

shall Kandell, Barb Revere & Beth Roy

Copy Editor Marshall Kandell

Graphics, Design & Desktop Publishing

..... Stewart Hoeg & John Jacobsen

Assembly & Mail Manager Lou Maenz

Relief Mural Update

(We could use some funding help!!)

IN THE OCTOBER BULLETIN we introduced the relief mural that is in production by Dallas Cole that will beautify our Lodge. Dallas tells me the firing of the 60-70 ceramic pieces is underway and she has gotten some of the finished pieces back. She says they look great! Why doesn't that surprise me?

Dallas also had a great idea. She knows friends who collect special rocks or rocks from special places and thought some Obsidians might like to have some of their "special" rocks incorporated into the mural. If any of you are interested in contributing a rock(s), let me know.

Speaking of contributing, my fund raising efforts for this project have gotten off to very poor start, with only one person offering to help out so far. We expect the project (materials and masonry work only - Dallas is donating her professional skills and artistry) to cost about \$4,500. We need about \$4,475 more to reach that goal.

If you would like contribute to this incredible gift for the Obsidian Lodge just contact me at 343-8030 or

johnwjacobsen@comcast.net

- John Jacobsen



Club Plans Exciting Hike Schedule With Online Registration for Visitors

*By Marshall Jay Kandell
Ad Hoc Olympic Trials Chair*

THE OBSIDIANS will welcome visitors to next summer's U.S. Olympic Track & Field Trials and the Oregon Bach Festival with a full slate of hiking opportunities designed to introduce guests to the natural wonders of Oregon and the unique attractions of Eugene ("Track Town, USA"). The Trials will run from June 27 through July 6, with a two-day break in action on July 1 and 2. The Bach Festival also starts on June 27 and runs through July 13.

For those individuals and families using the events as the basis for a more extended vacation to the area, Obsidian hikes will be offered during the weeks before and after the trials, as well as during the two-day break in the middle. Coastal, forest and mountain hikes are being planned from the Cascades to the Pacific tide pools. Most hikes will be easy to moderate, in the five to six-mile range.

During the meet itself, we will lead early morning urban hikes along the city's riverside paths and forested ridgeline trails; pilgrimages to "Pre's Rock" and along Pre's Trail; and even an "Animal House" hike (togas optional). These hikes will end in time for participants to get to lunch and to Hayward Field for the day's action.

Additional information can be found at www.observians.org/otrials. The full schedule and registration procedures will operational online in January. The website can also be accessed through the Obsidians' primary home page at www.observians.org.

FOR THE PAST YEAR, our ad hoc committee has been meeting almost monthly. Task groups have dealt with the day trip and urban hike schedules, logistics and trip leader selection; the online sign-up and information technicalities and design; publicity and protocol, including liaison with other Olympic Trials organizations; guest relations;

budget; and other related issues.

The original committee members have been consistently enthusiastic, dedicated and involved. They include co-chair Dan Christensen, Wayne Deeter, Carolyn & Cork Higgins, Dick Hildreth, Janet & John Jacobsen, Anne McLucas, Sam Miller and Ruth Romoser.

AS WE RECEIVE ONLINE sign-ups, we will forward the registration forms to the appropriate trip leaders, who will initiate
d i r e c t



personal email correspondence with the registrants -- describing the hikes in more detail, answering questions and developing personal relationships. We feel this will create a warm visitor/host relationship and also minimize the chances of no-shows and cancellations (visitors will pay the standard \$5 nonmember trip fee).

All leaders and assistant leaders must, therefore, be able and willing to engage in frequent, timely and ongoing email communications -- both with the registrants and with others on the committee. All leaders and assistant leaders must also be willing to be drivers on the trips. Leaders must also be familiar with the various hikes, having led them before.

THE TRIP SCHEDULE, rapidly approaching completion, is presented below. There are still openings for assistant leaders on many trips and additional leaders on potentially added hikes. It is

hoped that, like the Trials themselves, we will wind up with *three* leaders (including assistants, who may have to step in and take over if necessary) on each trip, with an *alternate* in the wings. We realize it's difficult to commit to anything so far in advance and that a variety of emergencies might force changes in plans. However, we are more apt to embrace members who say, "Count me in... I really want to be involved," than those who say, "If I'm available at the time..."

We want everyone involved to have an infectious sense of excitement and genuine desire to play host to visitors from around the nation (and, perhaps, the world) and to have them go home with great impressions of Oregon, Eugene and the Obsidians.

If the scheduled trips are not filled, we will post the openings on the YMCA board so others can fill the slots. And, if we get more registrants than expected, we will solicit additional driver leaders. During this time period the regularly scheduled summer trips program will be ongoing. We do not see any conflict between the two schedules. In fact, it's possible we might offer open slots on summer trips to guests, particularly those seeking and capable of handling more difficult hikes (at present, we have no difficult hikes on the Trials schedule).

With the schedule set, the committee will focus more emphasis in coming months on publicity, guest relations and resolving logistical problems as they arise. Under consideration is providing a variety of informational and "concierge" services for visitors at our trip meeting location at South Eugene High School and, perhaps, in the Olympic Trials festival area.

January 10 Orientation

ANYONE INTERESTED in getting involved in this exciting program should attend our special orientation **at the**

(Continued on page 4)

Olympic Trials & Bach Festival

(Continued from page 3)

lodge at 6 p.m. on Thursday, January 10th. The committee will be meeting at 5 p.m. (you're welcome to sit in) and then engage in short briefings, brainstorming and enlistment of those wanting to jump on our bandwagon. In the meantime, if you'd like to be an assistant leader/driver on any of the scheduled hikes, let us know at otrials@obsidians.org.

Tentative Trip Schedule

The schedule, as of the Bulletin deadline, is as follows, with leaders identified in *italics*.

Mon. June 23 – Washburne/China Creek Loops: *Marshall Kandell, Jim & Kathleen Floyd.*

Tues. June 24 – Kentucky Falls: *Barb Revere.*

Wed., June 25 – Clear Lake: *Marshall Kandell, Margaret Prentice.*

Thurs., June 26 – Brice Creek: *Sam Miller, Dick Hildreth. Spencer Butte:* *Janet Jacobsen, Carolyn Higgins, Elle Weaver.*

Fri., June 27 – Delta Ponds: *Ruth Romoser, Carolyn Higgins, Janet Jacobsen, Rick Ahrens. Pre's Rock/Hendricks Park:* *Marshall Kandell, Dan Christensen, Janet Hall.*

Sat., June 28 – Mt. Pisgah: *John Jacobsen, Barb Revere. Library to Skinner Butte:* *Janet Jacobsen.*

Sun. June 29 – River Walk (incl. Pre's Trail): *Marshall Kandell, Ruth Romoser.*

Mon. June 30 – Amazon Headwaters to Raptor Center: *Janet Jacobsen, Carolyn Higgins, Rick Ahrens.*

Tues. July 1 – Washburne Loop/Hobbit Trail/Lighthouse: *Sandra Larsen.*

Wed., July 2 – Iron Mountain: *Cork & Carolyn Higgins.*

Thurs., July 3 – Pre's Rock/Hendricks Park: *Marshall Kandell, Dan Christensen, Janet Hall.*

Fri., July 4 – Butte to Butte Race (no hikes scheduled).

Sat. July 5 – Island Park to Autzen Bridge: *Barb Revere, Marshall Kandell, Ruth Romoser.*

Sun. July 6 – "Animal House" (Togas Optional!): *Dick Hildreth, Sam Miller.*

Mon. July 7 – Washburne/China Creek Loops: *Marshall Kandell.*

Tues. July 8 – Rigdon Meadows, Indigo Springs (Middle Fork Willamette): *Jim & Sharon Duncan.*

Wed. July 9 – Cape Perpetua/Gwynn Creek: *Cork & Carolyn Higgins.*

Thurs. July 10 – Salt Creek Falls, *Charles Durham.*

Fri., July 11 – Lowder Mountain, *Diane Jeffcott.*

Brian Hamilton

(Continued from page 1)

miston Community Pool.”

