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Dates to Remember

November 14	Potluck
December 3	Board Meeting
January 3	Bulletin deadline

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

Dues Renewal

A big **Thank You** to all who have sent in your dues. If you haven't, please mail yours in this week. Online checks are acceptable.

Thanks for your help!

Please note:
 There is no December
Bulletin.

2014 Annual Meeting

THE ANNUAL MEETING—just one hour—was brisk, interesting, and fun. The 19 Committee chairs gave nutshell reports. The presentation of Trip, Leader, Climb and Special Awards was touching and humorous. For those who couldn't make it, I'm sorry you missed the apple crisp and chocolate bars. I encourage you all to take the time to read the notes and appreciate the hard work of so many members and committee chairs throughout the past year.

Matthew Bell



(See annual meeting notes beginning on page 6.)

What are Winter Trips?

Winter trips are cross-country skiing.

Winter trips are snowshoeing.

Winter trips are urban hikes around town.

Winter trips are sunny, glorious walks at the coast.

Winter trips are bicycle rides in the Willamette Valley.

Think about leading a Winter Trip this season, Nov. 15–April 1.

Send your idea in an email to: wintertrips@obsidians.org with the following information: name of trip, date of trip, type (hike, bike, cross country or snowshoe), number of miles, elevation gain, difficulty level (easy, moderate, difficult) and round trip driving distance.

Thank you.

Winter Trips Committee

Obituaries

MARIAN BORCHARDT

OBSIDIAN MEMBER, **MARIAN BORCHARDT**, passed away on October 24. Marian joined the club in 1992 along with her husband John. Together they participated in three summer camps and went on 63 bus trips, many of them multi-day trips.

Editor's Note: At the time of publication no obituary has appeared in The Register-Guard.

ROBIN LODEWICK

ROBIN LODEWICK WAS A WILDFLOWER ENTHUSIAST, and while on an Obsidian outing in 1961 she met Ken Lodewick who also was a wildflower enthusiast. That meeting led to 50 years of marriage and a shared passion for Penstemons in particular. Together they led many wildflower hikes for the club, and they also participated in other outdoor groups such as the Sierra Club and the American Rock Garden Society. Their Penstemon expertise was featured in an Obsidian *Bulletin* article in April 2007. Robin led over 25 trips and participated in 100 activities.

Editor's Note: At the time of publication no obituary has appeared in The Register-Guard.

ROYAL MURDOCK

AS THE NOVEMBER ISSUE OF THE *BULLETIN* WAS BEING COMPILED we received word that Royal Murdock, a long-time member, passed away the afternoon of November 4.

Holiday Hikes

THERE ARE FOUR VERY DIFFERENT, VERY FUN URBAN HOLIDAY HIKES COMING SOON.

Friday, November 28: Turkey Trimming

Lana Lindstrom will lead a six-mile hike to recover from the turkey dinner.

Tuesday, December 16: Stocking Stuffer hike/lunch

Janet Jacobsen and Joella Ewing will lead a hike on the Ribbon Trail and organize a shared lunch at the Obsidian Lodge. Bring a pair of wool socks to give to people in need.

Sunday, December 21: Mt. Pisgah/Winter Solstice

Join hikers for the 1½ mile hike to the top of Mt. Pisgah to see the sun (we hope) shine through the pedestal. Then to Tracktown for Pizza.

Thursday, January 1: New Year's Day/Spencer Butte

It is a tradition to hike one mile to the top of the Butte and share food. Enjoy.

Winter Trips Committee

THE OBSIDIANS FACEBOOK PAGE www.facebook.com/#!/theobsidians

Just click on the link and start using/viewing today!

OBSIDIANS, INC

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405

Website: www.obsidians.org

Board of Directors

Matt Bell, President

Don Colgan, Vice President

Susan Wanser, Secretary

Stewart Hoeg, Treasurer

Sharon Cutsforth, Pat Esch, Tom Musselwhite, Shellie Robertson & Elle Weaver

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 Sharon Cutsforth
Climbs Brian Hamilton
Concessions Patty McAfee
Conservation/SciEd Joella Ewing
Entertainment Susan Wanser
Extended Trips Chris Stockdale
Finance Stewart Hoeg
Librarian/Historian Lenore McManigal
Lodge Building Doug Nelson
Lodge Grounds John Jacobsen
Membership Elle Weaver
Online Wayne Deeter
Publications Lou Maenz
Publicity Mary Hamilton
Safety Pat Esch
Summer Camp Lana Lindstrom
Summer Trips Tom Musselwhite
Trail Maintenance Matt Bell
Winter Trips Anne Bonine

The OBSIDIAN *Bulletin*

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Deadline

for January 2015 Bulletin

Saturday, January 3, 2015

Assembly/Mailing Team

Assembly & Mail Manager: Lou Maenz

Assembly Team: Tom Adamcyk, Don

Baldwin, Clara Emlen, Yuan Hopkins,

Margaret Prentice, Barbara Shoemaker and Martha Welches.

Editorial Team

Writing & Editorial Staff - Bea Fontana, Joanne Ledet, Lou Maenz and Ethel Weltman

Copy Editors - Ethel Weltman & Nancy White

Graphics Design & Desktop Publishing - Stewart Hoeg

The Canyon of the West Little Owyhee River, AKA Louse Canyon

Dave Predeek

UNDER A CLEAR OCTOBER SKY our van followed the rough gravel road up miles of steep incline. We finally arrived at Jackson Summit on the edge of a broad plateau in the Owyhee River drainage. A weathered sign displayed the Bureau of Land Management logo and the words: *Jackson Creek; Elevation—6,296*. Looking out the window we



scanned the horizon. There were no rugged canyons in sight—only a vast, treeless, undulating plain stretching to the east. Sagebrush was the dominant plant species, but on the hillside was the occasional moist area with aspen trees now turning golden. This is the forgotten corner of Oregon—the Owyhee country where rainfall averages 8 to 12 inches per year. There are private inholdings but most of the land is administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

I was traveling with a group of eleven on a field trip organized by the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA). Two young staff members of ONDA, Michael and Corie were the organizers of the event. The purpose of our work was to monitor wilderness characteristics in areas not yet protected with wilderness status. We would study and photograph abandoned roads and check for cattle and wildlife use of the area. We did see antelope and mountain sheep. ONDA has been at the forefront of the movement to put Oregon's largest remaining road-less areas under the protection of the Federal Wilderness System established by Congress and President Johnson just 50 years ago.

The total percentage of Oregon land in Federal Wilderness today lags behind that of all our neighboring states. In Oregon the percentage is 3.70%; in Washington it is 10.13% and in California it is 14.11%.

OUR FIRST GOAL WAS TO REACH ANDERSON CROSSING at 5,400 feet elevation on the West Little Owyhee River and set up camp before sundown. The road from Highway 95 to

Anderson Crossing covers 35 miles and is seldom used. We saw just one other vehicle while driving to camp.

The West Little Owyhee is a 58 mile-long tributary winding northeast through what is sometimes called Louse Canyon. Louse Canyon reaches the main stem Owyhee just south of Three Forks. The canyon broadens at Anderson Crossing where the road dips down to the stream, which now in early October is quite low. On the east shore is a flat area large enough to park vehicles and set up tents. Dense thickets of willow, turning yellow, lined the shore. There are beaver dams and pools of cool water with red band fingerling trout. A flock of five merganser ducks took flight and would soon migrate to lower elevations, perhaps the coast. After setting up camp we enjoyed the afternoon warmth with a beverage before supper and a night's rest. By midnight my tent was crinkly with frost. I was happy to have brought that extra down quilt to throw over my sleeping bag.

The Owyhee River basin covers more than 11,000 square miles. The river begins in Nevada and flows north for 346 miles through Idaho and Oregon before reaching the Snake River on the Oregon-Idaho border. The West Little Owyhee drains several hundred square miles of some of the most isolated terrain in the lower 48 states.

It seems Louse Canyon has gained nationwide attention through various publications. In 2011 three ONDA staffers and two photographers for the *New York Times* climbed, swam and walked 40 miles through Louse Canyon to its confluence with the Owyhee. An article with pictures ap-



peared in the August 28, 2011 issue of the *Times*.

The following morning we arose early in 25-degree temperatures and stood around in the sun enjoying Michael's fresh-brewed hot coffee. Michael and Corie discussed work assignments with us. After breakfast Corie and I transported

(Continued on page 17)

October Board Notes

By Susan Wanser

President Matt Bell called the meeting to order. Other Board members present: Don Colgan, Sharon Cutsforth, Pat Esch, Stewart Hoeg, Tom Musselwhite, Susan Wanser and Elle Weaver. Also present were: Wayne Deeter, Joella Ewing, Brian Hamilton, Mary Hamilton, Janet Jacobsen, Lana Lindstrom, Patty MacAfee, and Doug Nelson.

