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Dates to Remember

February 16	ExploraTalk
February 21	Bus Rally
February 26	Potluck
February 27	Bulletin deadline
March 2	Board Meeting

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

2016 Bus Rally

Bus Rally 2016
February 21, 2-4 PM
Obsidians Lodge

ONCE AGAIN THE BUS COMMITTEE INVITES OBSIDIAN MEMBERS and guests to join us for the Annual Bus Trips Rally at the Lodge, Sunday, February 21, 2–4 PM. *(Please note: 2–4 PM is a time change from previous years.)* This will be a time to hear leaders share details of their trips, to ask questions, pick up a copy of the yearly bus trips schedule, and sign up for trips you are interested in. Refreshments will be provided. Bus trips this year will cover a wide variety of activities: bird watching, learning about food production, enjoying a safe close-up view of wild animals, exploring Oregon’s history, visiting a world class rock and mineral museum, enjoying the Oregon coast from north to south as we visit various lighthouses, and touring a new marine museum and aquarium. Along the way we will enjoy spending time with old and new friends—why not come along?

Editor’s note: See the 2016 Bus Schedule on page 11.

Camp Robertson Update

THE 2016 OBSIDIAN SUMMER CAMP—Camp Robertson—will be July 30–August 5 at the Lions Camp Lamoille in the Ruby Mountains south of Elko, Nevada. The Summer Camp Committee continues planning for this great camp and here are some of our latest updates:

Summer Camp Signup

Registering for Summer Camp will be by online signup starting on Tuesday, March 15 about 7:00 AM, followed within five days by submitting by mail your registration form along with your camp fees. Obsidian members will have signup preference for one week. A registration form will be included as an insert with your March Obsidian *Bulletin* and will also be available as a download from the Obsidian website.

Summer Camp Fees

We are closing in on fees for camp and it looks like they will be: \$230 members, \$270 nonmember adults and children, \$180 child (6–12), and free for children five and under. A hardship subsidy of \$50 is available to members only. There are still some costs involving meals to be finalized, but unless final quotes vary significantly from initial discussions, we hope fees hold as stated. Note that full fees are due within five days of online signup—we no longer accept an initial deposit followed by the balance at a later date.

Summer Camp Rally

The Summer Camp Rally will be Friday, May 13 at 7:00 PM at the Obsidian Lodge. The Rally will include details about Camp Robertson including what to expect, what to bring, maps of the area, a slideshow of the Rubies and a lot more. You will be able to pick up your Camp Robertson Booklet at the Rally and ask

(Continued on page 2)

Obituary

Harvey Speck 1924—2016

HARVEY AND HIS WIFE BOTH JOINED THE OBSIDIANS IN 1990 and their main interest was bus trips. They went on 13 activities and 29 bus trips. They jointly led a bus trip to London, Paris and Florence—Oregon, not Europe—and at each town they provided food typical of that European city. A fun idea that was enjoyed by all on the trip.

Harvey passed away on January 11, 2016.

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

(Camp continued from page 1)

any questions you may have. *Note: This is not the May potluck, so don't bring food.*

Summer Camp Staffing

Camp Food Manager—Lana Lindstrom has taken on the Food Manager position for camp. Lana has a wealth of experience in past years with both coordinating camp food as well as running the whole thing. Thanks Lana. She is searching for help with several positions related to feeding everyone, so if you think you might be interested in helping her out please contact her.

Camp Booklet Author—Laurie Funkhouser is writing the camp booklet again this year. She has a pile of reference material in hand and is busy putting pen to paper... or that would be fingers to keyboard. Your booklet will be available for you at the Camp Robertson Rally.

Camp Treasurer—Don Doerr continues as Summer Camp Treasurer again this year.

Camp Teamster—Because of the extensive facilities at Lions Camp Lamoille we will not need to bring much of the usual camp equipment this year, thus avoiding renting the big yellow truck, and getting a small trailer instead. Jim Whitfield has agreed to pull the trailer to and from camp for us.

Welcome New Members

Kathie Carpenter
Eugene

Vern Marsonette
Springfield

Kellie Green
Eugene

Blue Wesley
Eugene

THE OBSIDIANS FACEBOOK PAGE
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OBSIDIANS, INC

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405

Website: www.obsidians.org

Board of Directors

Shellie Robertson, President
Laurie Funkhouser, Vice President
David Cooper, Secretary
Stewart Hoeg, Treasurer
John Cooper, Sharon Cutsforth, Pat Esch,
Todd Larsen & Maryanne Reiter.

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

Committee Chairpersons

Byways By Bus..... Sharon Cutsforth
Climbs..... Maryanne Reiter
Concessions TBA
Conservation/SciEd.....John Pegg
Entertainment... Lana Lindstrom/Judy Ness
Extended Trips..... Lana Lindstrom
Finance..... Stewart Hoeg
Librarian/Historian..... Lenore McManigal
Lodge Building Doug Nelson
Lodge Grounds John Jacobsen
Membership Laurie Funkhouser
Online Wayne Deeter
Publications Lou Maenz
Publicity..... Jan Jacobsen
Safety..... Pat Esch
Summer Camp John Jacobsen
Summer Trips John Cooper
Trail Maintenance Matt Bell
Winter Trips..... Anne Bonine

The OBSIDIAN Bulletin

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The Obsidian Bulletin

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Deadline

for March 2016 Bulletin

Saturday, February 27, 2016

January

Assembly/Mailing Team

*Assembly & Mail Manager: Lou Maenz
Team: Tom Adamcyk, Don Baldwin,
Sharon Cutsforth, Clara Emlen, Yuan
Hopkins, Lenore McManigal, Margaret
Prentice, Barbara Shomaker & Martha
Welches.*

Editorial Team

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

*Copy Editors - Ethel Weltman & Nancy
White*

*Graphics Design & Desktop Publishing -
Stewart Hoeg*

Thank You, Thank You, Grazie, Danke, Merci, Arigato, Tak...