PROBABLY THE MOST visible recent project in the Eugene area, he says, is the connector building between Gateway Mall and the new Kohl's store. “The structure is nothing special; in fact, it is meant to look as if the mall just continues into the new addition. The unique piece of this project was the new exterior ‘Gateway’ sign – the first sign I've done.”

Brian collaborated on that project with another Obsidian – Buzz Blumm, who is with Eugene Sign & Awning.

WHICH BRINGS US to his involvement with the club. “I always wanted to climb the mountains I could see from here,” he said, looking out the window of his firm's fifth floor conference room. When he turned 50 (he's now 56), he decided it was “now or never.”

He had heard about Obsidian potlucks and decided to go to one. It turned out to be our 2003 annual meeting; not the most entertaining of events. However, he got a good idea of what the organization was all about and had his talents spotted by John and Janet Jacobsen (need we say more?). Brian joined and did his first climb with the club in 2002. Since then, he has led 10 climbs and gone on numerous other climbs and hikes.

Joining him on many of his hikes has been his wife, Mary, who is a construction contracts administrator with the City of Eugene's Facility Management Department. Married for 12 years, they each have two children from previous marriages.

BRIAN'S INTRODUCTION to the Obsidians was most fortuitous. With the huge challenges facing the club regarding the construction and restoration of the lodge, Brian's expertise, knowledge and generous contributions of time and connections proved invaluable.

John Jacobsen has nothing but praise for the role played by Brian. To this day, Brian continues to be a tremendous resource, even on seemingly mundane issues (he was recently asked to estimate the energy costs and options involved with the lodge's newly donated refrigerator). And as chair of the Lodge Building Committee he has hands-on experience with the structure.

Brian will present his thoughts about the coming year in a January Bulletin column; but, for now, he says about the club that he “really likes the history of the organization, seeing the older folks going and going and going.” In fact, he says that since joining the club, he's in the best shape he's been in 20 years!

The club's in pretty good shape as well, thanks in large part to the contributions of Brian Hamilton.

— *Marshall Jay Kandell*

Holiday Gift Suggestions

Based on Previous Bulletin Book Reviews

By Janet Jacobsen

HOLIDAY GIFT SUGGESTIONS that I need to place on my "wish list." At the top are the books and DVD about Margaret Murie, a spin-off from a Sci Ed program. So check some of the reviews and references in previous Bulletins, mark the titles you desire and hit the used book stores, library or Internet. Better yet, leave this Bulletin page where a friend will notice your checkmarks.

Bill Sullivan's Hiking Books. Update your editions! His new editions have color photos.

Eugene Walks by Tyler Burgess. 2007, \$4.99 (Available at Capella Market or Eugene Hardware, reviewed by Janet Jacobsen in May).

Forever on the Mountain by James M. Tabor. W.S. Norton & Company, 2007 (an update of the 1967 Mt. McKinley expedition, reviewed by Marshall Kandell in September).

White Winds by Joe Wilcox. Autographed copies available through Obsidian concessions at the lodge (feature article by Marshall Kandell, Jan. 2007).

No Shortcuts to the Top: Climbing the World's 14 Highest Peaks, by Ed Viesturs with David Roberts. Broadway Books, 2006, \$23.95 (reviewed by Janet Jacobsen, Oct. 2007).

Oregon's Dry Side: Exploring East of the Cascade Crest, by Alan D. St. John. Timber Press, 2007, \$29.95 (reviewed by Janet Jacobsen, Oct. 2007).

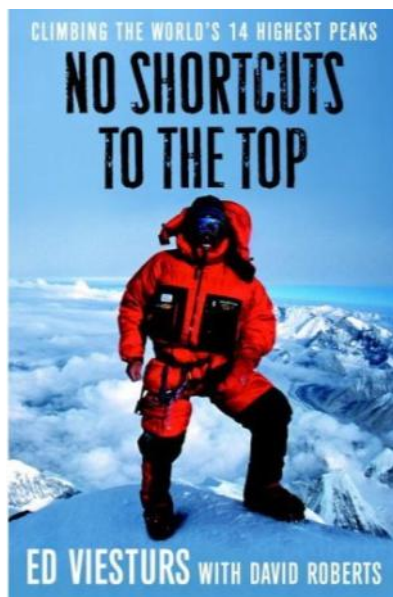
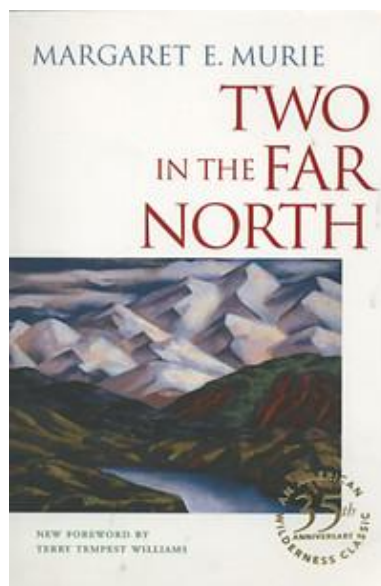
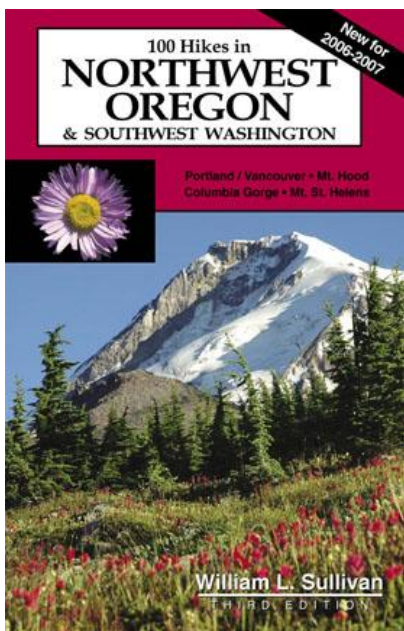
Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Reliln. Penguin Books, 2006, \$15 (reviewed by Velma Shirk, October 2007).

Wilderness by Judy Newman, April 2006);

Two in the Far North by Margaret E. Murie. Alaska Northwest Books, 1957/1997. Winner of the National Outdoor Book Award and an American 35th Anniversary Wilderness Classic. \$15.95 (fascinating story that includes Murie's honeymoon, a 540-mile dog-sled journey to study caribou and, later, a remote river journey in Alaska with their 8-month-old baby and lots of mosquitoes).

Wapiti Wilderness by Margaret and Olaus Murie 1966/1985, Colorado Associated University Press, \$18.96 (the Muries describe living and studying elk in the Teton area).

Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest by Phyllis Gustafson with photos by Mark Turner. Timber Press Field Guide (reviewed by Melody Clarkson,



The Golden Spruce: A True Story of Myth, Madness and Greed by John Vaillant. W.W. Norton, 2005, \$14.95 (reviewed by Velma Shirk, Nov. 2007)

Letters from Yellowstone by Diane Smith. Penguin, 1999 (reviewed by Janet Jacobsen, June 2007)

Arctic Dance: The Mardy Murie Story DVD \$23.95 (shown at SciEd Sept. 07- see review Oct. 2007. Also feature article, *A Woman's fight for*

May 2006).

Solving the Mysteries of Survival by Laurence Gonzales (reviewed by Chris Shuraleff, Nov. 2006).

Have a book you'd like to recommend to the club? The Bulletin staff would gladly accept your book review as a generous gift.



