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Dates to Remember

Oct 20	SciEd Tuesday
Oct 23	Pisgah/Buford Park Potluck
Oct 24	Lodge Work Party
Oct 31	Trail Maintenance
Nov 4	November Board Meeting

Complete current schedules at:

www.obsidians.org or

Register-Guard – Outdoors – Tuesday

Lodge Work Party Y'all Come!!!

Saturday Oct 24, 9-Noon
See Page 19

Membership Dues Are Overdue!

See Page 2



Mural Installation Begins

THE IDEA OF A RELIEF MURAL at the Obsidian Lodge began during a conversation at our Lodge renovation and expansion open house in October of 2006 (read about early mural planning in the October 2007 *Obsidian Bulletin*). Well, the discussing is done, the planning is done, the sculpting is done, the firing is done and all of the 250-300 pieces have been moved to the Lodge... and installation on our retaining wall has begun. Dallas Cole, Obsidian member, past Obsidian Board President and professional sculptor



of the mural is in town to supervise the installation. She and the masonry designer, Scott Wylie, are hard at work transforming our plain retaining wall in front of the Lodge into a beautiful piece of art.

While we have not been able to pin down an exact time for the installation completion date (artists, you know), we would expect that we should have a completed masterpiece in several weeks or so. So, we have something very exciting to look forward to, just around the corner.

*At top: Sketch of the final mural design.
Above and left: Dallas transferring the tile plan to the retaining wall.*

YOU CAN HELP?

WHILE DALLAS IS DONATING HER professional and artistic skills, as well as time, the materials and installation will cost (we estimate \$4500 - \$5000). The funding through donations is being handled privately. We could still use some help meeting the necessary funding total. If you would like to contribute to this wonderful addition to the Obsidian Lodge's art scene, please contact John Jacobsen at (514) 343-8030 or johnwjacobsen@comcast.net. Or send a donation check made out to John Jacobsen, 1590 E 43rd Avenue. Eugene, OR 97405.

OBITUARIES

Vernon Barkhurst

VERNON WAS A MEMBER of the Obsidians from 1986 until 1998. He was very active with the club, and led 46 of the trips and hikes he went on. He was 87 at the time of his death. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Oregon. He served in the South Pacific during World War II and was awarded the Purple Heart before leaving the military as a major. He was a teacher at Corvallis High School for seven years, and then was a college administrator at the University of Oregon for about 25 years. Survivors include his wife and 3 sons.

Kathleen Schlenker

KATHLEEN BECAME a member of the Obsidians in 1992, and first played bridge at the club house when monthly bridge sessions were being played. Then Kathleen participated in 31 bus trips, the last one being to Boise in 2001. At that time, health issues prevented her from participating in

more bus trips. Kathleen was born in Fargo, N.D. on July 16, 1910 and died September 11 at age 99 in Klamath Falls, where she moved to in 2004 to be closer to her family. Kathleen graduated with honors from the University of Rhode Island in 1932 with a Bachelor of Science degree. In 1964, she earned a Masters Degree in Library Science from Vanderbilt University. In 1965 she became project director for the Early Children's Awareness Program that was the inception of Head Start. Kathleen retired in 1977 and moved to Oregon in 1987. In Eugene she enjoyed the theater, classical music, collecting women on stamps, cooking and entertaining. Her children called her the "Energizer Bunny" as she just kept on going. A Celebration of Life was held on October 11.

Dorothy "Dot" Leland

DOT PASSED AWAY October 6. She had been an active and involved Obsidian member since 1970.

The *Bulletin* will have a complete obituary in the March issue.

Dues Are Overdue!



LOOK AROUND. Is that your membership renewal form peeking out from under that pile of junk mail? (It's school bus-orange, so it should be easy to unearth.) Dues for the 2009-10 were due on Thursday, October 1st. Never fear, we in Membership are a generous bunch and are accepting dues through November 30th, -without the added \$5 late-fee. Please go hunt up the form, fill it out – including a volunteer job or two, write a check to Obsidians, Inc., put it into a stamped envelope and mail it to: Membership, PO Box 51424 Eugene, OR 97405. Do it right now! This is one of the best things you can do for yourself, so why put it off? While you're at it, consider one of our Premium Memberships: Platinum, Gold or Silver, by adding the appropriate extra donation to the check (See the renewal form for details). Our gratitude and many thanks go to those who have already renewed.

Thanks, Barb Revere and your Membership Committee

OBSIDIANS, INC

P.O. Box 322, Eugene, OR 97440

Website: www.obsidians.org

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Board meetings are held 6 pm the first Wednesday of each month, except October when it is first Wednesday after Annual Meeting. No Board Meeting in August.

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The OBSIDIAN Bulletin

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Deadline

**for November 2009 Bulletin
Saturday, October 31, 2009**

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Copy Editors..... Jean Coberly & Beth Roy
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A Great, New, All-Season Trail & Close to Eugene!

Story and Photo by Chris Stockdale

THE THOUGHT OF EXPLORING a newly built hiking trail was enough to lure five Obsidian friends to spend Sunday, August 9 doing just that. After reading that the North Fork of the Middle Fork of the Willamette River trail had been finished, after 10 years of construction, I invited others to join me in finding out what the last section was like. I had led several Obsidian hikes on the first five-mile section, starting at the Westfir covered bridge and doing an out-and-back. This time we did a car shuttle, leaving one vehicle at the covered bridge trail head and driving to the new pull-out off Road 19 (Aufderheide) between Forest Service roads 1919 and 1920. This is right at the Gorge, where the Forest Service has installed a useful map and trail information sign board.

THE TOTAL DISTANCE OF THIS TRAIL is now 11.5 miles and includes an amazing amount of elevation gain and loss – especially in the new section. Some parts of the trail are very

steep and after rain will be slippery, so hiking boots would be essential footwear. The trail crosses two Forest Service roads, 1910 and 1912, so you have the option of parking a car at either of these trail crossings if you want a shorter hike. The last part of the hike, the original trail, is probably the



most scenic as you are closer to the river, but the whole length of this hike is delightful. When we reached the Westfir covered bridge, we all agreed that this was the direction in which to hike, since the last few miles are flat – most welcome when you are tired. And tired we were. Even my dog, Luke, had had enough as he plopped down in the shade at Westfir and just gave me that look!

I will be leading this hike (weather permitting) on November 15.

Joining me in this exploration were Dick Hildreth, Elle Weaver, Judy Ness, Sue Wolling and, of course, Luke the Dog.



The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs 77th Annual Conference

THE JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER and the stately buildings of historic Fort Wright in Spokane, WA served as the backdrop to this summer's conference, hosted by Spokane's Hobnailers Hiking Club. It was a fine opportunity to learn about the Inland Northwest and the Columbia River Basin. Presentations included:

"The Lords of Yesterday" was presented by John Osborn MD, founder of the Lands Council. He presented a timeline for the establishment of forest reserves and the creation of the state parks department in 1933-1942.

Michael McCloskey, former Executive Director of the Sierra Club, followed with an interesting talk on "The Fate of Nature in the New Deal", when an amazing number of positive actions to benefit public lands occurred.

A presentation by Susan Saul on Mt. St. Helens in-

formed participants of the tension between those who want the area kept for research and those who want a road through the monument, plus fishing lodges and a resort on Spirit Lake.

Other topics were "Forestry and Wilderness in the Columbia Highlands", a presentation on the stunning Scotchman Peaks Wilderness that straddles Idaho and Montana, and a talk on preventing beavers from building in culverts.

The conference ended with a discussion of conservation challenges and opportunities with the Obama administration and Congress.

The Hobnailers led hikes on both days, one to see the NW Inland Land Trust Property and another on the Centennial Trail.

- Shirley Cameron



Conservation Corner:

"CONSERVATION IS A STATE OF HARMONY BETWEEN MEN AND LAND"

- Aldo Leopold, 1887-1948

"We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect"

- Aldo Leopold

By Pat Bitner, Conservation Chair

WHO AMONG US HAS NOT WATCHED KEN BURNS' newest television series, "The National Parks, America's Best Idea"? And if you did miss one or more segments, PBS will surely repeat them. It did seem to me that the first installment was almost overpowering; it had just too many grand mountain scenes. But the following evenings devoted much more time to the story of the human history of the parks. First of the great names of that history was Lincoln, who in 1864 signed the act making Yosemite Valley and the giant sequoias public land but under state protection. It fell to Theodore Roosevelt to make Yellowstone our first national park. Steven Mather's tireless efforts gave us the National Park System. And greatest of them all was John Muir, the Scottish emigrant who became the eloquent voice of wilderness, inspiring presidents to recognize and preserve the grandeur of the American West.