2016 Committee Members:

Summer Trips: John Cooper (chair), Janet Jacobsen, Mike Smith, David Cooper, Lana Lindstorm, Judy Terry, Lyndell Wilken, Joella Ewing, Jan Anselmo, Kathy Randall and Jane Hackett

Winter Trips: Anne Bonine (chair), John Cooper, Judy Terry and Elle Weaver

Climbs: Maryanne Reiter (chair), Wayne Deeter, Alex Ellis, Brian Hamilton, Marci Hansen, Danni Harris, Marge Huseman, Juli McGlinsky, Doug Nelson, Shellie Robertson, Dalen Willhite

Trail Maintenance: Matt Bell (chair), Pat Soussan, Dan Gilmore, Clara Emlen, Todd Larsen, David Cooper

Highways and Byways By Bus: Sharon Cutsforth (chair), Tom Adamcyk, Rick Ahrens, Ethel Allen, Bill Arthur, Barbara Beard, Paul Beard, Mary Lee Cheadle, Ray Jensen, Verna Kocken, Lenore McManigal, Barbara Payne, Don Payne, Judy Phelps, Liz Reanier, Janet Speelman, Richard Speelman, Mary Ellen West

Summer Camp: John Jacobsen (chair), Don Doerr, Lana Lindstrom, and Laurie Funkhouser

Extended Trips: Lana Lindstrom (chair), Jim Duncan, Pat Esch, Chris Shuraleff, Chris Stockdale, and Nancy Whitfield

Conservation, Science, & Education: John Pegg (chair), Dave Predeek, Joella Ewing, Mike Smith, Shirley Cameron, David Strutin, Brian and Liz Vollmer-Buhl, Effie Neth, Tom Musselwhite, and Roy McCormick

Publication: Lou Maenz (chair), Bea Fontana, Stewart Hoeg, Janet Jacobsen, Joanne Ledet, Ethel Weltman and Nancy White

Entertainment: Judy Ness & Lana Lindstrom (co-chairs), Joella Ewing, Laurie Funkhouser, Judy Garwood, Kathy Hoeg, Yvan Hopkins, Mary Livingston, Meg Stewart Smith, Susan Wanser

Membership: Judy Sinnott, Diane Schechter, Roberta Chord, John Jacobsen, Carla Lyon, Betty Grant, Dave Lodeeson, and Laurie Funkhouser (chair).

Publicity: Janet Jacobsen (chair), Carla Cooper, Elizabeth Glover, Mary Hamilton, Brian Hamilton, Mark Hougardy, John Jacobsen, Darko Sojak, Jorry Rolfe

Concessions: (no chair) Patricia MacAfee, Pat Bean, Keiko Bryan, Darlene Mancuso, Laurie Funkhouser, Janet Hall and Carla Cooper

Online: Wayne Deeter (chair), Jan Anselmo, Marci Hansen, John Jacobsen, Shellie Robertson

Finance: Stewart Hoeg (chair), Barb Bruns, Dan Christensen, Don Doerr, Dave Hawkins, Lana Lindstrom

Library/Historian: Lenore McManigal (chair), Janet Jacobsen

Lodge Building: Doug Nelson (chair), Brian Hamilton, John Jacobsen, Cat Nelson

Lodge Grounds: John Jacobsen (chair), Clara Emlen, Doug Nelson, Jim Whitfield.

Safety: Pat Esch (chair), Anne Bonine, Winter Trips rep. Sharon Cutsforth, Bus Trips rep. Maryanne Reiter, Climbs rep. Judy Terry, Summer Trips rep. Lyndell Wilken, At-Large rep.

Ad Hoc Memberships Class Review: Laurie Funkhouser (chair), Sharon Cutsforth, John Jacobsen, Janet Jacobsen, Dave Cooper

Premium Members

Platinum Members (\$200 or more)

Dick Hildreth, David Lodeesen, Kathryn Madden, Mike Smith, and Birgitte Williams

Gold Members (\$100-199)

Barbara Aten, Joan Bradley, Deb Carver, Margot Fetz, Don Hunter, John Jacobsen, Janet Jacobsen, Michael Landes, Andrew McIvor, John McManigal, Lenore McManigal, John Pegg, Liz Reanier, Velma Shirk, David Strutin, Judy Terry, Elle Weaver, and Sue Wolling.

Silver Members (\$50-99)

Don Baldwin, Jennifer Barnes, Donald Bienvenue, Anne Bonine, Max Brown, Rob Castleberry, Dallas Cole, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Alan Curtis, Sharon Cutsforth, Wendy Dame, Don Doerr, Jim Duncan, Sharon Duncan, Larry Dunlap, Rose Mary Etter, Leah Firth, Judy Garwood, Elizabeth Glover, Barbara Gunther, Richard Heinzkill, Scott Hovis, Verna Kocken, Debbie Krakauer, Joanne Ledet, Carla Lyon, July McGlinsky, David Meredith, Sam Miller, Chuck Mitchell, Michael Moffitt, Caroline Moore, Cat Nelson, Doug Nelson, Joyce Norman, Jack O'Donnell, Kathy Randall, Ruth Romoser, Tom Rundle, Karla Rusow, Gordon Sayre, Carol Scherer, Karen Sieradski, Richard Sundt, Pamela Swisher, Ron Swisher, Dan Udovic, Nancy Whitfield,

Board Notes

By Dave Cooper

President Shellie Robertson called the meeting to order. Other Board members present: Matt Bell, David Cooper, John Cooper, Sharon Cutsforth, Pat Esch, Laurie Funkhouser, Todd Larsen, and Maryanne Reiter. Also present were: Wayne Deeter, Stewart Hoeg, John Jacobsen, Lana Lindstrom, Doug Nelson, John Pegg and Anne Bonine.

The Board approved the minutes of the January 2016 meeting.

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

The Board approved that the 2015 investment income that was approved to be allocated to the capital fund.

OLD BUSINESS

The Ad Hoc Membership Committee has a rough draft of changes and will meet again on February 19.

Committees are in the process of updating their web pages to reflect 2016 changes.

Still no volunteer to chair the Concession Committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Summer Trips (John Cooper): All trip reports for the 2015 season have now been submitted and approved. Summer Trips Committee is scheduled to meet Feb. 24 to begin planning for the upcoming season.

Winter Trips (Anne Bonine): January was an excellent month with 17 hikes, 4 xski and 2 snowshoe trips. 173 members and 32 nonmembers participated.

Climbs (Maryanne Reiter): The climbs committee continues to work on getting ready for the 2016 Basic Mountaineering Course, which starts March 28. We are changing the way the students pay and provide background information. We will have a PayPal option as well as an option to send in a check. They will also fill out a Google Doc with their background information online, which will automatically provide a digital copy of the information rather than needing to re-enter it all. We are also starting to populate the list of climbs to be offered for the 2016 season. Finally, we are working on how to offer intermediate climbing skills to the community.

Trail Maintenance (Matthew Bell): There was one outing this past month at the Martin Street Trailhead of the Amazon Headwaters Trail. We worked to plant about 30 plants including trees, ocean spray, Oregon grape, etc. After completing the planting portion in about 10 minutes, we worked to place wood chips around all the plants. Our volunteers forked into wheelbarrows, pushed wheelbarrows, and spread about 25 yards of wood chips during the remaining nearly three hours.

Highways and Byways By Bus (Sharon Cutsforth): The Bus Committee has eight trips planned for 2016. Trip descriptions and details will be available at the Feb. 21 Bus Rally at the Lodge and will also be posted on the website later this month.

Summer Camp (John Jacobsen): The Summer Camp Committee met January 18 to continue planning for Camp Robertson. A preliminary budget was established and preliminary camp fees set. Online signup will start on Tuesday, March 15. The Summer Camp Rally will be Friday, May 13 at the Obsidian Lodge. Note: this is not the May potluck.