BOARD NOTES

December 5, 2007

By Laurie Funkhouser, Secretary

President John Pegg called the meeting to order. The following members of the Board were present Jim Duncan, Stewart Hoeg, Brian Hamilton, Laurie Funkhouser and Anne McLucas. Others present were Larry Huff, Peter Green, Wayne Deeter, Joella Ewing, Jim Pierce, Kathy Hoeg, Marshall Kandell, Lenore McManigal, Doug Nelson, J. Scott Hovis, Janet Jacobsen, and Julie Dorland. The minutes of the November Board Meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Board approval for payment of the outstanding bills. The Club is in good financial shape.

OLD BUSINESS

Ad hoc Restricted List Committee (Doug Nelson): As follow-up, Doug Nelson did contact and discuss the restriction of the non-member with his/her assistant. Records relating to this incident will be filed as a permanent record in a place to be determined.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of New Committee Chairs:

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

Pacific Crest Trail Association Dues:

Dues generally are paid in February; therefore, opted to revisit the payment of dues at that time.

Proposed By-Law Changes: Finance Committee: Due to a lack of Board quorum, this item was tabled until January.

Proposed By-law Changes: Life Member Fees: Due to lack of Board quorum, this item was tabled until January.

2008 Budget: Stewart Hoeg presented the proposed 2008 Budget which would result in an operating surplus of \$4,300.00.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Summer Trips (Barb Revere/Jan Jacobsen): Janet reported 3 trips took place to end the Summer Trips season with 15 members and 2 nonmembers participating for a total of \$25.00 fees. Since the 1st of April, 156 trips have been scheduled with 47 trips canceled due to no sign ups, illness, weather, trail conditions with 954 members and 235 nonmembers for a total receipt of \$2083.00.

Winter Trips (Jim Pierce): The preliminary Winter Trips schedule is on the website with about 43 trips. Two trips have been completed with 15 members and 1 nonmember. A Leader Training is scheduled from Thursday, December 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the Lodge with John Mowat providing the safety presentation.

Trail Maintenance (Peter Green): A record number of volunteers turned out for the November 24th trail maintenance day – a total of 11 members plus 2 city employees. The group met at the Cline Street “trail-head” and planted a variety of vegetation. There will not be any trail maintenance days in December but will reconvene on January 26th.

Youth (Scott Hovis): Planning a family snow play day on January 12, 2008 and welcomes participants! A proposal for family fees will be presented in January.

Membership (Julie Dorland): The Board APPROVED 2 membership applications. 597 members.

Entertainment (Kathy Hoeg): The November potluck had 37 for dinner and 45 for the show. \$49.00 collected. The next potluck will be December 14th with John Miller of Lane County Search and Rescue.

Science & Education (Joella Ewing): The Missoula/Spokane Flood presentation was attended by 25 individuals. The next program will be on Tuesday, December 18th at 7:00 p.m. at the Lodge with Norm Benton presenting a one hour program entitled "100 Slides of 1960s

Summer Camps." Rick Ahrens and Joella are conferring about next year's programs.

Publicity (Anne Dhu McLucas): Activities for the Publicity Committee included turning in a budget proposal for next year and providing a booth for the November 27th Nordic Night at Berg's ski shop, which was kindly manned by Chris Stockdale, Lana Lindstrom, and Richard Hughes. Inspired by the portable display kit borrowed from the Lane Blood Bank, we are making plans to have a similar portable display for the Publicity Committee.

Concessions (Laurie Funkhouser): Total sales of \$137.80 – coffee \$67.80 and merchandise \$70.00.

Online (Wayne Deeter): Is and will be working with Committee Leaders to arrange committee e-mails, website improvements, etc.

Library/Historian (Lenore McManigal): Since it is between seasons as well as the holidays there have not been many trips to record. The records are up to date.

Lodge Building (Brian Hamilton): After consulting with a door hardware supplier, the idea of adding a closer to the double doors may not be the best solution. The committee will explore adjustments to the latch and adding shims behind one or more hinges. The broken overhead projector glass was replaced. The Lodge cleanup has been postponed for another month.

Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): A regular Lodge Grounds work party – Pat Adams, John Jacobsen, Brenda Kameenui, Gary Kirk, Effie Neth and Dave Predeek - was held on Nov. 16 to spruce up before the potluck. In addition, an emergency work party was held on Dec. 4 due to the recent wind storm. Two trees came down along the entrance drive and another fell across the road. Which were removed and the downed debris cleaned up.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT

Olympic Trials (Marshall Kandell): Plans are falling into place and the committee is working on the final details. Looking forward to the response.

Comments on BLM Logging Plan Being Accepted Until January 11th

The following is excerpted and reprinted, with permission, from a personal opinion column by Obsidian Pat Bitner in the December/January issue of "The Quail," the Lane County Audubon Society's newsletter. Pat is the society's conservation chair.

By Pat Bitner

THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT recently announced the second extension of the public comment period until January 11, 2008 on its proposal to increase logging on the 2.2 million acres of western Oregon forests it manages. Does this mean the BLM is seriously considering the opinions of the citizens of Oregon? If the 70 public meetings it has held throughout Oregon to describe its plans are indicative, the answer is *Yes*. It has created an interactive web allowing citizens to review the document and comment on it at the same time (see website below).

Although the BLM's western Oregon holdings are a patchwork quilt of relatively small parcels, they provide a vital passage for wildlife from the Cascades to the coast. There are remaining old-growth Douglas fir stands -- many survivors of the BLM's previous policy of selective cutting, leaving large trees, 8 to 12 per acre, providing cover for wildlife. The new, preferred (certainly by the timber industry) draft proposal is to clear-cut. Period.

BLM'S WESTERN OREGON Plan Revisions, aka the *Whopper*, offer three alternative logging increase plans designed to bring BLM lands back to permanent timber production. BLM contends its mandated primary focus is on timber production, based on a 1937 law of the land. The Northwest Forest Plan, made final in 1994, which quieted the bitter wars between logging and environmentalists in the northwest is in danger of collapse if the BLM's preferred plan option is adopted. The tim-

ber industry, along with local county governments are salivating at the prospect of a threefold increase in logging on its 2.2 million areas in western Oregon. County governments, starved of their former federal subsidies offered after the collapse of logging revenues, see the clear-cut strategy BLM is advocating as the answer to their budget woes.

Environmentalists see the *Whopper* as distorting accepted reports; even scientists whose work was cited by the Fish and Wildlife Agency, accused the service of misusing and cherry-picking the available science. The key species, the northern spotted owl, would have its preferred habitat, the old growth forest, cut out from under it.

HERE ARE THE THREE logging choices, plus a no-change option. A preferred plan must be chosen when the BLM publishes its draft environmental impact statement:

• **No-action alternative:** Current owl reserves under Northwest Forest Plan;

no clear-cutting. *Annual county revenue: \$42 million.*

• **Alternative 1:** Keep current reserves; allow clear-cutting; no salvage logging after fires; narrower buffers along some waterways. *Revenue: \$68.7 million.*

• **Alternative 2** (BLM preferred plan): Reduce owl reserves; allow clear-cutting; salvage allowed; narrower buffers along all waterways. *Annual county revenue: \$108 million.*

• **Alternative 3:** No specific owl reserves; defers clear-cutting until trees reach certain age, partial logging and thinning; keeps six to nine live trees per logged acre; allows salvage. *Revenue: \$51 million.*

For those of us who value our forests, streams and wildlife, this is a very, very important issue. Let's flood the BLM with comments. Comments can be made to: Western Oregon Plan Revisions, P. O. Box 2965, Portland, OR 97208; or online at <http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/wopr>.

