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Dates to Remember

April 19	ExploraTalk - Trout
April 23	Ridgeline Celebration
April 29	Potluck - Nepal
May 4	Board Meeting

Complete current schedules at:
www.obsidians.org or
 Register-Guard – Outdoors – Tuesday

Summer Trips Committee:

Take A Hike ...or Lead One

By Brian Hamilton, Summer Trips Chair

SUMMER IS HERE! Well, maybe not yet, but the Obsidians Summer Trips season has begun. See the website for a complete list of the scheduled trips.

On March 31, we held the Summer Trips Kickoff & Leader Training at the Lodge which was attended by over 40 members. A new topic this year for leaders was an introduction to procedures for accessing the online trip system. Leader packets with important information were distributed at the meeting. If you have scheduled a trip and did not receive yours, it will be mailed to you. Additional copies will be available in the green box at the Y. The Summer Trips committee is still calling members, looking for volunteers to lead trips. We'll continue to send leader packets throughout the season as leaders schedule new trips.



As of April 1, there were 94 trips scheduled between now and November 15. The majority are one-day hikes, but there also are four backpack trips, two canoe/kayak trips, ten bike rides, and a few overnight trips.

We need more leaders! Please help us fill the schedule with more hikes, water trips, bike rides, and backpack trips. Check the schedule to see where the holes are and then contact summertrips@obsidians.org to let us know what trips you will lead. You can select one of our suggested trips, one of your old favorites, or something new. We'll welcome them all! See you on the trail!

Climbs Committee:

Learning Opportunities Galore

By Sue Sullivan, Climbs Committee



THE FOLLOWING REVIEW SESSIONS and classes are being planned by the Obsidians Climbs Committee. Class sessions at the Obsidian Lodge are open to everyone, with no pre-registration required. Field sessions have limited space, and may have prerequisites as described in the online trip signup. If you have questions, please contact the coordinator for each event.

Mountaineering Expedition Planning and Wilderness Skills Review—Obsidian Lodge, May 9, 6:30 pm

Though this is put on for climbers, those who are hikers or backpackers will find much of the discussion relevant. The topics discussed will include: Choosing a climb and route to lead as well as possible backup plans, evaluating the skills of potential group members, coordinating logistics, emergency plans, travel, equipment, food, leave no trace, and debriefing after a climb. The wilderness skills review will happen as part of the expedition planning discussion and will include: leave no trace,

(Continued on page 4)

OBITUARY

Sue Gordon

1924 - 2011

FORMER OBSIDIAN MEMBER, SUE GORDON, passed away recently after a lingering illness. Sue and her husband, Glenn, often attended summer camps, sometimes accompanied by their daughter. One year all those at summer camp helped Sue and Glenn celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. Sue last attended summer camp in 2006.

Editor's Note: The obituary for Sue appeared in the Register Guard March 5.

Welcome!

New Members

LOCUS, RICH (Active)

2746 Kismet Way, Eugene 97405

683-7681 richlocus@aol.com

WILLHITE, DALEN (Active)

35 McDonald Ct, Eugene 97405

406-570-4514 dcwillhite@gmail.com

Dora Harris Bequest

DORA HARRIS, WHO DIED DECEMBER 29, 2010, bequeathed \$1,720 to the Obsidians. Dora went on 153 bus trips, earning her the family nickname of 'Dora, the Explorer' from the animated TV series. In each episode seven-year-old Dora embarks on a trip with a positive attitude toward everyone she meets. The TV Dora is kind, friendly, helpful and does not show anger. That is the Dora that I met on bus trips.

All who knew Dora remembered her for her friendliness and kindness, which was evident in the overflow attendance at her final service. It was an honor to give her the 100 trip patch in 2005 at the annual meeting.

It doesn't surprise me that Dora's grandchildren called her 'Dora, the Explorer'. It also doesn't surprise me that she remembered the Obsidians. We appreciate her kindness.

By Janet Jacobsen

Editor's Note: See the January 2011 issue of the Bulletin for Dora's obituary.

Birder's Lament...

By Janet Jacobsen

Stop the bus! There is a black phoebe. It's rare!

Where?

By the concrete.

Where?

11 o'clock... no, 2 o'clock.

Where?

By the moon-shaped crescent of snow.

Where?

It moved.

Where?

By the water.

Where?

It moved back to where it was.

Where?

Bus be off! There is a bald eagle in the next field.

Where?????

With appreciation to Rick Ahrens and the Bus Trip committee for the wonderful birding trip to Klamath Falls. Actually Obsidian bus birding offers opportunities to ride high and see for long distances. The large windows offer a varied landscape with what seems like unlimited viewings. Everyone on the bus is eager to identify the birds and pinpoint the locations for neophytes.

I was sad not to see the black phoebe but I did see it on my husband's iPhone.



OBSIDIANS, INC

P.O. Box 322, Eugene, OR 97440

Website: www.obsidians.org

Board of Directors

John Jacobsen, President

Lyn Gilman-Garrick, Vice President

Kathy Hoeg, Secretary

Stewart Hoeg, Treasurer

Matt Bell, Larry Huff, Verna Kocken,

Elle Weaver & Nancy Whitfield

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

Committee Chairpersons

Byways-By-Bus..... Liz Reanier

Climbs..... Larry Huff

Concessions..... Lyn Gilman-Garrick

Conservation/SciEd..... Joella Ewing

Entertainment..... Susan Wanser

Extended Trips..... Jim Duncan

Finance..... Stewart Hoeg

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Lodge Grounds..... John Jacobsen

Membership..... Barb Revere

Online..... Wayne Deeter

Publications..... Joanne Ledet

Publicity..... Elle Weaver

Safety..... Sue Sullivan

Summer Camp..... Lana Lindstrom

Summer Trips..... Brian Hamilton

Trail Maintenance..... Matt Bell

Winter Trips..... Tom Musselwhite

The OBSIDIAN Bulletin

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The Obsidian Bulletin

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Deadline

for May 2011 Bulletin

Saturday, April 30, 2011

Assembly/Mailing Team

For March Bulletin

Assembly & Mail Manager - Barb Revere

Assembly Team - Tom Adamcyk, Don

Baldwin, Marty Berger, Yuan Hopkins,

Margaret Prentice and Janet & Richard

Speelman

Editorial Team

Writing & Editorial Staff - Bea Fontana,

Ken Frazer, John Jacobsen, Joanne Ledet,

Beth Roy and Ethel Weltman

Copy Editors - Beth Roy & Ethel Weltman

Graphics, Design & Desktop Publishing -

Stewart Hoeg & John Jacobsen

Meet the Committee Chairs:

Sue Sullivan, Safety Chair



I JOINED THE OBSIDIANS IN 1990, after moving to Eugene the previous year. I was already pretty active in the outdoors, having grown up in the Adirondacks of upstate New York, and having spent a few years in the Seattle area. I had already done a fair amount of rock climbing when I moved to the Northwest, but it was getting my first look at Mt. Rainier that convinced me to learn about mountaineering. I became active in the Mountaineers, and did a lot of climbing in Washington. Eventually I became involved with teaching mountaineering, both in Washington and in Oregon.

I joined the Obsidians so that I could find others with similar interests to climb with, and still many of my closest friends are those I've met through the club. I have served as chair of the Climbs Committee as well as the Safety Committee, and continue to be involved in putting on climb school.

I am married to John Mowat, another long-time Obsidian, and I am a retired engineer, formerly employed by Weyerhaeuser. Other volunteer interests keep me from getting bored: I am a member of Eugene Mountain Rescue and also volunteer for Friends of Buford Park.

Susan Wanser, Entertainment Chair

I'M SUE WANSER, the new chairperson of the Entertainment Committee. I've been a member of the Obsidians since 2008. I've done some hikes and many cross country ski trips but mostly have been a regular at the potlucks. I like to eat; what can I say!

I was born and raised in Connecticut. Our family was not very outdoorsy. (We went camping once as a family and it was never repeated.) When I was in high school I decided to go on an Outward Bound course in North Carolina and I loved it. My school years were very stressful and I always felt emotionally exhausted, but before the Outward Bound course I had never gone to bed physically tired. I was hooked.

I joined the outdoor club at a nearby men's college and with them I did more rock climbing and spelunking (both activities I had done at Outward Bound). I took a couple of years off after high school and did an odd variety of jobs, including making maple syrup, working for a construction company and being a hod carrier. Carrying mortar up and down a ladder in the middle of a Pennsylvania winter made me decide I wanted more out of life.

I packed up, took the train across Canada, and started college in Olympia, Washington. After a year in college I realized I still didn't know what I wanted to study, so I again left school. I was hired by North Carolina Outward Bound as an instructor during the summer months. After my second summer instructing, a



friend and I decided to spend the fall doing a bike trip. We had spent one night out on a bike ride prior to this, so it seemed logical that we could handle three months and 3,000 miles through the Southwest. I had a lot to learn! After the intense desert heat and a blizzard in El Paso, we dismantled our bikes and called it quits—1 month and 1,000 miles short.

It was during that trip that I decided to go to nursing school. The friend I was biking with was planning to start nursing school in January and I decided that if I also became a nurse, we could get jobs in the same location. She made it

through one semester of nursing school, and I've now been a nurse for 32 years. I started out working in the Intensive Care Unit and then moved to Labor and Delivery six years later.

A couple of years ago, I bought a place out in the country and am really enjoying my time there. There are trails just up the road where I can walk with my two dogs and stay in some semblance of shape. The last two summers I have hiked different sections of the PCT and done a backpacking trip in the Grand Canyon. I've currently taken a three month leave of absence from my job. I spent the first month traveling with my daughter in Ecuador, and now I'm just enjoying working on my property and not going to work. Retirement is looking very appealing these days. I suspect I'll join more Obsidian trips when I'm not working. Work really does get in the way of life!

