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Dates to Remember

February 21	ExploraTalk
February 24	Potluck
February 25	Bulletin Deadline
March 1	Board Meeting
March 5	Bus Rally

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

2017 Bus Rally

Sunday, March 5, 2–4 PM at the Obsidian Lodge

THE OBSIDIANS BUS COMMITTEE INVITES OBSIDIAN MEMBERS AND GUESTS TO join us for the Annual Bus Trips Rally at the Lodge, Sunday, March 5, 2–4 PM. This will be a time to hear trip leaders share details about the trips, ask questions, pick up a copy of the yearly bus trips schedule, and sign up for trips you are interested in. Where will the bus take us this year? Here are a few hints: winter bird watching, Santiam wagon road, food production, National Parks, Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, an autumn BBQ, and Christmas lights. Bus trips provide a great opportunity to spend time with old and new friends while touring the countryside. Refreshments will be served and we will have some great door prizes! The Concessions Committee will have Obsidians merchandise on display—watch for new items. *(See upcoming bus trips on page 12.)*

2017 Climb School

WHETHER YOU WANT THE SOLACE OF CLIMBING REMOTE CRAGS, or donning a dress to join the party on the Mt. St. Helens Mother’s Day climb, we can help you achieve your dreams! If you have ever wanted to experience the challenge and



thrill of mountain climbing but lacked the skills and confidence to get started, then come take our basic climbing class. We will teach you the skills, pump you up with confidence, and pour on the enthusiasm—because we love climbing and love help-

(Continued on page 2)

OBITUARIES

Norma Bengiat 1941-2016

NORMA BENGIAT, A FORMER MEMBER, passed away on December 23 at the age of 75. Norma first joined the Obsidians in 2007 and was a member for a short time, rejoining in 2012. During her time with the Obsidians she went on 13 trips and enjoyed hiking Mt. Pisgah on her own time. After retiring she joined Lane County Search and Rescue.

Norma is survived by a son and daughter.

Editor's Note: A complete obituary can be found in the Jan. 29 issue of The Register-Guard

Effie Neth

OBSIDIAN MEMBER EFFIE NETH PASSED AWAY ON JANUARY 25 after a very brief illness. A member since 1999 she participated in 88 activities which included five summer camps and a recent raft trip down the Owyhee River. She served on three different Obsidian committees, one being the science and education committee which was of particular interest to her. Effie also led 11 hikes, and all who participated in those trips remember her enthusiasm and joy at being in the outdoors. Her enthusiasm for the outdoors was even reflected in the trip reports she wrote for the *Bulletin*.

Outside the Obsidians Effie was very active with the Great Old Broads, an RV club, and any activity that involved nature and educating people about nature.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 2 PM on March 4 at the Obsidian Lodge.

Welcome New Members!

**DENISE EGRI
JUNCTION CITY**

**SERGE FAUMONT
JUNCTION CITY**

(Climb School continued from page 1)

ing those who want to learn the skills to venture into the mountains.

The Obsidians and Eugene Mountain Rescue will teach the fundamentals of rock and snow travel in classroom and field sessions of the **2017 Basic Climb School beginning April 10**. For the classroom portions we will help you learn knots, give you tips for gear, practice climbing indoors, and learn about glaciers and snow travel. In the two field sessions you will put that classroom material to actual use. **The cost is \$70 for Obsidian members or members of Eugene Mountain Rescue, and \$100 for nonmembers**—an amazing deal for an extensive class like this. Following the class, the Obsidians will be hosting graduation climbs for Climb School participants to put some of the new skills into practice. The climb fees for the graduation climbs are not included in the Climb School cost and the locations will be determined as the Obsidian climb schedule is developed.

More information on the class is on the Climbs page of the Obsidians website. **Registration opens Feb. 16, 2017**. If you are not yet an Obsidian or don't have an account, be sure to register for an account prior to Feb. 16. There is no cost to get an account and you will need one to register for Climb School. To learn more contact climbs@obsidians.org.

OBSIDIANS, INC

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405

Website: www.obsidians.org

Board of Directors

Laurie Funkhouser, President
John Cooper, Vice President
David Cooper, Secretary
Stewart Hoeg, Treasurer
Sharon Cutsforth, Pat Esch,
Marc Hansen, Todd Larsen,
Maryanne Reiter & Lyndell Wilken.

Board meetings are held at 6:00 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

By-Ways By Bus.....Sharon Cutsforth
Climbs..... Maryanne Reiter
Concessions.....Carla Cooper
Conservation/SciEd.....J. Rolfe & T. Rundle
Entertainment.....Lana Lindstrom
Extended Trips.....Lana Lindstrom
Finance..... Stewart Hoeg
Lodge Building.....Dave Cooper
Lodge Grounds..... John Jacobsen
Librarian/Historian..... Lenore McManigal
Membership.....Laurie Funkhouser
Online..... Wayne Deeter
Publications.....Lou Maenz
Publicity..... Janet Jacobsen
Safety.....Lyndell Wilken
Summer Camp..... John Jacobsen
Summer Trips.....John Cooper
Trail Maintenance.....Matt Bell
Winter Trips..... Dave Lodeesen

The **OBSIDIAN** Bulletin

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The Obsidian Bulletin

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Deadline

for March Bulletin

Saturday, February 25, 2017

January

Assembly/Mailing Team

Manager: Lou Maenz

Team: Tom Adamcyk, Judy Adamcyk,
Don Baldwin, Sharon Cutsforth,
Clara Emlen, Lenore McManigal and
Margaret Prentice

Editorial Team

Writing & Editorial Staff:

Janet Jacobsen, Joanne Ledet,
Lou Maenz, Ethel Weltman

Copy Editors:

Jorry Rolfe, Ethel Weltman

Graphics Design & Desktop Publishing:
Carla Cooper, Bea Fontana, Stewart Hoeg

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

2017 Committee Members

Bus: Sharon Cutsforth (chair), Judy Adamecyk, Tom Adamecyk, Rick Ahrens, Ethel Allen, Bill Arthur, Barbara Beard, Paul Beard, Mary Lee Cheadle, Verna Kocken, Lenore McManigal, Jim Northrop, Don Payne, Judy Phelps, Liz Reanier, and Mary Ellen West.