Conference Brings Together Climate, Forest Movements

SCIENTISTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL leaders will gather for a one-day conference to bring together citizens concerned about climate change and forest protection. The meeting will be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 26, in Lillis Hall at the U of O.

The conference is being organized by Cascadia Ecosystem Advocates, Native Forest Council, GreenwashEugene.com and UO Survival Center. Speakers will include Oregon State University's chair of forest science Dr. Mark Harmon; OSU forest management and ecology senior researcher Dr. Olga Krankina; Doug Heiken, conservation and restoration coordinator for Oregon Wild (formerly Oregon Natural Resources Council); Pat Rasmussen, World Temperate Rainforest Network; and Lance Olsen (via video link), former president of Great Bear Foundation.

"Burning fossil fuels -- petroleum, coal and natural gas - is not the only cause of global warming," says Josh Schlossberg, communications coordinator for the Native Forest Council. "Clearcutting forests also disrupts the climate."

The conference is free, though donations would be appreciated. For more info email: josh@forestcouncil.org; call 688-2600; and check out <http://www.forestclimate.org>.

TRIP REPORTS & OTHER ACTIVITIES



Hikes

Spencer Butte

November 1, 2007

Leader: LaRee Beckley

6 miles, 1,500 ft. (Moderate)

WE STARTED AT THE BOTTOM of the trail in the fog, and ended at the top of Spencer's Butte in sunshine, with a sea of clouds below and a brilliant blue sky above. Those of us with sharper eyesight were able to see the Three Sisters and Mt. Jefferson in the distance. There were a few slips on the muddy trail, but no serious injury. Participants were members LaRee Beckley, Elle Weaver, Mike Wolfson, Janet Jacobsen, Lynne Tracy, and non-member Vickie Loeser.

Moon Mountain

November 3, 2007

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

1 mile, 100 ft. (Easy)

WHERE IS THE REAL MOON MOUNTAIN? I was told that it would be easy to find Moon Mountain from a gravel trail at the end of Pinerock Drive. (Take Laurel Hill Drive, Moon Mountain Drive and Brackenfern Rd.) On my scouting trip, I wasn't so sure about the gravel trail, but I did make it to the top of what I thought was Moon Mountain. I quickly posted a sign-up sheet. After receiving many queries about the location, I decided I'd better consult online maps. One online map identified my destination as Moon Mountain City Park at 985 feet but to the south around 60 feet higher was another Moon Mountain. A week later when I led the hike, development activities had altered the lower terrain but ten of us did make it to the Moon Mountain City Park. "Park" is a misleading descriptor for this natural area. Margaret Essenberg gave a Winnie the Pooh compari-

son: "Moon Mountain reminds me of the six pine trees in the 100-acre wood." Dave Predeek pointed out native and nonnative plants, and suggested that a few fir trees be removed to encourage the oak trees. To the east, fog covered I-5, giving us an eerie view of Mt. Pisgah. To the west, we had excellent views of the south hills ridge-line, Laurel Hill Valley, and Spencer Butte. All of us enjoyed the "summit" on a sunny November day.

As we walked down the trail, one wondered what the lower part of Moon Mountain would look like in another month or two. Everyone was curious to see if we could find a trail to the higher Moon Mountain. I was a bit apprehensive about deviating from my one-mile hike, but Obsidians have an adventuresome side so off we strolled. Marshall Kandell, Paul Flashenberg, and Mike Wolfson (new member) were enthusiastic about the possibilities beyond the unlocked gate. With some ups and downs, Moon Mountain still seemed a long ways off and with no trail to be found, we turned back. Back at our cars, we drove to Hendricks Park so that Marshall could lead us to Pre's Rock, a well known Eugene landmark. On the hike were members Paul Flashenberg, Janet Jacobsen, Marshall Kandell, Dave Predeek, Mike Wolfson, Lynn Tracy, Bonnie Richman, Walt Dolliver, and non-members Richard and Margaret Essenberg.

Eel Creek/ Umpqua Dunes

November 11, 2007

Leader: Jane Hackett

Photo: Charlie Wright

7 miles, 200 ft. (Moderate)

ONE OF THE LAST HIKES of the Summer Trips season turned out to be a five-star hike according to Leslie Wright. Her husband, Charlie, said it was the best dune hike ever. He calculated the mileage for the dune/beach loop as 7.2 miles. For Pat Soussan, it was her first dune hike and she was impressed with the diverse vegetation. Carol Petty remembered her last not-so-pleasant Eel Creek hike where it rained and the wind blew. She couldn't believe the 62-degree weather with bright sun and little wind. Walt Dolliver was thrilled to see elk at the Dean Creek Viewing Area plus two California sea lions surfing and eating their lunch up close to the beach. Janet Jacobsen was surprised when Charlie cut off the ends of a long kelp tube that he found on the beach and then held it to his mouth to sound out Taps, which seemed quite appropriate as it was Veterans Day. The leader, Jane Hackett, commented, "I've led this loop trip many times. It is getting harder to find the north trail on the loop since the sand is covering up some of the markers." All of us felt lucky to be at the coast on a most remarkable day in November. The last stop was Mo's for chowder and fruit cobbler. Participants, all members,



Walt, Jane, Pat, Janet, Carol and Leslie at the Umpqua Dunes.

included Walt Dolliver, Jane Hackett, Janet Jacobsen, Carol Petty, Pat Soussan, Charlie and Leslie Wright.

Mt. Pisgah

November 12, 2007

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

3 miles, 1,000 ft. (Easy)

THE WEATHER REPORT was not promising for our hike up Mt. Pisgah. Seven of us in our rain jackets and hats started up the trail. As we neared the top the wind began to howl, and Bonnie Richman inquired, "Pardon, me, but are we near the summit of Mt. Everest?" We didn't stay long on top! On the way down, Margaret shared her impression: "the rain is pouring like cold bullets." It was the third hike for non-members Margaret and Richard Essenberg, who now have signed membership applications. It was Lena Houston's first trip as a member. Others on the trip were members Pat Soussan, Barb Revere, and Janet Jacobsen.

Spencer Butte

November 15, 2007

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

6 miles, 1,600 ft. (Moderate)

THREE OF US headed up the trail from Amazon Headwaters to Spencer Butte.

It didn't take long for us to stop and take off our jackets, as it was warm for November, and the predicted rain did not materialize. We lingered on top to identify roads and familiar places in south Eugene. Janet Hall walked to our meeting place on Martin Street which added four miles to her trip. This last trip of the Summer Trips season included members Janet Hall, Janet Jacobsen, and Pat Soussan.

North Shasta Loop

November 28, 2007

Leader: Ruth Romoser

5 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

THIRTEEN OBSIDIAN MEMBERS enjoyed nice views of Eugene, a walk past Hideaway Bakery, and observed several deer on the urban walk up North Shasta Loop. The group proceeded down Agate to University and then walked thru the Masonic Cemetery. This particular cemetery is very interesting and has headstones of Eugene's pioneers. Obsidian walkers on the hike were leader Ruth Romoser, Jean Coberly, Janet Jacobsen, Marshall Kandell, Kurt Koivu, Sandra Larsen, Carol Petty, Ginny Reich, Roger Reich, Julia Richardson, Carol Stout, Lynne Tracy and Mike Wolfson.



Bike Trips

Bottom Loop

October 21, 2007

Leader: Guy Strahon

25 miles, 0 ft. (Moderate)

OUR "FALL FOLIAGE" BIKE RIDE was in doubt during a week of heavy rain, but Sunday turned out to be a gorgeous day. Despite a chilly start (48 degrees F.) four dedicated Obsidian bikers took off on a beautiful 25-mile ride.