Winter Trips Update

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF US ON A PERFECT SAFETY RECORD FOR WINTER TRIPS SEASON. This year 32 leaders completed 54 winter trips between November 15th and March 31st, the end of the Winter Trips season. That compares to 50 winter trips completed last year, and the record 57 trips set four years ago. Special thanks to all the winter trips leaders and the Online committee (especially John Jacobsen) for working together transitioning to the new online signup system. I also appreciate the patience of both participants and leaders as we've worked through the bugs in order to enjoy the conveniences of online signup. None of this, of course, would have been possible without my wonderful Winter Trips committee members. They are the callers, emailers, and follow-uppers, approvers, mail checkers and double-checkers that keep me on track. At this time, four snow trips remain on the winter calendar in April. Until next fall Happy Trails!! And see you out there!

Tom Musselwhite, Winter Trips Chair

Learning Opportunities

(Continued from page 1)

map compass/gps, wilderness first aid, weather, and technical skills needed for climb. Hopefully this discussion will get people thinking of all of the elements that go into leading a great climbing trip so that they can start to seek out the training and experience that will help them grow and develop as leaders. This session is open to all. Peter Green, a NOLS instructor and Obsidian climber, will lead the discussion.

Rock Skills Review—Skinner Butte Columns, April 28, May 26, and June 2

Maybe it's been a while since you actually did a rappel, or used a prusik for protection while ascending a fixed line. Or maybe you need a refresher on belaying or basic rock climbing skills. We'll have a couple of ropes set up at the Columns from 4:30 to 7:30 pm on the days listed above and you are free to stop by and practice your rock skills so you are more comfortable with your abilities before heading for the hills. Bring your own harness, helmet, prusiks and belay/rappel device. Check with one of the coordinators if you have questions. The sessions will be postponed if weather is not suitable. Coordinators: Sue Hutchinson Carey, Sue Sullivan

Rock Skills Roundup—Smith Rock, May 14-15

This two-day field session will give people an opportunity to practice alpine rock skills, including anchor setting and leading easy trad routes. The location of the session will be Smith Rock or another established climbing area. Open to those who have completed the Basic Climb School or who have equivalent experience. Obsidians who have committed to lead climbs will be given first preference, and others will be accommodated if space permits. See the online signup sheet for details. Coordinators: Doug Nelson, Wayne Deeter

Rappelling Field Session—Larison Rock (date TBA)

A short hike to Larison Rock will give us an opportunity to practice single and double rope 'free' rappels on overhanging rock. We will practice some rappel safety techniques such as the use of an autoblock, and give people an opportunity to work through some problem solving – e.g. rappelling past a

knot. Open to those who have completed the Basic Climb School or have equivalent experience. Obsidians will be given first preference, and others accommodated if space permits. Check the online signup for more information. Coordinator: Sue Sullivan

Crevasse Rescue—Obsidian Lodge and Mt. Hood

In Basic Mountaineering, people learn about how to travel roped up on a glacier to protect one another from crevasse falls. This class is designed to help people develop the skills necessary for dealing with a crevasse fall if one should occur. There will be two class sessions at the Obsidian Lodge, and a two-day field session at Mt. Hood to practice the skills.

Class 1: Obsidian Lodge, June 8, 6:00 pm - reviews the basics of route finding on a glacier, use of belays. We will demonstrate the setup of a couple of basic rescue systems. This session is open to all.

Class 2: Obsidian Lodge, June 15, 6:00 pm - we will bring the things we learned in Class 1 into practice, set up prusik lines on the climbing wall, and set up different rescue systems in the parking lot. This session is open to all.

Field session: Mt. Hood, June 18-19 - we will travel to Mt. Hood for two days of field practice, including travel onto a glacier where we will hopefully find real crevasses to practice our skills. Open to those who have completed the Basic Climb School or equivalent. Obsidians who have committed to lead a climb will be given first preference, and others accommodated if space permits. Some roped glacier travel experience is strongly recommended. See the online signup sheet for details. Coordinators: Steve Still and Sue Sullivan

Glacier Travel Experience—August (date TBA)

Details of this are still being worked out, so keep an eye on the schedule. We are planning to do a two-day session involving hard snow and ice to give people experience with crampons and ice axe in more realistic conditions than Basic Climb School can offer. This will involve backpacking and camping out at a location to be determined based on snow conditions. Open to those who have completed the Basic Climb School or equivalent.

In Memoriam

Marion Lawrence “Larry” Cash

Since conceived in the 1920's the Pacific Crest Trail has known bright and dark times. In one of those dark times, Larry Cash was there to carry the trail.

MARION LAWRENCE CASH WAS BORN in 1915, in Bristol, Virginia, within 20 miles of what would become the Appalachian Trail. Larry, as most knew him, moved west, where he found his passions and his work. In 1942, he married Zlotta Zotty Risley in Oxnard, Calif., and after a three-year Navy stint during World War II, he went to work for Pacific Northwest Bell. He retired after 31 years, but never retired from marriage with Zotty. They observed their 67th wedding anniversary in September 2009. Zotty passed on the following April. And four months later, on July 25, 2010, Larry died in Eugene, Ore. He was 94.

Pacific Northwest Bell's loss was the PCT's gain. In 1995 in a letter to Ray Jardine, the ultralight hiking guru, Larry wrote: "My interest in, and association with, the Pacific Crest Trail began in earnest in 1977. I turned 62 in October of that year and my primary interest moved from my job to my family and our outdoor activities."

LARRY HIKED MUCH OF THE OREGON PCT in 1978 with Zotty and two of his sons and soon afterward began getting heavily involved in the two PCTA predecessor organizations, the Pacific Crest Club and Pacific Crest Trail Conference. At the time the Club was for individuals and the Conference was for organizations. In 1984, Larry was elected Conference vice-president, and in May 1986, when Charles Vogel, the Conference's 90-year-old president resigned, Larry became president. With no real money or employees, Larry ran the Conference out of his house and often out of his own pocket.

One of Larry's family wrote: "Those were the days of no budget, no office, no paid staff support.... [He] worked 10-12 hour days in an upstairs bedroom he'd converted into an office, writing letters, responding to inquiries, monitoring trail conditions and trail registers..." and the list went on. "He got out on the trail when he could, but keeping the PCT Confer-

ence flame alive took almost all his time."

The first *Communicator* came out of Larry's Eugene house in 1986. About a year later, Larry crowed in a letter that membership was "almost a hundred," that "our meager bank account" was up to about \$1,500 and that he'd bought a better typewriter.

"Set up the PCTC national office in a spare room of our home, shared our home phone and enlisted my wife and daughter to help with paper work," he wrote.

The 80s and early 90s were lean times for the trail. The spurt of 70s hikers set loose by Colin Fletcher, Eric Ryback and the first Wilderness Press guidebooks had petered out. Money and interest in the PCT had grown slim. Larry persevered, remaining PCT Conference president for six years. During his tenure the first Executive Director was hired, the Club and the Conference merged and the name changed to today's Pacific Crest Trail Association.

AFTER STEPPING ASIDE AS PRESIDENT in 1992, only a year passed before Larry had

to take on the president's mantle again. "Having no willing candidate for president, I agreed to take the reins for one more year." Finally, in 1994, Ben York accepted the PCTA presidency. The burden of the PCTA transferred onto others. The office moved to York's home in Alpine, Calif.

In 1995, Larry took on the role of PCTA historian and the group's files show much correspondence toward this end. In 1997, Larry received a well-deserved PCTA Lifetime Achievement Award.

Family members say Larry always held the trail close to his heart. For his memorial program, his five children chose a John Muir quote:

"The mountains are calling and I must go."

Barney Mann

Reprinted from the PCT Communicator, March 2011, with permission of the Pacific Crest Trail Association. PCT website: www.pcta.org.

Editors Note: Larry was also an active member of the Obsidians for a number of years. See the September 2010 Bulletin for our obituary for Larry.

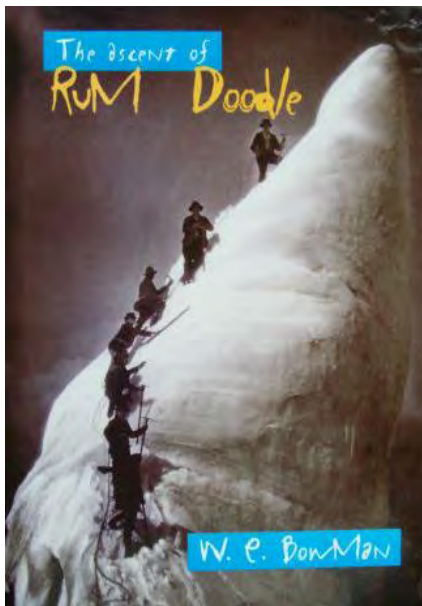


The Ascent of Rum Doodle

Book Review by John Mowat

I FIRST HEARD OF *THE ASCENT OF RUM DOODLE* a few years ago, when our modest climbing group went to dinner in Kathmandu at the Rum Doodle restaurant. The walls of the restaurant were plastered with pictures and excerpts from the book as well as testimonials from many famous climbers who apparently are fond of quirky, offbeat satire.