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

Concessions: Carla Cooper (chair), Judy Adamecyk, Keiko Bryan, Patty MacAfee, Darlene Mancuso, and Nancy Whitfield.

Sci Ed/conservation: Jorry Rolfe/Tom Rundle (co-chairs), Mike Smith, John Pegg, Liz Volmer-Buhl, Brian Volmer-Buhl, Joella Ewing, and Charlie Thomas.

Entertainment: Lana Lindstrom (chair), Judy Adamecyk, Dave Cooper, Joella Ewing, Laurie Funkhouser, Kathy Hoeg, Yuan Hopkins, Mary Livingston, Emily Rice, and Meg Stewart Smith.

Extended Trips: Lana Linstrom (chair), Pat Esch, Kathy Randall, Diane Schechter, Chris Shuraleff, Chris Stockdale, and Nancy Whitfield.

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

Lodge Building: David Cooper (chair), Brian Hamilton, John Jacobsen, Cat Nelson, Doug Nelson, and Cari Soderlund.

Lodge Grounds: John Jacobsen (chair), David Cooper, Jim Northrop, and Jim Whitfield.

Librarian/Historian: Lenore McManigal (chair).

Membership: Laurie Funkhouser (chair), Roberta Chord, Michael Heidelberg, John Jacobsen, Carla Lyon, Tom Rundle, Diane Schechter, and Judy Sinnott.

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

Publications: Lou Maenz (chair), Jorry Rolfe, Janet Jacobsen, Joanne Ledet, Carla Cooper, Ethel Weltman, Bea Fontana, and Stewart Hoeg.

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

Safety: Lyndell Wilkens (chair), Sharon Cutsforth, Pat Esch, Maryanne Reiter, Mike Smith, and Judy Terry.

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

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

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

Winter Trips: David Lodeesen (chair), Judy Terry, Darian Morray, Janet Jacobsen, and Michael Smith.

2017 Premium Members

Platinum Members (\$200 or more)

Dick Hildreth, David Lodeesen, Kathryn Madden, John McManigal, Laura Osinga, and Mike Smith

Gold Members (\$100-199)

Barbara Aten, Dianna Bordewick, Joan Bradley, Max Brown, Deb Carver, Margot Fetz, Bea Fontana, Janet Jacobsen, John Jacobsen, Michael Landes, Darian Morray, Karen Morray, Jim Northrop, John Pegg, Nancy Raymond, Liz Reanier, Janice Smith, David Strutin, Charles Thomas, and Birgitte Williams.

Silver Members (\$50-99)

Don Baldwin, Donald Bienvenue, Anne Bonine, Ben Brown, Hal Busby, Dan Christensen, Dallas Cole, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Sharon Cutsforth, Wendy Dame, Don Doerr, Jim Duncan, Sharon Duncan, Larry Dunlap, Rose Mary Etter, Jack Ewing, Joella Ewing, Jacquie Fern, Leah Firth, Elizabeth Glover, Kellie Green, Richard Heinskill, Scott Hovis, Brenda Kameenui, Verna Kocken, Sandra Larsen, Carla Lyon, Patricia MacAfee, Toresa Martell, Helen Martz, Juli McGlinsky, Sam Miller, Greg Milliman, Chuck Mitchell, Michael Moffitt, Caroline Moore, Cat Nelson, Doug Nelson, Natalie Newlove, Jack O'Donnell, Wes Prouty, Kathy Randall, Ruth Romoser, Tom Rundle, Karla Rusow, Gordon Sayre, Carol Scherer, Velma Shirk, Cari Soderlund, Pamela Swisher, Ron Swisher, Eric Thornton, Nancy White, Nancy Whitfield, Lyndell Wilken, and Sue Wolling.

BOARD NOTES

By Lana Lindstrom

President Laurie Funkhouser called the meeting to order. Other Board members present: John Cooper, Sharon Cutsforth, Pat Esch, Marci Hansen, Todd Larsen, Maryanne Reiter, and Lyndell Wilken. Also present were: Stewart Hoeg, John Jacobsen, Janet Jacobsen, Lana Lindstrom, Tom Rundle, Jim Whitfield, Chris Stockdale, Matt Bell, Dave Lodeesen, Wayne Deeter, Lenore McManigal, and Brad Bennett.

The Board approved the minutes of the January 4, 2017 meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Stewart Hoeg reviewed the Budget vs. Actual Report and the Balance Sheet. The Board approved payment of the bills. In addition, Stewart recommended that the Club's 2016 investment income of \$ 3,383.12 be allocated to the Capital/contingency Fund. The board approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Summer Trips (John Cooper): The Summer Trips committee met on January 25 to work on goals for the 2017 season. The committee has scheduled the Leader Training and Appreciation Night at the Lodge for April 11, time not yet set. A subcommittee led by Janet Jacobsen will set the agenda around making safe decisions on the trail.

Winter Trips (Dave Lodeesen): For the month of January, fourteen trips were completed.

Climbs (Maryanne Reiter): The climbs committee met on January 16 and picked dates for Climb School. We also posted information on climb school on the website and have begun to develop a list of climbs for 2017.

Trail Maintenance (Matthew Bell): There was one outing this past month in Spencer Butte Park. We received permission from the City to work along the closed Tie and Ridgeline trails. We were able to clean up storm debris, and check and clear drainage features from the trailhead to the summit and along the Tie Trail and Ridgeline to nearly Fox Hollow.

Highways and Byways By Bus (Sharon Cutsforth): We tentatively have eight trips planned for 2017. There will be five day trips, two overnight trips and a thirteen-day trip to visit National Parks of the Southwest.

Extended Trips (Lana Lindstrom): The January Newport Yurt overnight trip led by Evelyn Nagy was very successful and fun.

Conservation, Science, & Education (Tom Rundle): The January ExploraTalk was attended by 24 individuals. The talk included four speakers who talked about their lifetime experiences as volunteers in various conservation projects.

Publications (Lou Maenz): The publications committee has nothing to report other than the mailing went out to 200 addressees in January and the member directory will be included in the February Mailing.

Entertainment (Lana Lindstrom): Bill Sullivan had a big crowd when he presented updates to his Oregon Coast book at the January Potluck. Two proposals were received from local vendors for a new sound system. They require additional evaluation. A request for funding will be made at the March meeting.