A lot of footage has been devoted to Yosemite, whose grand valley is incomparable in its photogenic qualities. I've had the privilege of loving it for fifty years, first backpacking its high country, then spending many weekends in Yosemite Valley in all seasons. It is a park which is in danger of being loved to death. Although at least a part of the automobile procession through the valley has been prohibited and the over-camped grounds given a little rest, and while the bears no longer congregate at the garbage dump, it still suffers from too many visitors.

A PARK SYSTEM LIKE NO OTHER in the world must be transformed from its original focus of encouraging more and more visitors arriving by motor car as in Steven Mather's day,

to some workable system where we share our earth with equal rights and respect for all things, including the plants, animals, forests and the waters of our rivers, lakes and oceans.

OREGON NEWS

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council was created by Congress to give the citizens of Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington a stronger voice in the future of the key resources common to all - the electricity generated and the fish and wildlife affected by the Columbia River Basin hydropower dams. Last month the Council held a public hearing in Eugene to take comments on the *Sixth Power Plan*, which will be released at the end of this year. Many comments reflected concern about the pollution of the Boardman coal fired power plant and other comments called for the removal of the four Lower Snake River dams in order to save the iconic salmon which faces possible extinction.

KEY FINDINGS OF THE COMMISSION in their draft plan include: Existing coal plants provide 20% of the region's electricity, but emit 85% of power systems CO2. Increased

energy efficiency is the lowest-cost option and can potentially meet 85% of our region's demand growth, while creating local jobs and economic activity. Wind is cost-competitive with other technologies and must be used to meet renewable energy standards. Renewables avoid fuel price increases and potential carbon penalties.

The draft plan is available for public review,

and includes findings that wholesale power rates could rise as little as 1/6th cent per kilowatt hour to replace the power from the four Lower Snake River dams -or as little as 6/10th of a cent to completely rid ourselves of coal power by 2020. This is great news for the beleaguered Columbia River salmon - and for human lungs.

Public comments will be taken until November 7. Go to www.nwcouncil.org



Team Sight Unseen Climbs Mt. Rainier

By John Pegg Photos by Peter Green

Editor's Note: The November 2008 Obsidian Bulletin has an article, also by John Pegg, that gives background on Team Sight Unseen and Peter Green and also reports on their climb of Mt. St Helens in July 2008.

REMEMBER TEAM SIGHT UNSEEN? They are a climbing team comprised of blind, visually impaired, and sighted mountaineers. Last year this courageous group, lead by Obsidian Peter Green, successfully climbed Mt. St. Helens and Mt. Hood. This July they were back to attempt one of the giants of the Northwest, Mt. Rainier.



Peter Green, who organized and led the trip, was assisted by fellow Oregonian Ben Meyer. Justin Grant from Denton, Texas, Brad Jaffke, from Madison, Wisconsin, and Joe Mayfield, from Argyle formed the rest of the team. Kyle Coon was on trip last year, but could not make the trip this year because he was training with his first seeing eye dog.

The team assembled from across the country at Cold Springs campground at the base of Mt. Adams on July 18.



Last year they had planned to climb Mt. Adams but couldn't climb because of forest fires. This year the weather cooperated and the climb was a complete success. They had a great camp at the Lunch Counter, and a wonderful climb.

AFTER A REST DAY AT NEARBY Lake Takhlakh, it was on to Mt. Rainier National Park for an attempt on the mountain via the Emmons/Winthrop Glacier Route. Leaving the high camp at Camp Sherman at 1:00 am on July 26, they were at the crater rim at 8:00 am and traversed the ridge to Columbia Crest a short time later. It was an incredible adventure!

The motto of Team Sight Unseen is that "It's the journey, not the destination that makes the trip worthwhile." But I had to ask, what is the next destination? Peter Green and the team are currently training and raising money to climb Mt. Aconcagua, the highest mountain in South America and the highest mountain outside of the Himalayas. With the skills this group has now, they will be ready. You can learn more about the team at www.teamsightunseen.com.

Booth at State Fair & Eugene Celebration

WE ACCEPTED AN INVITATION to have a booth at the State Fair this year. Along with friends and family, Barbara and Paul Beard brought a small TV so we could play Sue Sullivan's slide program that was a hit last year. Margaret Prentice and Elle Weaver traded off with the Beards so we could all check out the sights.

It rained cats and dogs at the Eugene Celebration. Saturday morning was mainly spent shifting around the display tables until shower curtains were put up around the tent. Several visitors were attracted by the climb photos. One young man who bikes everywhere was thrilled that we carpoled for trips.

Many thanks to all who waded in to help with a boatload of cheerfulness: Dan Christensen, Sue Wolling, Mary and Brian Hamilton, Rick Ahrens, Valerie Metcalf, Jim and Sharon Duncan, Buzz Blumm, Marian West, and Margaret Prentice. We're grateful also to Martha Welches who coordinated staffing the booth, to Janet Jacobsen for the special trip flyer with added club information, and for John Jacobsen's dazzling photo prints, plus Mary and Brian's folding screen that could display large eye-catching trip pictures.

- Elle Weaver, Publicity Chair

TRIP REPORTS & OTHER ACTIVITIES



Hikes

Opie Dilldock Pass

August 23, 2009

Leader: Richard Romm

15 miles, 2,400 ft. (Difficult)

WE HAD A SLIGHT CHANGE TO THE YEARLY RITUAL: we did the loop counterclockwise starting on the Obsidian Trail and ending on the Scott Trail. It made it more difficult with an uphill climb on the scree from Sawyer Bar to the pass. At Collier Glacier viewpoint the vistas were unprecedented, with the glacier in front, and the entire Cascade chain all the way to Mount Hood visible behind. A crystal clear day with minimal haze made the day memorable, as did the fact that we finished two hikers short of our starting contingent. Members: Laurie Funkhouser, Dick Hildreth, Rob Kimmich, Rich Romm, Ellen Sather, Chris Stockdale, Elle Weaver and Sue Wolling; non-member: John Mundall.

Four-in-One Cone

August 28, 2009

Leader & Photo: Clare Tucker

8.6 miles, 1,500 ft. (Moderate)

NINE OF US MET UNDER VERY OPAQUE, GRAY CLOUDS, but by the time we got to the trailhead we had a perfect day ahead of us. Four of us had not done this hike before, and their delight in the wonder of the lava fields, and the view from the top of the cones, made the rest of us smile at our return to this great wilderness area. Thank you Nola Nelson and Joanne Ledet for driving, and thank you ODOT for the resurfacing of the old McKenzie Highway; it's much improved. The hike was a breeze for this competent group of hikers. No one complained about the 18 trees along the trail that had to be stepped/climbed over. This was a great group of hikers: members Pat Esch, Art Kearney, Joanne Ledet, Sue Meyers, Nola Nelson, Lamonte Smith, Clare Tucker, and Nancy Whitfield, and nonmember Anya Dobrowolshi.

Rosary Lakes

August 28, 2009

Leader: Chris Cunningham

6 miles, 600 ft. (Easy)

OURS WAS AN OVERCAST DAY, just perfect for hiking to the three Rosary Lakes. A nice breeze may have been responsible for keeping the mosquitoes away. On the way up, we met two gentlemen who were hiking the Oregon portion of the Pacific Crest Trail. One recited what he described as a Buddhist poem



Four-in-One Cone

for us that emphasized the importance of not postponing what we want to do until "later," such activities as hiking and spending time in the out-of-doors. We know that, but it's always good to be reminded. The generally busy trail was pretty quiet, although we did run into several campers. We stopped at the upper lake for lunch, before turning around and marching the three miles back to the trailhead. We really couldn't have asked for a better day to view this "string" of pretty mountain lakes; always a joy to behold. Members: Chris Cunningham, Pete Peterson and Chuck Wagar; nonmembers: Jim Gillings and Diane Pergamit.

Phantom Bridge

August 30, 2009

Leader: Matthew Bell

8 miles, 1,500 ft. (Moderate)

WE MET UP AT THE SOUTH EUGENE HIGH SCHOOL parking lot at 6:00 am for what was supposed to be two hikes in one day to a couple of very beautiful natural wonders in the Cascades east of Salem: Phantom Bridge and Boca Cave. Unfortunately, due to the long drive time (2+ hours one-way), I hadn't scouted the road to the trailhead on Road 2207 to Phantom Bridge this year. There was a pretty big rockslide covering Road 2207 a mile or so from the trailhead which threw a rather large monkey wrench in the plan. We talked it over and decided to hike up the road from the rockslide to the trailhead of French Creek Ridge Trail and Road 2207. We started off at about 8:45 and it took us about an hour to reach the trailhead. Our efforts in road hiking up to the trail were rewarded with a wide selection of ripe berries along the trail including huckleberries, red huckleberries, thimbleberries and even some orange salmonberries. This section of French Creek Ridge Trail hasn't been maintained in quite some time so there were a few logs and deadfalls to climb over or crawl under and some overgrown sections. We reached the subtle turnoff to Phantom Bridge at about 11:45. We turned off the trail and walked up about 25 feet to see Phantom Bridge. It is in some ways unfortunate that the trail to Phantom Bridge takes you to its top because it makes it seem much less impressive than it really is. It is over 30 feet tall and spans over 20 feet. After a nice lunch and picture break we headed back to the car. We arrived at the trailhead at about 2:00 and made it back to the car at about 3:00. We discussed continuing on to Triangulation Peak and Boca Cave but all agreed that it was best to save it for another day. Participants: Margaret Bayless (nonmember on her 3rd hike who has a completed application), and members Janet Jacobsen, Ed Lizewski, and Matt Bell (leader).