I gathered that the book, published in 1956, was a mock account of the first ascent of the world's highest peak, Rum Doodle, with an elevation of exactly 40,000½ feet. The author, an enthusiastic armchair mountaineer and engineer, was acquainted with many mountaineering chronicles, notably Tilman's account of the pre-war Nanda Devi ascent and, I suspect, John Hunt's *The Ascent of Everest*, describing the 1953 first ascent. These, very British, accounts are noted for their seriousness, their stiff upper lip descriptions of uncomfortable and hazardous situations and



their almost unbearable modesty. Acrimonious disputes are hardly mentioned and egregious blunders smoothed over.

Obviously these accounts are ripe for satire and W.E. Bowman, Rum Doodle's author, takes full advantage of the possibilities with his tongue firmly in cheek. In spite of the expedition members' incompetence, horrendous vicissitudes, and the total cluelessness of the leader, the expedition is successful and Rum Doodle is conquered.

I would guess that the book would not be everyone's cup of tea. In fact, my own reaction was to find it somewhat tedious at times since it covers an entire expedition. Then, thinking back on what I had just read I would realize it was hilarious. I would recommend it to climbers with a sense of humor whose interest in mountaineering borders on the fanatical and

who have indulged this interest by reading many of the historic accounts of the great ascents of the 1930s, 40s and 50s. The book is available at the Eugene Public Library and through Amazon.

Oregon Favorites-Trails and Tales

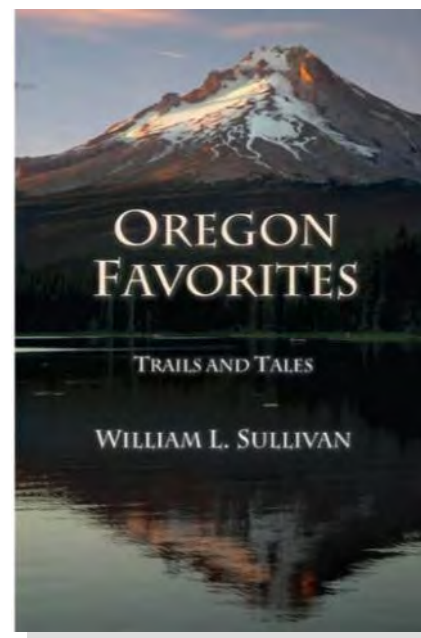
Book Review by Janet Jacobsen

AT THE MARCH 31ST LEADERS MEETING, Bill Sullivan announced that his new book, *Oregon Favorites; Trails and Tales* was out. We were lucky to have a sneak preview before the news hit the Register Guard the following Sunday.

His new book is a collection of his Register Guard newspaper articles that have been adapted and updated along with lots and lots of color photographs. Arranged by month, it is easy for readers to choose the opportune time for the trip. For years, I have clipped and saved many of Sullivan's Register Guard articles storing them in books and file folders. When I stumble across one, I groan and wish I had a better way of keeping track of his gems. Some of the clippings have not survived so well in my pack. What a treasure chest to now have my favorite articles in one place! Trip leaders will be able to find the perfect hike for the season.

Armchair adventurers, hikers and former hikers will enjoy browsing the lively text and color photographs. I recommend that you purchase the book immediately so that you can find out what the best trips are for May! Spoiler alert! They are: Cape Horn Preserved, Clark At Tillamook Head, Zumwalt Prairie, Going Down at Oregon Caves, Emerging at Tamolitch Pool, and Western Hot Springs.

Thanks to Bill for donating a copy for one of the prizes at the leaders meeting. We give another thanks to Bill for giving us a handy tool to enjoy Oregon's diverse favorite places.



The Right To Remain Silent

A Note & Illustration from Susan Sanazaro, Non-Sociopathic Loner

AHIKE IN THE LOVELY GREEN can be a soothing antidote to everyday pressures. Calm is easily ruptured, however. My brain roams formlessly about, enjoying the absence of structured thought, when it's jerked to a halt like a choke-chained pup by compulsory attention to a long or loud or alarmingly personal conversation.

A fellow hiker may be describing in nearly real-time detail each phase of a home remodeling project, or the steps involved in creation of a particular dish. We may hear the prices and attributes of things he or she has bought or looks forward to buying. Perhaps we will learn from a member of another hiking club how superior in all ways that club and its website are to the Obsidians and our website. If these disclosures aren't directed solely to me, one solution is a short sprint through the poison oak trailside to a more introspective part of the line. It's futile to wait for a rambler to run out of breath; the least fit of these can speak in complete sentences when ascending a thirty-degree incline.

More challenging is the hiker closeting a secret wound. Exposure to nature cues some to silence, and others to bouts of egregious self-divulgment. Any number of otherwise enjoyable hikes are marred by intimate anecdotes -- nay, decades-spanning sagas-- disgorged by those in the latter category on hikes they scarcely know.

Unable to detect my muted despair, the narrator takes my inexpressive back as a sign of sympathetic attention. Soon the sorrows saddle my chest like a lead apron, while I nod and make courteous phatic acknowledgments. Thing is, *I am a good listener*, but not because I want to be; I listen as a hostage does. Inside I yelp, *I came here to derail my own perseverations!* Or something less refined.

Soon the air is littered with details of a grief that can never be laid aside: betrayal, illness, unexpected death. There is nothing -- nothing -- one can decently say to staunch the flow of disclosure. Impossible.

The collective blind date aspect of the club outing means neither I nor anyone else can make pronouncements about what is or isn't suitable. Concerning volume, though, and net word count -- I prefer lower and less.

Short bulletins about goings-on in town are welcome, as are a few stories about a trip.

And if you know something about the age of the trees, the forces that formed these rocks, how long it's been since the forest burned -- speak up! *Tell me about the corvids.*

But for trail talk in general, soft and succinct wear best. And please reserve longer confidences for true confidantes.



BOARD NOTES

April 6, 2011

By Kathy Hoeg, Secretary

President John Jacobsen called the meeting to order. Board members: Lyn Gilman-Garrick, Kathy Hoeg, Stewart Hoeg, Larry Huff, Verna Kocken, and Elle Weaver. Others: Barb Bruns, Don Colgan, Wayne Deeter, Jim Duncan, Joella Ewing, Lenore McManigal, Tom Musselwhite, Doug Nelson, David Predeek, Barb Revere, Sue Sullivan, and Susan Wanser present.

Treasurer's Report: Stewart Hoeg reviewed the Budget-vs-Actual Report and the Balance Sheet. Board approved bills.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Summer Trips (Brian Hamilton): The Summer Trips Kickoff/Leader Training was attended by 41 members. Committee members are wrapping up their initial series of contacts of potential leaders and will follow up with members who were previously uncommitted to leading trips.

Winter Trips (Tom Musselwhite): For March there were 16 trips approved with 92 members, \$91 in fees, and 22 non-members, \$69.

Climbs (Larry Huff): The Committee has recently reviewed a survey we put out in late February polling members active in climbs on what they would like to see offered by the committee that would improve their experience as well as Obsidians climbing activities overall. The Obsidians climbs activities schedule will be available soon as we are still actively recruiting trip leaders to fill available slots.

Trail Maintenance (Matthew Bell): One trail maintenance outing was held on the main Spencer Butte Trail on March 26th. We improved drainage, picked up litter, and removed peeler cores from trail sides near the meadow trail junction. Participants: 5 members; 1 non.

Byways By Bus (Liz Reanier): Sharon Cutsforth and Bill Arthur led a group of 20, touring local service agencies.

Extended Trips (Jim Duncan): Lana Lindstrom led another successful skiing/snowshoeing extended trip to Big Lake, March 30 - April 1. \$85 in trip fees were transferred to the General Fund.

Conservation, Science, & Education (Joella Ewing): Thirty-six attended the

March 17 ExploraTalk on whales, and \$35.24 was collected. Eleven helped SOLV clean the beach out of Winchester Bay on a blustery day, and \$11 was collected.

Entertainment (Susan Wanser): The March potluck was attended by 61 people for dinner and 74 for the presentation. \$68.20 was collected. The proposed members of the Entertainment Committee are Laurie Funkhouser, Brian Hamilton, Mary Hamilton, Brenda Kameenui, Kathy Hoeg and Charlie Van Deusen.

Membership (Barb Revere): Two new memberships approved: Rich Locus, who qualifies via Trips, found Obsidians, Inc. in the newspaper & word of mouth, and Dalen Willhite, who qualifies via Climbs. Dalen found Obsidians, Inc. on our website. There are currently 492 members: 440 Active, 23 Associate, 3 Honorary, 8 Junior, and 18 Life.

Publicity (Elle Weaver): Please see our Obsidians ad in the current issue of Tyler Burgess' local walking newsletter. Go to www.walk-with-me.com and select 'Spring 2011'.

Concessions (Lyn Gilman-Garrick): \$99 in March sales. We also purchased new merchandise for the upcoming year, including new nylon sun caps, all-cotton baseball caps, more tee shirts and fleece vests, and fleece beanies. All of our new items came from McKenzie by Sew On and amounted to \$1,003.35.

Online (Wayne Deeter): Due to problems with the service we were using for the Obsidians Database-- Point-In-Space -- the database has been moved to a different service-- DataTrium. This provider seems to be faster than the old one, and also provides us with more simultaneous connections.

Library/Historian (Lenore McManigal): I record the trips in the log books from the reports that are in the Bulletin. Sign-up sheets are now kept in a notebook in the Boardroom. Janet has ordered 350 basic patches from Silkscreen printing for \$5.00 each. 150 of the patches will be used for leader, climb, trip, and a work-in-progress trail maintenance patch.

Lodge Building (Doug Nelson): Two lodge rental fees to submit: Member, Matt Bell- \$70 (May 7, 2011) and Non member, McKenzie River Trust- \$375

(five dates: Tuesday evenings; April 12, May 10, July 12, Sept. 13 and Nov. 8). We are in the process of renting the lodge to the Defenders Of Wildlife for April 26 -27.

Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): Oak Restoration cleanup continued - thanks to Pat Adams, Dick Hildreth, Gary Kirk, Chris Shuraleff, and Sam Tracer. A cleanup held before the March 14th ExploraTalk -- thanks to Max Brown, Ken Kodama.

Safety (Sue Sullivan): The first aid kits have been inventoried, and a list was made up of the items that are needed to bring them up to date. We still need to finish the revisions of the Safety Manual.

NEW BUSINESS

A question was raised about the requirements to be a trip leader. It was reported that at the Summer Trip Leaders Kickoff Meeting the attendees were told that a member must have gone on five trips before he/she is eligible to be a leader. Sue Sullivan said that the new revision of the Safety Manual will mention this as well.

Elle Weaver asked whether the online system could allow for co-leaders. John Jacobsen said that there is a field for 'Assistant Leader' and that this is tracked in the system, but not included in the calculations for leader badges. Larry Huff explained that in climbs the Assistant Leader is usually an experienced leader who is helping a new leader.

Kathy Hoeg said that the online system is now the heart of the club operations and suggested that we hire a technical writer to create programming and user documentation for it.

Barb Bruns described club insurance policy. The premium this year is \$1,680.

Susan Wanser listed the Entertainment Committee members for this year: Laurie Funkhouser, Brian Hamilton, Mary Hamilton, Brenda Kameenui, Kathy Hoeg, and Charlie Van Deusen. The Board approved the list.

John Jacobsen said that annual Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs conference will be held August 26 - 28 at the Mazama Lodge. David Predeek and Don Colgan said they would consider representing the Obsidians at the conference.

TRIP REPORTS & OTHER ACTIVITIES



Hikes

Atomic Ranch (Corvallis)

February 11, 2011

Leader: Chris Cunningham

Hike: 3.9 miles, 0 ft. (Easy)

ATOMIC RANCH IS A BIT OF A MISLEADING NAME that describes a style of suburban ranch-style architecture so popular after World War II—from the late 40s until the early 70s. We followed the 3.9-mile Atomic Ranch Walk in Tyler Burgess' book, *Oregon Townscape Walks*. We zigzagged through the Franklin Park neighborhood, where enormous, knotty-trunked heritage trees, blooming perennial gardens and landscapes decorated with found objects, captured our attention. Many of the homes were renovated Victorian, or Craftsman-style homes or bungalows with graceful architectural features and landscapes that included native shrubs and grasses.

Entering the Atomic Ranch neighborhood, Keiko proved a fine map reader and helped us efficiently navigate the tour of nine homes located near Dixon Creek and Corvallis High School. We took turns reading the descriptive material of the tour provided by the City of Corvallis. In general, the main characteristics of Atomic Ranch-style homes are their elongated shapes, unchanging rooflines, and sparse exterior and interior embellishment, although brick planters were a common element that added a bit of color.

As we stood in front of the Baker House, circa 1948, the homeowner came out, provided a little extra history of her home, and showed us the interior of her charming, Victorian-style tool/potting shed that her architect husband designed. Her home, typical of others on our tour, was one story and featured a picture window and a carport. Afterwards, the six of us drove to McMenamins for bowls of soup and conversation. Members: Keiko Bryan, Chris Cunningham, Margaret Prentice, Barbara Sutherland, and Sam Tracer. Nonmember: Jane Dods.

Bridge to Bridge

February 27, 2011

Leader: Jennifer Barnes

Hike: 4.0 miles, 0 ft. (Easy)

NINE OF US MET UNDER OVERCAST SKIES on the west side of Valley River Center. We started out at the Greenway Bike Bridge and headed north along the east side of the river. Along the way we spotted many ducks, geese, a few heron and numerous hikers/bikers. After crossing the Owosso Bike Bridge, we headed back south along the west side of the river. The sun actually peeked through the clouds a few times between intermittent light rain showers. Thunder could be heard off to the west. The

little over four-mile hike went quickly and we returned to our vehicles by 11:15. A nice urban hike was enjoyed by all. Members: Jennifer Barnes, Karla Rusow, Judy Terry, Guy Strahon, Brian Popowsky, Sandra Larsen, and Clara Emlen. Nonmembers: Claire Beekman and Frank Svejcar.

Raptor Center/Amazon Headwaters

March 5, 2011

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 2 miles, 438 ft. (Easy)

WE STARTED UP THE AMAZON HEADWATERS TRAIL at 12:15 pm in light rain and with the soothing sounds of flowing water. At 1:00 we joined other visitors at the Raptor Center to listen to Dan Gleason and two handlers share their knowledge about the peregrine falcon and the spotted owl. Later we had our first glimpse of Celilo, the eagle named by one of our members, Nola Nelson. Kristen Simmons pointed out cages that some members of her Boy Scout troop built. On our hike back to the cars, we spotted two budding trilliums. It was a treat to introduce the Amazon Headwaters Trail to the three nonmembers. Members: Janet Jacobsen and Nola Nelson. Nonmembers: Kristen Simmons, Michelle Friedner, and Jeanne Palzinski.

Ridgeline Trail

March 12, 2011

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 6.2 miles, 900 ft. (Moderate)

THE HIKE AND CAR SHUTTLE took 3 hours and 50 minutes. Most of us regretted putting on rain pants as the on and off again drizzle didn't amount to much. The trillium, fawn lilies, and hounds' tooth were just beginning their spring awakening. The highlight was spying the secretive scarlet elf cap mushrooms on decaying sticks and branches west of junction to the summit. First timers on the Ridgeline Trail were amazed and appreciative of how all the segments pieced together. "I know where we are now!" was the common refrain. Members: Janet Jacobsen, Lisa Marcus, Nola Nelson, Susan Sanazaro, Joe Sanders, and Jeanne Schmidt. Nonmembers: Kathie Carpenter, Randy Melton, and Barbara Islie.

Ridgeline Trail - Baldy to LCC

March 17, 2011

Leader: Rob Castleberry

Photo: Rich Locus

Hike: 4 miles, 750 ft. (Moderate)

WE STARTED FROM THE EAST DILLARD TRAILHEAD in Eugene's southeast corner, and walked up over the top of Mt. Baldy where we could view, beyond the mansions, the newly acquired lands of Suzanne Arlie Park off to the east. Access to the park is not easy, and since the city presently has no money for taking care of it, the public may be shut out entirely if problems develop. We walked down through fir and fern forest on the north slope following a rough track more than a trail through wet meadow into scrub forest and brush. A road, then paths, led

us eastward along the ridgeline and up to a hilltop due south of LCC. Like some other landmarks in the park, the hilltop needs a name. Turning back toward Mt. Baldy we looped to the south, past remains of an old homestead, and west to the base of Mt. Baldy. Passage through what we fondly called *Poison Oak Alley* brought us into broad grassy meadows, a short jaunt through the woods to the Ridgeline Trail, and return to the parking lot. An enjoyable outing in our newest public area, remarkably wild for now. Everyone had plenty of opportunity to get familiar with the appearance of leafless poison oak stems in their considerable variety. No reports of itchy consequences for participants. Members: Mari Baldwin, Keiko Bryan, Rob Castleberry, Patricia Esch, Janet Jacobsen, Susan Sanazaro, and Jim Whitfield. Nonmember: Rich Locus.



Photo-op in Suzanne Arlie Park - Baldy to LCC hike.

Mt. Pisgah – Equinox

March 20, 2011

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 3 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

THE PARKING LOT WAS JAMMED with cars for a wedding in the pavilion. That meant we had a bit of a hike to reach the meeting place. Thus we started a few minutes late but we think we reached the top at 4:21 pm for the vernal equinox when the sun crosses directly over the earth's equator. Rick Ahrens explained the background and patiently demonstrated the orientation of the Mt. Pisgah Sighting Pedestal. On the way down, Rich Locus introduced us to the 2010 Slug Queen, Slugasana, who graciously agreed to a group photo. At the parking lot, the departing bride and groom suddenly stopped their car in front of us, jumped out and asked Susan Sanazaro to take a Polaroid picture of them. All of this kerfuffle celebrated the first day of spring. Members: Rick Ahrens, Mari Baldwin, Janet Jacobsen, Lana Lindstrom, Lisa Marcus, Royal Murdock, Susan Sanazaro, Darko Sojak, and Jim Whitfield. Nonmembers: Kathie Carpenter and Rich Locus.

Silver Falls

March 24, 2011

Leader: Tom Musselwhite

Hike: 5.5 miles, 600 ft. (Easy)

OUR BAND OF 13 departed Amazon Community Center shortly after 8:30 and headed for Silver Falls State Park, arriving at Winter Falls Trailhead by 10:30. Clouds and overcast skies dampened tinges of spring green and threatened more than the mist we walked into. Our first detour was to Middle North Falls, a short trek down to one of the numerous falls along the six-mile south loop on The Trail of Ten Falls. Too early for all but a few wildflowers, the turkey buzzard soaring overhead was the best sign of approaching spring. As we approached South Falls, the rain started. I overheard a number of our crew debating whether it was really rain or just spray from the falls. When the hail started that debate ended, and some of us found refuge (under the

guise of enjoying the scenery) from behind South Falls . . . rain, spray, and all. Lunch time found us at the South Falls Lodge. A friendly host invited us in to a warm fire where some of us enjoyed hot coffee or cocoa from the treats available from the commissary and grill. After a few jokes about having brought our lunch we split into the inside and outside lunch bunches. The South Falls Lodge has that great Northwest feel. A great place to take a lunch break if only driving through Silver Falls Park. About a half hour later we started the 1.6-mile trek back to Winter Falls Trailhead. This segment of the Rim Trail runs through remnants of large old growth forest and crisscrosses a bicycle trail. Guests included Byron Chell on his first Obsidian hike, Barry Taub on his third Obsidian qualifying hike, and Gabby Newell, a friend of Junior Member Maddison Babb-Hackett. Members: Maddison Babb-Hackett, Dan Christensen, Clara Emlen, Jane Hackett, Janet Jacobsen, Tom Musselwhite, Nola Nelson, Brian Popowsky, Susan Sanazaro, and Jim Whitfield. Nonmembers: Barry Taub, Byron Chell, and Gaybrielle Newell.