The Board approved the minutes of the September 2014 meeting.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Climbs (Brian Hamilton): Since the last Board Meeting, one climb was cancelled due to thunderstorms, potential snow, and 45 mph gusts. Four climbs were completed. There are no more climbs scheduled for this year.

Trail Maintenance (Matthew Bell): In September there was one outing in Spencer Butte Park. Our work included rock work on the West Trail, cleaning the kiosk and stairs, and checking drains along the Main Trail.

Highways and Byways By Bus (Liz Reanier): The October Fall Color trip over the mountains to Sisters was enjoyed by 22 members and 2 nonmembers. We have one trip remaining for this year. It is Christmas Lights at River Forks Park (near Roseburg); there is space for more riders. Our first trip planning meeting for 2015 bus trips is scheduled for Thursday, October 23, 1:00 PM at the Lodge.

Extended Trips (Chris Stockdale): The committee met for its annual meeting on 10/13/14. After a rather disappointing 2014 schedule (two trips went), the members brain-stormed various ways of increasing the number of trips, suggesting different destinations and, most importantly, trying to come up with a way of finding potential extended trip leaders. At this time, four trips are planned for 2015.

Entertainment (Susan Wanser): Ninety-four people attended Mike Wolf's presentation about bicycling in Cuba. There was an issue with the projector not showing the color red and I am currently working on fixing that.

Membership (Elle Weaver): Many thanks to all the members who have sent in their renewal dues. Currently there are 483 members.

Publicity (Mary Hamilton): The 50th Anniversary of Signing of the 1964 Wilderness Act Open House was held at the lodge on September 7. This event brought many nonmembers to the Lodge and allowed us to show off our wonderful building and art! Great big thanks to Joella Ewing and Janet Jacobsen for their dedication to making this so successful and to all of the volunteers. We hosted a table at Willama-

lane's Annual Rocktoberfest on Sunday, October 12 with the display board featuring photos of club climbs. This is a family-friendly event open to climbers and anyone interested in trying the climbing wall. We gave out club brochures, calendars, business cards, and spare copies of the September edition of the *Obsidian Bulletin* to those interested in the Obsidians. Laurie Funkhouser and Mary Hamilton staffed the table.

Library/Historian (Lenore McManigal): All of the trips from the September *Bulletin* have been recorded.

Lodge Building (Doug Nelson): We have received rental revenue from the U of O Environmental Studies staff retreat on Sept. 23 and the Vi Johnson memorial on Oct. 19. The Lodge has been reserved for a birthday party for Ethel Allen.

Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): There were two work parties to report for the last month. For the Open House: thanks to Rob Castleberry, Brenda Kameenui, Ken Kodama and Jim Whitfield. And for the potluck, thanks to Jim Whitfield.

OLD BUSINESS

All the changes to the Bylaws which have been approved by the Board will be submitted to John Jacobsen so they can be updated online.

NEW BUSINESS

Liz Reanier has stepped down as the Chair of the By-Ways by Bus Committee. The Board approved Sharon Cutsforth as the new Chair of that Committee. Thank you to both Liz and Sharon!

The Board approved that Doug Nelson obtain bids to replace the water pipe from the street meter to the Lodge, to replace the shut off valve to the outside faucet by the climbing wall, to extend the water pipe from the Lodge to the Storage Building and to add a frost free spigot at the new building. He will also obtain bids for installing irrigation pipes on the grounds.

The Board approved the proposed changes to the Bylaws of the Finance Committee.

The Board approved all applicants for new membership.

DISCUSSION

Two *Thank You* cards were circulated and signed by the Board members and Committee Chairs that were present. One was for Liz Reanier for her many years served as the Chairman of the By-Ways by Bus Committee. The other was for the artists that donated the tent which the Publicity Committee uses at public events.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Board meeting will be on November 5 at 6:00 PM.

November Board Notes

By Susan Wanser

President Matt Bell called the meeting to order. Other Board members present: Don Colgan, Sharon Cutsforth, Pat Esch, Stewart Hoeg, Shellie Robertson, Susan Wanser and Elle Weaver. Also present were: John Cooper, Wayne Deeter, Brian Hamilton, Mary Hamilton, Kathy Hoeg, Janet Jacobsen, Patty MacAfee, Lenore McManigal, Doug Nelson. The Board approved the minutes of the October 2014 meeting.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Summer Trips (Tom Musselwhite): With the end of summer trips season coming up on November 15, 855 members and 186 nonmembers are scheduled to complete 128 summer trips. Fifteen trips were cancelled and nine were rescheduled. The 2014 schedule included eight backpacking trips, ten bicycle outings, three canoe/kayak paddles, and 129 hikes. Twenty-four trips were rated easy, 95 moderate, and 32 difficult.

Trail Maintenance (Matthew Bell): There was one outing in the last month. We predominantly worked to remove shining geranium from the small natural areas bordered by trail at the trailhead.

Highways and Byways By Bus (Sharon Cutsforth): Our final trip for this year, Christmas Lights at River Forks Park, is coming up on December 2. There is space available for more riders.

Conservation, Science, & Education (Joella Ewing): Forty-five people attended Tim Giraudier's wonderful photography of Beautiful Oregon presentation on Oct. 28.

Publication (Lou Maenz): Two hundred twenty-two copies of the bulletin were mailed in October.

Entertainment (Susan Wanser): Twenty-five people attended Marcia Moore's presentation about the Proper Walk, a 10 day hike in Kenya to raise money for the Makindu Children's Center.

Membership (Elle Weaver): Renewal dues continue to be submitted. Approximately 70% of members have renewed. Five members have relocated and decided not to renew. Several renewal forms included very nice compliments about the Club. Currently there are 488 members: Active Members-445; Associate Members-16; Honorary Members-6; Junior Members-9; Life Members-12

Publicity (Mary Hamilton): The committee continues to post calendars at various locations around town and on Craigslist.

Online (Wayne Deeter): There are now 3,848 photos in

273 albums in the Obsidian photo gallery, up from 3,750 photos in 267 albums in October. We are working on setting up a document archive to organize and ease access to editable club documents by committees, club officers and board members.

Library/Historian (Lenore McManigal): All of the trips from the October *Bulletin* have been recorded.

Lodge Building (Doug Nelson): The Lodge was rented by Barbara Beard on Nov. 1 for Ethel Allen's birthday party.

Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): There were several abbreviated work parties to report during October that all involved clearing the fall stuff and sprucing up for Obsidian activities at the Lodge. Thanks to Jim Whitfield for his help.

Safety (Pat Esch): Sign-ups for the January 2015 First Aid Class start November 11.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board approved the Officers for 2015. Matt Bell has agreed to serve as President again. Shellie Robertson will serve as Vice President. Susan Wanser will continue as Secretary and Stewart Hoeg will continue as Treasurer.

The Club has received a donation in memory of Claire Tucker.

The Board approved two applicants for new membership.

There are still 146 members who have not yet submitted their renewal forms and dues.

The Board approved up to \$600 for the purchase of new audio visual equipment. The Board approved the following additional lodge rental language in the by-laws: *Waiving of rental fees may be granted by the Committee when a request is made on behalf of a deceased Obsidian member in good standing to rent the Lodge for a memorial or celebration of life for the member. All other rental policies will apply.*

Janet and Lana will make arrangements for the annual holiday dinner for the Board, Committee chairs and their guests.

DISCUSSION

Matt attended the Oregon Trails Planning Workshop on October 30. Matt will keep us updated as the survey results become available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Board meeting will be on December 3 at 5:30 PM followed by a holiday dinner for the Board members, committee chairs and their guests.

The meeting adjourned for food at La Oficina.

2014 Annual Meeting Notes

By Susan Wanser

President Matt Bell called the meeting to order. Other Board members present: Don Colgan, Sharon Cutsforth, Pat Esch, Stewart Hoeg, Tom Musselwhite, Shellie Robertson, and Susan Wanser. Also present were: Anne Bonine, Roberta Chord, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Wayne Deeter, Autumn Edwards, Joella Ewing, Laurie Funkhouser, Kitson Graham, Peter Graham, Brian Hamilton, Mary Hamilton, Kathy Hoeg, Richard Hughes, Janet Jacobsen, John Jacobsen, Casey Janz, Gary Kirk, Holger Krentz, Lana Lindstrom, Patty MacAfee, Melinda McCormick, Roy McCormick, Lenore McManigal, Kals Muthuswarny, Cathy Nelson, Doug Nelson, Jorry Rolfe, Tom Rundle, Gordon Sayre, Mike Smith, Carolyn Sojak, Darko Sojak, Chris Stockdale, Nancy Whitfield, and Dorrick Wood.

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Obsidians' financial outlook remains bright. As of September 30 our balance sheet had financial assets exceeding \$206,100 including a Capital/Contingency fund of \$51,200, an Endowment Fund of \$102,000 and a General Fund of \$29,000. During the past twelve months we had positive cash flow from operations of \$3,500. In addition, during the



last year we received \$5,200 in donations from current members. Thanks to everyone for your continued financial and other support for the club.