Dan, Brad, Jordan and Daphne at Rockpile Lake

Shasta Loops/Blackberries

September 1, 2009

Leader: Marshall Kandell

4 miles, 400 ft. (Easy)

THE WEATHER WAS COOL AND OVERCAST as we carpoled to Spring and Firland, where we started our hike. A couple of participants didn't read the sign-up sheets too carefully; they saw "blackberries," and missed the part about "hike"! We are, after all, a hiking organization, not just an eating club. Those who hadn't been on this hike before really enjoyed seeing the homes and mansions, as well as the back-country roads. Finally, the vineyard on the route is yielding grapes. As for the blackberries, they were still sweet and plentiful, even though they were running early this year due to all the heat and there was some fear they'd be past their prime. No problem. Everyone ate his and her limit, and filled their containers as well. Hiker-pickers included nonmember Fred Weech and Obsidians Kathy Hoeg (who joined us half-way, but paid the full buck anyway), Yuan Hopkins, Sachiko Iwasaki (whose sprained ankle responded well to a healthy intake of berries), Marshall Kandell, Joanne Ledet, Helen Martz, Barb Revere, Ruth Romoser, Chuck Wagar and Martha Welches.

McKenzie Geology

September 2, 2009

Leader: Peter Rodda

3 miles, 200 ft. (Easy)

THE COMBINATION OF A BRIGHT, SUNNY DAY and the newly resurfaced McKenzie Highway made for an ideal outing for our 12 participants to explore the geology of this popular area. As on previous trips we started at the junction of Highways 126 and 242, then drove up the McKenzie Pass road, stopping several times to view, examine, and discuss the volcanic features and evidence of glacial activity. We hiked the Proxy Falls loop, and stopped for lunch at Linton Lake trailhead. The trip ended with a view from atop Dee Wright Observatory, a walk on the loop trail over the Yapoah lava flow, and the drive back to Eugene. Members: Pat Esch, Richard Heinzkill, Sachiko Iwasaki, Joanne Ledet, Norma Lockyear, Helen Martz and Peter Rodda; nonmembers: Dan Biengz, Don Clarke, Jim Gillinger, Joe Neal and Ted Walling.

Rockpile Lake

September 3, 2009

Leader: Dan Christensen Photo: Brad Bennett

11 miles, 2,100 ft. (Difficult)

THIS HIKE WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED as a 13-mile Rockpile/Minto Lake loop hike. However, during the counter-clockwise exploratory hike, I found that the trail disappeared somewhere east of Minto Lake. Hence, it became an in and out Rockpile Lake hike. The trailhead is located on the east side of the Cascades off Jack Lake Road, roughly 2.5 hours from Eugene. A major fire occurred in this area probably 5-7 years ago (possibly part of the Cabot Lake fire?). One edge of the fire burned over the trailhead area. The trail immediately begins to climb gradually along a ridge line on the edge of the burn, and it continues to climb for about two miles, further into the burn area, to a large meadow. In the meadow, one crosses the Jefferson Wilderness boundary and continues to climb. Excellent views of Three Fingered Jack, Washington, North and Middle Sister and Broken Top appear. At the far end of the meadow one re-enters the burned area and the trail levels out through the for-

est. By this time you have likely gained at least 1000 feet in about 2.5 miles. For the next half mile the trail has not been cleared so a hiker has to be careful to follow the flagging in order to not lose the trail. Next, one enters an area of a much more recent burn, likely part of the Jefferson burn of two years ago. Then, at about the point where the trail resumes climbing up to the Pacific Crest Trail, one leaves the burn behind and climbs for about 1.5 miles through a beautiful hemlock forest with very little understory. The trail here is somewhat faint, so you have to watch carefully in order to not wander off of it. The elevation gain in this section is another 1,000 feet or so. Rockpile Lake sits on the edge of the PCT at the point where the trail deadends into the PCT. Rockpile is a small, but very beautiful, high Cascade lake. While we were having our lunch a doe wandered past us, no more than 30 feet away. She hung around until we left, not concerned at all about our presence. The inbound hike took about 2.5 hours and the outbound just over 2 hours. I would strongly recommend this hike, especially to those who are interested in various stages of post-fire regrowth. It would be best described as a moderately difficult hike. Members: Brad Bennett, Dan Christensen and Daphne James; nonmember: Jordan Ray.

Baker Beach

September 11, 2009

Leader: Pat Soussan

6 miles, 0 ft. (Moderate)

WITH TEMPERATURES FORECAST TO BE IN THE LOW 90'S in Eugene, the seven hikers on this trip felt that the coast was the ideal place to be. Baker Beach is continually being improved and, with easy access across the sand dunes, it is quite popular with beach enthusiasts, including horseback riders. Before setting off south along the beach, we gathered some large pieces of wood and positioned them in the sand. This was to help us find the way on our return as there are no distinguishing markers from the beach to show the trail back over the dunes. Everyone enjoyed the sunshine, the ocean, easy walking on the firm sand and conversations with fellow hikers. At Sutton Creek, we found a large log that could accommodate all seven of us for a lunch break where some goodies were shared. Our marker was still in place as we neared the end of our hike and we clambered up the dunes back to our cars. The Baker Beach area is one of several sites referred to as "Snowy Plover Management Areas" (SPMAs). The Snowy Plover nests on Baker Beach from mid-March to mid-September and some sand dunes are off limits during that time. We saw no evidence of any barricades or nesting birds. Near the beginning of our hike, we did see a number of turkey vultures gathered close to the water and discovered that they had been feasting on a large squid that had washed up in the surf. Hikers were members Walt Dolliver, Lamonte Smith, Julie Dorland, Margot Fetz, Joanne Ledet, and Pat Soussan, and non-member Vicky Hanson. Co-leader Sue Meyers, unfortunately, had to cancel due to sickness. Thanks to Margot for driving.

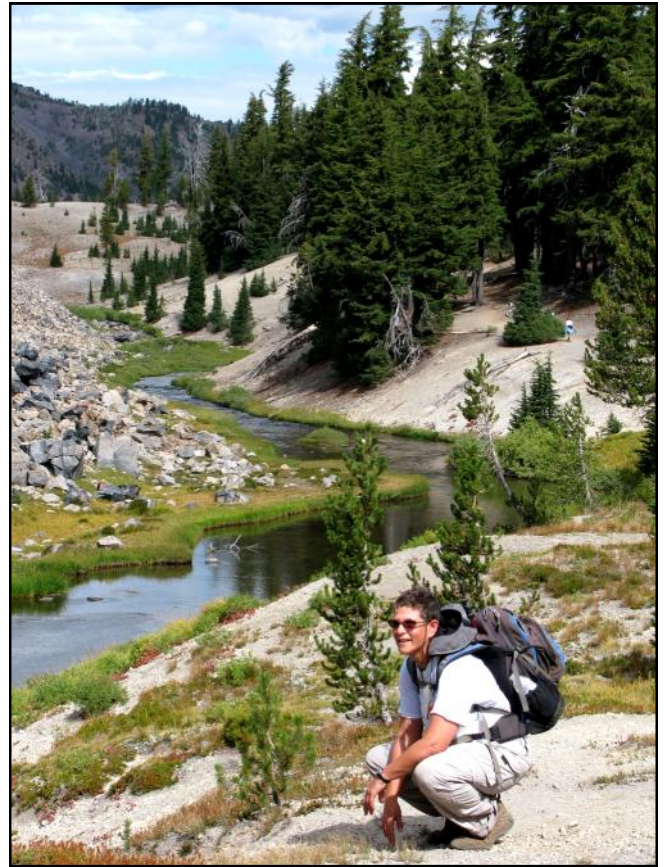
Matthieu Lakes

September 12, 2009

Leader: Paul Flashenberg

6 miles, 800 ft. (Moderate)

HAVING RESCHEDULED THIS HIKE from the previous Saturday due to rain, we were rewarded with a beautiful, warm, late summer day. Ten of us left Eugene at 8:30 am and arrived at the trailhead shortly before 11:00 am. After a 3-mile hike with



Daphne along Fall Creek on way to Green Lakes

views of North and Middle Sister, Mt. Washington and Mt. Jefferson, South Matthieu Lake appeared. We stopped there for a leisurely lunch and two members enjoyed a cold and refreshing swim. On the return trip, we stopped briefly at North Matthieu Lake and encountered several people fishing, whom we had seen earlier at South Matthieu Lake. Thanks to Howard and Mary for sharing driving duties. Members: Paul Flashenberg, Jim Gillings, Mary Livingston, Helen Martz, Sue Meyers and Lamonte Smith; nonmembers: Howard Kapp, Joe McCully, Richard McGuinness and Pauline Silano.