There wasn't much car traffic on McKenzie View, and we saw 10 or 12 other bicyclists. We then returned to Coburg Rd. and headed into Coburg for a nice lunch at the Wind Up Bird House sandwich shop. We completed the Bottom Loop at Coburg and returned with the temperature almost 20 degrees warmer. The fearsome foursome: Jim and Kathleen Floyd, Judy Terry and leader Guy Strahon, all members.

Looking Back on Our Warm, Successful Days of Summer

SUNHATS ARE OUT, earmuffs and mittens are in. All the lightweight socks have sifted to the bottom of the drawer. Shorts and t-shirts are stowed under the bed. Thick wool socks and fleece jackets remind us of being tucked in by Mom and Dad.

Summer trips may be over, but we still have the memories: warm summit views, confetti-colored wildflower meadows, gentle breezes on sweaty brows and cold drinks in cool shaded forests -- all welcome on a hot summer hike. But we have great memories to get us through the winter (not to mention a fine winter schedule that has just begun!).

There are many folks to thank for those happy memories. The 2007 Summer Trips Committee did a fine job of recruiting leaders -- 93 in all! And thanks to the leaders for helping to create a varied and interesting summer schedule. Together,

we had 157 trips, with 93 leaders who led 1,189 participants and generated \$2,089. We know that leading a trip is more than a walk in the forest; the signup sheet must be carefully written and the responsibility of including strangers can be a heavy load of care and worry. We appreciate you!

Note: A few folks planned to lead and had to cancel due to low interest -- especially during the spring rains. We thank you nevertheless for your willingness and invite you back next year. We also thank the online guys, Wayne Deeter and John Jacobsen, for posting the schedule and making it so easy to file reports. And thanks to the leaders for getting promptly to their computers to send in those reports -- only one report has not come in! They were great trips, everyone, see you again in 2008.

-- Barb Revere



Viewing Photos of Iceland's Backcountry A Visual Feast

By Chris Cunningham

DAVID COBB and Jonathan Ley's photographic essay of their 385-mile trek across Iceland's interior is nothing short of breathtaking.

Ever-present light offered the two professional photographers literally thousands of opportunities to capture incredible multi-hued vistas — day and night.

The composition in their photographs is particularly striking: Translucent rainbows are overarching backdrops for crusted volcanic formations; scarlet-painted wooden boats press against violet-grey beaches; tiny white-washed churches nestle in glaciated green valleys; purple lupines and asters peek through sandy pumice.

Detfifoss, said to be the most powerful waterfall in Europe, leaves a magical mist for miles in every direction. Jagged basalt formations and cliffs are home to multitudes of guille-

mots, and grassy islands provide sanctuary for puffins.

Vibrant Icelandic folk music, whose style is based on Nordic tradition and strikingly similar to Celtic music, accompanies this photographic journey.

THE TWO MEN BEGAN their journey in late June 2006 in the northeastern town of Hraunhafnartangi. Over a course of six weeks, they traversed landscape molded by wind, frost and volcanic eruption. For much of their journey, they relied on massive landmarks and a GPS for guidance, rather than hiking trails and maps.

Many days, Cobb and Ley found themselves walking against whirling winds of powder-like pumice sand, as they walked on surfaces of tussock, round like "basketballs." Cobb admitted, "It's always windy," (and) decent topsoil is virtually nonexistent in the country's interior.

Cobb says that Volcano Krafla, which erupted in the mid 1980s, remains "a literal hotbed of activity." He wasn't exaggerating: The audience viewed photographs of the highly textured lava flows — some massive jumbles of rock, and others neatly striated ridges.

A SERIES OF HUTS built and maintained by the Akureyri Mountain Club, and operated on an honor system, provided basic shelter, for the pair, "exactly" what they needed to rejuvenate themselves after hiking an average of 20 miles each day.

Notably, the Obsidian viewers saw few photos of people. Cobbs confirmed, "No one lives in the center (of Iceland). It's totally uninhabited."

I for one am grateful that Iceland's interior landscape will likely remain unblemished by human footprints for years to come.

Where the Heck Is Spring Lake?



In last month's Bulletin in our *From the Archives* view of the November 1937 *Obsidian*, the Obsidians had a work party at the Spring Lake Trail. I asked if anyone knew where that was. Here is an email I got from Vi Johnson:

Hi John,

You asked for the location of Spring Lake; it's on a side trail (which I believe the Forest Service has now abandoned) that took off to the right as you walked from Frog Camp to Sunshine Shelter. It was about a mile long and the lake was/is at the base of Sims Butte.

At one time I think there was a trail that took off further west on Hwy 242 that led, over much lava, to Sims Butte and Spring Lake; it could be the trail the article refers to is that trail. The trailhead at this last spot is quite visible if you study the area during the summer - there is a tall white post

still there; at one time these were used along the highway to mark parking, camp, and trailhead spots. There is a lot of lava at this spot. Vi

In a second email Vi clears up a point:

Hi John,

I was just cleaning up some old emails on my computer and it occurred to me that many of the newer Obsidian members may not recognize the names "Frog Camp" and "Sunshine Shelter" since neither of those exist anymore!! Although in my mind these words still identify the area, the newer terms of Obsidian Trailhead, Obsidian Trail, and I don't know what is currently used to identify the Sunshine Shelter area. Vi

Thanks Vi for clearing that question up.

- John Jacobsen

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS' EVENTS

Chips Ahoy! Onboard With the Stream Team

By Bonnie Richman

LET'S PRETEND. Pretend you're a newcomer to Eugene (any age, either sex with do) and your car's been in the shop for days now. It's early Saturday and looks like rain is on the way. What a bummer. But you vow not to spend the day watching cooking shows on TV. So! What to do? Humm. Flipping through the Eugene Weekly you stop at the calendar entry for today. Here's something:

"Tree planting on Amazon Creek w/City of Eugene's Stream Team, 9 a.m.- noon, meet between City View and Oak Patch Roads. Materials, tools refreshments provided."

That's it! A way to kick the doldrums and enjoy some outdoor action at your own pace. You dig out your city map and the bus schedule and pore over them during breakfast. Maps were always your forte and you discover that bus #43 will set you down near City View and Amazon Creek. No time to lose.

You get there about half past 9 and spot a group of people, some crouching over newly planted trees between the stream and bike path. A white canopy is set up over a sign-in table loaded with donuts, bagels, hot tea and cold orange juice. A young woman named Emily welcomes you as you check out the available jobs. Wheelbarrows, pitchforks and shovels beckon. A dump truck is dropping a load of wood chips up ahead so you grab a shovel, throw it in a wheelbarrow and set off. At the chip pile a couple of guys working with pitchforks make way for you to join in. Their tools hold more than your shovel, but you don't want to risk throwing your shoulder out and you can work faster than they can, if not so efficiently. When your wheelbarrow is full, you take it over to the newly planted trees, dumping your load so people can spread it around the trunks. Wood chips make good mulch and keep down weeds.

BACK FOR ANOTHER LOAD. So far, the rain is holding off. One of the men introduces himself; Ed is 86 and says he's volunteered for 29 agencies since moving to Eugene six years ago. Another fellow, Jeff, tells you we're planting Willamette Valley ponderosa pines, black cottonwoods and Oregon ash. He mentions he's a member of the Eugene Tree Foundation, a group that teams with the city to plant street trees. You decide to check them on the Internet and maybe get involved.

After about an hour of chipping away, you need a break. A bundle of bright orange-tipped stakes catches your eye so you ask one of the leaders about this. He says we'll drive in a stake in front of each tree to keep the city mowers from accidentally taking out the saplings while mowing in the summer. Boy, the grass must grow really tall in this town. You welcome a change of pace, so you take an armload of stakes and a sledgehammer and start down the lengthening row of trees.

Pounding the narrow stake heads demands more skill and strength than you expected and after about 20 minutes you go back to loading chips.