Extended Trips (Lana Lindstrom): Two new extended trips were added in January: a two day trip to Portland in March and a five day trip rafting the Owyhee River in May. Both are almost fully subscribed.

Conservation, Science, & Education (John Pegg): Thanks to Joella's help and her prior organization, I got to work on the 2016 Agenda. This included booking the Tuesday dates for Explora Talks at the Lodge.

Entertainment (Judy Ness & Lana Lindstrom): Fifty-eight people attended Lana Lindstrom's *Skiing in the Shadow of Denali and the Aurora Borealis* presentation at the January potluck.

Membership (Laurie Funkhouser): The current membership totals 443.

Concessions: The Committee met on January 30, 2016 to discuss the future of the committee. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 15, at noon at the Lodge.

Online (Wayne Deeter): There are now 6,594 photos in 457 albums in the Obsidian photo gallery. From our Facebook page maintainers (Shellie and Marci, Marci reporting): There were 16 new followers to the Obsidians page in the month of January.

Finance (Stewart Hoeg): Discussed via email a recommendation for the allocation of 2015 investment income.

Lodge Building (Doug Nelson): One rental scheduled for a staff/board retreat for the McKenzie River Trust on Saturday, Feb. 6.

Ad Hoc Memberships Class Review (Laurie Funkhouser): The Ad Hoc Committee has a meeting scheduled for 2/19/16. The recommended revisions to the Constitution are near completion and the Committee will review auxiliary documents to ensure consistency.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board voted to send a letter of support for the McKenzie River Ranger District's grant proposal for funds to be used in the reconstruction of the Tamolitch Pool section of the McKenzie River Trail

Five new Active Members were approved by the Board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Feb. 16 talk and slide show by Larry Deckman entitled *Journey to the Outskirts of the Universe*.

Feb. 21 Bus Rally at the Lodge 2—4 PM

Bill Sullivan will be presenting updates to his Eastern Oregon book at the February 26 potluck.

February's trail maintenance project will be building new trail in the City's Wild Iris Ridge area on Feb 27.

The meeting adjourned for food at Ta Ra Rin.

Trip Reports & Other Activities



Trail Maintenance

Amazon Headwaters Causeway Cleaning #1
December 15, 2015
Leader: Matthew Bell
Trail Maintenance: 0.5 miles, 100 ft. (Moderate)

OUR GROUP OF FIVE VOLUNTEERS met at the Fox Hollow Trailhead on an atypical day for an Obsidian trail maintenance outing (a Tuesday) to attempt to finish cleaning the long wooden causeway on the Amazon Headwaters Trail. With our weeders in hand and our backs stooped, we scraped, stabbed, whacked, and gouged the duff, dirt, and rocks out of the gaps between the boards on the long causeway. We also used brooms and square-bladed shovels to remove moss and put the finishing touches on a job well done. Quite astoundingly, we were able to get all 139 gaps cleaned—139 is my estimate; for the actual total, please ask Mike Smith. Members: Matthew Bell, David Cooper, Larry Dunlap, Mike Smith. Nonmembers: Alex Lockfeld.

Amazon Headwaters Causeway Cleaning #2
December 17, 2015
Leader: Matthew Bell
Trail Maintenance: 4 miles, 550 ft. (Moderate)

DUE TO THE AMAZING RESULTS OF TUESDAY'S OUTING and success of the prior Tuesday's outing, my general reluctance to cancel outings, and the overall agreeable nature of our volunteers, we met at the Fox Hollow Trailhead for extra-credit bridge cleaning. Our group of volunteers hiked along the Ridgeline Trail towards the Willamette & 52nd Trailhead cleaning drainage ditches and bridges. It was very beneficial to hike during a rain storm as we were able to more easily identify places to improve the drainage of water from the trails. On this outing, our work included literal muck-raking. We didn't make it as far as Willamette & 52nd, but did make it to the low wet section just before the Mariposa Woodlands before hiking back. Members: Matthew Bell, David Cooper, Janet Jacobsen, David Lodeesen, Pat Soussan.



Ski Trips

Rosary Lakes
December 28, 2015
Leader & Photographer: Sue Wolling
Xski: 6 miles, 600 ft. (Moderate)

MY THEORY WORKED! I let the crowds head to the mountains over the holiday weekend, then we skied to Rosary Lakes on the Monday after Christmas so we could take ad-

vantage of the hard work of trail breaking that others had done! Conditions were perfect as we left Willamette Pass Ski Area behind and headed up into the snow-covered forest. A few trees that had come down in recent storms were easy to ski around, and we successfully avoided the occasional snow bombs of snow falling off upper branches nearby. It was a bit windy when we reached Lower Rosary Lake, so we went on to enjoy a



partly sunny lunch by Upper Rosary. After a quick photo shot of Mari making a snow-angel-on-skis, it was time to enjoy the glide back down. Conditions were perfect, fast enough to be fun, but plenty of light snow to help control speed and avoid running into the trees that grow very close to the trail. Two of us thoroughly enjoyed the smooth glide down. Unfortunately, Steve's boot suddenly fell apart, so he ended up walking the last mile or so. Nonetheless, it was a wonderful day at Rosary Lakes. Members: Mari Baldwin, Steven Johnson, Sue Wolling.

Fawn Lake
January 3, 2016
Leader: Randy Sinnott
Xski: 8 miles, 900 ft. (Difficult)

A freak ice storm almost cancelled this trip as road conditions on the valley floor made driving up to the mountains a daunting proposal. A strong desire to get on the snow, a pleasure mostly denied us the past two winters, overcame caution. We were rewarded for our perseverance when we discovered warmer air above the valley kept Highway 58 ice-free from Pleasant Hill to well beyond Oakridge. At Crescent Sno-Park it was snowing lightly and two or three inches of new snow filled the track. Those who had gone ahead the day before did a good job of mostly following the proper trail. A few times we followed the track through thickets, but quickly got back to the correct route. We ate lunch at the lake with the clouds lifting enough to see Red Top and Lakeview Peaks. Three of us skied on around the lake before leaving. Snow conditions were excellent for the run out. Six or seven spots required negotiating blow-downs, but with another two or three feet of snow, it will be the uninterrupted glide of years past. Thanks to everyone who went for making it a great day in the mountains. Members: Mari Baldwin, Brian Hamilton, Randy Sinnott, Elise Weldon, Sue Wolling.

Rosary Lakes
January 10, 2016
Leader: John Cooper
Xski: 6 miles, 600 ft. (Moderate)

This was another enjoyable day skiing. The snow was ample and in good condition with only a few icy spots. There was so much snow that the blue diamonds in places were only five feet above the snow. The weather was dry. The sun did come out. Pulpit Rock was visible, hovering over the lakes sometimes in the mist. The seven skiers had a relaxing lunch at the third lake. The ski-out, given the snow conditions, was fabulous. Good company and good skiing made for a great day. Members: John Cooper, Steven Johnson, Becky Lipton, Kevin McManigal, Randy Sinnott, Charlie Van Deusen. Nonmembers: Jorma Meriaho.