Membership (Laurie Funkhouser): The Board approved two new members. A committee meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, February 22, 2017.

Publicity (Janet Jacobsen): Chris Stockdale is not on the committee but sends the trip information each Wednesday to *The Register-Guard* for the following Tuesday Outdoors section. When guests were asked at recent potlucks and ExploraTalks how they heard about the event, they mentioned the REI Bulletin Board, Y Bulletin Board, website, and friends.

Concessions: (Carla Cooper): Our committee met early in January to discuss displaying merchandise, pricing, and ordering new merchandise. We were present at both the January ExploraTalk and potluck. Our PayPal connection worked well for both events.

Finance (Stewart Hoeg): The Finance committee reviewed 2016 investment income and came up with an allocation decision to be presented to the board.

Library/Historian (Lenore McManigal): All the trip reports from the January *Bulletin* have been recorded.

Lodge Building (Dave Cooper): Two upcoming rentals in February. Eugene Parks & Rec will be using the Lodge on Feb 9 & 10 and the McKenzie River Trust will use the Lodge on Feb 19. Receptacle by the sink has been changed to a GFCI for safety and code compliance.

Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): Two work parties this month: Monday, January 16—This was the third and final work party to clean up remaining mess from the December ice storm. Lots of branch loads, many more rounds hauled/stacked and a lot of miscellaneous debris cleaned up. Dave Cooper and I managed to get several dangerous hangers down, so we won't need a tree service to get those out. At the end of the day the damage from the ice storm was finally cleared out. Thank you to Ben Brown, Rob Castleberry, Dave Cooper, Clara Emlen, Brenda Kameenui, Greg Milliman, Dave Strutin, Jim Whitfield and Nancy Whitfield. Thursday, January 26—A routine cleanup before the January potluck. Thanks to Jim Whitfield for his help.

Safety (Lyndell Wilken): The safety committee will hold their 2017 annual meeting on February 6.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ad Hoc Canine Committee

A motion was made to adopt the canine policy on a 3-month trial basis as proposed. After some discussion, it was amended to change the policy so that dogs would be required to be on-leash at all times except in dog parks and on beaches which allow this practice. The motion passed on a vote of 7 "yes" and 1 "no". The Board also requested that the subcommittee propose two additional refinements to the policy: 1) define criteria which would be used to evaluate the success or failure of the trial period and 2) propose how leaders schedule dog friendly trips so that they are clear about the guidelines. The tentative start date of the trial period is May.

NO NEW BUSINESS:

Adjournment

TRIP REPORTS & OTHER ACTIVITIES



Trail Maintenance

National Public Lands Day

September 24, 2016

Leader: Matthew Bell

Trail Maintenance: 3 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

FOR THIS OUTING WE WORKED INDEPENDENTLY to improve trails in Spencer Butte Park. Most of our group hiked up the main trail and down the Tie Trail to the Ridgeline before working our way back, cutting back brush from the sides and picking up litter along the trail. Todd removed an exposed root which was a trip hazard from a switchback. Clara did an excellent job this month cleaning the trailhead kiosk and steps. It was refreshing to come upon such a nice entry way. We even picked up broken bottle glass by hand! Members: Matthew Bell, Oliver Bell, Clara Emlen, Todd Larsen, Tom Rundle, Pat Soussan.

Storm Debris Cleanup

October 18, 2016

Leader: David Cooper

Trail Maintenance: 4 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

AFTER A RAINY, WINDY WEEKEND SIX OF US spent three hours getting debris off the Spencer Butte area trails. There were not as many fir boughs to rake off as we had expected but a couple of smaller trees had come down and had to be cut out. Also one log about 12 inches by 12 feet was partially blocking the trail but with some effort and a lifting strap we moved it down slope from the path. We did some pruning of low-hanging maple limbs and cleaned out a few culverts. The crew covered the Ridgeline Trail between Willamette and Fox Hollow, the Tie Trail, and the trail from the main parking lot to the junction with the Tie trail. Members: Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Janet Jacobsen, David Lodeesen, Jim Northrop, Mike Smith.

Spencer Butte

October 29, 2016

Leader: Matthew Bell

Photographer: Darko Sojak

Trail Maintenance: 3 miles, 200 ft. (Moderate)

OUR GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS MET at the Fox Hollow Trailhead, psyching ourselves up for a day in the rain. We were pleased to find that not a drop of rain fell on us, proving the adage that “the weather’s always perfect for trail maintenance!” For this month’s outing we worked independently to clear drainage features along the Ridgeline Trail. We hiked in from the Fox Hollow Trailhead and worked our way back clearing 22 culverts and drainage ditches. Janet raked big leaf maple leaves and debris off the entirety of the Ridgeline between Fox Hollow and the Tie Trail. Clara cleaned the kiosk and removed blackberries along the upper portion of the Amazon Headwaters Trail. The morning’s rain brought about a delightful discovery of four or five rain beetles burrowing



down into the trail. Members: Matthew Bell, Oliver Bell, Brad Bennett, Clara Emlen, Dan Gilmore, Janet Jacobsen, Todd Larsen, David Lodeesen, Dave Predeek, Tom Rundle, Mike Smith, Darko Sojak, Pat Soussan. Nonmembers: Nathaniel Bell.

Wild Iris Ridge Planting

November 26, 2016

Leader: Matthew Bell

Photographer: Pat Soussan

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

FOR THIS MONTH’S OUTING our group of volunteers braved the threat of torrential rains to improve the sides of the trail that is currently under construction in Wild Iris Ridge Park.



Conveniently, the rains never arrived and we enjoyed ideal weather for volunteering. Our group split up to tackle multiple aspects of the day’s projects. We planted grasses along the streams to repair the muddy mess made during construction as well as by rumored horses bypassing the new bridges. Barrier fencing and signage was added to discourage trampling of the plants. We also spread straw over seeded areas to protect the seeds. This work spreading straw or strawing as Nancy informed us continued further up the trail. We then planted some native plants in the ground under the newly re-established oak woodland habitat along the trailsides. As part of the planting we also removed hedgehog dogtail grass, a non-native invasive species that is prevalent in the area. Members: Matthew Bell, Oliver Bell, David Cooper, Janet Jacobsen, Becky Lipton, David Lodeesen, Dave Predeek, Tom Rundle, Mike Smith, Pat Soussan, June Sutterfield, Nancy Whitfield. Nonmembers: Jane Beckwith.