STATE OF THE OBSIDIANS ADDRESS

by President Matt Bell

My fellow Obsidians, I am honored to welcome you to the 87th Annual Meeting. I am honored to have served as the Club's President for the past nine months.

Here tonight we have many Presidents who have served in the years before me. They are Gary Kirk (1968 and 1969), John Jacobsen (1988, 2001, 2005, 2011), Janet Jacobsen (1993), Doug Nelson (2003, 2004) Wayne Deeter (2006), and Brian Hamilton (2008).

The Obsidians have many traditions. At Summer Camp it was impressed upon me quite eloquently the importance of continuing these traditions. As President I was able to experience firsthand (i.e., up close and personal) a couple of these traditions with regards to the President's Tea and the passing of the necklaces. I very much look forward to passing this tradition on to the next President!

The Obsidians rely totally on volunteers! This is probably the most important Obsidian tradition. Tonight we are going to hear not only what the volunteers from our 19 committees have accomplished, but we will also be recognizing peoples' efforts in service to the club. Tonight's traditions reinforce our values by acknowledging notable levels of participation in many activities.

I think that the reports that follow will show that the club and its members and activities are all going strong. I want to thank all of you for all that you do for the club and for coming to the annual meeting.

COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS

Summer Trips (Tom Musselwhite): Summer Trips is on track to end 2014 on budget with revenues. Savings from postage and copying due to the use of the online trips system allowed us to reduce our expense budget. As of October 1, 150 trips have been led by 41 leaders. 831 members and 187 nonmembers have participated in 8 backpack trips, 10 bicycle trips, 124 hikes, and 3 canoe/kayak trips.

Thanks to all Summer Trips Committee members who have helped out this year. They are Don Colgan, Joella Ewing, Laurie Funkhouser, Tom Giesen, Brian Hamilton, Daphne James, Sandra Larsen, Joanne Ledet, Lana Lindstrom, Becky Lipton, Chris Stockdale, Judy Terry, and Lyndell Wilken.

Winter Trips (Anne Bonine): I would like to thank my devoted committee members: John Cooper, Judy Terry and Elle Weaver. Winter trips season wouldn't happen without



them. Last season we had seven coastal hikes, 30 urban hikes, four other hikes, nine cross-country ski trips, four showshoe trips; one whale watch and one beach cleanup. As often happens in the winter season, we had our share of cancellations. We had 314 members and 71 nonmembers join our trips. My special thanks to all the trip leaders and participants who made this a great season.

Climbs (Brian Hamilton): The Climbs Committee teamed up again with Eugene Mountain Rescue to present our basic mountaineering course, continuing a tradition of introducing safe and responsible climbing techniques to both club members and nonmembers. We had an excellent teacher-to-student ratio with over 20 volunteers instructing 24 students. Early in the year, we began planning for an intermediate climb school, made up of several sessions like crevasse rescue, anchors, and navigation. Unfortunately once the climbing season began, availability of volunteer instructors rapidly declined. We'll pursue this topic again next year.

Climbing continues to bring in new, younger members. Five climb school students joined the club.

Climb School student fees were the committee's major source of revenue and climb trip fees made up the remainder. Expenses consist primarily of purchases of new climbing gear. As an example, climbing ropes are retired after five years of use, so the committee purchased a new rope and other miscellaneous gear this year.

Climbing season is winding down and no more climbs are

scheduled. To date, 19 climbs were completed and we had 12 different climb leaders. Seven climbs were cancelled. We also had seven conditioning hikes early in the season, designed to burn off winter fat and get us in shape! Obsidian climbing continues to be a safe activity in spite of the inherent objective hazards. No significant injuries were recorded on any of the trips.

Thanks to the 11 committee members! The Climbs Committee would not be able to meet its vital role in the club without their contributions of time and talents.

Trail Maintenance (Matthew Bell): During the past year the Trails Committee has been busy working to improve trails in Spencer Butte Park and the Obsidian Limited Entry Area. Todd Larsen again deserves recognition for taking the initiative to coordinate and advertise two trips into the Obsidian Limited Entry Area with the Forest Service. Rob Castleberry deserves credit for coordinating a joint outing with the HCFV's Scorpion Crew to log out the Maxwell Butte Trail. This year's highlights included: participating in the 4th Ridgeline Celebration, National Trails Day, and National Public Lands Day! We *donated* an estimated \$8,365 worth of volunteer labor! The weather is always perfect for trail maintenance! Especially, when it's not! There is no trip fee for trail maintenance outings, and there are always snacks and *Newman's Own Lemonade!* No one was killed, injured, or lost on an outing. At least I didn't get poison oak this year. This year trail maintenance has had 42 participants

(including 24 members) working a total of 418.25 hours

Highways and Byways By Bus (Sharon Cutsforth for Liz Reanier): This has been a year of ups and downs for bus trips. We stood on top of Mammoth Mountain at 11,000 feet above sea level, we stood on the salt flats of Bad Water Basin in Death Valley at 280 feet below sea level, and we were many places in between. We have had a couple of trips where we had to scramble to find extra motel rooms for all the people who wanted to go and we had to cancel one trip because of scheduling difficulties. Most importantly, we had a good variety of interesting, educational and fun trips. During the year we had several first time riders join us and all have enjoyed the trips. We have completed seven trips and



have one trip remaining. The last trip will be Christmas Lights at River Forks Park coming up on December 2. There is space available for more riders.

Sadly, we lost our dear friend and treasurer, Barbara Flanders in May—she is greatly missed. We appreciate having Bill Arthur taking over as treasurer. The success of bus trips is largely due to the team effort put forth by the planning committee, hospitality committee, dedicated trip leaders, reservations ladies, members serving on other Obsidian committees and our loyal riders. We are already gathering ideas for 2015 bus trips and will schedule a planning meeting for later in October. Bus trip finances are in the black and all bills to date have been paid.

Summer Camp (Lana Lindstrom): Ninety-four campers attended Camp Bell in the Strawberry Wilderness area. Although the tenting area was shaded and spacious, about 25% of the group enjoyed staying in the cabins. For the most part, we were not impacted by the forest fires in the area and were able to enjoy the hikes smoke-free. There were several very creative trip reports and the President's Tea was fun.

Extended Trips (Chris Stockdale): 2014 was a bit disappointing for Extended Trips as we had only two trips. Marianne Camp led a successful birding trip to the Malheur Wildlife Refuge, with accommodations at the historic French Glen Hotel. Chris Stockdale led a skiing and snowshoeing trip to Crater Lake with accommodations at the Union Creek Resort. Planning for 2015 is underway with at least four trips in the works.

Conservation, Science, & Education (Joella Ewing): This year ExploraTalk will have had eight slide presentations. The first seven presentations had a total attendance of 260.

I've started scheduling programs for next year. Y'all come.

Thank you to committee members Tom Geisen and Tom Musselwhite.

Publications (Stewart Hoeg for Lou Maenz): The Publications Committee publishes 10 issues during the year with 170 total pages. (There is no *Bulletin* in August or December.) The members of the Publication Committee spend approximately one week per month preparing each *Bulletin*. The members are: Chair Lou Maenz; editors Bea Fontana, Joanne Ledet, Ethel Weltman and Nancy White; and person in charge of layout and desktop publishing Stewart Hoeg.

Entertainment (Susan Wanser): We've had quite a range of topics presented at the monthly potlucks. Along with the interesting and varied presentations, there was great food. Some is wonderfully healthful and organic, and some not so much. Not too surprising for the Obsidians, there is never a shortage of desserts! It raises the old question: do we eat to hike, or hike to eat? Hmmm, not sure.

I again ask that you give me a heads up if you hear someone speak in the community or know of someone who has done an interesting trip, or you yourself have done an adventure that you'd like to share with the Obsidians. I very much appreciate these leads!

Also if you have any interest in helping with the potlucks, like setting up beforehand, or helping with the meal and cleanup, please let me know. It's a wonderful way to meet people and feel useful.

Membership (Elle Weaver): From the beginning of the year through September, we've added thirty new members and welcomed back several former members. One of our newest members even recently presented a delightful potluck evening. What a great way to jump into being part of the club! We also have a new member who had been on many, many trips as a guest but this year chose to apply for membership. We're so glad! We continue to attract people who bring a variety of experiences and many who encourage others to take on new adventures. This past month someone who has been with the club for a few years was excited that backpacking is a goal for the near future. When new applicants are asked where or how they first heard about the club, *from friends* is the most frequent response. All of us, as members, are the ones who attract future members. Thanks to all for being great club ambassadors. Please

keep up the good job!

Publicity (Mary Hamilton): I am grateful for the Publicity Committee members who helped so much during this year. Our committee is small, but we are effective, efficient, and energetic! Committee members are Lynne Eichner, Brian Hamilton, Janet Jacobsen, John Jacobsen, Jorry Rolfe, Dar-ko Sojak and Chris Stockdale. The best ways of public outreach and attracting guests continue to be the website, *The Register-Guard*, and posting calendars around town and on Craigslist. Big thanks to the other Obsidian committees who promoted their specific scheduled events and activities. There were five community events that gave us the opportunity to explain the purpose and promote the activities of our club.