Green Lakes via Fall Creek

September 13, 2009

Leader: Daphne James Photo: Brad Bennett

8.4 miles, 1,100 ft. (Moderate)

PLANNING FOR A LONG DAY, we left SEHS early in the morning. An unexpected lightning storm the evening before had us a little concerned. Driving along the Cascade Lakes Highway, we watched the sky, which had turned gray with a slight drizzle. But as luck would have it, by the time we hit the trailhead, brilliant blue skies had broken through and we hiked most of the day with clear blue skies and pillowy white clouds. The slight rainy spell we had while hiking back was brief and the skies quickly turned back to sunny blue, so typical for our beloved Oregon Cascades. We hiked the Fall Creek trail, admiring the lovely waterfalls and wonderful lava and obsidian rock along the way. When we reached the junction for the lake loop trail, Dick led a small group ahead and scouted out a lunch spot on the largest of the Green Lakes. From our lunch spot we had incredible, up-close views of Broken Top and South Sister. It was a fabulous



Mt. Jefferson from inside Boca Cave

day thanks to the great crew of hikers: Obsidians Margaret Bayless, Brad Bennett, Margaret Essenberg, Richard Essenberg, Kitson Graham, Peter Graham, Dick Hildreth, leader Daphne James, Nola Nelson, Judy Ness, and nonmember Dralyn Van Ness. Special thanks to Judy for her help with sweeping and band-aiding. For great pictures go to: http://bradysally.com/green_lakes09.htm.

Scott Mountain/Hand Lake

September 13, 2009

Leader: Scott Hovis

10 miles, 1,300 ft. (Difficult)

A REMINDER ABOUT THIS PARTICULAR HIKE: don't forget your permit - it can be obtained at the trailhead. The trail is well maintained, and there are good outhouses at the trailhead. The lakes seemed to be unusually low, and just about all of the huckleberries are spent. The wind seems to regularly funnel through the meadows by Hand Lake. The partly cloudy day actually made for a nice cool hike. All of the construction work on McKenzie Highway 242 is finished. Members: Scott Hovis; nonmembers: Christy Fisher and Teri Schesinger.

Clear Lake

September 20, 2009

Leader: Beth Roy

5.5 miles, 200 ft. (Easy)

ON A GLORIOUS DAY, 10 hikers went around the lake, enjoying some fall color displayed by vine maple on the lava fields, views of the Sisters, and basking in late-summer sunshine. We encoun-

tered quite a few other hikers, bikers, and dogs, and we saw more boaters than I've ever seen out on the lake itself. Good day to be outside! On the hike were Obsidians Sue Meyers, Walt Dolliver, Barbara Morgan, Susan Sanazaro, Lena Houston Davison, Valerie Metcalfe, Janet Hall, Wayne Cleall, leader Beth Roy, and nonmember (but we hope not for long) John Davison. Thanks to all for a lovely outing!

Triangulation Peak & Boca Cave

September 20, 2009

Leader: Matthew Bell Photo: Jim Pierce

4 miles, 700 ft. (Moderate)

I MET JIM AND CHARLENE at the trailhead at about 8:30 in the morning. We hiked along the trail to Triangulation Peak making it to the top in about 2 hours. Along the way we were able to snack on a few very late thimbleberries and were surprised by patches of frost. Although it had rained the day before and had been quite cloudy in the morning, the sky was mostly clear and we were treated with views of Mount Hood to the north, Mount Jefferson to the east, and Three Fingered Jack and the Three Sisters to the south. After resting a bit and stopping for some great photo opportunities we began to head down to Boca Cave. Our descent was aided by the prior day's rain. The loose sand and dirt was held together by the water making much of the descent a little less prone to sliding. As we approached the mouth of Boca Cave we heard voices and were surprised to find that three people had camped in the cave the prior evening. They assured us that to watch the sunset and sunrise from inside the cave was spectacular. We explored without the use of flashlights or headlamps because the morning sun illuminated most of the

cave. We shared the best view of Mount Jefferson with the campers as the campsite is in the spot that allows the viewer to look upon Mount Jefferson perfectly framed by the cave mouth. Members: Charlene and Jim Pierce; Matt Bell (leader).



Climbs

Maiden Peak

September 27, 2009

Leader: Doug McCarty

11 miles, 3,000 ft. (Difficult)

A DARK SHADOW LAY OVER THIS YEAR'S FALL CLASSIC, in the form of the smoke and ash clouds of the Tumblebug Fire south of Oakridge. The Fire HQ cleared us to go on Saturday afternoon, since winds would be blowing the smoke away from us rather than toward us, but several hikers had dropped out already. As it turned out, it was a beautiful day to hike the Maiden Peak Trail and 9 hikers left from SEHS promptly at 8 am and met up with Rod Wood at the trailhead.

It was such a nice day that we took a little extra time going up through the trees to the summit. The only wind we found was at the top and it was blowing east to west, keeping the smoke well away from us. I never get tired of this hike, and in late September it always seems to work out fine. Members Margaret Bayless, Marianne Camp, Dick Hildreth, Becky Lipton, Douglas McCarty, Sookjae McCarty and Rod Wood, nonmembers: Vickie Foster, Barry McKenzie and Sue Mombert.

Mt. St. Helens

August 3, 2009

Leader: Buzz Blumm

9 miles, 4,600 ft.

MOST OF US CAMPED AT THE TRAILHEAD the night before. Monday, we woke to cool temps starting off. After two miles through the woods, we emerged onto the rocks and scree with nary a tree the rest of the way. It was slow going, but a clear day with cool breezes and great views in all directions. The climb was rugged, the constant scree was tough – it seemed more difficult than my last time on the mountain seven years ago; maybe seven years older makes a difference? We all made it to the top (is there a summit?) and hung out for a while enjoying the moment. The hike down was uneventful - we all agreed it was a beautiful day and great experience. Participants were non-Obsidians Mike and Patti McNutt, and Obsidians Daphne James, David Adkins and the Blumm family: Maddie, Andrew, Cecile and Buzz (leader).



First view of Shuksan summit



On the Refrew Glacier on climb of Middle Sister

Mount Shuksan
August 24-25, 2009
Leader & Photo: Jim Pierce
9 miles, 3,600 ft.

WE STARTED UP THE TRAIL UNDER CLEAR SKIES. The first two miles are flat, then the trail starts to switchback up the ridge. Soon the nice switchbacks end and the trail seems to go straight up the ridgeline, held in place by the roots of the fabulous forest. At the crest of the ridge alpine meadows greeted us along with some very steep, rocky grades. We had lunch at the “Notch.” The other side of the Notch is rock and glaciers. The cairns sort of marked the trail as we scrambled over glacier-sculpted boulders. We FINALLY found the high camp (6,200 feet), just above the composting (?) toilet. Our tents were perched on the rock precipice with glacier toes on both sides and Shuksan Lake far below. The surrounding mountain scenery was spectacular and worth the trip, even if we could not make the climb. About 2:00 am the bright Milky Way disappeared, as forecast, and by 4:00 am it started raining. At sunrise the rain had stopped, but the clouds were only 200 feet above us. By 10:00 am they had dropped and we were in a whiteout. Larry, Doug and I hiked out; what a knee killer trail, even with poles. Amber and Dylan stayed another night, mostly in the cocoon of the clouds. It was a great time, even though we did not summit. Members: Amber

Bell, Larry Huff, Doug McCarty and Jim Pierce; nonmember: Dylan Farque.