Backpacks

PCT Mt. Hood to Jefferson
August 9, 2015
Leader: Becky Lipton
Backpack: 65 miles, (Difficult)

YA-HOO! **61.5 MILES AND 9,400 FEET** of elevation change. Obsidians conquered our second segment of the Pacific Crest Trail through Oregon, from Mt. Hood to Mt. Jefferson in August of 2015! Last year prior to the trip, we fretted about 14,000 feet of elevation change and unpredictable stream crossings around Mt. Hood. This year, the fretting was about *no snow plus extreme drought means where will we find water and fear of forest fires*. So,



prepared for the possibility of finding no water through a 25-mile section of the PCT, four fearless Obsidians and our new best friend, Gut Hook, left our frettings behind and were chauffeured, yes chauffeured, to Frog Lake on the south flank of Mt. Hood, to begin an eight-day backpacking adventure to Mt. Jefferson on the Pacific Crest Trail. Sunday, we camped at Little Crater Lake, a high volume artesian spring that dissolved the overlying limestone layer to create an astonishingly crystal clear, icy cold, deep aquamarine lake. Evening explorations discovered beaver dams nearby. Monday, we enjoyed hiking along four-mile long Timothy Lake, taking extra

time to explore the south shore, lovely campgrounds and views of Mt. Hood before continuing on towards our destination at Clackamas Lake. After weeks of fretting about the lack of water and forest fires, a thunderstorm drenched us through the late afternoon and evening making us very grateful for our campfire (oh, the irony of fretting). Three thru-hikers joined our campsite and fire, sharing stories of their 2,000-mile trek-to-date, a tale of an emergency hernia surgery that interrupted one hiker's journey last year and brought him to complete the trek this summer, and fantasies of the famous Timberline Lodge breakfast buffet waiting for them only two days ahead. On Tuesday, we began our 25-mile trek through very dry Warm Springs Indian Reservation. Along the way, we met Charley and Harold on horseback, with pack horses, on a week's trip to celebrate Harold's 75th birthday. Go Harold! Northbound thru-hikers provided updates on the last two water sources still flowing in this dry section and our new friend, Gut Hook, a phone app with backpacker updated water conditions, guided us to Warm Springs River, a tiny creek with a campsite, where we dried out tents, clothing and sleeping bags, still wet from the night before. Gut Hook directed us to Trooper Springs on Wednesday, a small spring, filled with dozens of large frogs wondering why we were disturbing their peace. Likely the only water source for many, many miles, the next morning elk barked around us as they pondered whether to wander between our tents to the spring or wait for us to leave. More thru-hikers educated us on the latest high tech gear and how to create an 8 to 12 lb. base pack (vs. our 25 to 30 lb. base packs). On Thursday, we completed the 25-mile dry section and entered the Ollalie Lakes basin, with dozens of lakes, camping at lovely Russ Lake. Ah, perfect for swimming. We enjoyed the deliciously warm water until... oh-oh, crawdads nibbling on toes! Eek! Friday, we detoured to the Ollalie Lake Resort store, enjoyed treats and talked with more interesting thru-hikers, including a school principal who was using the PCT as her training ground for an upcoming four-month ski trek across Antarctica, before returning to the U.K. to start law school! Back on the trail again, weather changes rolled in quickly from the south, bringing rapidly dropping temps, high wind and sprinkles. Fearing chilling rain, we quickly set up camp at Upper Lake, put on all our extra clothing and clung close to another roaring campfire. On Saturday, we climbed out of the long broad saddle between Mt. Hood and Mt. Jefferson, crossed a moonscape of rock formations and reached the ridge-top above Mt. Jefferson Park. Wow! There was Mt. Jeff, so beautiful, huge and staring us in the face, plus views of Mt. Hood behind us! The evening was spent exploring Jefferson Park, then watching Jeff turn from gold to orange to pink to cherry red in the setting sun. We hiked out on Sunday, already reminiscing about our amazing week and talking about our PCT plans for next summer! Three Fingered Jack here we come! Members: Rob Boese, Scott Hovis, Becky Lipton, Elle Weaver.



Hikes

River Walk To Springfield
November 29, 2015
Leader: Jane Hackett
Hike: 5 miles, 0 ft. (Easy)

WE STARTED OUT WITH A TEMPERATURE OF 27 DEGREES. Great bright sunny day and a quick pace kept us warm. We ended this river walk at Plank Town with brunch. A good

morning. Members: Jane Hackett, Susan Sanazaro.

Art Walk/Skinner Butte
December 5, 2015
Leader: Joella Ewing
Hike: 2 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

FIVE PEOPLE RETRACED THE FIRST FRIDAY EUGENE ART WALK on the following Saturday, hiked Skinner Butte, and then ate lunch at the 5th Street Public Market. We agreed it was a huge success and would like to see it happen every couple of months. Ruthy's FitBit recorded 5.2 miles. I had underestimated the trek by three miles. We explored nooks and crannies of downtown Eugene that most of us didn't know existed, including the poignant Japanese Memorial Garden outside the Hult Center and the huge ceramic wall sculpture by Obsidian, Dallas Cole, inside and outside the Hilton's 7th Ave. entrance. Some people had dessert before lunch after we discovered Euphoria Chocolate's new location on Willamette. Lesson learned—next time we'll do Skinner Butte first, eat lunch second, and do the art walk last in order to enjoy the few galleries that don't open until noon. Members: Joella Ewing, Ruthy Kanagy, Tom Rundle, Michelle Tambellini. Nonmembers: Barbara Sutherland.

North Fork Willamette
December 6, 2015
Leader: Jane Hackett
Photographer: Darko Sojak
Hike: 5.6 miles, 400 ft. (Moderate)

WE WERE ABLE TO DO THIS HIKE AS A SHUTTLE. It was gray and overcast, but no rain. The five of us enjoyed the river and the wet drippy woods. We scared up a few small flocks of ducks. In the first mile of hike, we noted a large metal contraption held by cables in the middle of the river. We guessed it may have



something to do with power production, or a fish counter or a water volume counter. It remains a mystery. We also found a couple of hand-written notes in the second section of the hike with the words "bridge out". We decided to continue on in hopes we could find a way across. We found a great new bridge across a large side creek. Great day. Members: Jane Hackett, Holger Krentz, Kathy Randall, Darko Sojak, Pat Soussan.

Three Mile Lake / Tahkenitch Dunes
December 20, 2015
Leader: Becky Lipton
Photographer: Holger Krentz
Hike: 7 miles, 600 ft. (Moderate)

DURING A WEEK FULL OF HEAVY RAINS AND WILD WINDS, our

annual Christmas hike met with a frequent Christmas miracle of



sunshine and mild temps. Six Obsidians thoroughly enjoyed the break in the stormy weather and soaked up the stunning views along the hike, as well as the sunshine while lunching on the beach. Members: Holger Krentz, Becky Lipton, Kathy Randall, Art Skach, Darko Sojak. Nonmembers: Roy Ward.