Concessions (Patty MacAfee): Concessions sold \$1,190 in merchandise from January through September 2014. Popular items this year have been polyester T-shirts and rain ponchos. Concessions also had a generous contribution of five beautifully handcrafted walking sticks made by Jack Ewing. We appreciate the members' support in purchases and promoting the Obsidian logo/education in the community.

Online (Wayne Deeter): Thanks to my committee members Jan Anselmo, John Jacobsen, and Shellie Robertson, this has been a very productive year for the Online Committee. In the last year (10/1/2013—9/30/2014) we had about 17,000 logins to the online system by members and guests. We have had a Facebook page now for over two years. Our online photo album system has been in use for almost two years. There are currently 3,750 photos in 267 albums.

Finance (Stewart Hoeg): During the past year the Obsidian Finance Committee was responsible for putting together the 2014 budget, recommending investments for the Endow-

ment Fund and Contingency Fund. Thanks to committee members Barb Bruns, Dan Christensen, Liz Reanier, Lana Lindstrom, Stephen McCaffrey, and Chairman Stewart Hoeg.

Library/Historian (Lenore McManigal): The club added 30 new members in 2014 and some former members renewed their membership. Each club member has an activity sheet(s) on which his/her trips etc. are recorded after appearing in the *Bulletin*. When a member has earned various awards, climbing, leading and completed trips, the awards can be verified by checking the activity sheets.

Lodge Building (Doug Nelson): The Obsidians' Lodge is generally in good condition. The work required in the past year has been mostly routine maintenance and minor repairs. I was very pleased that the building weathered last winter's snow, ice and unusual cold without any apparent problems. Any needed systems upgrades or more major maintenance projects have not become critical and we hope to be able to address them in a timely fashion. Congratulations are in order to the ad hoc committee that built our new storage facility. It is a great improvement from the old out-buildings!

The building serves well to meet our club's need for meeting space and gatherings. We also host other users including nonprofit organizations and private gatherings. A significant number of those events are celebrations of life or memorial gatherings, many to honor long-term members of our club. I believe it speaks well of our organization and our facility that so many families want to gather here to remember their loved ones. I am pleased we are able to offer them this comfortable and welcoming space.

Many thanks to all our members and guests whose thoughtfulness, effort and willing help make caring for the Lodge easy.

Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): I would like to thank the grounds committee members and others who have helped keep the grounds in shape and looking good throughout the year. Work by the Grounds Committee this year was primarily routine upkeep and maintenance of the Obsidian grounds. A trail from the new storage building to the rear of the Lodge was completed. The year's highlight for us was moving all of our grounds gear and equipment out of the small collapsing shed and upstairs at the Lodge to the new storage building. It is much easier and more convenient to access our things from the new building. Grounds Committee members: Max Brown, Susan Carey, Rob Castleberry, Wayne Deeter, Clara Emlen, Joella Ewing, Chuck Gibson, Dick Hildreth, Scott Hovis, John Jacobsen (Chair), Brenda Kameenui, Gary Kirk, Ken Kodama, Joanne Ledet, Craig Molitor, Doug Nelson, Mike Piehl, Dave Predeek, Chris Shuraleff, Randall Sinnott, Jim Whitfield, Tom Woxell.

Safety (Pat Esch): The Safety Committee had an unusually busy year. First we decided to stop restocking the OTC meds, except Benadryl, in the First Aid Kits because they

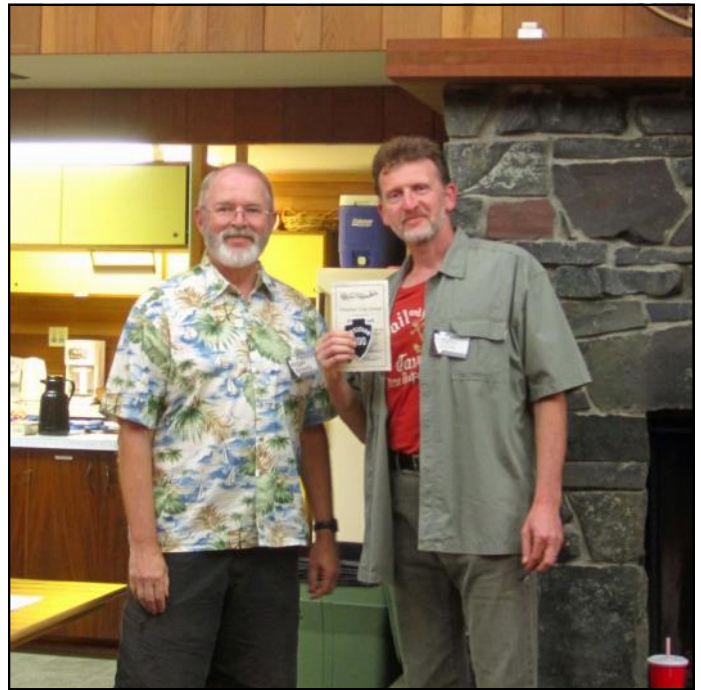
weren't being used and are expensive to replace every two years. So on an Obsidian trip, don't get a headache or indigestion, but insect bites are okay. We asked the Board to approve the formation of an ad-hoc carpooling committee to discuss how the club views its involvement in carpooling. There was an article in the May *Bulletin* reviewing this. The new Safety Manual, now called Safety Policies and Procedures, was approved by the Board in July, for which we are all thankful. It is now on line.

Election of New Board Members: The nominees for membership on the Board for January 2015 through December 2017 were John Cooper, Sharon Cutsforth, and Pat Esch. They were elected unanimously.

Members Who Have Passed On: There was a moment of silence to remember the eleven members/friends who died this year. Three were former Presidents - John Cecil, Vi Johnson, and Ray Cavagnaro. Robert Moffitt joined when he was a teenager, and he and his father started Willi Unsoeld on his mountain climbing career. Willi was the first American to summit Mt. Everest. Dorothy Turner had been a member for about 30 years, and earned her 100 trip award. Barbara Flanders was treasurer for the Bus Committee. Clare Tucker joined in 1991 and led the 4 in 1 Cone hike 15 times. Bill Morse joined in 1979 and was very generous in helping finance the Lodge remodel. Helen Knowlton joined in 1989 and was a bus rider. Ray Dodson was a good neighbor, who lived across the street from the Lodge, and watched out for the Lodge. Jerry Casby was a member from 1983 - 1997.

2014 Awards: 200 Trip Awards: Barb Bruns, Lana Lindstrom *presented by Pat Esch.* **100 Trip Awards:** Kitson Graham *presented in poem form by Laurie Funkhouser,* Susan Sanazaro, Darko Sojak *presented by Holger Krentz,* and Tom Woxell. **25 Leader Award:** Dave Beardsley. **50 Leader Awards:** Joella Ewing *presented by Tom Musselwhite,* and Sam Miller. **75 Leader Award:** Matt Bell *presented by Janet Jacobsen.* **Climbing Awards** were *presented by Brian Hamilton.* **Three Sisters Award:** Roy McCormick for having climbed North/Middle and South Sisters. **10 Peaks Award:** Roy McCormick, for climbing Hood, Jefferson, Three Finger Jack, Washington, North/Middle/and South Sisters, Diamond Peak, Thielsen and Mount McLoughlin. This award qualifies Roy as a "Chief". **Trail Maintenance Awards:** *presented by Matt Bell for having completed at least 15 Trail Maintenance outings to Autumn Edwards,* the youngest person to receive this award, and Roberta Chord. **2014 Special Awards Best Timed Obsidian Award:** Tom Musselwhite *presented by Susan Wanser for happening on the scene and helping a fellow Obsidian get her totally dead car out of a busy intersection.* **First Out of the Gate Award:** Mike Smith *presented by Janet Jacobsen for scouting to lead his first trip before he even became a member.* **Pedal to the Medal Award:** Dave Cooper and Tom Rundle *presented by Janet Jacobsen for going on many, many trips (approximately 50*

each) since joining the Obsidians in March. **Press Pass:** Holger Krentz and Darko Sojak *presented by Janet Jacobsen for submitting photos of Obsidian trips, summer camp, other events.* **Wednesday Mercury Flyer Chocolate Candy bar** *presented by Janet Jacobsen for flying up Spencer*



Butte on the Wednesday hikes: Dave Cooper, May Fogg, Lisa Grissell, Barb Gunther, Bob Johnson, Lana Lindstrom, Carla Lyon, Craig Molitor, Caroline Moore, Jorry Rolfe, Tom Rundle, Karla Rusow, Rick Sandford, Mike Smith, Gary Spizzen, and Tommy Young. **Good Eye Award:** Holger Krantz, *an outstanding Obsidian Photographer presented by Darko Sojak.* **Most Creative, Conscientious, Concessions Manager Award:** Patty MacAfee *presented by Lana Lindstrom.* **First Family of the Year Award:** Betsy, Matt, and Oliver Bell *presented by Lana Lindstrom* **Juggling the Books and Bulletin Articles Award:** Stewart Hoeg *presented by Lana Lindstrom.* **Summer Camp Athletic Supporter Award:** Richard Hughes *presented by Lana Lindstrom.* **Glue Award:** John Jacobsen *presented by Nancy Whitfield for getting the storage building project started and completed.* **Co-Glue Award:** Jim Whitfield *presented by Nancy Whitfield for working hard to complete the storage building project.* **Finishing Touch Award:** Bea Fontana *presented by Nancy Whitfield for providing the finishing touches to the interior of the Obsidian storage building.* **Trail Maintenance Special Awards** *presented by Matt Bell.* **Best Newcomer Award:** David Cooper for going on five trails outings in his 1st year as an Obsidian. **Sisyphus Award:** Dan Gilmore for rolling the most rocks. **Spic and Span Award:** Clara Emlen for making us feel guilty for tracking dirt onto the stairs after she has immaculately cleaned them. **Bribing Baker Award:** Janet Jacobsen for supplying additional snacks to these outings whether she attends or not.