Middle Sister
September 12-13, 2009
Leader: Brian Hamilton Photo: Randy Sinnott
14.5 miles, 5,260 ft. (I-1)

ARROWHEAD LAKE IS A BEAUTIFUL SPOT and it was especially nice on this trip because we were the only campers on the plateau and there were no mosquitoes. We hiked in from Obsidian Trailhead and arrived at the lake early Saturday afternoon, leaving plenty of time for resting, exploring, enjoying the views from Mt. Adams in the north to Mt. McLoughlin in the south, bird-watching, and even swimming. As the red sun began to set, it was framed by clouds moving in from the southwest and we saw lightning strikes in the distance. The temperature stayed above 50 degrees throughout the night and we awoke to mostly cloudy skies. We started for the summit at 5:15 am, found the toe of the Renfrew Glacier by headlamp, and continued around Folding Rock toward the saddle between North and Middle Sisters. Just before reaching the saddle, we were passed by a couple of climbers who intended to summit the Middle and then continue to bag the South. Shortly after that, another climber in low-top shoes passed us. He had just summited North Sister and was

on his way toward completing a 24-hour Three Sisters Marathon. We all reached the summit between 9:10-9:30, spent a half hour taking it all in, and then descended with threatening clouds coming in from the south. Back on the Renfrew Glacier, we passed two other groups on their way up, one of which was poorly outfitted to deal with the clouds that would soon engulf the top of the mountain. We were back at base camp at 12:30, but did not leave in time to beat the storm. Rain fell for over an hour during our hike and then the sun reappeared so that we were almost dry when we reached the trailhead at 4:30. Members: April Anderson, Jennifer Galfin, Timothy Galfin, Brian Hamilton and Bistra Hristova; nonmember: Randy Sinnott.

North Sister

August 29-30, 2009

Leader & Photo: Wayne Deeter

14 miles, 5,000 ft. (I-3)



Crossing the Dinner Plate - April, Lubos and Dan

WE HIKE IN VIA THE SOAP CREEK CLIMBERS TRAIL and camped at 7,700 feet, below the southeast spur of the south ridge of North Sister. The wind died down in the evening, so we had a calm, clear night, with the moon and stars shining brightly. While our 5:30 am start stretched out to 5:45, we still beat my best-case time estimate to the Dinner Plate by half an hour—we were ready to rope-up at 9:00 am! While we climbed the southeast spur, we watched a group of ten struggling up the col between the Hayden Glacier and the southeast spur; their leader is apparently not familiar with this mountain. (We later learned that they had left their camp 1-1/2 hours before we left ours. They showed up at the Dinner Plate an hour after us!) Our time on top was short as we didn't want to stick around for the crowd.

On our descent, a member of another group kicked loose a basketball-sized rock that whizzed by April and me, and bounced over our rope. Congratulations to April, Lubos and Dan at successfully tackling this mean mountain. Members: April Anderson, Wayne Deeter, Lubos Hubata-Vacek and Dan Koziol.

Mt. Washington

September 11-12, 2009

Leader: Larry Huff

10 miles, 3,000 ft. (I-3)

WE ARRIVED AT THE TRAILHEAD on a beautiful Friday afternoon. We departed the following morning under a partial moon at 5:00 am. The hike down the PCT in the dark was smooth and uneventful. We started up the climbers trail a little early as it is a bit more of a challenge in the dark. The morning light did arrive and we were able to negotiate the rest of the trail through the forest without difficulty. The day promised to be a repeat of the previous day with clear skies and high temps. We arrived on the north ridge at 6:45 am. We enjoyed a brief rest and proceeded up the ridge to the notch. It was now 8:00 am and we settled down for a moment and got some water and food in us. We geared up and I took Tim over to the first pitch to go over the anchor and belay expectations. Once we were happy with the anchor and expectations we all checked each other out. I began my climb up the ramp of the first pitch. I arrived at the crux with an assortment of pro. I found a placement just inside the roof of the first part of the crux, then backed it up with another piece and went up to the next problem. I slung a chickenhead nice and tight and clipped the rope in. I finally arrived at the top and pulled in the slack and tied it off. We all arrived at the top of the first pitch with little difficulty. I proceeded to the second pitch and built another anchor with Tim. Once we got this figured out I was on my way up. This pitch was the most difficult in terms of which way to go. There is a prominent rock along the way that I clipped into that has many slings. This section produced major rope drag. We all arrived at the top of the second pitch with even less difficulty, well at least they did. I quickly set up for the final pitch and arrived at the summit to find the anchor rock missing all of its slings, hmm. I have no choice but to commit a personal sling. The rest of the group followed plus three other climbers not part of our group. We arrived on the summit to many flying ants and the standard housefly. On the way down I set up and removed the rope for four raps. From the summit down I committed three slings, one 'biner, and one rap ring to the mountain. During this time the mountain was humming with activity. I had to negotiate our descent a couple of times, gee whiz. We arrived back at the notch and quickly scrambled down to a safe place to enter the scree field. We made our way down the scree, hiked through pretty meadows and reveled at our accomplishment as we looked back upon Mt. Washington. It was a great climb with a great group of guys. Thanks goes out to Wayne Deeter for helping me prepare for the climb. Members: Larry Huff, Dave Jensen, Doug McCarty and Tim Swallin.

South Sister

September 20, 2009

Leader: Buzz Blumm

12 miles, 4,800 ft.

IT WAS A GLORIOUS LAST DAY OF SUMMER: not a cloud appeared all day! We were on the trail at 9:00 am, made Tear Drop lake for lunch at 12:30, then the summit just after 2:00 pm. It

was calm and beautiful and we lounged on top for over an hour. Mt. Rainier was faintly visible. I think this was my 19th time up this mountain - I could do this blind-folded, walking backwards at night! Hikers were non-Obsidians Paul Lee, Jen Steele and Erin Hewitt, and Obsidians Mike and Patti McNutt, Shannon Harty, Ben Muir, Madeline Blumm and Buzz Blumm, leader.

Mt. Washington
September 26, 2009
Leader: Wayne Deeter
10 miles, 3,000 ft. (I-3)

FRIDAY NIGHT, after hearing from the Mazama leader that he intended to start hiking his ten at 6:00 am, we decided to get a jump on them, and leave at 4:30. Due to our early start we enjoyed a great view of the sunrise from the north ridge. The prevailing winds had shifted direction in the last few days, so smoke from the Tumblebug fire in the Middle Fork district was minimal--from the summit we could see it billowing off in the distance by Diamond Peak. We headed back down after spending more than an hour on the summit, basking in the sun and drinking in the fantastic views. We were able to pass by the Mazama group without difficulty, which was just then ascending the second pitch. Many thanks to Roy for driving and for providing the portable kitchen and furniture for our evening potluck, and to Sue for her invaluable help as assistant leader of the climb. Members: Wayne Deeter, Roy McCormick and Sue Zeni; nonmember: Charlie Tilt.



Bike Trips

Aufderheide Highway
August 29, 2009
Leader: Lyn Gilman-Garrick
45 miles, 1,500 ft. (Moderate)

LOOKED LIKE THE DECK WAS STACKED AGAINST US before we even started our ride. Paul and I found a nail in our car tire and had to get it fixed before leaving Springfield. Then the clouds piled up over the mountains and it looked like rain. Being the intrepid bikers that we are, the group didn't let the setbacks deter us. We set out from Delta Campground outside Blue River around 10 am to bike 23 miles up the Aufderheide Scenic Highway to Frissell Crossing Campground. Our intrepidness was rewarded. The skies turned bright blue and the temperatures hovered around 75 degrees - perfect for biking. Our group was small but compatible. Stewart and George led the charge up the river. Barb, Pat and I brought up the rear. Paul biked back and forth between the two groups and added almost three miles to his ride. This is a really fun ride. It's a rolling uphill most of the way to Frissell Crossing, but after lunch you're rewarded with several glorious downhill, especially the last four miles from the dam at Cougar Reservoir to the cars. Members: Barbara Bruns, Paul Garrick, Lyn Gilman-Garrick, Stewart Hoeg and George Jobanek; nonmember: Pat Gripp.

Orchard Point Park
September 4, 2009
Leader: Pat Esch
26 miles, 200 ft. (Moderate)

IT WAS A FINE DAY TO RIDE OUT THE BIKE PATH AND BEYOND, with high clouds and moderate temperatures. We six riders stopped for a pre-lunch snack of blackberries before the real thing at Orchard Point Park on Fern Ridge Reservoir. We pretty much had the park to ourselves. On the way back, we checked out the farm stand, the bison ranch and Euphoria Chocolate! Four members, Joan Bradley, Pat Esch, Barb Revere and Martha Welches, were happy to have two nonmembers, Cathy Irwin and Lee Kelly, with them.

Bellfountain Loop
September 20, 2009
Leaders: Sharon Ritchie and Lyn Gilman-Garrick
38 miles, 200 ft. (Moderate)

WE MET AT SAFEWAY IN JUNCTION CITY under blue skies, sunshine AND an incredible headwind! Taking back-country roads north (into said headwind), we finally turned west toward lunch at Bellfountain Park. The return trip, heading south for the most part, was great. Most of us were able to reach incredible speeds, pushed along by a wonderful tailwind. Going over Coon Road is never easy, and wasn't this time either. My thanks to Lyn Gilman-Garrick for, once again, co-leading this favorite ride with me. Participating on the ride, all Obsidians, were Paul Garrick, Barb Bruns, Royal Murdock, George Jobanek, Darlene Mancuso, Walt Davis, and Sharon Ritchie, co-leader.