Skinner Butte/Gillespie Butte
December 26, 2015
Leader: Janet Jacobsen
Photographer: David Lodeesen
Hike: 8 miles, 450 ft. (Moderate)

THERE WERE NO GIFT RETURNS ON OUR HIKE on the river path, through the Valley River parking lot, and then on city streets to Gillespie Butte and Cemetery. We speculated about some of the monuments before we ambled up to the Legacy Oak grove where we had views of Eugene and snow-capped mountains. On our return to the river path, we stopped at the Discovery Village play area to check out the fossils in the sand pit and the representation of Spencer and Skinner Butte. Somehow we ended up on the rough climbers' trail up to the top of the Skinner Butte. It was fun to share our favorite things like the eagles' nest, the Big O, or the story of the cross. Marlene heard an eagle call and soon pointed to his flight beyond the trees. The snow-capped



mountains were crystal clear. We took the gentle trail back down to our cars and Sue Wolling's almond mocha treats. The hike took 3 1/2 hours. Five of us walked to 5th Street Market for lunch. Let's make this butte-to-butte hike an annual tradition the day after Christmas. Members: Mari Baldwin, Janet Jacobsen, Holger Krentz, David Lodeesen, Marlene Malone, Tom Rundle, Sue Wolling. Nonmembers: Steve Adey, Steven Malone.

Cape Mountain
December 27, 2015
Leader: Mike Smith
Photographer: Kathy Randall
Hike: 10 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

THE HIKE OCCURRED ON A RAINY, MID-30S DAY on the coast. Snow was at the trailhead, and while the rain had been heavy on the drive over, it let up somewhat on the trail. We took the Princess Tasha trail to Scurvy Ridge, by the Hitsi Lodge, and then



did the Berry Creek Loop, eventually coming back to the trailhead. The two streams were in full fury, with some deciding to take their chances with water over the boots, and others scooting themselves across a large log upstream. The greenery was remarkable, and many sheltered spots exist in this area. We welcomed Rachelle Masin, a first time hiker with the Obsidians, who passed us on the Cummings Creek hike three weeks ago, trail running. The hike warranted a get-warm-again stop in Mapleton. This was a surprising amount of elevation gain for a low elevation hike. We went up, then down, then back up again, gaining 1,300 feet altogether. Members: Daphne James, David Lodeesen, Kathy Randall, Jorry Rolfe, Tom Rundle, Randy Sinnott, Mike Smith, David Strutin. Nonmembers: Roy Ward, Rachelle Masin.

Amazon Headwaters/Spencer Butte
December 30, 2015 through January 20, 2016
Various Leaders: Janet Jacobsen, Mike Smith & Tom Rundle
Hike: 6.2 miles, 1,530 ft. (Moderate)

THE HIKERS BY DATE WERE: DECEMBER 30—Janet Jacobsen (leader) Members: Jennifer Baer, Mari Baldwin, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Lana Lindstrom, David Lodeesen, Marlene Malone, Caroline Moore, Darian Morray, David Reinhard, Jorry Rolfe, Tom Rundle, Mike Smith. **JANUARY 6**—Janet Jacobsen (leader) Members: David Cooper, David Lodeesen, Caroline Moore, Jorry Rolfe, Tom Rundle, Mike Smith. Nonmembers: Blue Wesley. **JANUARY 13**—Mike Smith (leader) Members: David Cooper, Janet Jacobsen, David Lodeesen, Marlene Malone, Caroline Moore, Darian Morray, David Reinhard, Jorry Rolfe, Tom Rundle. Nonmembers: Blue Wesley. **JANUARY 20**—Tom Rundle (Leader) Members: David Cooper, Betty Grant, Janet Jacobsen, David Lodeesen, Caroline Moore, David Reinhard, Jorry Rolfe, Mike Smith, David Strutin, Fumiyo Tao. Nonmembers: Kathie Carpenter, Michael King.

Walking Through The Solar System
December 31, 2015
Leader: Mike Smith
Hike: 7.5 miles, 50 ft. (Easy)

This was the first of what I hope might be an annual event. On a very chilly morning, we met at the Duck Pond and walked to Mars, Earth, Moon, Mercury, Venus, and finally the Sun, in that order, the inner solar system, on a scale of 1:1 billion. I spoke about each planet, whatever I could remember, how I observed it, or what it had to tell us. We then crossed the DeFazio bridge and picked up the pace a bit to warm up, stopping at Jupiter after a short walk, then a little longer to Saturn, and Uranus. We were 2.8 miles from the Sun in a straight line (longer, of course, on the South Bank Trail), when we stopped at the last official outer planet, Neptune. By then, the sun was shining, and it was a little warmer. Some left the group to go further west, and the rest of us returned by way of the Greenway Bike Bridge and the North Bank Trail. This is a fun hike of about 7.5 miles. We completed the hike and the planet viewing in just over three hours, giving people a chance to see the scale model of the solar system here in Eugene and then have time to do other things on New Year's Eve. I spoke about the vastness of space, that everything we know was on a tiny ball about a quarter inch across, in an area of 5×10^{29} square inches, an incomprehensible area. Indeed, one quadrillionth of the area of the entire solar system has planets, and by volume, it is even less. I thought the questions asked were great, and I think other than the chilly temperatures, everybody enjoyed an interesting in-town walk. Members: Carla Cooper, David Cooper, David Hawkins, Christiane Hougardy, Mark Hougardy, Janet Jacobsen, Holger Krentz, Lana Lindstrom, David Lodeesen, Cindy Rust, Diane Schechter, Janice Smith, Mike Smith.

Spencer Butte
January 1, 2016
Leader & Photographer: Darko Sojak
Assistant Leader: Janet Jacobsen
Hike: 2.2 miles, 600 ft. (Easy)

FROSTY 27 DEGREE WEATHER did not prevent our big perky group from hiking Eugene's backyard landmark. On the top it was sunny and windy. We shared snacks, toasted with



pomegranate juice to a prosperous New Year and took our group picture. Thanks to Janet for support and everybody who participated in litter pickup on the way down. Members: Jane Allen, Mari Baldwin, Marianne Camp, Roberta Chord, Lynda Christiansen, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Autumn Edwards, Trenton Edwards, Clara Emlen, Barbara Gunther, Christiane Hougardy, Mark Hougardy, Janet Jacobsen, Brenda Kameenui,

Harriet Kelly, Mary Livingston, Kathy Randall, Nancy Raymond, Jorry Rolfe, Randy Sinnott, Janice Smith, Mike Smith, Darko Sojak, Meg Stewart Smith, Jim Whitfield. Nonmembers: Robert Graham, Ilene O'Malley, Nancy Hoecker, Jill Zavidowsky, Geraldine Poizat-Newcomb.