Trip Reports & Other Activities



Climbs

Broken Top

September 6, 2014

Leader: Danneille Harris

Climb: 17 miles, 3,900 ft.

WOW! WHAT A GREAT TRIP. Rarely have I had a climb go so smoothly. Saturday, we hiked to the springs east of Green Lakes to our scenic campsite. Before dinner, we had a chance to go over a few knots and key rope skills to make sure everyone was ready. Sunday morning, we got a 5:15 AM start to insure we would be the first group to the summit. The sunrise from the ridge was amazing. We were surprised to find a group of two climbers ahead of us who had spent the night on the ridge. The other climbers choose a slightly different ascent route so there was little waiting. All seven of our team were enjoying the summit by 8:15 and back to camp by mid-day. The Fall Creek trail was crowded but all made fast time back to the trailhead. We topped off the trip with traditional post-climb ice cream in Oakridge. It was the first Broken Top summit for all except the leader. I was pleased and proud to climb with such a strong and fun team. Good job, y'all! Members: Danneille Harris, Marge Huseman, Todd Larsen, Michael Moffitt. Nonmembers: Pamela Anderson, Kimberly Van Winkle, Erica Benedict-Barta.

Mt. Hubris

September 26, 2014

Leader: Maryanne Reiter

Climb: 7 miles, 2,500 ft.

THE OLD PHRASE ONCE BITTEN, TWICE AS SMART was definitely appropriate for this year's Obsidian climb of Mt. Hubris in the Castle Crags State Park in northern California. Last year, we were shut out of the climb due to the Mazamas beating us to the start. This year we sent out digital scout Marci Hansen (who is a Mazama) to pinpoint exactly when they were planning to climb. The weekend we chose was safe. We left on Friday late afternoon and arrived in northern California later that night. We woke early Saturday AM to make sure we got to the start of the climb before anyone else did. When we got up to the trailhead and saw several people milling around their cars, fear struck in our hearts...Mazamas! But no, it turned out to be another group of four. Still, there was no time to waste. We had to beat them to the start, otherwise we might not be able to climb since the steep rock climb does not have wide ledges or

ways where other groups can pass. The bugle sounded and the call went out...*let's roll!* and off we went. Danni Harris, defying laws of gravity, flew up the trail, while the rest of us labored to keep up. After a while, we realized we actually might die from the approach and so slowed down a bit. We arrived at the start of the climb and were the first ones there! Climbing the five pitches of beautiful granite went flawlessly for the most part. Rope team one leader (aka me) had an incident where one of her pieces of rock protection she had in the crack snagged her other gear and caused her to be momentarily yanked away from the rock. Luckily, those below had helmets on since she dropped a few unlady-like curse bombs while trying to get unstuck. After two rappels, the group was all together at the bottom. Brian Hamilton gets special recognition for rappelling, carrying two coiled ropes on his back; not easy and not fun, but Brian rocked it like a champ. The victorious team of six hit the Black Bear Diner in Shasta City and celebrated with big plates of food. Members: Alexander Ellis, Brian Hamilton, Marci Hansen, Danneille Harris, Maryanne Reiter. Nonmembers: Pamela Anderson.

Three Fingered Jack

September 27, 2014

Leader: Dalen Willhite

Climb: 11 miles, 3,000 ft.

WE STARTED HIKING A BIT AFTER 6:00 AM with the sky around the mountain overcast. As we climbed, the clouds broke up just in time to enjoy the summit. We had a strong group despite a couple of footwear complications and a few folks getting accustomed to the amount of exposure for which Three Fingered Jack is known. Members: Richard Partridge, Brian Vollmer-Buhl, Dalen Willhite. Nonmembers: Liam Beckman, Michael Morris, Mallory Grundstein.



Backpacks

Pacific Crest Trail-Mt. Hood

August 9, 2014

Leader: Becky Lipton

Backpack: 60 miles, 4,000 ft. (Difficult)

KA-CHING! Fifty-seven miles, 14,500 feet of elevation change, 14 blisters, three harrowing stream crossings and one lightning storm later, eight eager Obsidian backpackers completed our first segment of the Pacific Crest Trail through Oregon, past the magnificent Mt. Hood, to the Columbia River in August of 2014! Day 1: Seven miles and where is that gully with the campsite anyway—850 feet up!

After a long drive and tedious car shuttle, eight Obsidians were chomping at the bit to get on the trail at Frog Lake on the Pacific Crest Trail, 2,097.4 miles north of the Mexican border. We said a hasty good-bye to the Harley riders out on their monthly poker ride in the parking lot, debated how far we could hike before nightfall, lined up for our official start-of-the-trip photo and hit the trail by mid-afternoon. As dusk was closing in, we were climbing the south flank of Mt. Hood, with steep slopes on either side of the trail and wondering—where is that spring with the campsite, anyway and will it be large enough for eight tents? In the nick of time, there appeared a spacious campsite with a gully full of rushing water! **Day 2:** Seven miles, including 1,100 feet down and 1,100 feet up. Continuing our backpack trip through the wilderness, we soon saw Timberline Lodge; the buffet table is a legendary destination point amongst backpackers who have hiked over 2,100 miles from Mexico. Our motley crew stopped to load up on energy drinks, sodas, one greasy cheeseburger, and two extra-large beers before crossing under the chair lift carrying summer snowboarders and tourists up the mountain for their brands of entertainment. I won't lie to you—day 2 was tough, with a total of 3,200 feet in elevation change in seven short miles with some soft, sandy trails plus a knee-knocking, leg-quivering river crossing on six inch diameter logs across the roaring Zig Zag River. How do those Mexico to Canada through-hikers do it anyway—20 to 25 miles per day?!?! With our packs weighing in at up to 55 pounds at the start of our trip, we were each eager to eat more and lighten our loads! However, we did enjoy in your face views of Mt. Hood throughout the day. The payoff for our hard work that day was to camp at Paradise Park, a wildflower-stuffed meadow with a tumbling creek and the great Mt. Hood showing off in the changing light of dusk. **Day 3:** Four easy miles and down 2,500 feet. We arrived at the astoundingly beautiful Ramona Falls, a favorite destination point for day hikers, backpackers and horse campers alike, and set up camp by early afternoon. Dumping heavy packs, optional day hiking, waterfall gazing and visiting with scores of through-hikers occupied the remainder of the day. **Day 4:** 12.5 miles, up 1,000 feet, down 1,000 feet, up 600 feet. If days 2 and 3 were high on our list for beauty, then day 4 won the prize for excitement. After two more nerve-racking river crossings, requiring help from each other to manage slippery logs and rocks in rapidly rising and rushing snowmelt, we enjoyed last views of Mt. Hood's snowfields, waterfalls and cascading melt water. Soon after, we sat for lunch and caught our breath. And what did we see? A huge spotted owl looking back at us no more than 60 feet away, just as curious about us as we were with him or her! We enjoyed each other's company for the remainder of our lunch break. We continued our climb up and around Bald Mountain and began our descent down the north flank of Mt. Hood. Rain started falling, with lightning and thunder following suit. There were a series of flashes, crashing booming sounds, and increasing rain across open boulder fields, and through the forest. One man down! Eek! Did he get hit by lightning?!? After a quick all-points check and picking himself up, we continued down the trail, eventually searching for yet another obscure spring and campsite, Salvation Springs, between Devil's Pulpit and Preacher's Peak. Here, we said our