Backpacks

Jefferson Park
August 28-30, 2009
Leader: Scott Hovis Photo: Brad Bennett
17 miles, 1,800 ft. (Difficult)



SOLITUDE AT JEFFERSON PARK is hard to find, but the park's views are worth the elevation gain. Our Saturday hike was on the PCT where we headed north to a ridge line that overlooked the Warm Springs valley. Some of us followed the ridge line to Park Butte. It's a challenging hike but doable if you take the rocky primitive path slowly. We were bug-free except for the couple of hours after a 30-minute drizzle. I also want to note: at the first intersection 1.5 miles in from the trailhead, we planned to have a water break but quickly moved on when about 30 yellow jackets showed up. Also of interest, there is a new outhouse at the trailhead. Members: Ron Allen, Brad Bennett, Scott Hovis and Sue Wolling; nonmembers: Abby Gershenzon, Jack Halpin and Cady Pearle. Brad and Ron were our camp photographers – thanks for sharing your website. Please check out the pictures at: <http://bradsally.com/mtjefferson09.htm>.



Byways By Bus

Fall Trip to Sisters

September 22, 2009

Leader: Ray Jensen

SISTERS WAS THE DESTINATION for our annual Fall Color trip. We traveled up the familiar scenic Route 126 to the McKenzie Ranger Station for coffee and our famous gourmet goodies. This place is always a refreshing stop with helpful personnel and some very informative videos. Then on to Sahalie for an extended visit to one of Oregon's outstanding waterfalls. Crossing the Santiam Pass, we were delayed several times for re-stripping the road. It is a beautiful area, but smoky skies obscured our views of the mountains and there wasn't much fall foliage - only a few vine maples. In Sisters our riders scattered for two hours to various restaurants and shops. Then it was back on the bus to cross the Pass to Hackleman Old Growth Grove, on the historic Santiam Wagon Road. We did not have enough time to walk the 1.8-mile nature trail through this unusual grove. Then it was down the nearly dry South Santiam River to McDonald's in Sweet Home to replenish our calorie loss. Finally we took secondary roads through the Mohawk Valley and McKenzie View Drive, avoiding the freeway. We arrived back at Shopko at 5:30 pm. Members: Alice Anderson, Barbara Beard, Paul Beard, Paula Beard, Max Brown, MaryLee Cheadle, Sharon Cutsforth, Barbara Flanders, Dennis Flanders, Dora Harris, Margit Hollerud, Ray Jensen, Barbara Payne, Don Payne, Virginia Prouty, Liz Reanier, Nola Shurtleff, Julie Snell, Janet Speelman and Cristy White; nonmembers: Bill Arthur, Joan Brown, Reno DelGrande, Bonnie Gilham, Geri Nelson, Judy Phelps and Barbara Siebold.



Trail Maintenance

Kitson Ridge

June 10, 2009

Leader: Rob Castleberry

6.6 miles, 1,100 ft.

THE FOREST SERVICE HADN'T CLEARED THIS TRAIL for several years, so our hike was reconfigured for trail maintenance with appropriate tools and necessary safety gear. Kitson Ridge is southeast of Oakridge. There are two miles of fairly steep trail climb to the top of the ridge with great views of Hills Creek Reservoir and the Calapooya Divide beyond. We cleared a multitude of branches and about 15 trees from the trail, leaving only four trees for Forest Service removal. Two miles felt like five. The trail ends at a logging road that follows the ridge eastward, and after lunch we walked to its high point, Cougar Mountain, but thickening clouds denied us views to the east. Enjoying the results of our work as we returned on the trail, now easily passable, were Obsidians Kitson Graham, Peter Graham, Effie Neth, and Rob Castleberry (leader).

Winchester Bay Beach Cleanup

September 19, 2009

Leader: Pat Bitner

1.5 miles, 50 ft. (Easy)

TEN OBSIDIANS DROVE TO WINCHESTER BAY, at Reedsport to join in the 25th Annual Great Fall Beach Cleanup. President Jim Duncan offered that this activity could be considered "Trail Maintenance" as it is a public service activity, so no fees were charged. Carpools were arranged with four cars going down following the Umpqua River. Beach Cleaners were members Joella Ewing, Pat Bitner, Jim Duncan, Sharon Duncan, Margot Fetz, Sachiko Iwasaki, Ernst Schwintzer, Sarah Praskievez, Tom Musselwhite, and Daniele Delaby.

Next Trail Maintenance

October 31, 8:30 am

See details in thank you letter to right.

Thank You Trail Maintenance

I just wanted to extend my thanks to the eight or so volunteers we had at Spencer Butte last Wednesday evening.

We worked past dusk on improving trail above the new re-route and on improving a barrier fence. This is exciting because we are now able to access with power carriers areas of Spencer Butte that were not previously accessible. We are almost to the rocky outcrop!

Next month look forward to the first Saturday project of fall/winter. We will be (1) planting on the recently blocked off segments of the west trail at the butte, and (2) continuing to work toward the rocky outcrop by widening, grading, and surfacing the main trail.

Thanks again,

Christer LaBrecque

Natural Resource Maintenance

City of Eugene Parks and Open Space

North Cascades - August 19 to 23

Leader and Photo: Jim Pierce

MID-AUGUST WAS THE PERFECT TIME to visit the treasures of the Northern Cascades National Park in Washington. We camped at a secluded group campsite inside the park for four nights. The Goodell Group Camp is a couple miles off State Route 20 near Newhalem, about 410 miles from Eugene. The fourteen of us arrived in ten cars and slept in eleven tents- including a couple steel tents. The four scrumptious dinners were cooked by our four dinner teams.

There are so many hikes in the area that we just hit the highlights. The forests, flowers, streams, waterfalls, granite rocks and cliffs were all magnificent and the mountain views were spectacular. We even got a reprieve from the mosquitoes. We had three long days and two short days of hiking.

Wednesday – After camp was set up we started at Camp and hiked along Goodell Creek about three miles RT. The granite rocks at the turn around were especially interesting. Jim only took 65 pictures.

Thursday – Cascades Pass is rated one of the best hikes in the country... and it did not disappoint. Heck, the views from the parking lot were worth the drive. It was a very hot day as we started up the switchbacks. The mountain views across the valley just got better as we got higher. Near the pass we broke out into meadows and talus fields. A mother and large baby marmot and a pika crossed the trail between hikers in our group. At the pass, the views surrounded us as we ate lunch.

After stopping to appreciate the spectacular views of Cascade Pass, several hikers ventured up an old prospector's trail along a ridge of alpine wildflowers. The trail soon became more difficult as we ascended a steep, rocky section where we were rewarded with views of a pretty alpine lake below and the Stehekin River Valley to the east. The whistling calls of marmots could be heard in the distance as we continued ascending Sahale Arm. We stopped for lunch just short of Sahale Glacier where we had 360 degree views of jagged peaks and many small glaciers. After eating and snapping a few photos, we headed back down. Along the way, we spotted a marmot on the side of the trail. He hung around long enough for Ken to get couple photos and then he scurried down the rocks. By this time it was quite warm, about

88 degrees, so we were grateful when we reached the series of switchbacks through the cool forest.

Friday – We awoke to a partly cloudy morning. Jim came around. “knocking” on our tent doors to tell us we needed to leave a half hour earlier than planned in order to catch the 8:30 boat across Diablo Lake to get to the trailhead. Arriving at the boat launch on time, we put on our hats, hood and gloves against the cold wind. During the 20 minute boat ride



we saw magnificent trees and shoreline cliffs. Disembarking, we crossed the pedestrian suspension bridge. After one false start, we found the trail, switch-backing up the hill, high above the lake, but with a clear view of its turquoise blue water. We walked steadily for four miles, stopping to have lunch on a rocky beach and napping briefly beside the lake. Then we finished with a short walk to the cars. All in all, it was a fun combination of boating and hiking.

Saturday – We voted the night before to take the steeper hard part of Maple Pass Loop first but the more obvious trail led us up the "easier" grade so that is what we did. In retrospect, that was probably for the best as this is a challenging constant up-hill for two hours either way. But the views are definitely worth it and the wildflowers abundant. We called it an ooh and ahhh hike for the spectacular views from Heather and Maple Pass and all down the knife edge ridge between Rainy Lake and Lake Ann. We had perfect weather and great 360 degree views of the North Cascades and Glacier Peak from the top. Two of our party took the side trip down to Lake Ann but reported the access to the lake was difficult and the view was much better from the main trail looking down on this little blue cirque lake with an island in the middle. There was still a little snow field behind the lake and even a bit of snow on the island. We started the hike at 4900 feet and climbed up to a high point of 6850 feet where we had lunch before descending the knee jarring switchbacks and ridge between lakes Rainy and Ann. Our group of eleven hikers made it safely but slowly down with our quota of great pictures and lasting memories.