Baker Beach

January 1, 2016

Leader: Lana Lindstrom

Hike: 7 miles, 0 ft. (Moderate)

THIS TRIP WAS BILLED AS A WALK IN THE PARK... er, on the beach. Instead, it turned into a bit of an adventure, a *two fer*, thanks to adventurous participants. The plan was to do a loop near Lily Lake and then walk the beach to Sutton Creek from the Baker Beach parking lot. The trail to Lily Lake had some gigantic puddles which needed to be skirted, causing us to bushwhack a few times, and then we had to retrace our route due to a downed tree. It was exceedingly windy; we ingested sand with our sandwiches, so we limited our time on the beach. One person proposed Sweet Creek; it was an excellent alternative, although very crowded. The creek was cranking; the highest we had ever seen. The trail was a bit icy and slippery, also with a couple of downed trees. But even the little falls were just spectacular; we could see water flowing over the rocks and through the rocks. This trip was in honor of Sheila Ward, a long term Obsidian and former Treasurer, who died in 2007 and always led a hike at the beach on her birthday, January 1. It was an excellent way to start the new year! Members: Richard Hughes, Daphne James, Lana Lindstrom, Cindy Rust, Diane Schechter. Nonmembers: Thomas Peterson.

EmX/River Hike

January 5, 2016

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 6 miles, 0 ft. (Moderate)

I COUNTED THIS HIKE AS A SUCCESSFUL GREEN TRIP. Most everyone took the bus or walked to the downtown bus station to begin the trip. One person was able to get his new Honored Rider Pass. Mike Smith helped us board EmX at 9:40 to the Springfield station, where we began our walk at 10:00. We cut through Island Park to D Street and then on the River Path past the Knickerbocker Bridge, the Frohnmayer Bridge (formerly Autzen Footbridge) to the Peter DeFazio Bridge where we headed back to city center. The walk took 1½ hours. Some stopped for an early lunch at Soup Nation or Bon Mi, while others headed back to the bus station. Several ended up at the library to check out books and one member applied for a new library card. Everyone agreed that it would be fun to organize more hikes using LTD. We appreciated the clean bathrooms at the Eugene and Springfield LTD stations. Members: Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Jane Hackett, Yuan Hopkins, Janet Jacobsen, David Lodeesen, Ruth Romoser, Tom Rundle, Janice Smith, Mike Smith, Nancy Whitfield. Nonmembers: Steve Adey.

McDowell Creek Falls

January 9, 2016

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Photographer: Holger Krentz

Hike: 4.5 miles, 650 ft. (Easy)

EIGHT OF US LEFT EUGENE AT 8:30 to drive up the Mohawk

Valley to Sweet Home where we met Nancy Whitfield. She somewhat confidently led us over scenic back roads to McDowell Creek Road to meet the Coopers and their grandchild at 10:00. Cameras clicked on the trail by the rushing



creek to Royal Terrace Falls, Crystal Pool, and Majestic Falls. At 11:30 we drove back to Sweet Home for lunch and conversation at Los Dos Amigos Hacienda. Next stop was Cascadia Park for a short hike up to Lower Soda Creek Falls. Many scrambled down to the bottom of the falls for more dramatic photos. We explored the Santiam River trail where Dave Cooper pointed out the two bear rocks and explained the Kalapuya legend. Back at our cars at 3:00, we headed to Eugene. It was time for it to rain and it did! Was it an amble, a meandering, or a saunter? Whatever, we had a good time! Check out the gallery photos. Members: Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Janet Jacobsen, Debbie Krakauer, Holger Krentz, David Lodeesen, Darko Sojak, David Strutin, Nancy Whitfield. Nonmembers: Kathie Carpenter, Caralynn Judy, Janet Moelzer.

Blanton Road Trailhead to Spencer Butte

January 10, 2016

Leader: David Cooper

Photographer: Carla Cooper

Hike: 9 miles, 1,700 ft. (Moderate)

WE STARTED OUR LOCAL HIKE IN THE FOG at Blanton Road, but as we climbed up Spencer Butte the sun was starting to come out. When we cleared the trees and moved up the steps,



the sky was clear. The valley was still socked in but our view was outstanding. Cascade peaks from Jefferson to Broken Top stood out to the east. Members: Dianna Bordewick, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Barbara Gunther, Christiane Hougardy, Mark Hougardy, Janet Jacobsen, Ann Kloos, David Lodeesen, Caroline Moore, Laura Osinga, Kathy Randall, Jorry Rolfe,

Mike Smith, Darko Sojak, Nancy Whitfield.

River Path North

January 14, 2016

Leader: David Cooper

Assistant Leader & Photographer: Carla Cooper

Hike: 6 miles, 0 ft. (Easy)

A PLEASANT WALK ALONG THE WILLAMETTE took us from Valley River Center north to the shops at North Delta and Green Acres Roads. We stopped here for a nourishment break. Part of the group got something to eat at Cafe Yumm!, while others



opted for Starbucks. The skies threatened as we started our return: rain pants on, hoods up, and umbrellas ready. We headed back toward VRC, but crossed the Owosso Bridge to the west side bike path. Not bothered by a little rain, we soon reached the Greenway Bridge and crossed the river to return to our cars. Members: Roberta Chord, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, May Fogg, Janet Jacobsen, David Lodeesen, Evelyn Nagy, Ruth Romoser, Tom Rundle, Mike Smith, Nancy Whitfield. Nonmembers: Kathie Carpenter, Ilene O'Malley.

Gwynn Creek-Cape Perpetua

January 17, 2016

Leader: Mike Smith

Hike: 9 miles, 1,900 ft. (Moderate)

After canceling my last two trips to the coast because of rain, I decided I was going to go today come hell or high water. I got the second. On a day when it rained nearly two inches in Florence and over an inch in Eugene, we hiked Gwynn Creek in a steady rain. Everybody was cheerful about our plight, mostly comparing gear, what was working, what wasn't, and how cold we got when we weren't moving. I pointed out the transition zones (elevation and distance from ocean) for Sitka Spruce and Douglas Firs. I was amazed at how even the densest canopy along the Oregon Coast Trail had significant rainfall penetration. We got back to the Visitor Center and had options to quit while we were wet or if any one person wanted to climb Cape Perpetua, I would go with him or her. Dave and Tom wanted to go, so the three of us climbed it, the first time the two of them had ever been up there. The rain quit as we got to the open space near the summit, and we had good views of the ocean, but no whales. We even saw blue sky to the west. We returned and gathered our wet, weighty gear and called it a day. Hikes like this are a good test for rain gear (and character!) and what layers to wear and shed at various times of the hike on a very wet day. Two notes: 1) The display in the Cape Perpetua Visitor Center was as good as ever, 2) Amanda Trail is closed because a bridge is out. I'm not surprised. Members: Barbara Gunther, David Lodeesen, Tom Rundle, Mike Smith, Fumiyo Tao.