prayers of thanks and attempted to dry off beside a campfire while counting our soggy losses from the wet day. **Day 5:** 11 miles with a 1,300 ft. elevation change, up 500 feet, down 800 feet. After 11 miles of grazing on abundant thimble berries, blueberries and giant huckleberries, we arrived at Wahtum Lake and continued drying our clothing around another campfire. **Day 6:** 9.3 miles, down 2,700 feet. Thursday, we began the 4,000 ft. descent from Mt. Hood, rapidly dropping through the Eagle Creek gorge, one of the most popular and magnificent trails in the Columbia River Gorge. Passing through lush rain forests changing from conifer to hardwood, past dozens of spectacular waterfalls, tall basalt cliffs and unique geologic formations, backpackers and hikers must be sure-footed and unfazed by narrow trails with precipitous drop offs. What a stunning and magical day! That evening, we congratulated ourselves on our accomplishments, reminisced about the amazing week we were completing and began to plan next year's segment of the Pacific Crest Trail! **Day 7:** 6.5 miles, down 1,100 feet, back to civilization. Sigh! We continued down the Eagle Creek gorge and on to Bridge of the Gods at Cascade Locks, completing the week with more waterfalls, basalt cliffs and stopping to watch fledging ospreys. Mom and pop were calling encouragement to three youngsters to take flight from various tree tops. Two were more courageous than the third. When encouragement failed, dive-bombing knocked the last one loose from its perch and voila air borne! In 2015, Obsidians will conquer the next segment of the PCT from Mt. Jefferson to Mt. Hood! Members: Brad Bennett, Rob Boese, Scott Hovis, Becky Lipton, Susan Wanser, Elle Weaver, Sue Wolling. Nonmembers: Kim Davidson-Ruby.

Fall Creek to Broken Top

August 30, 2014

Leader: Becky Lipton

Photographer: Daphne James

Backpack: 17 miles, 1,500 ft. (Difficult)

LOW HANGING CLOUDS COVERED THE PEAKS and bouts of fine, needle-like rain came ever more frequently as six backpackers hiked up the Fall Creek trail past Green Lakes and on towards Park Meadow. On the north side of Broken Top, the group doubled back in the increasing rain and worked their way in to Golden Lake, a once pristine and little-known lake. An intense and prolonged shower challenged all to set up camp quickly and take shelter to ward off hypothermia. Later, folks emerged to create hot dinners between sprinkles. The next morning, we woke to heavy frost on frozen ground, crystal clear skies, and Broken Top and South Sister blatantly in our faces. What incomparable beauty! We enjoyed hiking up the shoulder of Broken Top, with views of all the Sisters and then scrambling down the boulder-filled drainages to Park Meadows, where lunch and sun basking were enjoyed before returning to our campsite to enjoy a lovely sunset that evening. On the third day, we backpacked out, fully satiated from our communion with nature. Compared to three years ago, the evidence of over-use of this small alpine lake was very clear, with denuded terrain and dying trees in the areas suitable for camping. At

least nine backpacking groups plus one rule-enforcing ranger were present again this Labor Day weekend. Rangers liberally issued \$350 tickets for campfires, poorly-buried



personal waste and camping too close to the water. Members: Brad Bennett, Daphne James, Jonathan Jost, Becky Lipton, Tom Rundle, Lynn Stearney.

South Waldo Shelter

October 3, 2014

Leader: Scott Hovis

Backpack: 8 miles, 1,500 ft. (Moderate)

THERE WERE NO SLOWDOWNS ON HIGHWAY 58. There was a sign in Oakridge advising us to expect delays, but that must have been for the construction by Willamette Pass. There is a new green sign telling you where to turn off for Waldo Lake. There was a lot of blow down on the Black Meadow loop hike. Twenty-five logs required us to go under, over or around. There was no firewood in the South Waldo Shelter. I got an email saying a volunteer group was going to cut some. I hope they can beat the snow at this late date. We heard coyotes and very loud birds at night. I guess the bird sounds were owls calling each other. The forest was wet, in large part from heavy dews. The Cy Bingham blazes on the trail junction south of the shelter are fading. Sad, but these 100-year-old markings will be gone in a few years. We didn't see any hunters. Kayakers enjoyed the still waters. Yellow jackets were in large numbers on the trail and in the parking lot. Bicyclists share the path on Waldo Lake. Members: Keiko Bryan, Barbara Gunther, Scott Hovis, Becky Lipton, Tom Rundle. Nonmembers: John Halpern, Meg Stewart Smith, Janel Erickson.



Byways By Bus

Fall Color

October 8, 2014

Leader: Paul Beard, Assistant: Barbara Beard

Photographer: Sharon Cutsforth

OCTOBER 8 WAS A BEAUTIFUL DAY to be on a bus trip seeing the sights and being engulfed in the atmosphere of fall weather and colors. Our bus tour started at 8:00 AM traveling north on Coburg Road to McKenzie View Drive. On this trip, we had a good view of the river near the confluence of the Willamette and the McKenzie, about five miles west of Armitage Park, to its beginning at Clear Lake near the McKenzie Pass. Traveling along the back side of the Coburg Hills, through the little towns of Marcola and Mohawk, we saw a few signs of color along the way, but the vivid full colors did not come into play until we had reached the 3,500 to 4,000 ft. elevation. It was disappointing to see the remains of the fire near Hoodoo Ski Area—still very blackened. However, the vine maple along the roadside, the new noble fir, and some pine along with other vegetation made for a beautiful color combination of vivid red, yellow, orange and many shades of green. Our route took us through Sweet Home, with a coffee break at Cascadia State Park, giving us many great sights. We arrived in Sisters about



11:30 AM. A scattering of 24 Obsidians and friends into the town was quite a sight. Some were meeting relatives for lunch, some were enjoying lunch at their own cabin and several groups were just enjoying the many quaint lunch opportunities on the Sisters strip. Leaving the area about 2:30 PM allowed us to take a side trip to the headwaters of the Metolius River, a first for several of the riders. Mt. Jefferson with a touch of snow, the blue sky, and of course the crystal-clear Metolius flowing out of the ground was a lovely sight. Lots of cameras were snapping in this beautiful, picture-perfect weather. A quick stop at Sahalie Falls was also a first for some riders. Following the McKenzie River back to Eugene, we saw almost the entire river from start to finish. We could not have asked for a more perfect day to see what Mother Nature had up her sleeve for 24 happy Obsidians and friends. Members: Thomas Adamcyk, Ethel Allen, Bill Arthur, Barbara Beard, Paul Beard, Paula Beard, Mary Lee Cheadle, Sharon Cutsforth, Rose Mary Etter, Donna Halker, Mary Hawkes, Marge Hislop, Patricia Jeffries, John McMannigal, Lenore McManigal, Craig Molitor, Barbara Payne, Don Payne, Judy Phelps, Virginia Prouty, Mary Ellen West, Cristy White. Nonmembers: Joanna Molitor, Rebah Pickar.



Bike Trips

Detering Orchard

October 4, 2014

Leader: Patricia Esch

Photographer: Darko Sojak

Bike: 22 miles, 25 ft. (Moderate)

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY WE HAD FOR A FALL BIKE RIDE! Starting in Coburg, we went north along fields sprouting winter wheat and new grass and the birders among us spotted three kinds of hawks. One flat tire later, we arrived at a VERY busy Detering Orchard, but we snagged a picnic table in



the shade for lunch. Of course there was free apple cobbler for dessert and even on-the-spot-made apple sauce and apple cider. Ice cream was 50 cents. Detering's October festivities have mushroomed, now including a playground and port-o-potties. No more standing in line for the one-each bathrooms. Wagon loads of apples and patrons clutching pumpkins streamed by and a band entertained us as well. The younger generation of Deterings has taken over, including the wandering family labs. Members: Barbara Aten, Anne Bonine, Clara Emlen, Patricia Esch, Don Kindt, Lana Lindstrom, Michael Moffitt, Joe Sanders, Carolyn Sojak, Darko Sojak. Nonmembers: Kitty (Kathleen) Griffin, Pierce Griffin.

McKenzie View/Coburg Bottom Loop

October 19, 2014

Leader: Guy Strahon

Bike: 25 miles, 300 ft. (Moderate)

ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, four lucky bikers enjoyed one of the nicest October days in recent history. It was 79 degrees, no wind, almost a complete reversal of last year. In 2013, it was raining and cold, and we quit at lunch because it was miserable! We had a very pleasant ride, trees turning color, light car traffic, just wonderful. We rode out McKenzie View to Hill Road, and then returned to Coburg Road. We continued north into the town of Coburg for lunch at the Coburg Pizza Company. After a nice lunch, we rode out Bottom Loop Road and then back to

Coburg and then back to our starting point, the ShopCo parking lot on Coburg Road. Members: Barbara Bruns, Barbara Gunther, Guy Strahon, Judy Terry.



Hikes

Umpqua River aka Fall Creek

September 6, 2014

Leader: Jane Hackett

Hike: 6 miles, 200 ft. (Easy)

WE HAD A SLIGHT CHANGE IN DESTINATION and went to Fall Creek. With just the two of us, we decided to stay closer to home and save some gas. Jade had not hiked Fall Creek before so we had a great day there. We hiked in the shade and only ran into two people on the trail all day. I think the football game had something to do with this. Fall Creek is at its lowest level now, so the pools for swimming were there to view. Members: Jane Hackett. Nonmembers: Jade Isa.