Spencer Trails Clean-up

December 30, 2016

Leader: David Cooper

Trail Maintenance: 4 miles, 700 ft. (Easy)

WINDING DOWN THE POST ICE STORM WORK, we checked out the trails at Mt Baldy. Cleared the short view point trail, unplugged a culvert and did a little bit of raking. After a stop at the cars for muffins, we covered the trails from Dillard to where we stopped previously when we worked from Fox Hollow. Just some minor raking and pruning. The Lane County Youth Corps had been through and done an excellent job. Members: Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Jane Hackett, Janet Jacobsen, Jim Northrop, Tom Rundle, Mike Smith, David Strutin, Tommy Young. Nonmembers: Diantha Hull.



Snowshoe Trips

Salt/Diamond Creek Falls

December 26, 2016

Leader: Scott Hovis

Photographer: Darko Sojak

Snowshoe: 3.5 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

THIRTEEN OBSIDIANS SHOWED UP TO SNOWSHOE about a 4-mile loop around Salt Creek Falls and continuing up to Diamond Creek Falls. The temperature at the trailhead was



18 degrees with a base of three feet of packed snow and 10 inches of fresh powder. It was mostly clear and sunny all day as we hiked the trails that had been used some the past couple of days, meaning we lucked out and didn't have to break fresh trail. We parked in a remote cleared parking area and had to hike about a 1/4 mile to the trailhead. First we gathered and took in the splendor of beautiful and icy Salt Creek Falls. As we started across Salt Creek, one of our hikers broke his snowshoe and had to spend the rest of the day waiting for us back at the cars. Twelve of us continued on up to Diamond Creek Falls where we stopped for our lunch break. We stopped at several vista points along the trail for picture taking. On the loop back we diverted off trail to take a look at

frozen Too Much Bear Lake. As we returned to the parking area, the lot was full and overflowing with late starting hikers. It's a good thing we Obsidians get out early to avoid the crowds at these easy to get to places. We all made it back in good shape and enjoyed this sunny day after enduring the previous week's ice storm that devastated the hiking trails around Eugene. Members: Brad Bennett, Marguerite Cooney, Scott Hovis, Daphne James, Becky Lipton, David Lodeesen, Lynn Meacham, Darian Morray, Monica Ozwoeld, Tom Rundle, Mike Smith, Darko Sojak. Nonmembers: Linda Gilbert.

Rosary Lakes

January 12, 2017

Leader: Tom Rundle

Photographer: Darian Morray

Snowshoe: 6 miles, 460 ft. (Moderate)

WE STARTED UP THE ROSARY LAKES TRAIL in dazzling sunshine and a temperature of about 27, perfect for snowshoeing. We had two pieces of good luck. The first piece of luck was having virtually no wind. The second piece of luck was that some skiers and snowshoe trekkers had preceded us.



This made trail-breaking in the 12 to 18-inch powder much easier. Even so, it was slow going. We were often moving along in a narrow trench that was ankle deep to knee deep through snow-shrouded Douglas firs. Nearly everyone helped out with trail breaking. We made it to the lower lake about 2:00 and had a quick lunch. We left the lake to make the return trek about 2:25 so as to have plenty of time to get back to the parking lot before sunset. The round-trip distance was about 6.3 miles with an elevation gain of about 498 feet according to GPS. Members: Mari Baldwin, Jane Hackett, Daphne James, Darian Morray, Tom Rundle, Chris Shuraleff, Nancy Whitfield. Nonmembers: Linda Gilbert.



Ski Trips

Redtop Mountain

January 15, 2017

Leader: Harold Thompson

Xski: 8 miles, 2,100 ft. (Difficult)

SELDOM DO PERFECT WEATHER AND FRESH POWDER snow show up together. This was one of those rare days. Nine skiers left Crescent Lake Sno-Park at 9:30 and followed a trail broken the day before to reach the top of Redtop Mountain at 12:30. Half the group couldn't wait and took a run down the pristine north side while the rest ate lunch on the summit. Endless views, no wind, and bright sunshine made the time on top unbeatable. Then the fun began! Each skier, showing their own unique style, made turns down through the fresh cold powder on the north side. Heading toward Pretty Lake and then down the Pretty Lake trail and back to the cars at 4:00 completed the 8-mile loop. We were the only people on the mountain on this perfect bluebird day. Members: Jan Anselmo, Richard Anselmo, John Hartman, Gordon Sayre, David Strutin, Harold Thompson. Nonmembers: Chrissy Anderson, David McAllister, Taylor Spike.

Extended Trips

Newport Yurt Stay

January 11, 2017

Leader: Evelyn Nagy

Photographer: David Lodeesen

Extended Trip: 6 miles, 100 ft. (Easy)

GOING FROM EUGENE'S SCARY SNOW AND ICE TO NEWPORT'S SUN AND SEA! Days of worry about weather led us to be rewarded with sunny weather when we arrived at our yurts for two nights at South Beach State Park in Newport. Always mindful of the high tide, we were able to see much



during our Newport walks. Some people wanted to visit the Yaquina Bay Lighthouse; some wanted to visit the Maritime Museum; all of us walked over the Yaquina Bridge where we were able to catch a glimpse of Marys Peak; and all of us

went to the OSU lecture at the Rogue Brewery about the endangered Nassau grouper fish. A beautiful full moon and the year's highest tides were observed and enjoyed by all. Members: Marguerite Cooney, Patricia Esch, Janet Jacobsen, Ruthy Kanagy, Mary Livingston, David Lodeesen, Helen Martz, Evelyn Nagy, Mike Smith, Chris Stockdale. Nonmembers: Rachelle Masin.



Hikes

Ridgeline Trail Clearing

December 28, 2016

Leader: Mike Smith

Hike: 2 miles, 800 ft. (Difficult)

WE SPLIT UP INTO TWO GROUPS to clean the upper and lower paths east of Fox Hollow. There was the thickest ice I have seen in places, a lot of frozen branches, a few huge root balls, and three hours work to get not quite to the trail junction with the upper trail. There are some dangerous branches overhead, and still people disobey the *Closed* signs in order to walk, run, or take young children out. Nobody in the group I was in was under 55; the young apparently are too fit to bother with such things as trail clearing. Being the best in some class matters. Clearing a trail to make it safer? Not so much. Still, we Obsidians should be proud of the work we are doing. Members: Mari Baldwin, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Barbara Gunther, Nancy Hoecker, Janet Jacobsen, David Lodeesen, Jim Northrop, Tom Rundle, Mike Smith, Dorene Steggell, Tommy Young.