Spring Beach Cleanup

March 26, 2011

Leader: Joella Ewing

Hike: 5 miles, 0 ft. (Easy)

ELEVEN PLEASANT PEOPLE, but very unpleasant weather - wind, rain, and hail. We found very little trash. Bea Fontana gets the prize for the biggest find: a tire and wheel that she rolled a quarter of a mile on the beach. Better luck next year. Members: Mary Bridgeman, Roberta Chord, Wayne Cleall, Clara Emlen, Joella Ewing, Margot Fetz, Bea Fontana, Charlene Pierce, Jim Pierce, Joe Sanders, and Chris Stockdale.

Amanda Trail – Yachats

March 27, 2011

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Photo: Bill Sullivan

Hike: 5.2 miles, 800 ft. (Moderate)



Amanda

WITH RAIN AND HIGH WINDS PREDICTED for the coast, three of us decided to substitute Sweet Creek Falls for the Amanda Trail hike. Neither Lisa nor Joanne had hiked that beautiful trail. At the trailhead, Dick Vigne of Coos Bay asked to join us since everyone from his south coast hiking group was a no show. The abundant flowing water and rain energized us to continue on to Yachats and to at least hike a mile on the new Amanda Trail to the bridge and creek. There stands the concrete statue (2009) of Amanda De-Cuys, a blind Native American woman who was forced to give up her daughter and march with other members of her tribe from Coos Bay to Yachats where they were interred. Joanne remarked that rock platform for the statue was in the shape of a teardrop. On the way back we had a view of the Cleff of the Rock Lighthouse, a privately owned lighthouse. After clam chowder at Luna Sea Fish, we headed for a short hike at Cape Perpetua and Devil's Churn. We discovered that Lisa is a first rate agate hunter. Since it was Joanne's first time at this part of the coast, we had to drive to the top of Cape Perpetua for the breathtaking view. Joanne commented on the way home that the day was filled with many images of water: waterfalls, waves, rain, and a teardrop. Members: Janet Jacobsen and Lisa Marcus. Nonmember: Joanne Williams.



Snowshoe Trips

Maiden Peak

February 5, 2011

Leader: Matthew Bell

SShoe: 15 miles, 2,800 ft. (Difficult)

I SET OUT FROM GOLD LAKE SNO-PARK at 8 am in a light drizzle. Unfortunately, no additional snow had fallen since my last trip two weeks before. Snowshoes served little purpose other than being oversized crampons. Along Maiden Peak Trail to the trail junction with Maiden Loop Trail there were no views of the familiar peaks of Fuji Mountain and Mt. Ray. Even with very little additional snow in January the snowpack was actually deeper than it was when I led this trip last year. I followed Maiden Peak Trail up to the ridge just about 100 feet below the summit by a bit after noon. Upon walking out on to the ridge, I met with wind driven frozen clouds and a completely cloud concealed summit. There was a half inch layer of fresh snow or frozen clouds over solid ice. The snow was so sticky that it actually stuck to the entire underside of my snowshoes occasionally making them more like skis. I decided to take my lunch break, all the while hoping that the clouds would clear a bit and that the wind would die down. Neither happened so I decided to head back. I retraced my steps along Maiden Peak Trail back to Gold Lake Sno-Park arriving at 3:45.

Bechtel Shelter

February 19, 2011

Leader: Marianne Camp

SShoe: 4.6 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

THE SNOW HAD RETURNED JUST IN TIME for our scheduled snowshoe trip. With plenty of fresh snow covering the trees and a light snow fall continuing throughout the day, we had a lovely snow experience. Even with the trail already broken we found ourselves sinking a little into the deep soft snow. Once we reached the shelter we shared a warm fire, lunch, and pleasant company. We returned to our cars thankful that the roads were clear and no need for chains. Thanks to our drivers, Avis and Ryan and our sweep, Chris. Members: Rick Ahrens, Keiko Bryan, Marianne Camp, Daniele Delaby, Paul Flashenberg, and Chris Shuraleff. Nonmembers: Ryan Hovland, Jessica Bandstra, Avis Dininio, Heather Lambeck, and Maggie Young.

Potato Hill

February 27, 2011

Leader: Scott Hovis

Photo: Darko Sojak

SShoe: 5 miles, 600 ft. (Difficult)

PLENTY OF SNOW BUT THE VISIBILITY WAS POOR so we elected not to go to the top of Potato Hill. The snow was deep enough that we took turns breaking trail. Solitude is abundant here. Most folks overlook this area, probably because Hoodoo & Ray Benson are so close. Carry chains. The Road Cam on line may

show the roads as good but things can change quickly. The blue diamonds on this trail are poor at times - you'll need to carefully look for them, especially in the middle of the loop. Members: Paul Brown, Charles Durham, Scott Hovis, Daphne James, Cindy Rust, Dar-ko Sojak, Bill Sullivan, and Jim Whitfield. Nonmembers: Charles Fisher and Shawn Litson.



Ski Trips

Odell Butte

January 29, 2011

Leader: Kevin McManigal

Xski: 10 miles, 2,000 ft. (Difficult)

WE MET AT SOUTH EUGENE HIGH at 8:00 under a warm, sunny, blue sky. We drove up to Willamette Pass without difficulty and parked on the highway about four miles past the summit on the east side, right by the Odell Butte Road trailhead. The weather was very warm, not a breath of wind, and no clouds in the sky. Starting elevation was 4,800 feet. We started skiing at 10:10 am and quickly skied up the snow covered road. It had not snowed for over three weeks before this trip so the snow was rather firm. Coverage was good though! It is five miles to the Odell Butte summit and fire lookout. About half way up we stopped for a quick snack, rested for a few minutes and drank a bit, then skied on up to the summit. We reached the lookout at 12:30 pm. Two hours and twenty minutes up and a 2,200 foot elevation gain. The summit was beautiful. The fire lookout is in good repair. All of the mountains were out in clear contrast to the blue sky. We could see north to Mt. Jefferson and south to Diamond Peak, Mt. Bailey, and Mt. Scott on the east side of Crater Lake. We then turned our attention to the smaller peaks and had the usual debate over which was what - Cowhorn, Yoran, Maiden Peak, etc. As much as I like getting to the top on any trip, I always get a little sad when I leave and this was no different today. The ski down went fast and we got to the cars quickly. We loaded up and arrived in Eugene safe and happy. Members: Sean Breslin, Van Likes, Kevin McManigal.

Redtop Mountain

February 20, 2011

Leader: Harold Thompson

Xski: 8 miles, 2,200 ft. (Difficult)

SNOW THAT SKIERS DREAM OF . . . light, fresh and new, was cause for great anticipation as we left the sno-park at Crescent Lake for the summit of Red Top Mountain. Starting at 9:00 am under broken clouds and blue sky, our group of five headed towards the Pretty Lake Trail. A couple wrong turns and plenty of discussion, kept us more or less on route. At 5,500 feet we left the trail and headed up the east ridge adding skins to our skis as the slope steepened. All skiers were on the 6,948 foot summit at 1:00 pm for a lunch break behind a clump of trees sheltering us from the wind. Skins came off and we descended the north ridge



Snowshoeing Potato Hill

in perfect powder snow. Telemark turns created sinuous ski trails crisscrossing down the slope, along with the occasional big hole caused by falling skiers. The route back took us past Pretty Lake where we managed to temporarily lose one of our skiers. Frank, nowhere to be found behind us, had gotten way ahead and was back to the car in record time. The rest of the group caught up and ended the trip at 4:00 pm. Sharing the day of great company and perfect snow were several members and a guest. Members: Frank Chemotti, Steven Goins, Dave Jensen, and Harold Thompson. Nonmember: Catherine Nelson.

North Waldo Lake

February 26, 2011

Leader: Lubos Hubata-Vacek

Xski: 15 miles, 600 ft. (Difficult)

MY PLAN FOR THIS TRIP was to ski mostly on Waldo Lake Road to the north shore of Waldo Lake. We started at 9:30 from Gold Lake Sno-Park towards Gold Lake and then took the short connector to Waldo Lake Road. We had about a foot and a half of fresh snow. I was hoping that a few snowmobiles had passed on the road so we would have a trail to ski on. And yes, a couple snowmobiles had passed on the road earlier, so we had a good trail to glide on. Yet we did not encounter any snowmobiles all day. In the end we did not make it all the way to the north shore of Waldo Lake, having turned back about halfway up the lake. We got back to the parking lot at about 4:30. Total length of the trip was about 15 miles. Member: Lubos Hubata-Vacek. Nonmember: Pamela Anderson.