Jefferson Park and PCT Ridgeline

September 13, 2014

Leader: Becky Lipton

Photographer: David Cooper

Hike: 15 miles, 2,600 ft. (Difficult)

TEN HIKERS HIKED TO JEFFERSON PARK and on up to the ridgeline on the Pacific Crest Trail, overlooking the alpine lake basin at the base of Mt Jefferson. The day was beautiful, sunny and warm. The views were outstanding. Members: Juliana Cichy, David Cooper, Bob Harrison, Steven Johnson, Becky Lipton, Chris Melton, Susan Wanser. Nonmembers: Malissa Bare, Aaron Rohrer, Eric Selker.



SOLV Beach Cleanup

September 27, 2014

Leader: Joella Ewing

Photographer: Tom Musselwhite

Hike: 4 miles, 0 ft. (Easy)

Seven Obsidians scoured the beach near Winchester Bay for debris on a lovely day, but the good news is that most of us

found the beach and adjoining sand dunes relatively clean. Tom Giesen found more items than the others and the most unusual item, a complete toilet seat. There were several dead birds. Tom Musselwhite watched a baby seal from a distance slide into the water away from approaching people. Most of us picked up bottles, cans and bits of plastic and styrofoam. Lunch at the Harbor Light in Reedsport completed a very pleasant day. Members: Joella Ewing, Tom Giesen, Tom Musselwhite, Barbara Schomaker, Michelle Tambellini. Nonmembers: Cheryl Belleau, Claire Belleau.



Amazon Headwaters-Spencer Butte
October 1, 2014 through October 22, 2014
Leader: Janet Jacobsen
Hike: 6.2 miles, 1,530 ft. (Moderate)

THE HIKERS BY DATE WERE: OCTOBER 1—Members: David Cooper, Janet Jacobsen, Lana Lindstrom, Craig Molitor, Caroline Moore, Jorry Rolfe, Mike Smith. Nonmembers: Carla Lyon. **OCTOBER 8**—Members: David Cooper, Alan Curtis, Barbara Gunther, Janet Jacobsen, Caroline Moore, Jorry Rolfe, Tom Rundle, Tommy Young. Nonmembers: Carla Lyon. **OCTOBER 15**—Members: David Cooper, Barbara Gunther, Janet Jacobsen, Bob Johnson, Craig Molitor, Jorry Rolfe, Tom Rundle, Mike Smith. Nonmembers: Caroline Moore. **OCTOBER 22**—Members: David Cooper, Barbara Gunther, Janet Jacobsen, Craig Molitor, Jorry Rolfe, Tom Rundle, Mike Smith. Nonmembers: Theresa Lyon, Caroline Moore, Adrian Salge.

River Campus Loop
October 3, 2014
Leader: Janet Jacobsen
Photographer: Carla Cooper
Hike: 5.2 miles, 50 ft. (Easy)

RICK AHRENS BECAME OUR INSIGHTFUL GUIDE for our walk through campus and along the river to the Whilamut Passage Bridge. He pointed out that the 400-pound polished cast bronze Pegasus located on the roof of the Knight Library moves with the wind. Rick encouraged us to make a stop at the atrium in Willamette Hall to check out the elements. In need of a restroom, we opted to explore the first floor of the Center for Student Athletes. It was a brightly-

colored autumn day to walk along the river noting the Talking Stones and art near the canal bridge. For a change of pace, we walked by Autzen Stadium to check out the energy level from the sad game the night before. A snack at the Duck Shop gave us the energy to walk back to campus to eat lunch in the courtyard at the Museum of Art. The last stop was to view Norma Bassett Hall's color block prints, particularly those depicting the Oregon coast and Mt. Hood. We had rave reviews for the diversity of our five-hour amble. Members: Rick Ahrens, Anne Bonine, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Janet Jacobsen, Effie Neth.



Four-In-One Cone
October 5, 2014
Leader & Photographer: Mike Smith
Hike: 10.5 miles, 1,500 ft. (Moderate)

FIRST, AN APOLOGY TO ONE PERSON EXCLUDED, who could have gone, had I not left a space and dropped the number to 11. I had one person who could not sign up online, and I thought by leaving a space on the signup list, that would accommodate him. Wrong. We had a beautiful, sunny day in the Cascades, and our group had Jeff Jones, a biologist now working in Burns, join us. We got to the trailhead at 9:15 AM and had an uneventful hike up to the rim of Four-in-One Cone, arriving there a little after 11:00. The distance is about 10.5 - 11.0 miles round trip, depending upon how much people want to walk along the rim. We took



a group picture, had lunch, saw the four cones, and had excellent views. The walk back was mostly uneventful (there is a wasp nest about a mile and a quarter in from the trailhead, and another couple reported getting stung; we had one minor casualty). Hearing Fumiyo say that this was the kind of hike she could imagine bringing others along was really nice. I hope to have my wife complete the hike too. It's work, but it is not a killer. Members: Dick Hildreth, Janet Jacobsen, Daphne James, Jonathan Jost, Andrew McIvor, Jorry Rolfe, Randy Sinnott, Art Skach, Mike Smith, Fumiyo Tao. Nonmembers: Jeff Jones.

Mt. Pisgah-Sunset/Moonrise

October 8, 2014

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Photographer: Darko Sojak

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

WE CELEBRATED DARKO'S 100TH TRIP with a swirled red sunset and a dramatic red moonrise. Marianne Camp was the first to point out the red glow where the moon slowly emerged. Members: Marianne Camp, David Cooper, Janet Jacobsen, Jorry Rolfe, Darko Sojak.



Ridgeline Trail Loop

October 18, 2014

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 6 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

THE NEW CONNECTING TRAIL BETWEEN WEST AND NORTH BALDY TRAILHEADS WAS THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE HIKE. We started at Amazon Headwaters Trailhead to Mt. Baldy at 1,233 ft. and then down the powerline road to complete the loop. It took around 2 1/2 hours. Members: Janet Jacobsen, Andrew McIvor. Nonmembers: Dennis Bohlmann.

The Twins

October 19, 2014

Leader & Photographer: Sam Miller

Hike: 6.6 miles, 1,600 ft. (Moderate)

TERRY RICHARD, THE TRAVEL AND OUTDOOR REPORTER FOR THE OREGONIAN, described The Twins hike near



Waldo Lake as one of the best walks in the Willamette Pass area. If you've done this short ramble, you will likely agree with his designation. Good fortune has a role when scheduling fall hikes as Oregon's weather transitions from agreeable days to leaden skies. Our group experienced The Twins on a pleasant, sunny day prior to the onset of a week or more of extended rain. Passing through the tree corridor on the lower flanks of the Twins, we ascended the summit crater, found a comfortable lunch spot with views of the Waldo Lake area, the Three Sisters, Diamond Peak, and other Cascade promontories, and then descended to the trailhead. Members: Jennifer Baer, Dick Hildreth, Janet Jacobsen, Debbie Krakauer, Lana Lindstrom, Sam Miller, Art Skach.

Mt. Baldy-New Connector Trail

October 26, 2014

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Photographer: Holger Krentz

Hike: 5.5 miles, 750 ft. (Moderate)

OUR LOOP HIKE STARTED AT THE MARTIN STREET TRAILHEAD up to the Fox Hollow Trailhead, and then to the new connecting or missing link trail to the Dillard East Trailhead. An old sign, Ed's Trail, posted on a tree was a mystery. The heavy rain started just as we reached the new red stop sign, warning hikers and bikers to watch for traffic before crossing Dillard Rd. Four of us drudged silently peering out of



our rain gear up to the top of Mt. Baldy, down to Spring Trailhead and looping back to the East Dillard Trailhead. We then chose to explore an old trail near the Power Line Road, taking us quickly back to Martin Street. Our hike took two hours and 15 minutes. One hiker commented, "This is like a real hike!" Members: Janet Jacobsen, Holger Krentz, Tom Rundle, Michael Wolf.