Sunday – We did the Tall Cedars and Ladder Creek short hikes. You don't have to work hard to see great scenery. These two short hikes were near camp and less than a mile long. The giant trees and gorge cut waterfalls were spectacular. We even stopped in the power house to see the water turbines.

UPCOMING



Upcoming Bus Trips

EVERGREEN AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM

Date: October 29, 2009 - Tuesday

Leader: Ray Jensen

Cost: \$42 members, \$44 - non-members

Reservations & checks to Mary Lee Cheadle 689-1085

WE WILL ARRIVE PRIOR TO 11 AM and everyone will have a guided tour of the original air museum. At noon everyone will go to the IMAX Theater to see "Wild Oceans". At 1 pm, lunch (on your own) will be at their COSMO Café in the new space building. After lunch, you will either complete the tour of the space museum, or some may go to the new space building (self-guided tour here). Our return will be on 99W through Corvallis with a stop at Hazelnut Hill where the new crop should be available.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS



Mount Pisgah Arboretum

Finding and Harvesting Edible Mushrooms Workshop Saturday October 17, 10 am-4 pm. Join eagle-eyed mushroom enthusiast Josiah Legler and learn where and when to look for edible mushrooms, how to get a collecting permit and where you need it, how to use a field guide to identify edibles, and how to harvest mushrooms using low-impact, sustainable methods. The class will meet at the Arboretum, and then carpool to a mushrooming location about 45 minutes away. Dress for a walk in the woods and bring a mushroom guidebook (some will be available for sale), and a lunch. Fee: \$25 (MPA members/\$20) Reservations required.

Scarecrow Building and Pumpkin Carving Sunday October 18, 1-3 pm Fall is here, and Halloween is just around the corner. Get ready for the Mushroom Festival's Scarecrow Contest at this fun, family-oriented event. The Arboretum staff provides inspiration and know-how for creative pumpkin carving, and you can design your own unique scarecrow to enter in the Scarecrow contest or display on your lawn. Scarecrows made at the workshop can be entered in the Mushroom Festival contest for FREE! Bring decorations for Scarecrows, and knives and spoons

for pumpkins. Pants, shirts, straw, and pumpkins provided. Fee: \$5 per pumpkin or scarecrow. Call (541) 747-1504 to sign up.

Mushroom Festival & Plant Sale Sunday October 25 10 am-5 pm Don't miss our annual fall celebration of mushrooms and the harvest season, co-presented by Mount Pisgah Arboretum, the Cascade Mycological Society and Lane Community College. This event is one of the largest mushroom displays on the West Coast. There will also be a huge plant sale, live music, a scarecrow contest, children's activities, hayrides, craft vendors, incredible mushroom-inspired food, fresh cider, wine and much more. Suggested donation: \$5/person/ Kids under 12/free. Call (541) 747-3817 for more information and how to volunteer.

Scarecrow Contest at the Mushroom Festival Sunday October 25, Judging at 3 pm Families, individuals, businesses, or clubs can be a big hit at our annual Mushroom Festival. Get creative, have some fun, and enter the Scarecrow contest. It's a fun, friendly competition for all levels of artistry and experience. Build your scarecrow from any materials (except invasive species) and set it up in the Arboretum's Scarecrow Alley on Saturday, October 24. Festival visitors vote for the Funniest, Most Original, Most likely to Scare a Crow, Most Beautiful, Best Youth Entry and Best Overall. Contest entry fee/\$10. Call 747-1504 for more information.

Mushrooming on the Mountain Saturday October 31-Sunday November 1, 10 am-4 pm This two-day class for beginning 'shroomers offers instruction on identification, ecology, picking and cooking with mushrooms, fungal folklore and more! This class is geared toward people who want to learn about the wonderful, bizarre and interesting kingdom of Fungi - rather than those who only want to find edibles. Marcia Peeters, "Mushroom Queen" and co-founder of Cascade Mycological Society will lead this two-day workshop. Call 747-1504 to sign up or for more information. Fee: \$60.00 (MPA members/\$50). Reservations required.

Birding Saturday November 7, 1-3 pm Join birder Davey Wendt as we take an easy stroll to seek out the Arboretum's late fall residents. Learn to identify and appreciate the Arboretum's many feathered friends. Rain or Shine. Fee: \$5 (MPA members/donation). Call 747-1504 for more information.

Finding and Harvesting Edible Mushrooms Workshop Sunday November 8, 10 am-4 pm. Join eagle-eyed mushroom enthusiast Josiah Legler and learn where and when to look for edible mushrooms, how to get a collecting permit and where you need it, how to use a field guide to identify edibles, and how to harvest mushrooms using low-impact, sustainable methods. The class will meet at the Arboretum, and then carpool to a mushrooming location about 45 minutes away. Call 747-1504 to sign up or for more information. Fee: \$25 (MPA members/\$20). Reservations required.

Sketch Walk Sunday November 8, 10 am-noon Come explore the forest at an artist's pace. Science Illustrator Katura Reynolds will teach a fun method for sketching on brown paper, perfect for catching the details of autumn leaves. Fee: \$5.00 (MPA members/donation). Call 747-1504 for more information.



Nearby Nature

Pumpkin Carving Thursday, October 22, 3-5 pm Help us carve 80 pumpkins to line the trails at the Haunted Hike. Bring carving tools if you have them. Snacks will be provided! Meet at the Park Host Residence in Alton Baker Park.

13th Annual Haunted Hike! Saturday, October 24, 5:30-9 pm Celebrate night creatures! Enjoy a pumpkin-lit hike in Alton Baker Park. Check out live owls and vultures from the Cascades Raptor Center. Crafts, snacks, and a raffle as well! Rain or moonshine. Members free, non-members \$5/person. Pre-registration REQUIRED: 687-9699.

Rhythms of the Forest—Wednesday, November 11, 8:30 am-3 pm Learn about forest cycles and make music from recyclables. Visit the UO Natural & Cultural History Museum's World of Harmony exhibit.

Restoration Celebration Work Parties: Thanks to a generous grant from REI, Nearby Nature is hosting monthly work parties in Alton Baker Park this year. You wear work clothes; we'll provide snacks and tools. All ages are welcome, with accompanying adults. Individuals are also welcome to join us at one of our scheduled work parties. **Saturday, October 17, 9 am-noon:** Join UO Honors College students for invasives removal & litter patrol. Co-hosted by SOLV.



Play in the
Rain Day

Sponsored by the
Youth in Nature Partnership

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING FUN TO DO with your family on a rainy, or perhaps even sunny Saturday in November? Then come on out to Mount Pisgah Arboretum for our community's 2nd annual **Play in the Rain Day** on **Saturday, November 7th, from 10 am to 3 pm!**

Sponsored by the **Youth in Nature Partnership**, comprised of nine local organizations that collaborate to bring youth into the outdoors, Play in the Rain Day is a **free family event** for all ages. The day's activities will include nature crafts, hikes, hay rides, scavenger hunts, tree climbing, live animals, a visit from Smokey the Bear, native plants, campfire cookery, and more! All activities, including campfire food, are **FREE!**

Discover how fun, easy, and rewarding it is to spend time outdoors in nature—in ALL kinds of weather. Don't miss this fun event—over 1,000 people attended last year. Play in the Rain Day will happen rain or shine, so dress for the weather.

For more information, call Liz Karas at 541-349-5055, ext. 201, or Peg Douthit-Jackson at 541-747-1504, or Chris Orsinger at 541-344-8350, or visit www.youthinnature.org.

Friends of the Ridgeline

Inaugural Meeting

Wednesday, 14 October, 2009 7:00-8:30 pm
Hilyard Center, 2580 Hilyard Street, Eugene

Editor's Note: John Winquist led an Obsidian hike on April 23, 2008 from Willow Creek Road to Gimpl Hill Road. He has been an active supporter of the Ridgeline Trail, especially the connections in the west part of Eugene.

A KEY ELEMENT in the long-term vision for our community is a public corridor of walking trails, open spaces, and natural areas along the southern fringe of Eugene. This Ridgeline Corridor is planned to extend from Hendricks Park and Mt. Pisgah in the east to the West Eugene Wetlands and Fern Ridge Reservoir in the west.

Over the last several years there has been significant activity along the Ridgeline Corridor, from acquisitions to trail improvements and planning processes. The Eugene Parks Foundation, in cooperation with the City of Eugene, will host a meeting of Friends of the Ridgeline on the evening of 14 October, 2009 from 7:00 to 8:30 at the Hilyard Center, 2580 Hilyard St. in Eugene. Our agenda will address the following questions:

- What are the main results of a recently completed planning process for the South Hills portion of the Ridgeline Corridor?
- What is the current state of planning for the recently acquired Arlie extension that connects the Ridgeline Corridor to LCC, and how can you become involved?
- How close are we to realizing a publicly-owned Ridgeline Corridor, and where are acquisitions still needed to complete the corridor as envisioned?