Booth/Square Lakes Loop

February 26, 2011

Leader: Brian Hamilton

Xski: 4 miles, 100 ft. (Easy)

BECAUSE FORECASTS PREDICTED CONSIDERABLE AVALANCHE DANGER above 3,000, we decided to ski into Berley Lakes instead of our scheduled trip. We were $\frac{3}{4}$ mile up the Old Skyline Trail before a cold, bitter wind and an unbroken trail convinced

us to turn back and give the trails at Ray Benson Sno-Park a try. At 11:30 am, we started out on the North Loop Trail. We passed a couple that was breaking trail and Sue led the way for the final mile or so to the Blowout Shelter. After taking a break for lunch, we continued a clockwise loop and returned to the sno-park by 2:00 pm. Members: Brian Hamilton, Chris Stockdale, Charlie Van Deusen, and Sue Wolling.

Sand Mountain

February 27, 2011

Leader: Sam Miller Assistant: Dave Jensen

Xski: 10.5 miles, 1,000 ft. (Difficult)

FOR THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR skiers participating in this trip were fortunate to experience new snow after weeks of near drought. With eight inches of unconsolidated snow at trailside we made excellent time on a firm base for our 10+ mile trip. A side trip along the road to check out the conditions at Sand Mountain saddle added variety to our route. At higher elevations the *sno* had a slight *skorpe* but the return trip on the *sti* was *fortreffelig*. Our group for this outing consisted of members Dave Jensen, John Hartman, and Sam Miller (leader).

Hoodoo Butte - Potato Hill Loop

March 5, 2011

Leader: Sam Miller Assistant: Brian Hamilton

Photo: Chris Stockdale

Xski: 8 miles, 1,000 ft. (Difficult)



A LIGHT SNOWFALL GREETED OUR GROUP as we began this outing from the lodge at Hoodoo Ski Bowl. We moved quickly along the busy section of the ski area and were soon rewarded with solitude and an interesting landscape. Traversing the south side of Hoodoo Butte, we followed rolling terrain through stunted trees flocked with heavy snow. Skiing on a groomed trail, we then descended a short section of a Hoodoo downhill run, and skied a partially broken trail along Potato Hill's flanks up to its summit. Lunch on Potato Hill included views of Maxwell Butte, Three Fingered Jack, Sand Mountain and other prominent bumps. With little wind and brief sun breaks, we descended the open slopes of Potato Hill and were treated to the sight of Harold Thompson smoothly linking telemark turns. To complete our circuit we retraced our earlier route and continued our circumnavigation of Hoodoo Butte with an easy downhill run on the ski area slopes. Members participating in this trip were Sam

Miller and Brian Hamilton (co-leaders), John Hartman, Chris Stockdale, Charlie Van Deusen, Sue Wolling, Frank Chemotti, Harold Thompson, and Marci Hansen along with nonmember Betty Grant. Special thanks to Brian for assisting with this trip.

Island Lakes Loop

March 6, 2011

Leader: Dave Jensen

Xski: 10 miles, 1200 ft. (Difficult)

IT WAS ALREADY VERY WARM when we started out from Gold Lake Sno-Park. The path down to Gold Lake was well tracked and slick, so we made it to the lake quickly. We followed tracks to Waldo Road and it looked like the Fuji Mountain trail had been skied the day before, but the tracks stopped only after 50 feet. The three of us continued up the trail. The snow was very wet and heavy, but fortunately had consolidated somewhat since the day before. Our skis only sunk about six inches in the track and we were able to mostly keep the ski tips above the snow. Even so, it was a very demanding ski up the hill. By the time we got up to the South Waldo Trail junction above Verde Lake, it was obvious that completing the scheduled trip would mean getting back to the trailhead well after dark, so we decided to head back down the way we came up and take advantage of our earlier handiwork. The ski down was much easier, though the heavy snow presented numerous challenges in keeping upright. We arrived back at the sno-park around 5:00. The snow may have been far from ideal, but it was a great day to be out in the backcountry. There were numerous sun breaks and all the recent snow was good to see. Thanks to my co-participants, non-members Kimberly Higgs and Paul Murtaugh, for joining me in a very challenging day of skiing.

Fawn Lake

March 19, 2011

Leader: Randall Sinnott

Xski: 8 miles, 900 ft. (Difficult)

WITH EVERYONE ON BOARD before the scheduled departure, we were on our way to the trailhead two minutes before 8:00 am and gearing up for the trail by 10:00. Conditions were promising prior to putting on our skis. Several inches of new snow had fallen overnight and was evident on the trees, though the sky was clearing as we topped Willamette Pass. At Crescent Sno-Park the sun was out, the air was cold and it was a rare windless day in the mountains. Lots of energy and excitement in the group proved invaluable when it became clear that we were in for a day of trailbreaking. Everyone had a turn at punching a track through the dry drifts that increased in depth as we gained altitude. Some of the tree blazes were buried while the ones that were visible were at knee level or below. With some vigilance, we managed to keep to the actual trail. The outbound trip took two and a half hours. The weather conditions were consistently favorable. At the lake we were rewarded with an amazing panorama of buttes -- Lakeview to the north, Redtop to the south, and a third, nearly as impressive butte that was identifiable on our maps but unnamed.

The sky, however, was not blue. A dark bank of clouds formed a backdrop to the trio of buttes. We ate lunches at the outlet to Fawn Lake (some open water visible there) while a cloud rolled through, cutting visibility to less than half a mile.

There was some discussion of continuing on to Pretty Lake but it was agreed we were all anticipating the outbound track we had so arduously laid. A brief shower of snow pellets, or graupel, commenced. The thought of breaking more trail across mostly flat terrain and the sudden precipitation turned our minds from valor to discretion. Following our half hour lunch, with some photos taken, we quit the lake at about 1:00 pm. The graupel shower that increased to a downpour subsided in a few minutes leaving a pebbly texture to the snowpack and a noticeable slickness (like tiny ball bearings) on the track. The weather cleared and the return ski was a charm -- uniform, fast, but no trace of ice, and a consistent rate of descent with only one or two blow-downs to negotiate. We were all back at the vehicles in just over an hour with the faster skiers making it under the hour mark. We all agreed it was a day of snow and weather conspiring to make a wonderful outing. The party consisted of Obsidians Brian Hamilton, Mari Baldwin, Charlie Van Deusen, Robert Smythe, and Randy Sinnott, along with nonmember Katie Hynes-Petty.



Trail Maintenance

**Spencer Butte
March 26, 2011**

Leader: Matthew Bell

Trl Mnt: 2 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

SIX RUGGED VOLUNTEERS met up with Josh Schrader of the Parks & Open Spaces in the main Spencer Butte parking lot at 9 am. Though the day didn't look too promising, the skies were overcast and it had been raining all morning, we enjoyed little to no rain while we worked. We made our way up the trail to remove peeler cores from along the trail near the trail junction with the Ridgeline Tie-in Trail. Along the way Ed, Josh, and I cleaned culverts and other drain features. Once at the trail junction we removed the peeler cores and filled the resulting voids with gravel.

Dalen drove a power-wheelbarrow back to get more gravel. Josh and Jim shared a white-knuckle drive back with a load of peeler cores. To say that the water-logged peeler cores made for a very front-heavy load would be an understatement. While we waited for the power-wheelbarrows to return with more gravel, Janet and I brushed out a couple of switchbacks that people and dogs have been shortcutting. Ed continued to clean and improve the drain features up towards the summit.

Once the power-wheelbarrows returned with more gravel we removed eight more peeler cores and filled their voids with gravel. To make the trip down easier, Josh had brought a chainsaw to cut the peeler cores in half. With the peeler cores and tools strapped to them the power-wheelbarrows resembled medieval siege engines more than trail maintenance tools.

We enjoyed seeing the butte as spring is beginning to show. The trilliums are budding and will bloom soon. Janet's keen eye alerted us to red elf's cap fungus. We made our way back to the parking lot and enjoyed some well earned snacks. Members: Matthew Bell, Jane Hackett, Janet Jacobsen, Ed Lizewski, and Jim Whitfield. Nonmember: Dalen Willhite.



Byways By Bus

**Bus Trip - Eagles 'n More
February 22-23, 2011**

Co-leaders: Liz Reanier & Rick Ahrens

THIRTY OBSIDIANS AND GUESTS had snowy bus travel both ways. When we arrived in Klamath Falls it was very windy and cold, with just traces of old snow. We'd had our coffee break at McDonald's in Oakridge, and then lunch at Applebee's, before going out to find all the birds. Many of us were good at spotting and identifying the birds. Many got very good at identifying the eagles and hawks. Lots of geese and ducks as well. Everyone was so busy sighting the birds, that we never got to the interpretive center. At dusk we headed back into Klamath Falls for our lodging at the Best Western Olympic Inn. Everyone scattered for dinner but found themselves in the lobby identifying mounted birds while waiting for cookies to come out of the oven.

After a wonderful continental breakfast all were on the bus at 8 am, ready to head out to State Line for more birding. There seemed to be a large number of pheasant and also groupings of cranes in the nearby fields. At 10:30 it was time to head back to the motel to check out and then go for the river walk. The nearby museum was closed. At noon it was back to Applebee's for lunch, and then to leave for Eugene. It was even starting to snow in Eugene as we drove into town. A great trip was had by all!

Members: Rick Ahrens and Liz Reanier (leaders), Bill Arthur, Barbara Beard, Paul Beard, Barbara Chin, Lynda Christiansen, Sharon Cutsforth, Barbara Flanders, Dennis Flanders, Janet Jacobsen, John Jacobsen, Helen Mertz, Anne Montgomery, Barbara Payne, Don Payne, Margaret Prentice, Chris Stockdale, Mary Ellen West, Nancy Whitfield, Sue Wolling. Nonmembers: Jacqueline Chama, Ida J. Fairchild, Deborah Hite, Ron Johnson, Pat Martiel, Judith Phelps, Camilla Pratt, Julie Richardson, Floyd Weitsel.