Some of the kids have discovered a praying mantis down by the creek and they're getting an entomology lesson from a naturalist in the group. It's almost noon now; volunteers are finishing up, gathering tools, saying goodbye as they look back at the long line of little trees snugly settled in their new digs. You cross Amazon Creek on a footbridge and discover you're across 11th Avenue from Fred Meyers. You've got time for a coffee before catching the bus home. You're glad you moved to a town where volunteers plant trees on a gray Saturday morning in the fall.

NOTE: Bonnie Richman (and her bicycle) moved from Tucson to Eugene in 2000, joined the Obsidians in the fall of 2004 and has gone on 26 trips. She lives downtown and has figured out how to navigate Eugene via bicycle and bus. Bonnie turned 70 in October, allowing her to ride the bus for free.

West Eugene Wetlands

"WEDNESDAY WANDERS" from 9-10 a.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month for those interested in taking casual walks through different West Eugene Wetlands. Wear shoes that can get wet and muddy. Dec. 12-Willow Creek Natural Area; Jan. 9-Stewart Pond; Jan. 23-Meadowlark Prairie Overlook

CATTAIL INVESTIGATION FAMILY PROGRAM, Sat., Jan. 12, 10 a.m.-noon -- Collect, dissect and discover what makes the cattail so incredible. Call 683-6494.

Mt. Pisgah

KIDS' WINTER NATURE CRAFT DAY, Dec. 15, 1-3pm at the Eugene Garden Club (1645 High St) Bring the kids to this craftstravaganza. Please RSVP at (541) 747-1504.

WINTER SOLSTICE NATURE READINGS, Dec. 22, 6pm-9pm. Facilitated by Tashawna Davis, features nature inspired music pieces between readings. No registration required. Meet in the Arboretum Visitor Center; Suggested Donation: \$5.

'SAPPENING IN THE WINTER WALK, Jan. 5, 1-3pm 'Sappening in the Winter? What are plants, large and small, animals, large and small, and all sizes of fungi doing these days? Fee: \$5 per grownup, \$2 per kid, MPA members free. Meet at the Mount Pisgah Arboretum Visitor Center, rain or shine. Limit 20. Call (541) 747-1504 to RSVP.

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY IN A DIGITAL WORLD, Jan. 12, 1-4pm. Pre-registration required; call (541) 747-1504 to sign up. Fee: \$20/\$17 members.

PLANT ID BASICS WALK, Jan. 13, 10am-noon We will walk along the trail as we learn. Meet at the Mount Pisgah Arboretum Visitor Center, rain or shine. Limit 20. Call (541) 747-1504 to RSVP. Fee: \$5 (MPA members free!).

Sounds of Silence, Snow, Searching

By Janet Jacobsen

WHERE IS THE QUIETEST one square inch of silence in the United States? It needs to be a square inch where one experiences regular intervals of at least 15 minutes during which no man-made sounds can be heard.

On Earth Day 2005 a square inch in the Hoh Rain Forest in Olympic National Park was selected. Starting from the visitor center, one walks about three miles on a path through ancient trees and forest to the one square inch marked by a red-colored stone (47° 51.959N, 123° 52.221W, 678 feet above sea level). The stone was a gift by David Four Lines --former cultural elder of the Quileute tribe -- to Gordon Hempton, who donated it to the site in 2005. Hempton, who is trying to save quiet spots, worked with several airlines to minimize flights over the area.

Why this place? Olympic National Park does not have much air traffic; nor does it have roads that cross through it. Without these noise intrusions, it is easier to identify soundscapes. If there is an intrusion such as an airplane, protections can be sought. It does give one pause to think how air traffic noise is usually part of the soundscape on a backpacking trip.

For more information's, see www.onesquareinch.org.

A FOUR-PAGE ARTICLE about the Cascade Snow Trains organized by the Obsidians in 1935-37 appeared in the spring 2007 Southern Pacific Trainline Magazine. The article is by Tom Dill, who thanked the Obsidians and Don Hunter for helping with this manuscript. The snow train was featured in the January 2006 Obsidian Bulletin. Dill's article offers more details about the trains. For information about the magazine and purchasing back issues, go to www.sphts.org/pages/trainline.html. Thanks to Richard Essenberg, who subscribes and gave me a copy.

NEW MEMBERS Charlie Wright and Richard Essenberg both play the bassoon in the Riverside Symphonic Orchestra. Their last concert was at Beall Hall on Dec. 6th. On a recent hike to Umpqua Dunes, Charlie transformed a piece of kelp into a horn.

FRIENDS OF HENDRICKS PARK's Park Bench newsletter (Autumn 2007) has Pat Soussan as volunteer of the month. Originally from England, Pat moved to Eugene from Southern California in 2006. Since then she has been a regular volunteer at the Rhododendron Gardens on Tuesday mornings. She also volunteers at the City of Eugene's Native Plant Nursery and on Obsidian trail maintenance at Spencer Butte. Pat likes anything to do with plants.

VI JOHNSON, a board member of the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association since 1998, was highlighted in their Fall 2007 newsletter, Monumental News. Vi began her volunteer work by planting daffodils and spreading bark and has maintained her commitment to the neighborhood cemetery by working on cemetery records, open houses and other projects. Vi is a past Obsidian president.

SOME OF OUR MEMBERS and friends were involved in the search for Daming Xu. This list may not be complete, but our thanks go to George Baitinger, Deb Carver, Wayne Deeter, Bob Harrison, Larry Huff, Chris Jensen, Kathy Jensen, John Mowat, John Pegg, Maryanne Reiter, Sue Sullivan, April Anderson and Sue Zeni.

This is Sue Sullivan's take on the search: "It was a long and difficult search involving areas that were remote from any trailhead. The book was found in an area about seven miles from the trailhead, so any search activities required a long hike just to get to a place where searching might be effective.

Searching required travel on rough, steep terrain with lots of brush and blowdown, dangerous creek crossings and poor weather to hamper the effort." We appreciate the efforts of all of these folks...and the reminder to heed all our own safety advice.

During the year, more than 100 members lead winter and summer trips, extended trips, and bus trips. The yearly leader's meeting has been invaluable for learning how to lead a safe trip. George Baitinger has been a presenter at many of those meetings. His words of advice are ones that stick in my mind. "Keep the group together. It is a group experience. One evening, sit outside on your deck for several hours and think about what you need in your pack to comfortably spend the night. Be prepared for such an emergency." Bill Sullivan often reminds us that the maps in his book should not be the only ones a hiker carries. And one speaker, whose name I don't remember, commented that hiking with a group means that when there is a problem, everyone works together to supply what is needed for the emergency.



UPCOMING

Barb's Sampler: Baby, It's Cold Outside...Hurray!

By Barb Revere

Sat., Dec. 15 – North Fork Middle Fork of Willamette – Hike, difficult. This mostly level trail travels through old growth forest while skirting the eastern edge of the Waldo Lake Wilderness. This “out and back” trip includes beautiful views at every turn and is rated difficult for distance. Leader Chris Stockdale says the trail is about 10-12 miles long. Chris says she sees more evidence of trail building every time she hikes there. The trailhead is in nearby Westfir, so driving is minimized, while hiking is maximized. Expect a faster than usual pace on this 12-mile trip.

Sat., Dec. 22 – Odell Overlook – Snowshoe, easy. Located in the Westview Loops at the top of Willamette Pass, this trail offers a variety of terrain to challenge all levels of expertise. Though snow parks can be crowded on a sunny weekend, you can find solitude in Westview Loops, because the area is a honeycomb of trails. This is an easy trip with experienced leader Scott Hovis, who welcomes beginners. If you are new to the sport, make sure to check the function and fit of your boots, snowshoes and bindings. Do it at the shop at the time of rental! If this trip is inconvenient, see the Eagle Rock trip on Jan. 5th.