Come to the meeting and find out answers to these questions and more. Speakers will include Jeff Krueger of LCOG; Philip Richardson, Neil Bjorklund and Lorna Baldwin from the City of Eugene, and John Winquist of the Eugene Parks Foundation. Come to find out how you can become involved in and influence the formation of a citizen's group we are calling Friends of the Ridgeline.

For more information contact Art Farley of the Eugene Parks Foundation at 683-1186.

Media Notes:

EUGENE WAS LISTED AS ONE of ten affordable retirement spots in the October issue of *U.S. News and World Report*. Free bus rides for seniors, the Saturday Market, the Bach Festival and outdoor activities are given top billing. The article mentioned that hiking clubs offer camaraderie and opportunities to explore the area's countless waterfall and old-growth forests. The Obsidians is highlighted with an interview with President Jim Duncan who moved from Chicago to Eugene in 2001. Jim's quotes about carpooling to trailheads and Summer Camp with a "kitchen in the woods" are excellent matches for the "affordable" criteria. Congratulations Eugene and the Obsidians!

Check out: : <http://tinyurl.com/yc5yvty>

AT THE LODGE



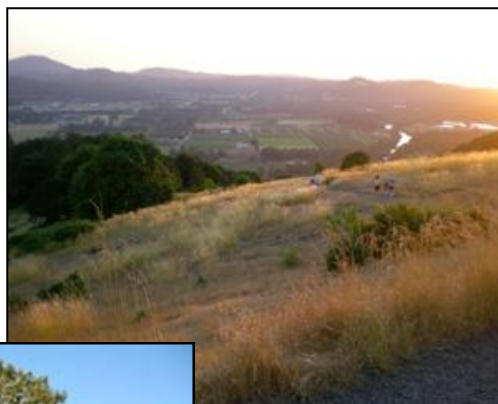
POTLUCK

Friday October 23:

Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah

MANY OF US VISIT BUFORD PARK AND MT. PISGAH. The October 23, 2009 potluck will be your opportunity to find out about the upcoming and continuing developments at Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah. Ronnel Currey, Development Director with Friends of Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah, is providing a presentation informing the Obsidians of the goals, projects and developments to occur within the 2300 acre property.

- Laurie Funkhouser, Entertainment Chair



October Potluck
Friday, October 23rd, 2009
Obsidian Lodge
Potluck, 6:30 pm
Program, 7:30 pm

Bring your favorite potluck dish to share...along with plates, utensils and cups... plus \$1 to help cover club expenses.



SciEd Tuesday October 20

Owyhee River Wonders



THE WILD AND SCENIC OWYHEE RIVER is described in many ways: Grand Canyon of Oregon, or the loneliest river in the U.S., or bizarrely beautiful, and more. These descriptions are usually delivered with a reverence reserved for places that are always on the "must do list" but are rarely done. Located in the remote southeast corner of the state, the river travels through magnificent desert canyons with hoodoos reminiscent of Bryce Canyon.

On Tuesday, Oct. 20, join Lana Lindstrom on her five day raft trip through this very special part of Oregon. Show time begins at 7 pm at the Obsidian Lodge.

Find directions to the lodge at www.obsidians.org.

- Joella Ewing, SciEd Chair

Upcoming SciEd Tuesday Programs:

Nov. 17 Use of GPS Dale Schaper

Dec. 15 Old Growth Forest Chandra LeGue

Classifieds

Wanted

PHOTOGRAPHERS - The Bulletin is looking for photographs! When you go on an Obsidian outing, do you take your camera? If you take a picture at an Obsidian activity that you think would be of interest, email it to bulletin@obsidians.org. Please send photos in jpeg format, 1-2 MB size preferred. Also identify the trip and date, list names of people in the photo and describe the photo. **Include your name for Bulletin credit!**



REGULAR POTLUCK PARTICIPANTS

The Membership Committee needs people to meet and greet new or nearly new attendees at the monthly potlucks. We need people who go to most potlucks and would feel comfortable talking about the club and answering questions for new members and visitors, who are at their first, or even second, potluck. Please email: Barb Revere: bl.revere@comcast.net or Janet Jacobsen: jbjacobsen@comcast.net.

For Sale

HOUSE IN OAKRIDGE - Why spend your time driving to and from the hiking, skiing, biking trails? Be there in minutes, with no worry about snow conditions since you are a short drive away from checking it out. How? Buy a second home in Oakridge. Great view, large deck, 3 bedroom plus room in garage area, plenty of gear storage, garden space, above ground pool, ¼ acre lot in good neighborhood. Well maintained, great potential for updating or for renting as vacation rental. Great price at \$170,000. Also available for long term rental. Call the Jensens at 541-647-1261

MOUNTED STUDDERED SNOW TIRES for sale. Signet Winter Trax P225/75R15 \$150 Contact: lwbcycle@yahoo.com

WOOD - Both seasoned and green fir at the Obsidian Lodge. Split, you haul. \$150/\$120 per cord. Some oak too. Contact John Jacobsen, Grounds Chair at 343-8030 or johnwjacobsen@comcast.net

Lost

SOLAR SHOWER - When I left summer camp, I declared my 2.5 gallon Seattle Sports brand solar shower lost; later a 4 gallon shower of the same brand was returned to me by a camp member. Would the proper owner wish to switch? Contact Lynda Christiansen, 687-8379

Note: There is no charge for placement 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

October

15 Thu – **North Fork Tr**, 12m 2000' **D**, Anselmo 782-2369
16 Fri – **Alton Baker Park**, 4m **E**, M.Kandell 345-8095
17 Sat – **Monroe Bike** 30m **M**, G.Strahon..... 505-9084
20 Tue – **Evergreen Museum**, Bus, M.Cheadle... 689-1085
20 Tue – **Owyhee**—Lindstrom**SciEd**
21 Wed – **Fuji Mtn—Island Lake, D**, Wilken 343-3080
23 Fri – **Opal Creek**, 7m 200' **M**, C.Cunningham 344-0486
23 Fri – **South Willamette Trail**, **M**, Castleberry 726-2412
23 Fri – **Mt Pisgah**—Curry**Potluck**
24 Sat – **Lodge & Grounds**, 9-noon**Work Party**
31 Sat – **Spencer Butte**, 8:30 am**Trail Maintenance**
31 Sat – **Fall Creek**, 9m 700' **M**, E.Lichtenstein... 683-0688
31 Sat – **Silver Falls**, 7m 1800' **M**, B.Lipton 736-7498

November

3 Tues –**Brice Creek**, 5.5m,600' **M**, J. Pierce 344-1775
7-8 Sat-Sun – **Golden & Silver Falls**, Pierce 344-1775
17 Tue – **GPS**—**Schaper**.....**SciEd**
27 Fri – **Snow in the Wallowas**—Berg.....**Potluck**

December

8 Tue – **Christmas Lights**, Bus, B.Payne 746-1964
15 Tue – **Saving Oregon's Wild Places**—LeGue**SciEd**
18 Fri – **Baja Ha Ha**—Becker.....**Potluck**
19 Sat – **Tahkenitch St Pk**, 7m 1200' **M**, Lipton . 736-7498

Lodge & Grounds Work Party

Saturday Oct 24, 9-Noon

Come help with some special projects in the Lodge and on the Lodge grounds. Everyone is welcome. We can use lots of help. Please RSVP to either:

Doug Nelson - fullnelson3o5@gmail.com 736-6076

John Jacobsen - johnwjacobsen@comcast.net 343-8030

Coffee and refreshments will provided.

Alton Baker Park - Hikes du Jour



Daily variations on Pre's and River Trails themes. Easy Level Hikes: 4 miles +/-, 1:30 to 1:45 hours, depending on pauses to admire fall colors, great blue herons and other waterfowl, grass grazing muskrats or.....

Leader: Marshall Kandell

Monday through Friday, October 12 -16

Meet no later than 9 am at Alton Baker Park

Duck Pond Parking Lot. Hikes begin promptly at 9:05

No Advance Registration! Simply Show Up & Sign Up

Members: \$1 Nonmembers: \$2

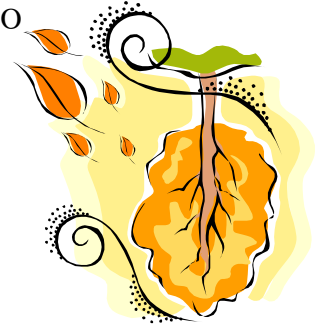
Consider this our contribution to energy conservation.

You don't have to go to the Y; the leader doesn't have to go to the Y. Save your energy for the hikes!



Green Lakes with the South Sister rising above - see trip report Page 8 - Photo by Brad Bennett

October 2009



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