**Service Stars - Green Eugene
March 22, 2011**

Leaders: Bill Arthur & Sharon Cutsforth

ONCE AGAIN, MOTHER NATURE SMILED ON THE OBSIDIAN BUS RIDERS as we headed out on a leisurely tour visiting local nonprofit agencies. We began the day with our traditional coffee break in the comfort of Food For Lane County's lovely board room. There our tour guide joined us, sharing information about the acquisition, sorting, packaging, and distribution of food (and some non-food items) to low income persons. A particularly touching story was about the positive impact weekend snack packs have on the behavior of children from low income households. We were impressed with the numbers of people

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Extended Trip Report:

Big Lake Ski and Snowshoe

March 30-April 1, 2011

Leader: Lana Lindstrom

THE BAR HAS BEEN RAISED several notches for gourmet food on Obsidian overnight trips! Salmon smothered in onions, peppers, potatoes, carrots, and asparagus, and baked to perfection in wine, butter and seasonings got rave reviews! Pat's famous chocolate cookies finished the meal in style. The second dinner was yummy too: bean chili topped with chicken and served over rice with a tossed salad. Apple and cherry pies satisfied our sweet cravings. It will be hard to top these meals!

I could go on and on about the food (like the very creative way the left over salmon became salmon paté appetizers the next day), but this was a ski and snowshoe trip, so I must comment about the activities on this 3-day trip! Everyone arrived on time at the Ray Benson parking lot (Santiam Pass) and we loaded the snow cat with all of our gear. There was plenty of room to ride to the lodge with the gear, but everyone elected to either ski or snowshoe under lightly drizzling skies. After a leisurely lunch at the lodge, and for some, a short nap, we ventured out again around 2:30 pm to circumnavigate the lake. However, upon arriving at the lake's edge and barely being able to see 50 feet with fog and gusting winds, most of us elected to backtrack on the trail we had been on earlier. A few skied on the



snowmobile trail toward Cache Mountain.

The next day was fairly warm with intermittent clouds and heavy snow which would have made breaking trail a challenge. Therefore, all but two of us decided to stay on the road which had been previously tracked by snowmobiles –going toward Sand Mountain. It was a good day of skiing, snowshoeing, and hiking on snow for 5-8 miles.

Breakfasts included oatmeal, fruit, and muffins. Besides eating and socializing, we read and played games. And we celebrated two birthdays on two different days!

The last day was sunny and clear with gorgeous views of Mt. Washington and Three Fingered Jack as we made our way back to Ray Benson. The snow was hard packed, but there was about 80 inches of it since most of the road signs were just barely visible. We met the cat with

our gear at Ray Benson at 11:00 and were heading back to Eugene shortly thereafter.

The adventurers on this trip included two Chrisses (Chris Stockdale and Chris Shuraleff), two Charleses (Charlie VanDeusen and Chuck Wagar; Charles Durham unfortunately had to cancel at the last minute), and two Patricias (Pat Esch and Patty MacAfee), Richard Hughes, Lana Lindstrom, Sidney Magee (nonmember), Helen Martz, Sue Meyers, Judy Newman, Cindy Rust, Marian West, and Jim Whitfield.

Byways By Bus

(Continued from page 14)

volunteering with FFLC, the scope of the area they serve, and the cleanliness and organization of the facility.

Second stop was the Eugene Mission where our guide led us through all of the buildings and we met the building managers. Once again, we were impressed with the cleanliness and the organization of the programs. The bright open sleeping areas in the mother and children's building is enhanced by beautiful handmade quilts on all the beds. Each child and mother is given their own sleepwear to use and take with them when they leave. Mission staff has learned this is an extremely important issue, as most have left all belongings behind when they came to the Mission. We were served a lovely lunch and had an opportunity to visit with a staff member at each table.

After lunch we visited St. Vincent DePaul's Aurora Glass Works. Their kiln was down for repairs, so we were not able to

see the molten glass being shaped into finished products. That was a bit disappointing. However, we were given an interesting talk about this process and the molds they use, as well as how they use old candles and mattress padding to make fire starters. Many lovely items are on display and for sale in the showroom.

Last stop for the day was the main LCC campus. Much to our surprise, the Native American Long House was open. We were able to see the beauty of the wood interior, exterior and grounds. The weather continued to be lovely all day, and we were ahead of schedule, so there was time for a stroll around the new LEED Health and Wellness Center. As usual, we had a great group of riders and a very pleasant day.

Members: Bill Arthur and Sharon Cutsforth (leaders), Ethel Allen, Barbara Beard, Paul Beard, Mary Lee Cheadle, Pat Dark, Rose Mary Etter, Barbara Flanders, Dennis Flanders, Margit Hollerud, Janet Jacobsen, Ray Jensen, Verna Kocken, John McManigal, Lenore McManigal, Don Payne, Liz Reanier, Janet Speelman. Nonmember: Judy Phelps.

UPCOMING BUS TRIPS



Byways By Bus

FOOD, FOOD, FOOD

Tuesday, April 12, 2011

Leader: Mary Ellen West

Cost: \$40 members: \$42 nonmembers:

Reservations & checks: Janet Speelman, 344-3019

IF FOOD IS YOUR FANCY, this trip should satisfy. Our first stop will be in Albany at the headquarters of Allan Bros. Coffee Roasters. This will be our morning coffee stop (cost included). We'll get a peek at the roasting process, will learn about coffee and have a chance to shop. Next is Bob's Red Mill in Milwaukie for a tour of the world headquarters where more than 300 products are produced. We'll have lunch (your cost) at the whole grain store nearby. Our third stop will be the Willamette Fruit Company in Salem. They are well known for their pies and other fruit products. There will be samples and an opportunity to shop for a variety of gourmet products, gift and garden items. Back to Eugene between 5 and 6 pm.

Oregon Gardens, Silver Creek Falls

Tuesday-Wednesday, May 17-18, 2011

Leaders: Ethel Allen and Barbara Beard

Cost: \$142 members, \$146 nonmembers

Reservations & checks: Janet Speelman, 344-3019

WE WILL LEAVE SHOPKO PARKING LOT at 8 am and travel McKenzie View Drive to Marcola, with our coffee break at Shotgun Creek picnic area. We proceed along Hwy. 220 to Sweet Home Park to view the covered bridge, and then continue to Silver Creek Falls Park. We will eat our own sack lunch, and then for those who want, a walk to and under the falls. We will continue to Silverton and drive by the Norman Rockwell murals on our way to the Oregon Garden Moonstone Resort. Dinner (cost included), is at 6:30 pm in our private banquet room.

Wednesday morning a free buffet breakfast is provided in the dining area, starting at 7 am. At 9 we load the bus and drive to the Oregon Gardens, enter through the gift shop, and at 9:30 board the tram for a ride around the gardens. At 10:30 we are scheduled for a guided tour of the Gordon House, which was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Then we go on to Mt. Angel where we will view the Glockenspiel and learn about this historic town. Lunch will be on your own at the Glockenspiel Restaurant. Finally, we will go to the Bauman Farm, and then back to Eugene, arriving at about 5 pm.

Remaining Bus Trips - 2011

Trip Title/Leader	Dates	Cost	Pay by/Reservations
Food, Food, Food! Mary Ellen West	Apr 12	\$40 (42)	Apr 5 Janet Speelman
Oregon Gardens, & Silver Cr Falls Ethel Allen/Barbara Beard	May 17-18	\$142 (146)	Apr 25 Janet Speelman
The Oregon Zoo Liz Reanier/Rick Ahrens	Jun 21	\$40 (42)	Jun 10 Mary Lee Cheadle
Ft. Vancouver/Hudson's Bay Co. Mary Ellen West	Jul 12	\$38 (40)	Jun 30 Janet Speelman
Cape Arago, Shore Acres Mary Ellen West/Verna Kocken	Aug 11	\$45 (47)	Aug 2 Barbara Payne
Celebrating Astoria's Centennial Barbara & Paul Beard	Sep 14-17	\$425 (433)	Sep 2 Mary Lee Cheadle
Fall Colors: Spirit Mt. and More Ray Jensen	Oct 4	\$35 (37)	Sep 23 Mary Lee Cheadle
Christmas Event – TBA Liz Reanier	Dec 6		Janet Speelman

UPCOMING EXTENDED TRIP

Mt. St. Helens and Mt. Rainier

Sunday – Friday, August 14 – 19

Leader: Jim Duncan

IF YOU'RE READY FOR SUMMER CAMPING and hiking, join us for this extended trip near two magnificent mountains in Washington. We'll camp at a beautiful site on the North Fork of the Cispus River, 12 miles southeast of the town of Randle, WA. This is a three-site group campground where the Obsidians summer camp was held in 1999. We'll camp at the nicest site, adjacent to the river. Potable water and toilet are on site.

There will be plenty of opportunities for good hiking. Our campground is located about 30 miles (on paved roads) from Norway Pass Trailhead, the entry point for several trails on the northeast side of Mt. St. Helens. Even the drive to the trailheads in this area has spectacular closeup views of Mt. St. Helens, as well as vistas of Mt. Adams, and Mt. Hood.

We'll also be 41 miles (on paved roads) to the Stevens



Canyon Entrance of Mt. Rainier National Park, where there are several good hikes. Driving an additional 21 miles in the park will bring you to Paradise Lodge and the many trailheads there for other spectacular hikes.

Campers will be responsible for their own breakfasts and lunches (there is a good grocery store in Randle). Dinners will be prepared and shared by the group and are included in the cost of the trip.