Sat., Dec. 29 – Marilyn Lakes Loop – X-Ski, moderate. Also in the Willamette Pass area, Marilyn Lakes Loop offers something for intermediate skiers. Leader Mary Hamilton will follow the road, then arc toward the lakes through the trees on a lovely alpine trail. The area is beautiful and often very peaceful and well away from the usual crowds at the busier snow parks up the road. If the day is clear, don't forget to check the view of Diamond Peak at the north end of Lower Marilyn Lake.

Sun., Dec. 30 – Midnight Lake Loop -- X-Ski, moderate. Yet again, you'll be skiing in the Willamette Pass area – higher elevation (Willamette Pass at 5,130' vs. Santiam Pass at 3,760') means more probable, earlier and better snow. This trail tools around in the

area south of the Westview Loops and usually avoids the crowds. The Bechtel Shelter is along the route, as is a portion of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. Watch out for pesky, but loveable gray jays during lunch. Last year one of my companion's PB&J sandwich was almost “swooped” out of her hands! Laurie Funkhouser leads this moderate ski trip.

Tues., Jan. 1 – Tahkenitch State Park—Hike, moderate. The late Sheila Ward led this trip on New Year's Day for the last few years because it was a lovely way to celebrate the new year and also her birthday, which was Jan. 1st! She loved the coast and Tahkenitch in particular. Two of Sheila's friends, Stewart Hoeg and Dave Becker, plan to lead this year's hike in her memory. Before the day is over, you'll walk beach, forest and dunes. Look for brown pelicans fishing just above the surf line. Tahkenitch Creek has caused some erosion to the fore-dunes and trail, so, be prepared for the unexpected.

Sat., Jan. 5 – Eagle Rock – Snowshoe, easy. Eagle Rock towers over the Westview Loops, so you'll be ‘shoeing in the Gold Lake-Pengra Pass area on this trip. This is a nice easy trip to practice the “snowshoer's roll.” If this trip is inconvenient, see the Eagle Rock trip on Dec. 22.

Sun., Jan. 6 -- Maklaks Trail -- X-Ski/Snowshoe, moderate. In leader Lana Lindstrom's own words: “The Maklaks Trail starts at the east end of Odell Lake, which means it's often a bit sunnier than at the top of Willamette Pass. The trail is undulating, most of it on a summer road, which is, of course, covered with lots of snow (we hope). Since we'll be going up and back (not a loop), it will be open for both skiers and ‘shoers. There aren't any spectacular views. I think I posted it as 6-7 miles. It's not an overly popular trail, which means it's peaceful - few skiers and no dogs.” Sounds like a perfect day out playing in the snow to me. See you there!

Sat., Jan. 12 – Family Snow Play –

Sled/play, easy. I know whenever I get out into the snow, I recapture the feeling of being a kid. Leader Scott Hovis plans a day of sledding and snowman building and other snow play for you and your kids and grandkids. Ask your family and friends to join you for a day of playing in the snow. It should be a lot of fun! Location TBA.

Sun., Jan. 13 – Gold Lake Survival! – X-Ski/Snowshoe/workshop, moderate. Says leader Doug McCarty: “Recent events show that the...(not so)... knowledgeable as well as the knowledgeable...(find themselves)...at risk...(out in the wild). I don't want to face the real test first to learn the lessons, so I conceived of this ‘Help Me Make It Through The Night’ idea as something a little outside the box.

Basically, I will ask a group of skiers/snowshoers to go out armed only with their day-trip 10 essentials (no shovels, no bivy sacks, etc.) and a hot thermos and lunch. After an hour or so walk into the deep snow, each will have the assignment to wander 50 yards off the trail and deal with the following situation: You have become separated from your group and have equipment failure. You are where you are. There are only two hours of light to prepare some sort of shelter to make it through the night; you have no reasonable hope of being found until the next morning. Get to work. On the way back down we will observe and learn from what people have done. Did they find a tree well? Did they have anything in their normal backpack that came in particularly handy? Could each have made it through 13 hours of subfreezing temperatures to the dawn's early light? I fully expect people, including myself, will make some alterations to the basic stuff in our backpacks.”

Same Day – Sand Mountain – X-Ski, moderate. Leader Sam Miller plans a great day to work on your stride and kick. The trail begins in the Ray Bensen Sno-Park and loops west beyond Big Lake, Hayrick Butte and around Sand Mountain.

AT THE LODGE



POTLUCK

NOVEMBER 16:

Search and Rescue

By Chris Cunningham

HOW FORTUNATE we are to have Lane County Search and Rescue Coordinator John Miller as our guest speaker for the December 14 potluck.

With a crew of more than 150 volunteers, Miller leads a wide range of search and rescue missions that can involve deceased people, or missing people, or aircraft and other vehicles. His search teams cover vast terrain: high in the mountains, deep in the forests and within swift, icy rivers.

Miller has worked with Lane County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Program for 13 years, and prior to that, with Eugene Mountain Rescue for 10 years. (A number of Obsidians volunteer with EMR, which specializes in search and rescue missions involving high angle or remote settings and works closely with the Lane County Sheriff's Office.)

Despite the fact that he is "on call most days and nights," Miller says his job "will always be a passion for me."

He states, "Despite searches like Daming Xu (the missing University of Oregon math professor), where we have no definite end, I still really like my job." The search for Xu in the Three Sisters Wilderness used three Oregon National Guard helicopters, 19 agencies, and dozens of trained search volunteers.

UNDER THE AUSPICES of the sheriff's office, Miller and his part time assistant not only conduct search missions, but train and track volunteers, offer support in criminal investigations, and respond in times of natural disaster.

In 2006, according to the SAR annual report compiled by Oregon Emergency Management, Lane County SAR volunteers dedicated more than 15,000 hours, and law enforcement



and fire personnel almost 1,000 hours.

For his Obsidian presentation, Miller says he will describe the tools of his trade and "the process of visual search, that is, seeing without detecting your target."

December Potluck

**Friday, December 14, 2007 Obsidian Lodge
Potluck, 6:30 p.m. Program, 7:30 p.m.**

Bring your favorite potluck dish to share...along with your own plates, utensils and cups...plus \$1 to help cover club expenses. Parking at the Lodge can be crowded. Please consider carpooling.



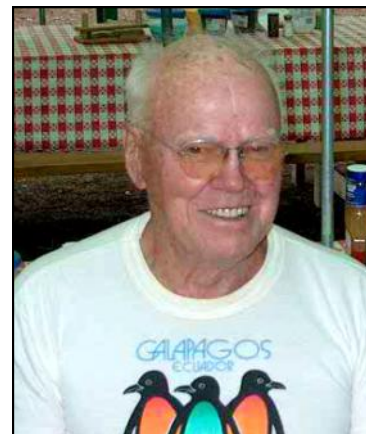
SCI ED TUESDAY - DECEMBER 18:

SciEd Program Revisits 1960s Summer Camps

VETERAN **OBSIDIAN** Norm Benton will present "100 Slides of 1960s Summer Camps" on Tuesday, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. at the lodge. The one-hour program will provide a nostalgic trip featuring some still active members and some long gone, but not forgotten.

According to Norm, "the scenery will be there, but it will be secondary." Norm has been an Obsidian for 40 years, during which he's attended 27 summer camps. An avid mountain climber, Norm has climbed all of Oregon's major peaks, plus the mountains of six continents, including scaling to the top of five continents.