Kalapuya Talking Stones

December 28, 2016

Leader: Jane Hackett

Hike: 7 miles, 0 ft. (Easy)

BY LUCK WE ACCOMPLISHED THIS HIKE on a beautiful sunny morning. Although the temperature at the beginning was 32 degrees or so, it was a crystal clear sky, no fog or clouds. We walked from SEHS through the University campus, noticed the extensive damage done to many of the trees, crossed Franklin Boulevard at Walnut Street and headed to the Knickerbocker Bridge to start looking for the fifteen Kalapuya Talking Stones. We finished our hike with a walk back to the cars, although two of us did stop for lunch at the Glenwood Cafe first. If you want to find the stones, there is a map available online at www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3322. Members: Jane Hackett, Holger Krentz, Darko Sojak, Nancy Whitfield. Nonmembers: Alice Krentz.

Cummins Creek Wilderness

December 29, 2016

Leader: Mike Smith

Hike: 11.6 miles, 1,700 ft. (Moderate)

I LEARNED THAT FOR FOLKS IN YACHATS, two of whom were guests on our trip, Rachelle for her second Obsidian trip, this should be called Cummins Ridge. The other one is Cummins Creek (loop). Anyway, we left at 9:45 without Rachelle, and Darian had a great 3.1 mph pace for about 5 miles. At about

4.5 miles, Rachele, who thought the hike was starting from Cape Perpetua, caught up, ostensibly not running at all. Now with seven hikers, we got to the road at the far end and had lunch. The trip back was not quite as fast, and we had time for a few pictures and to enjoy the warm, sunny, dry late December day on the coast. It was a pleasant day in the woods. This hike is not particularly scenic, but for solitude, it can't be beat. I've never met anybody else out in the middle of the trail, and James, who has hiked this before, said the same thing. Members: Ben Brown, David Lodeesen, Darian Morray, Tom Rundle, Mike Smith. Nonmembers: Rachele Masin, James Taglia.

Walking Through the Solar System

December 31, 2016

Leader: Mike Smith

Hike: 7 miles, 50 ft. (Easy)

SIX OF US WENT OUT ON THE SECOND SOLAR SYSTEM WALK from Day Island Road at the Duck Pond, where the Sun is located, to Neptune, nearly 3 miles distant. It was a cold morning and there were a lot of downed branches off the trail, but the planets survived well. I went through special times observing the planets and some of my special occasions with each: seeing Mercury from downtown Chicago one time, so this elusive planet isn't all that difficult to see. For Venus, it was the transit. For Mars, it was Neil de Grasse Tyson's comment that the science behind the movie *The Martian* was quite good. For Jupiter, it was the fast rotation and the squashed appearance. For Saturn, it was the time I watched it cover a star and saw the star go through the rings, revealing subtle differences in thicknesses that can't be seen any other time. For Uranus, it was the Voyager 2 spacecraft pictures and the idea that not only is the universe stranger than we imagined, it is stranger than we can imagine. For Neptune, it was the Great Dark Spot, another blue planet, and the night in 1989 I observed it with the TV on to *Neptune All Night*, as the Voyager 2 spacecraft sent back pictures. The guide star for the Voyager spacecraft was the star Canopus, which took me a while to think up. One of the downsides about moving here is that I have less of a connection to the night sky, because it isn't as clear, there is more light pollution, and I can't just walk outside and see everything. It's a fair trade and then some, but I need to regain my observational skills. It was a nice trip, and Janet was happy to learn about the difference between morning and evening stars, and the fact that they aren't stars at all, but a planet that is above the horizon when the Sun rises or sets respectively. Members: Lynda Christiansen, Jane Hackett, Janet Jacobsen, Mike Smith. Nonmembers: Serge Faumont, Denise Egri.

Trail Clearing

December 31, 2016

Leader: David Cooper

Hike: 5.2 miles, 1,100 ft. (Moderate)

WE WALKED THE TRAIL FROM THE 52ND & WILLAMETTE TRAIL-HEAD to the top of Spencer Butte looking for items to clean up after the recent ice storm. Glad to report there wasn't much to do. Did a little raking and pushed some debris piles away from the edge of the trail. Stopped to take a look at the huge log on the Tie Trail that had been sawn through by the Scorpion crew of the High Cascade Volunteers. Icy on the steps to the top and colder weather in the forecast. Still, a pleasant way to end the year. Members: Mari Baldwin, Marguerite Cooney, David Cooper, David Lodeesen, June Sutterfield.

Alt. New Year's Day - Spencer Butte

January 1, 2017

Leader: Mike Smith

Hike: 5 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

I HOPE THE REST OF THE TRIPS THIS YEAR DON'T GO THE WAY THIS ONE DID!! We had originally planned for two groups to go to the top of Spencer Butte, one led by Janet Jacobsen from the main lot, and the other led by me at the 52nd Street parking lot. Then came the ice storm and seven days of trail maintenance. Then came the confusion. The city put up *Trail Closed* signs that were widely ignored, and when I called about them, I was told that the trail system would be closed "Oh, much more than a month." The main lot trail was open, but nothing else - officially. I was getting emails telling me not to lead from 52nd Street and others telling me I should lead from 52nd Street. The situation changed daily. I finally said I would comply with the city for an Obsidian hike, although I thought the trails were just fine. I moved my hike to 9 AM from the main lot, a half hour prior to Janet's. Then the weather changed. Overnight, rain and then snow fell, so that the South Hills had a couple inches of slushy snow. Janet cancelled her hike, but I, living on the flatlands, figured I could dredge up my past extensive snow driving experience (40 years ago) and get my non-snow tire equipped automobile up there. I actually did get to the trailhead area early, and Dave Strutin and Marguerite Cooney showed up. Doreen drove up to cancel. The gate was closed, so we parked on the road, which had snow and slush present. We climbed up to the top with little problem, although there was moderate snow on the trail. Dave Lodeesen was on top, having come from 52nd Street. We had an interesting stay up there with wind, snow showers, fog, and some blue sky. We carefully descended to the Tie Trail, going to Dave's car, where he would drive us back up to our cars. On the way down, we met a group of four: Mari, June, Aliette, and Kathy. Mari offered us a chance to summit again, but we'd had enough. They signed in on the trail, and I hope they made it up. Had I been a better leader, I would have made sure they got to the top and then on the Tie Trail and during the descent looking for signs of trouble. Instead, I went straight down, got to the car, was pleased the roads were in better shape, and left. Welcome, 2017!! Members: Mari Baldwin, Marguerite Cooney, David Lodeesen, Kathy Randall, Mike Smith, David Strutin, June Sutterfield. Nonmembers: Alliette Pons.