This trip is limited to 20 participants. The cost is \$75 for members, \$80 for nonmembers. A pre-trip meeting will be held early in August.

To secure a place on this trip, sign up online, then send your \$20 nonrefundable deposit (payable to *Obsidians*) within 5 days to: Jim Duncan, 1878 W. 27th Pl., Eugene, OR 97405. Please include your phone number and email address. The balance of your payment will be due June 1.

Questions? Contact Jim at 343-8079 or jameslduncan@prodigy.net

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OTHER ORGANIZATIONS UPCOMING

Eugene Natural History Society

All events are free in Room 100 Willamette Hall, UO campus

Friday, April 15, 7:30 pm

Amphibians and Reptiles at the Center of the Universe! This enigmatic topic will be fully explained with great photos and in depth knowledge by Tom Titus, PhD, researcher in the EvoDevo lab and instructor in Neurosciences at the University of Oregon. Come learn the science and feel the passion of someone who loves snakes and frogs and salamanders.

Friday, May 20, 7:30 pm

Eugene's John Fischer has delved into the science of weather beyond tomorrow's forecast. He will give a talk titled: *La Niña, El Niño, and La Nada: The Big Weathermakers in the Northwest*. A graduate of UC Davis, John uses his background in meteorology in his positions as Avalanche Advisor and Ski Patroller at Willamette Pass. With his love of outdoors and his commitment to the community, we're in for a great presentation about what really influences our PNW weather.

Mount Pisgah Arboretum's 31st Annual Wildflower and Music Festival

Sunday, May 15th, 2011, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Set aside Sunday, May 15th for a day of wildflowers, music, food, crafts, and fun! You don't have to be a plant expert to love our upcoming Wildflower Festival. The festival is loaded with fun things to do for everyone in the family. There will also be live music to amplify this festive frolic in the meadow. A wide variety of plants, baked goods, and arts and crafts will be on sale, with proceeds supporting the Arboretum's work in habitat restoration and environmental education. Art in Nature will return for a second year: local artists will display their Nature Art throughout the Arboretum with a map to find their work. Bring the entire family (except the dog) to enjoy the festival as well as explore nearby nature trails. Nature Tour Guides will weave folks through the trails, providing interesting insights into the Arboretum's ecology and history. Suggested donation: \$5 per person; kids under 12 free. No dogs, please. For more information, call us at 747-3817.



Friday, April 29th

Nepal

IN THE FALL OF 2010, five Obsidians went on four different treks in Nepal: Lynda Christiansen and Chris Shuraleff trekked to the Everest Base Camp area; Chris Stockdale followed part of the Annapurna Circuit and then took a side trip to Tilicho Lake, the highest lake in the world at 16,200; Lana Lindstrom trekked the Annapurna Circuit and then continued to Annapurna Base Camp. Join these world travelers as they show slides and tell tales of their adventures.



April Potluck
Friday, April 29, 2011
Potluck, 6:30 pm
Program, 7:30 pm
Obsidian Lodge

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



ExploraTalk Tuesday, April 19, 7:00 pm

Forest Health: Stream and River Restoration



WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT? Rainbow trout! When the lives and livelihoods of families, individuals, and communities were at stake, they pointed to a cute, fuzzy little bird and said, "It's all his fault." Twenty plus years later, habitat destruction remains the greatest threat to salmon in the Northwest. Join us for a look at some of the features, past and present, commonly observed on the upper Willamette and ponder the question: What will it look like tomorrow? Eighty-plus slides will attempt to provide a brief description of some of the factors affecting forest health, including climate change, industry, and recreation. We will also look at a few of the various restoration efforts and techniques that have been employed in the area.

Come see Tom Musselwhite's slide presentation on the 19th!

Ridgeline Celebration Day!

FRIENDS OF THE RIDGELINE AND THE CITY OF EUGENE have put together an event on the Ridgeline for Saturday morning, April 23, 9 am – 1 pm. The event features walks with local experts on birds, ecology and parks planning, as well as activities with mountain bikers, hikers and more. To top it off, there will be music and eats at the Spencer Butte parking lot around noon.

Join the Obsidians and others at the parking lot of Spencer Butte Park at 9 am for a work party to help clean and improve trails. This will be a fun event, perfect for first time trail workers. There will be time to hear the fiddle music and enjoy the snacks near the end of the celebration. Contact Matt Bell, trail maintenance chair, at trails@obsidians.org or sign up online. He will give a pre-registration count to the Open Space staff of how many Obsidians plan to participate.

See the complete schedule and details at the website:

http://web.me.com/artfarley47/RidgelineFriends/Ridgeline_Day_2011.html

Come, have fun, bring some friends and enjoy the morning out on the Ridgeline!

Discover the Obsidians

REI Event - 4/27/2011 from 7 pm - 8 pm

Location: Eugene REI

LEARN HOW, WHEN, AND WHERE you can join the Obsidians. They are THE local expert leaders in hiking, climbing, and things outdoors in and around Eugene.

National Trails Day Leaders?

INTERESTED IN LEADING a National Trails Day hike on Saturday, June 4th? Offer a hike of your choice to be advertised on the website of the American Hiking Society. Hike would be open to members and nonmembers just as our trips are now with the same qualifications, fees, etc. Contact Elle Weaver at 852-6128 or ellewea@comcast.net

Members In the Media

GARY KIRK, OBSIDIAN MEMBER, climber, trip leader and former club president, may have worked for years at the Register Guard in the computing department, but his true passion has been landscape architecture. Over the years he has turned his backyard into a showplace, so much so that Gary and his creative abilities were recently featured on Oregon Art Beat. If you missed the Feb. 17th and Feb. 20th telecast on OPB, you can still see the video by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.opb.org/programs/artbeat/segments/view/902>

Kudos to Gary!

Obsidian Calendar

April

- 16 Sat - **North Coast Hiking**, Ext Trip , Holbert265-4208
- 17 Sun - **Mt. Pisgah Sunset-Moonrise**, Murdock345-8305
- 19 Tue - **Forest Health**, Musselwhite..... ExploraTalk
- 20 Wed - **McKenzie River Tr by Bus**, Hike M, Pierce .344-1775
- 23 Sat - **Spencer Butte**, Trl Mnt , Bell 503-884-8829
- 23 Sat - **PCT N of Santiam**, SShoe M, Hildreth345-7520
- 24 Sun - **Spencer Bt/Amazon Hd**, Hike M, Jacobsen343-8030
- 24 Sun - **Bellfountain**, Bike M, Gilman-Garrick345-5236
- 26 Tue - **W EugWetlands**, Bird/Bike E, Montgomery ...688-7025
- 29 Fri - **Hemlock Bt/Mt. Bailey**, Bk Pk D, Hovis521-3663
- 29 Fri - **Nepal - Obsidian Travelers**,Potluck
- 30 Sat - **Brice Creek**, Hike M, Christiansen687-8379

May

- 1 Sun - **N. Fk Smith/Sweet Cr**, Hike M, Castleberry726-2412
- 4 Wed - **Coyote Creek Paddle**, Hike E, Lindstrom683-1409
- 4 Wed - **Larison Rock**, Hike M, Jacobsen343-8030
- 6 Fri - **Bear Creek Road**, Bike E, Esch338-8280
- 7 Sat - **Eula Ridge**, Hike D, Pierce344-1775
- 7 Sat - **Waldport to Yachats**, Hike M, Jacobsen343-8030
- 10 Tue - **Mt. Baldy**, Hike M, Romoser726-8154
- 13 Fri - **Malheur Nat Refuge**, Ext Trip , Camp221-1866
- 13 Fri - **Blacklock Point**, Bk Pk M, Hovis521-3663
- 14 Sat - **Upper McKenzie River Tr**, Hike E, Morris726-7474
- 14 Sat - **Sweet Creek Falls**, Hike E, Ledet683-2603
- 14 Sat - **Clear Lake**, Hike E, Delaby688-4978
- 15 Sun - **M Fork Willamette**, Hike , Musselwhite461-3296
- 15 Sun - **Castle Rock**, Hike D, Stockdale767-3668
- 17 Tue - **OR Gardens, Silver Falls**, Bus , Allen736-0692
- 17 Tue - **Mt Pisgah Sunrise/Moonset**, Hike E, Murdock .345-8305
- 18 Wed - **Pre's Trail**, Hike E, Prentice687-5850
- 19 Thu - **Spring Basin Wldr**, Ext Trip , Stockdale767-3668

Classifieds

For Sale

Minoura Mag 850 rear wheel trainer, rarely used, \$80.
Call Margaret at 687-5850.

For Rent

Yachats Rental: Steps to rocky shore walking path and one block to six miles of sandy beach. Many day hikes in area. Two story house with ocean views; 3 bedroom, 3 bath. Two person off-season special \$95/night; additional cleaning fee fully refundable. See jamacabin.com, or contact: Steve 852-3823 or Jen 431-0767.

Orienteering Partner Wanted

Interested in map and compass navigation? Trail running? Orienteering Meet in Corvallis, April 16, Big Muddy 6-Hour Rogaine, Antelope OR, May 14 (Rajneeshpuram). For more information see <http://www.forestrunner.com/orca/>. I can offer a ride to the orienteering meet. I'm seeking a partner for the Big Muddy 6-Hour Rogaine. John Hartman, 505-9980, jh@softwareunderstanding.com.

Storage Wanted

A place to store firewood from the Lodge long-term. Cash, firewood, or handy man services in exchange for payment. Sam Tracer 744-6258 - leave message.



'Camp robber' on my ski pole at Middle Rosary Lake - Photo and ski pole supplied by Chris Stockdale

April 2011



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