Shotgun Creek

January 18, 2016

Leader: Mike Smith

Hike: 3.5 miles, 300 ft. (Easy)

THIS IS AN INTERESTING HIKE. It can be very easy, walking along a stream, or it can be more difficult, with a 650 foot climb in the first mile. Yes, Shotgun Creek. The Tiki Loop and the Upper Shotgun Loop were put together to make a five-mile hike with a total elevation gain of 900 feet. The trail was muddy near the creek and in good shape well above the creek. It is a short drive, and it is a decent workout for someone who wants to get out of the city into the woods and do either an easy or a moderate hike. I ended up leading the hike and being the only person on the hike, and I did the same pair of loops I did two years ago. Shotgun Creek was bank to bank and silty. Further uphill I saw four deer. The drive is shorter than I remembered, being only 18 miles from the Beltline. Members: Mike Smith.

Upcoming

Neighborhood Workshops for Parks and Recreation Next Ten Years of Parks and Recreation

Matthew Bell

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE STAFF will share what they have learned from their public outreach (over 7,000 responses) last summer and the vision that's emerging for the future of parks and recreation in Eugene. Join one of the six regional workshops scheduled in February to review the Needs Assessment and begin working on recommendations for the future.

Saturday, Feb 6, Peterson Barn, 1–2:30 PM

Monday, Feb 8, Eugene Public Library, 6:00–7:30 PM

Wednesday, Feb 10, Churchill High School, 6:00–7:30

Saturday, Feb 13, Hilyard Center, 10:30–noon

Wednesday, Feb 17, Sheldon Center, 6:00–7:30 PM

Thursday, Feb 18, Madison Middle School, 6:00–7:30

For more information about the workshops, go to <http://eugparksandrec.org/2899/Get-Involved>

This is an 18-month effort to establish a plan to guide the development of Eugene's parks and recreation facilities through the next decade.

Owyhee Rafting Trip with Ouzel Outfitters May 15–20, 2016

WE'LL EXPLORE 63 MILES of this scenic and dramatic canyon at a leisurely pace with great hiking, camping, birding and hot springs. This is truly a unique wilderness river trip in *Oregon's Grand Canyon*. This is a five day guided raft trip where you can hang out on the guide's oar raft, become part of a paddle raft, or paddle one of their inflatable kayaks. The trip is rated Class III (moderate) and Ouzel is noted for their emphasis on safety and experienced guides.

We are scheduled to launch at Rome on May 16 and take out on May 20 at Birch Creek. We will be camping May 15 at a BLM campsite. Dinner May 15 and breakfast May 16 are on your own. You can bring these meals or purchase them at a café across from the camping site. All other meals will be provided. A pre-trip meeting will be scheduled to

arrange carpooling, post trip lodging and other trip details.

Questions:

Contact Diane Schechter at dsp053@gmail.com or 687-1887

The price of \$1,140 (\$1,145 nonmember) includes Obsidian trip fee, all meals beginning with lunch on May 16 through lunch on May 20, and a gratuity for the guides. Ouzel provides all rafting equipment, kayaks, camping gear (two-person tent, sleeping bag and pad), meals and return transportation to Rome. A \$200 deposit is payable within five days of signing up. Send check payable to Obsidians to: Diane Schechter; 3541 High St, Eugene, OR 97405. Deposit is refundable (less \$40) if cancelled before April 15. Final payment is due April 15.

For more information:

Ouzel Outfitters: www.oregonrafting.com

2016 Bus Trips

Champoeg, Oregon, USA Beginning

Date: March 22, (Tuesday)

Leader: Mary Ellen West

Cost: \$53 (\$55 nonmembers)

Reservations & checks: Mary Lee Cheadle 689-1085

COME SEE WHERE OREGON BECAME AMERICAN. Champoeg State Park preserves the location of the 1843 vote where French Canadians, loyal to the Hudson Bay Company, and American settlers agreed in a very close vote to seek provisional government from the United States. Champoeg became a small village in a desirable agriculture area. Unfortunately in 1861 a still record flood washed most buildings down the river. The Robert Newell house, higher on the hill, survived and we will do a tour of the Pioneer Village. This complex is maintained by the DAR and gives a good picture of early settlement. The Newell house, built in 1852 is decorated in the 1860s style. It is lovingly filled with furnishings donated by Oregon pioneer families. The second floor has an outstanding exhibit of the gowns worn by wives of Oregon governors. We will have lunch here (*bring your own*) in a lovely room overlooking the Champoeg area. Also on our tour in the complex is the pioneer mother's cabin, the Butteville Academy—a one-room school of the 1860s, and the 1840s Butteville jail. Time permitting; we will visit the nearby Oregon State Park (Champoeg) Visitor Center, a jewel in itself. **Remember to bring a sack lunch.**

A Day at Wildlife Safari

Date: April 12, (Tuesday)

Leader: Judy Phelps

Cost: \$56 (\$58 nonmembers)

Reservations & checks: Lenore McManigal 345-2036

OUR TRIP TODAY TAKES US TO WINSTON for tours of Wildlife Safari. If you have never been to this wild Animal Park, you are in for a treat. This is a drive-through park where the animals are free to roam and you are in a cage (vehicle). Perhaps we will even see some baby animals. Leaving Shopko at 8, we travel south on I-5, stopping along the way for our coffee break. Upon arriving at the

park, we will be joined by a step-on guide for our first tour. The guide will have interesting information to share about the animals and their habitat. We will then have some free time for lunch, browsing the gift shop and checking out the animals and birds in the walk-through area. Lunch is on your own; you can purchase lunch at the village café or bring a sack lunch with you. We will then make a second tour through the park on our own. We may see different animals up close this time. Time permitting we will drive the back roads home, planning to be back at Shopko around 5.

New Coastal Museum & Aquarium

Date: May 19, (Thursday)

Leader: Mary Ellen West

Cost: \$60 (\$62 non) Mary Lee Cheadle 689-1085

Birding at Summer Lake

Date: June 7—9 (Tuesday – Thursday)

Leader: Sharon Cutsforth

Cost: \$290 (\$296 nonmembers) Judy Phelps, 726-0118

More Food V

Date: July 14 (Thursday)

Leader: Mary Ellen West

Cost: \$49 (\$51 nonmembers) Barbara Payne, 746-1964

An Oregon Coast Adventure

Date: September 11—17, (Sunday – Saturday)

Leaders: Barbara & Paul Beard

Cost: (Approx. \$1,100*) Barbara Payne, 746-1964

*Actual cost will be available at Bus Rally

Fall Color & Harvest Time

Date: October 6 (Thursday)

Leader: Sharon Cutsforth

Cost: \$54 (\$56 nonmembers) Judy Phelps, 726-0118

Willamette Queen Dinner Cruise

Date: December 1 (Thursday)

Leaders: Barbara & Paul Beard

Cost: \$98 (\$100 nonmembers) Barbara Payne, 746-1964

Bus trip information is also available on the Obsidians home page: www.obsidians.org
Contact information at: bustrips@obsidians.org
Sharon Cutsforth, Bus Committee Chair, 746-4929