River Walk

January 11, 2017

Leader: David Cooper

Hike: 5.2 miles, 100 ft. (Easy)

AFTER MANY DAYS OF FEELING HOUSE-BOUND because of the ice/snow/freezing rain, today was a pleasant way to get out and stretch our legs. We came prepared but didn't have any precipitation. We could see a lot of damage from the December ice storm along the river and on Skinner Butte. Members: Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Hilary Fisher, Caroline Moore, Anita Pierce.

River Path North

January 13, 2017

Leader: David Cooper, Assistant Leader: Carla Cooper

Hike: 6 miles, 0 ft. (Easy)

TEMPERATURES IN THE UPPER 20s and a little foggy for our walk. We took the riverbank path from near Valley River

Center to the shops on Green Acres Road. Lunch and conversation at Café Yumm was our halfway point. Then we returned crossing the Owosso Bike Bridge to walk on the other side of the river. The Greenway Bridge brought us back to our cars. Members: Brad Bennett, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Jane Hackett, Darko Sojak, Nancy Whitfield.

Mt. Baldy Sunrise

January 14, 2017

Leader: Darko Sojak

Photographer: Holger Krentz

Hike: 2.8 miles, 750 ft. (Easy)



BRISK HIKE IN A CRISP 24 DEGREES was energizing and enjoyable. Due to heavy cloud cover we were unable to see sunrise. Members: Holger Krentz, Darko Sojak.

Walterville Pond

January 15, 2017

Leader: Kathy Randall

Photographer: Holger Krentz

Hike: 3.8 miles, 0 ft. (Easy)

OUR LARGE GROUP HAD A PLEASANT HIKE under a blanket of fog with temps in the low 20s. We circled around the north side of Walterville Pond and then headed west to the power plant and back again to the parking lot. The water in the canal was the highest I've ever seen. Members: Mari Baldwin, Marguerite Cooney, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Clara Emlen, Laurie Funkhouser, Joel Greer, Holger Krentz, David Lodeesen, Kathy Randall, Ruth Romoser, Tom Rundle, Mike



Smith, Darko Sojak, June Sutterfield. Nonmembers: Alice Krentz, Marida Martin.

South Eugene Explorations

January 16, 2017

Leader: Lana Lindstrom

Hike: 4 miles, 500 ft. (Easy)

IT WAS 27 DEGREES WHEN WE STARTED, but sunny. Immediately we went up a hill, so by the time we reached Morse Family Farm, folks were starting to shed layers. Harriet Behm, docent at the Farm, shared many stories from the Morse family life and showed us around the former residence. Then we walked briskly up and down south Eugene hills, through secret passageways, up stone steps to a different street, and completed a loop. It was an excellent way to get some exercise and Vitamin D, learn some history, and have a social experience on Martin Luther King Day. Members: Mari Baldwin, Marguerite Cooney, Consuelo Gomez, Nancy Hoecker, Christiane Hougardy, Mark Hougardy, Richard Hughes, Holger Krentz, Lana Lindstrom, David Lodeesen. Nonmembers: Marida Martin.

Mt. Pisgah – Eastside

January 18, 2017

Leader & Photographer: Darian Morray

Hike: 6.1 miles, 1,200 ft. (Moderate)

WE CARPOOLED FROM THE HILYARD & 28TH Amazon parking area to the east Mt. Pisgah trailhead. The weather predictions had been for heavy rain. After weeks of subfreezing temperatures, ice and snow, the temperature was a balmy 56 degrees. Nine participants hiked Trails 2, 46, 4 and 1 to the summit, returning via Trail 2. Two participants took a shortcut to the



summit on Trail 24 but rejoined the group at the top. There was no rain and the trip was uneventful. Everyone appreciated the warm and dry day. Members: Mari Baldwin, Brad Bennett, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Janet Jacobsen, Steven Koester, Caroline Moore, Darian Morray, Tom Rundle, Mike Smith, Dorene Steggell.

Millrace/Dorris Ranch Loop

January 21, 2017

Leader: Kathy Randall

Photographer: Darko Sojak

Hike: 7 miles, 100 ft. (Moderate)

THE GROUP ALL AGREED that the new Springfield Millrace bike path is a worthy addition to Springfield's path system. We saw more evidence of wildlife than I expected, including



several different interesting species of ducks. The millrace is an interesting mix of creek, ponds and marshes. We were treated to numerous rain showers topped off with a rainbow as we crested the hill heading back into Springfield. Members: Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Steve Cordon, David Hawkins, Janet Jacobsen, Holger Krentz, Kathy Randall, Tom Rundle, Cindy Rust, Darko Sojak, June Sutterfield. Nonmembers: Paul Flashenberg, Kathie Carpenter.

Mt. Pisgah
January 25, 2017
Leader: Lana Lindstrom
Hike: 6 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

SINCE MOST OF THE SPENCER BUTTE TRAILS HAVE NOT YET RE-OPENED DUE TO THE ICE STORM, we hiked Mt Pisgah instead. A moderately fast group hiked up Trails 3 & 4, connecting to Trail 1 up the summit. At the monument, we celebrated a birthday with chocolate and dried fruit - excellent rewards! On the return, half the group continued down the main trail and the other half returned the same way they arrived. Members: Jennifer Baer, Brad Bennett, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Nancy Hoecker, Janet Jacobsen, Ruthy Kanagy, Lana Lindstrom, Vern Marsonette, Caroline Moore, Evelyn Nagy, Dorene Steggell, David Strutin. Nonmembers: Blue Wesley.