- Joella Ewing



Sawtooth Repeat In 2008

By John Jacobsen, Summer Camp Boss

IF REPEAT VISITS are a gauge of good places for summer camp, next summer's Camp Hamilton at the Bonanza Historical CCC Campground in the Sawtooth area of Idaho should be a great one. Rick Ahrens' summer camp history shows four previous Obsidian visits to the Sawtooths - Camp Chase in 1961 at Redfish Lake, Camp Lowry in 1983 up the Yankee Fork of the Salmon, Camp Montgomery in 1994 at Chemeketan Campground near the headwaters of the Salmon River, and the Three Sages Camp in 2000, also at the Chemeketan Campground.

Visit five will take us back up the Yankee Fork of the Salmon, a historically rich area where gold was first discovered in Idaho, approximately 20 miles northeast of Stanley. Bonanza Campground situated at 6184 feet elevation, in open lodge pole pine will provide easy access to the Sawtooth Wilderness, the White Cloud Mountains and Borah Peak the highest point in Idaho. From our campground you

can explore the ghost town of Bonanza, Boot Hill Cemetery and tour the nearby Yankee Dredge.

THE FIRST SUMMER CAMP my wife Janet and I attended was up the Yankee Fork in 1983. The hiking to the beautiful mountain lakes was incredible, as was the hiking for our next two camps there, as it was when Wayne Deeter and I scouted the area last fall, and as it will be next summer. In my opinion, Sawtooth hiking is some of the best to be had anywhere.

For those who want to get a head start on planning their week (or two) of summer camp in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, I recommend *Trails of the Sawtooth and White Cloud Moun-*

tains by Margaret Fuller. Maps are also available for the area; one I like is *Sawtooth & White Cloud Mountains Trail Map* by Adventure Maps, Inc at:

www.adventuremaps.net

So clear your calendar and plan to spend a week or two (July 19-July 26 and July 26-August 2) in the Sawtooths with us.



Sawtooth Lake - a classic hike (& lake). Photo by Wayne Deeter

Winter Web Sightings

<http://users.cot.net/~n6mrx/ares/road.html>

ROAD CONDITIONS and web cams for Oregon and California, along with occasional siren sound effects.

<http://www.tripcheck.com>

THE OREGON Department of Transportation offers this handy website, which provides up-to-the-moment road conditions. You can also get road condition information on the phone by dialing 511 in Oregon and (503) 588-2941 if you're outside the state.

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic>

GOING NORTH? Here's the website of the Washington State Department of Transportation.

Oregon Ski/Snow Information Links

<http://www.onthesnow.com/OR/skireport.html>

<http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/snow/maps/>

<http://www.skireport.com/oregon/>

Have a safe trip!

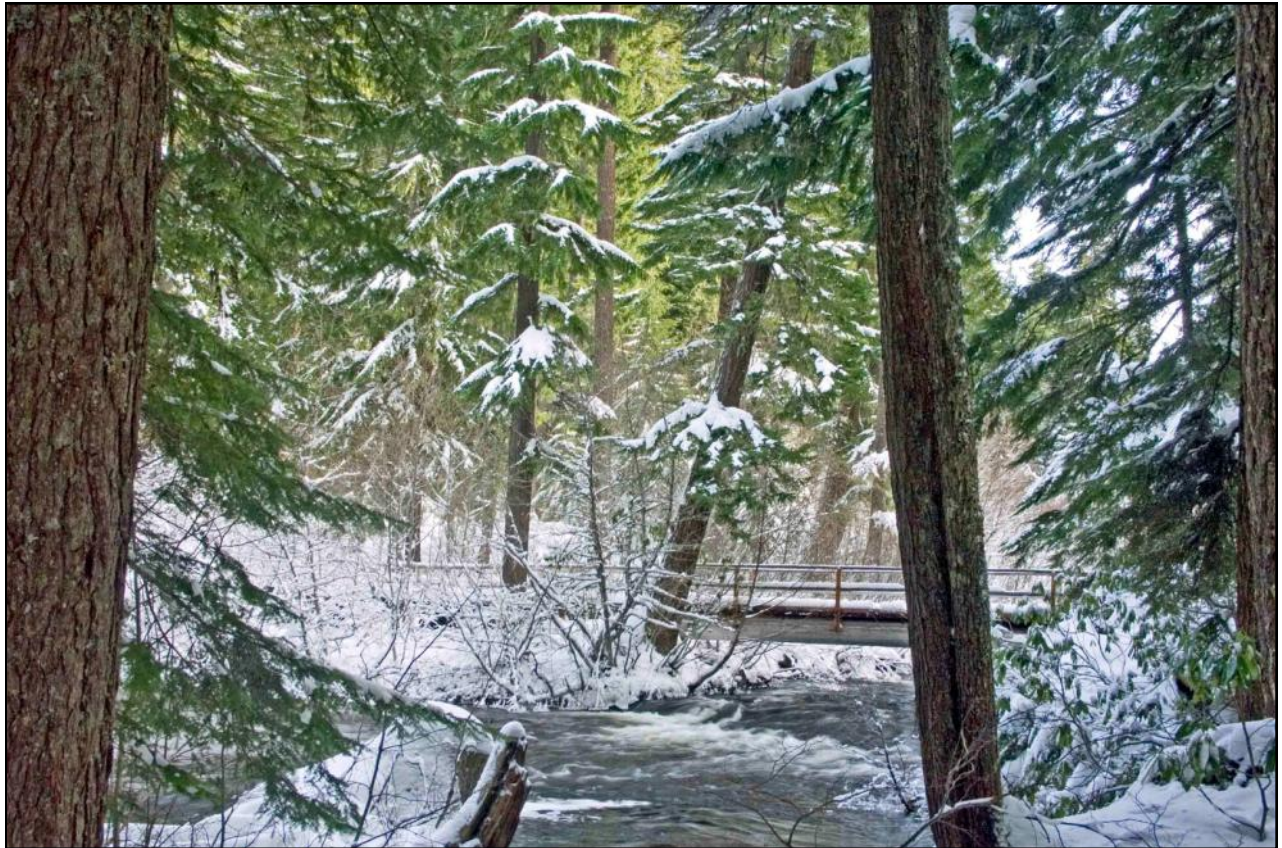
Obsidian Calendar

December 2007

- 14 Fri – Lane County Search and Rescue-MillerPotluck
- 16 Sun – N. Fork Willamette, D, Stockdale767-3668
- 18 Tue – Slides of Summer Camp, Benton SciEd Tues
- 22 Sat – Odell Overlook, S'Shoe, E, S.Hovis345-7788
- 29 Sat – Marilyn Lake, X-Ski, M, M.Hamilton.....343-6550
- 30 Sun – Midnight Lake, X-Ski, M, Funkhouser206-2303

January 2008

- 1 Tue – Tahkenitch Dunes, M, S.Hoeg484-6196
- 2 Wed – Kalapuya Talking Stones, M, J.Jacobsen 343-8030
- 6 Sun – Eagle Rock, S'Shoe, E, G.Svendson342-6497
- 6 Sun – Gold Lake, X-Ski 4m 100' E, C.Petty935-2088
- 6 Sun – Maklaks Trail, X-Ski, M, L.Lindstrom683-1409
- 12 Sat – Family Snow Play, sled, S.Hovis.....345-7788
- 13 Sun – Gold Lake, X-Ski, M, D.McCarty342-6962
- 13 Sun – Sand Mountain, X-Ski, M, S.Miller.....484-4586
- 19 Sat – Jack Meadows, X-Ski, D, M.Slipp503-582-1100
- 19 Sat – Trapper Creek, S'Shoe, Flashenberg461-1977
- 20 Sun – Rosary Lakes, X-Ski,M, S.Wolling.....345-2110
- 25 Fri – European Hiking—Sullivan.....Potluck
- 25 Fri – N Shasta Loop B, 5m E, R.Romoser.....726-8154



Salt Creek - Photo by Stewart Hoeg



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