Trail Maintenance

National Public Lands Day

September 27, 2014

Leader: Matthew Bell

Photographer: Pat Soussan

Trail Maintenance: 2 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

THE FIRST SATURDAY MORNING OUTING of our winter schedule, we met at the main Spencer Butte

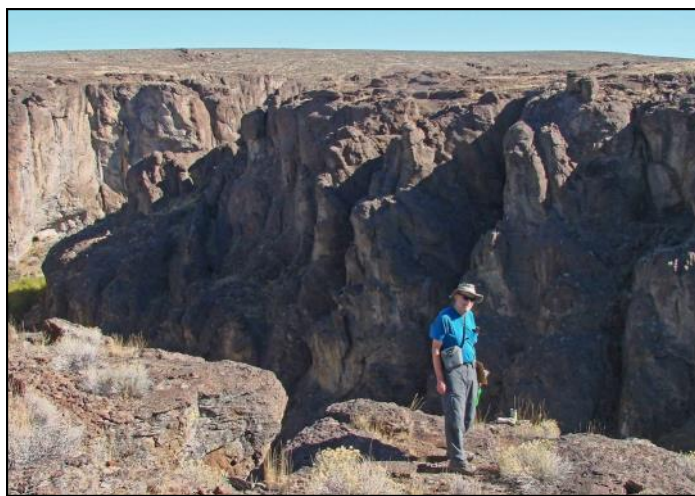


parking lot. We broke into four groups and took on several tasks. Dan, Todd, and I continued doing rock work on the West Trail. Dave and Pat raked duff from the West Trail and cut back overhanging vine maples. We worked to improve and repair five steps. Clara worked diligently to clean the kiosk and stairs. Janet, Roberta, and Autumn hiked the Main Trail up to the Junction Meadow checking culverts, picking up litter, and cutting back overhanging vine maples. Members: Matthew Bell, Roberta Chord, Autumn Edwards, Clara Emlen, Dan Gilmore, Janet Jacobsen, Todd Larsen, Dave Predeek, Pat Soussan.

(Owyhee continued from page 3)

two young ladies who were part of a four-person group on a three-day trek down Louse Canyon. The group was led by former ONDA staff member, Chris Hansen. A photographer from *Backpacker Magazine* was going to photograph the event for an article on hiking out-of-the-way places. The article should appear in *Backpacker* by next summer. Corie and I hiked with the group to the starting point at the bottom of the canyon. Here the vertical canyon walls were reflected off a clear pool where the group stopped to filter drinking water. It was incredibly beautiful.

Corie and I continued north by jeep over some of the

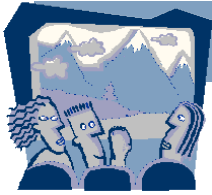


roughest roads imaginable. We had a map indicating numerous spur roads to check. After an hour of driving we finally stopped where the GPS indicated the location of a primitive road. We walked to the canyon and peered over the rim and still no spur road was in sight anywhere—the road shown on the map was actually a cow path. The presence of a jeep road might be reason to exclude the area from Wilderness but certainly not a cow path. In the course of the day we opened and closed numerous barbed-wire gates and took many pictures. In the evening we compared notes with the other groups and formulated the next day's agenda.

The next morning I accompanied Michael and his former college roommate Joe, on another road and trail inspection tour north of Louse Canyon. In the afternoon we visited a rare string of wet meadows on the high plateau. Several spring-fed cattle watering troughs assured frequent grazing in the area. It was not a pretty sight. The vegetation was cropped very short and the damp soil was pulverized by cattle hooves. Damage to some of the meadows was severe. Hopefully someday the canyon and high desert ecosystems will enjoy increased protection.

That evening was our last at Anderson Crossing. We drove to the rim of the canyon overlooking camp and watched the sunset. The moon was almost full and the air was mild and clear. We had a great group of people that weekend and I enjoyed immensely working with them.

At The Lodge

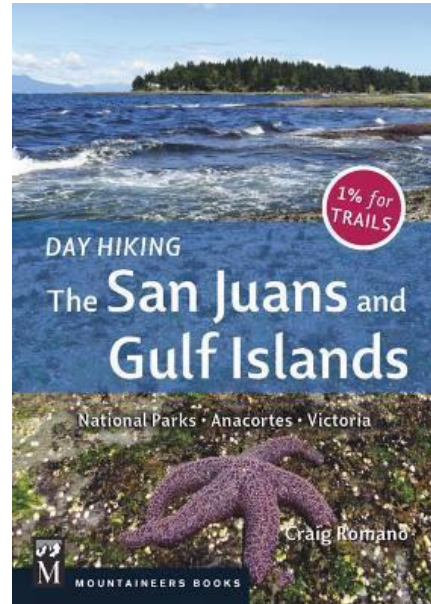


POTLUCK

Friday November 14 at 6:30 PM

Day Hiking the San Juan and Gulf Islands

AWARD-WINNING GUIDEBOOK AUTHOR CRAIG ROMANO will be spotlighting some of the best hiking destinations within the Salish Sea, drawing from his new release *Day Hiking the San Juans and Gulf Islands* (*The Mountaineers Books*). Come learn about fascinating trails in the new San Juan National Monument and Gulf Islands National Park Reserve. Discover trails on undeveloped islands, secluded beaches, rugged coastal bluffs, and magnificent old-growth forests. Explore state and provincial parks, nature preserves, historic sites, lighthouses, hilltops and open bluffs that burst with wildflowers.



November Potluck
Friday, November 14, 2014
Social hour 6 PM, 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.

Bring New Wool Socks to the Stocking Stuffers Hike/Lunch

Jan Jacobsen

Tuesday, December 16

OBSIDIAN HIKERS HAVE DEFINITE OPINIONS about their wool socks. Toe holes in my medium and heavy weight Smart Wool socks prompted me to ask other members what brand of sock they recommend. Caroline Moore stands by Ice Breakers while Lana Lindstrom had no problems with the REI medium weight. Pat Soussan and Jane Hackett preferred the less costly Costco merino wool. A guest on trail maintenance also complained about medium weight Smart Wool toe holes and then slipped off her boots to show me her colorful light weight Smart Wool socks that never had toe holes.

Joella Ewing's comment that wool socks are the items most needed at the Egan Warming Centers gave pause for thought. We put our heads (not our feet) together and decided to lead a Stocking Stuffer 2-3 mile hike on the Ribbon Trail, with a follow-up bowl of chili at the Lodge. The catch? Please bring a pair of new wool socks for Joella to take to the Egan Warming Center. What brand is up to you! For details, sign up online. If you would like to help with the lunch, call Joella at 344-9197.

Upcoming



Bus Trips

Christmas Lights at River Forks Park

Tuesday, December 2, 2014

Leader: Verna Kocken

Cost: \$57 (\$59 nonmembers)

Reservations and checks to: Liz Reanier, 687-1925

RIVER FORKS PARK, NEAR ROSEBURG, features a wonderful Christmas lights display that grows more spectacular each year. We will leave Shopko parking lot at 3:45 PM, arriving at Applebee's Restaurant in Roseburg for a nice dinner (cost included). After a brief tour of the Roseburg city lights, including a sweep past the Douglas County Courthouse, we will drive through the light display at the park and return home by 9:00 PM.

Bus Trip News—2015

SAVE THE DATE: A Yellowstone & Grand Tetons National Parks bus trip is scheduled for September 13–19, 2015. Full details will be available in January. Co-leaders: Sharon Cutsforth and Judy Phelps.

NOTE: We are not scheduling the Klamath Falls Eagles 'N More trip in 2015 due to extreme lack of water in the Klamath refuges. Other birding options are being researched.

Outdoor First Aid Class Change

THE NATIONAL SKI PATROL has changed their requirements, so we will not be offering certification for this course (too expensive now). Other than that, Laurie will teach the course as planned. See the October *Bulletin* for course details.

The signup sheet will go online Tuesday, November 11, 2014.

Welcome New Members

Lyon, Carla
3292 Dapple Way
Eugene, OR 97401
683-7333
sealyon11@comcast.net

Morris, Michael
3250 West 18th Avenue,
Eugene, OR 97401
540-660-2860
mmorris7@gmail.com

Obsidian Calendar

November

9 Sun **Eel Creek Hike M**..... Hackett 953-7046
12 Wed **Spencer Butte Hike M** Jacobsen 343-8030
14 Fri **Hiking San Juan Islands** **Potluck**
19 Wed **Spencer Butte Hike M** Jacobsen 343-8030
26 Wed **Spencer Butte Hike M** Jacobsen 343-8030
28 Fri **Turkey Trimming Hike M** Lindstrom..... 683-1409
29 Sat **Spencer Butte Trail Trl Mnt M** Bell..... 503-884-8829

December

2 Tue **Christmas Lights** Bus Kocken 736-5180
3 Wed **Spencer Butte Hike M** Jacobsen 343-8030
16 Tue **Stocking Stuffer Hike E** Ewing..... 344-9197
21 Sun **Three Mile Lake Hike M** Lipton..... 736-7498
21 Sun **Pisgah/Solstice Hike E** Jacobsen 343-8030

January

1 Thu **Spencer Butte Hike M** Jacobsen 343-8030
8 Thu **Outdoor First Aid** Class Esch..... 338-8280
10 Jan **Berley Lakes Xski M** Sinnott 915-0234

March

1 Sun **Booth Lake Loop Xski D** Miller 484-4586

April

4 Sat **Sand Mountain Xski D** Miller 484-4586

Classifieds

2009 Subaru Forester for sale
Leather interior, loaded, hitch
75,000 miles
\$17,500
Contact Pam at 525-4848





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November/December 2014



Photo by Daphne James from Broken Top backpack trip (See report on page 13)