At The Lodge

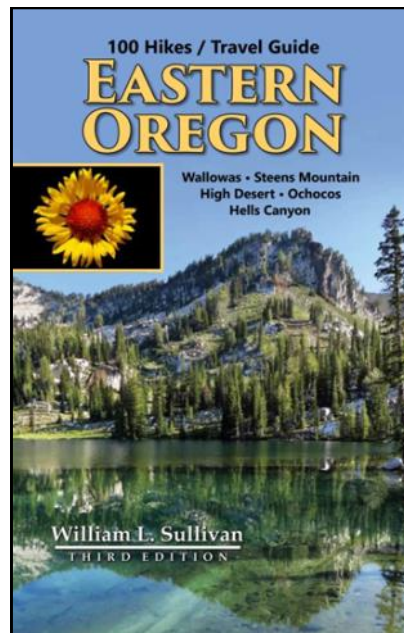


Friday February 26 at 6:30 PM

Sullivan—Eastern Oregon Hikes

AUTHOR AND HIKING GURU WILLIAM S. SULLIVAN takes us on some new trails he discovered while researching the latest edition of his Eastern Oregon guidebook. Published in March, 2015, the updated book is divided into four regions to explore: Bend and the Ochocos, the Blue Mountains, the Wallowa Mountains, and the High Desert.

Sullivan is the author of several novels and a dozen books about Oregon, including the popular *100 Hikes* series and *Hiking Oregon's History*. His journal of a 1,000 mile hike he took across Oregon, *Listening for Coyote*, was chosen by the Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission as one of *Oregon's 100 Books*, the one hundred most significant books in the state's history.



February Potluck

Friday, February 26, 2016

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.



ExploraTalk

Tuesday February 16 at 7:30 PM

Journey to the Outskirts

THE FIRST EXPLORATALK OF THE 2016 SEASON is at the Obsidian Lodge on Tuesday, February 16 at 7:00 PM. It features long-time amateur astronomer Larry Deckman with a talk entitled *Journey To The Outskirts of the Universe*. No matter how much you know or think you know about our world, you will learn something from Larry Deckman.

This program will take you beyond Earth's atmosphere until you're seeing our home planet from 150 miles up. Ascending higher, you'll reach the Moon and the planets of our solar system. Then it's off to the stars and clouds of the Milky Way galaxy, followed by the clusters of galaxies at the edge of the universe. Illustrated entirely with beautiful photographs from NASA and the world's great telescopes, this 60-minute journey to the outskirts of the universe is genuinely consciousness expanding.

I've attached a photo of M104 provided by Larry Deckman. This is the famous Sombrero Nebula in Virgo, a spiral galaxy 51 million light years away.



Upcoming

Obsidian Calendar

February

10 Wed	Spencer Butte Hike M	Lodeesen.....	214-709-0352
13 Sat	Blanton to Spencer Butte Hike	Funkhouser.....	206-2303
14 Sun	Oregon's Birthday Hike	E Jacobsen.....	206-1251
15 Mon	Dorris Ranch/Clearwater Hike	E Romoser.....	726-8154
16 Tue	Mt. Pisgah Hike M	Nagy.....	514-4110
16 Tue	Outskirts of the Universe.....	ExploraTalk	
17 Wed	Spencer Butte Hike M	Smith.....	357-5208
18 Thu	Finley Refuge Hike E	Rolfé.....	206-9501
20 Sat	Potato Hill Snowshoe D	Hovis.....	731-3412
20 Sat	Ridgeline Hike D	Cooper.....	868-5427
20 Sat	Finley Refuge Hike E	Hackett.....	953-7046
22 Mon	Pisgah Sunset/Moonrise Hike	Jacobsen.....	2061251
24 Wed	Spencer Butte Hike M	Jacobsen.....	206-1251
26 Fri	Hikes in Eastern Oregon.....	Potluck	
27 Sat	Sand Mountain Plateau Xski D	Miller.....	484-4586
27 Sat	Wild Iris Trail Building Trl Mnt M	Bell.....	503-884-8829
27 Sat	Blanton to Spencer Butte M	Funkhouser.....	206-2303
28 Sun	Amazon to Mt. Baldy Hike M	Randall.....	844-5916

March

2 Wed	Spencer Butte Hike M	Murray.....	953-5679
6 Sun	Redtop Mountain Xski D	Sayre.....	345-2370
9 Wed	Spencer Butte Hike M	Cooper.....	868-5427
10 Thu	Tait's Loop Snowshoe D	Wilken.....	343-3080
13 Sun	Arrowhead Lake Xski D	Cooper.....	344-8517
13 Sun	Maxwell Butte Snowshoe/backpack D	Hovis..	731-3412
16 Wed	Spencer Butte Hike M	Lindstrom.....	683-1409
21 Mon	Portland Exploration M	Lindstrom.....	683-1409
23 Wed	Spencer Butte Hike M	Lodeesen.....	214-709-0352
25 Fri	Peter Baxter.....	Potluck	
26 Sat	SOLV Beach Cleanup Hike E	Sojak.....	525-1124
26 Sat	Spencer Butte Trail maintenance	Bell.....	503-884-8829
30 Wed	Spencer Butte Hike M.....	TBA	



For Sale

Women's Osprey Ariel 65 backpack.
Used fairly lightly and in great condition.
Fits me at 5 ft. 8 inches, short torso.
\$100

Chris Stockdale at 767-3668
Or happyhiker2010@hotmail.com

A huge thanks to Winter Trips Leaders!

Anne Bonine, Winter Trips Chair

IT'S WONDERFUL, ENCOURAGING AND AMAZING how many leaders have stepped up during this winter season to lead urban and out-of-town hikes, and snow trips. We appreciate the prolific leaders—David Cooper, Jane Hackett, Janet Jacobsen, Mike Smith, and Darko Sojak—who keep adding more trips. Laurie Funkhouser has taken on the Saturday Blanton hikes so working folks and other weekend enthusiasts can get out for conditioning hikes.

When I look at the 2016 winter schedule, I see leaders filling in spaces both during the week and on weekends, organizing diverse activities for members and guests. I really appreciate leaders who are willing to schedule out-of-town trips and deal constantly with changing weather and road conditions. I take my hat off to John Cooper, Sue

Wolling and Randy Sinnott who have dared to brave the elements with more than one xski or snowshoeing trip.

Then there are the hikers who won't let rain stop them from enjoying the trails.

We had eighteen trips in December and twenty-two trips in January. More hikes and snow trips are planned for February and March. It is very encouraging for our club to note that we have more leaders and trips than in recent years. What is most encouraging is that we have members leading their first trip!

Winter trip leaders, you are a special and a very appreciated group of people. You hike in the rain and brave the snow. There is still time to add a winter trip. If you have questions, email wintertrips@obsidians.org Our committee will help you get started.



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February 2016



Cascades from Spencer Butte—photo by Carla Cooper