Upcoming Trips

Owyhee River Trip
April 24–30, 2017
Leader: Emily Rice

THE SNOWPACK LOOKS GOOD FOR RUNNING RIVERS THIS YEAR! Join us in exploring 63 miles of this scenic and dramatic canyon at a leisurely pace with great hiking, camping and birding. This is truly a unique wilderness river trip in Oregon. You'll be able to hang out on the guide's oar raft, be part of a paddle crew, or do your own thing in an inflatable kayak. This trip is rated Class III (moderate) and Ouzel, our guide service, is noted for their emphasis on safety and experienced guides. We are scheduled to launch at Rome on April 25 and take out on April 29 at Birch Creek. We will be camping April 24 at a BLM campsite. Dinner on April 24 and breakfast on April 25 are on your own. You can bring these meals or purchase them at a café across from the camping site. A pre-trip meeting will be scheduled to arrange carpooling, post-trip lodging and other trip details. Questions? Contact Emily at eamnrice@gmail.com or 517-0757.

Online registration will open on February 15 for members, February 17 for nonmembers. We will be joining an existing trip—currently eight spots are available. The price of \$1,140 (\$1,145 nonmember) includes the Obsidian trip fee, all meals beginning with lunch on April 25 through lunch on April 29, and a gratuity for the guides. Ouzel provides all rafting equipment, kayaks, camping gear (tent, sleeping bag and pad), meals and return transportation to Rome. A \$100 deposit is due within five days of signing up. Send check payable to Obsidians to: Emily Rice; 1615 E. 43rd Ave., Eugene, OR 97405. Final payment is due March 23. For more information go to Ouzel Outfitters: www.oregonrafting.com Cancellations: The deposit is refundable only if someone takes your place. All payments are

refunded if Ouzel cancels the trip due to poor river conditions.

Deer Creek Center Camping
May 1–5, 2017
Leader: Chris Stockdale

A REPEAT VISIT TO THE DEER CREEK CENTER of the Siskiyou Field Institute is scheduled for this coming May. We will camp for four nights at this beautiful facility located 20 miles southwest of Grants Pass and just 1.5 miles from the small town of Selma, Oregon. It's also only a few miles from Cave Junction and the Oregon Caves. The Center lies at the gateway to the Illinois River Canyon and overlooks the scenic Deer Creek Valley. From there we have easy access to hiking in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness and along the Illinois River, and more hikes that lie further south. Besides hiking you can spend your time bird-watching on the 850-acre Deer Creek Center property, searching for unusual wild flowers, exploring the Oregon Caves or even canoeing or kayaking on close-by Lake Selmac. We will camp on the spacious grounds of the Center with tents or small RVs/trailers, have access to state-of-the-art solar showers and toilets, and prepare our meals in a covered pavilion. Participants will bring their own breakfasts and lunches. Dinners will be group activities and included in the trip price, along with snacks.

The trip price of \$98 members/\$103 nonmembers includes four nights camping and four dinners. Signup will begin on February 15, 2017 and members will have 48-hours priority. Send checks for the full amount within five days of signing up to Chris Stockdale, 2607 Woodstone Place, Eugene 97405.

Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

May 19–21, 2017

Leader: Marianne Camp

AN EXTENDED TRIP LED BY MARIANNE CAMP has been scheduled for the May 19–21 weekend in Frenchglen, which is about 60 miles south of Burns, adjacent to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in southeastern Oregon. Malheur Wildlife Refuge is one of the most important freshwater marshes in the western United States. Three major bird migration corridors within the Pacific Flyway converge here, creating a way station for a variety of birds—waterfowl, shorebirds, songbirds, and birds of prey. (www.fws.gov/refuge/malheur) Our very own Rick Ahrens will be the resident naturalist. The focus of this trip is birding; bring your binoculars!

Trip participants will stay in the historic Frenchglen Hotel, established in 1916. It is a popular destination for people from all over the world. (www.frenchglenhotel.com) Many historical sites are close by: the Alvord Desert is just an hour away and Steens Mountain is right outside the hotel's front door (snow levels will prevent driving to the top so early in the year).

The dinners are served family style and include dessert, often marionberry cobbler a la mode. The cost of the trip includes the room, two dinners, tip, and trip fees. Breakfasts and lunches are not included in the cost, but can be purchased directly from the hotel.

The older, original Frenchglen hotel has eight small rooms: Seven have one double/full bed; one has two beds. Shared bathrooms are down the hall. The fee for Obsidians staying in these rooms is: single occupancy—\$225; double occupancy—\$145 each. Nonmembers add \$5.

A newer motel style addition has five rooms with queen beds and private baths. Four have one queen bed and one has two beds. The fee for Obsidians staying in these rooms is: single occupancy—\$310; double occupancy—\$185 each. Room with two beds—\$205 each. Nonmembers add \$5.

Signup begins February 18 for Obsidian members only, and February 20 for nonmembers. After signing up online, please email or call the leader with your room preference. Once the trip is full, the leader will sort out room assignments and contact you. Full payment will be due by March 1. Make the check payable to Obsidians and mail to Marianne Camp, 350 Pearl St, Apt 1308, Eugene, OR 97401.

Cancellations: If you cancel prior to April 15 you will forfeit \$20. If you cancel on/after April 15 you will forfeit the entire amount unless someone takes your place.

Additional information regarding the logistics of the trip will be provided at a pre-trip meeting. If you have questions email Marianne Camp at campmarianne@gmail.com or call 347-703-9852.

Alder Springs Restoration
Alder Springs and Whychus Creek
May 19–21, 2017
Leader: Mark Hougardy

SLEEP UNDER THE STARS and experience one of the hidden gems of Central Oregon's high desert on this two-night car

camping trip involving restoration work at Alder Springs and Whychus Creek. Each day there will be plenty of time to hike and see this area's incredibly scenic views.

Located thirty miles northeast of Sisters, Alder Springs gushes out of the base of a cliff into a lush canyon, dumping over 60 cubic feet per second of water (more than flows from the head of the Metolius) into lower Whychus Creek. The creek provides prime spawning habitat for salmon and steelhead as they return to the watershed, and crucial winter range for mule deer and other wildlife. This oasis in the high desert has become a popular recreation destination for hundreds of people, putting pressure on the local ecosystem.

The Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) has offered to help the Obsidians better understand the story of this place in exchange for some restoration work. Gena Goodman-Campbell, ONDA's Central Oregon program coordinator, will be joining us and directing our efforts. Our weekend will include: light trail maintenance, clearing fast-growing brush that is encroaching on the trail, campsite cleanup, removing fire rings, and other necessary maintenance activities. We will be using shovels, handsaws, and loppers.

We will depart Eugene on Friday, May 19, drive to Whychus Creek and set up camp. On Saturday, we'll hike up to three miles one way for the restoration work, then return to camp that afternoon. On Sunday we can finish up any projects and have some extra time to play. We will be back on the road by 4 PM to return to Eugene by 6 or 7 PM.

There is a mandatory creek crossing through cold and rapidly moving water that is typically about knee deep for an adult. Water shoes and/or trekking poles are recommended for the crossing. This is a great opportunity for a rinse off after a dusty day!

ONDA will provide the gear for the work, excellent guidance in the field, and a few group camping items to make things more comfortable (chairs, tables, dishwashing bins, campfire materials, some water, shade/rain tarp, 'groover' camp toilet, etc.)

You will need to provide your own tent, camping equipment, stove, food, water, flashlight, daypack, water purification, etc. Bring your own gloves!

For more information and to register see the trip description on the Obsidian website.

White Mountains, California
August 23–29, 2017
Leader: Alan Curtis

ALAN CURTIS IS LEADING A FIELD TRIP to the White Mountains in central California near Bishop. This is the home of the bristlecone pine, the oldest living trees. We will stay four nights at the University of California's Crooked Creek Research Station, elevation 10,000 feet; meals will be prepared for us. You can learn more about the facility at www.wmrc.edu/facilities/cc There are many trails to hike, a visitor center to explore, and unlimited photographic opportunities.

More information will be in the next issue of the *Bulletin*, and registration will commence in April.



Byways By Bus

Birding in the Klamath Basin

March 1–2 (Wed–Thurs)

Leaders: Rick Ahrens, Sharon Cutsforth

Cost: \$175 (\$179 nonmembers)

Reservations & checks: Judy Phelps, 726-0118

Load bus at 7:30 AM, depart at 8:00

BACK BY POPULAR REQUEST! This interesting and fun trip to view birds in the Klamath Basin is a great winter outing. Local naturalist and fellow Obsidian Rick Ahrens always makes the trip more enjoyable by sharing his vast knowledge of the natural world. Plus he is an expert at sighting and identifying birds. While we can't guarantee just what birds you will see, here are a few highlights from previous trips: thousands of snow geese flying in at dusk, turning the ground white and filling the air with sound; eagles on the ice at Klamath Lake and hunting in the snow covered fields; a large flock of night herons roosting in the trees along the Link River; hundreds of tundra swans floating on the water, looking like a huge white island; large numbers of ducks, geese, birds of prey and perching birds. Who knows what special sights this year will bring!

Cost of trip includes: transportation in a luxury motor coach with experienced driver; Thursday lunch at The Black Bear Restaurant; overnight accommodations, plus full continental breakfast, evening soup and cookies at Best Western Olympic Inn Klamath Falls. Bring a sack lunch for Wednesday. Dress warm and bring your camera, binoculars and spirit of adventure.

OMSI and Railroad Museum

April 13 (Thursday)

Leader: Jim Northrop

Cost: \$66 (\$68 nonmembers)

Reservations & checks: Mary Lee Cheadle, 689-1085

Load bus at 7:45 AM, depart at 8:00

WHAT BETTER WAY TO SPEND A RAINY SPRING DAY than with a trip to the museum—two museums, in fact. Our bus trip will take us to the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry and the Oregon Rail Heritage Center, both located within a few blocks of each other along the Willamette River in southeast Portland. At OMSI we will view the featured

exhibit, *The Art of the Brick*. This is the world's largest display of LEGO art, with both original pieces of inspiring artwork as well as re-imagined versions of some of the world's most famous art masterpieces, made entirely from LEGO bricks. We will also see the big screen IMAX movie *National Parks Adventure* and take in a laser light show or see the stars in the Kendall Planetarium. Optional activities are a 45-minute tour of the USS Blueback submarine docked along the Willamette River (\$3.00), or a ride in a motion simulator (\$5.00). Be sure to tour the museum's regular science exhibits in the Turbine Hall and visit the Science Store for gift ideas. Lunch is on your own in the Theory Eatery (sandwiches, soups, salads, tacos, pizza, 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM) or bring your own lunch to eat in the visitors' lunchroom. Sometime after 1:00 PM Jim Northrop will lead fellow train enthusiasts two blocks to the Oregon Rail Heritage Center to visit three steam locomotives, including SP 4449, which pulled the Freedom Train for the bicentennial celebration in 1976. The railroad museum includes a gift shop and other displays of railroading in Oregon. If the weather is nice and you are up for some exercise, hike across the new Tilikum Crossing: Bridge of the People over the Willamette River. This bridge next to OMSI carries pedestrians, cyclists, city buses, the Portland Streetcar, and MAX trains, but not cars. It is the largest car-free bridge in the United States and is a marvel to behold. We will re-board our motor coach at 3:00 and hope to arrive back at Shopko before 6:00 PM.

Southwest National Parks Tour

September 10–22, 2017

Leaders: Sharon Cutsforth, Jim Northrop

Driver & Guide: Augie & Char Bergman

Cost: \$1,557 (nonmembers \$1,583)

THIS THIRTEEN-DAY/TWELVE-NIGHT TRIP will take us through parts of six states, ten National Parks, three National Monuments, four State Parks and much more. Obsidians and travel partners will have registration priority until March 15—trip will be limited to 34 people. Contact: Sharon Cutsforth, 746-4929 or skcutsforth@comcast.net for a trip itinerary. We plan to have a great time and see spectacular scenery!

Watch for more news of this and other bus trips in the March *Bulletin* or come to the Bus Rally on March 5, 2–4 PM at the Obsidians Lodge. Please Note: when paying for bus trips, make checks payable to Obsidians Bus Trips Account. Thank you!

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

Fuji Shelter—A Winter Destination

Lyndell Wilken

FUJI SHELTER, LOCATED FOUR MILES FROM THE SALT CREEK SNO-PARK OFF OF HIGHWAY 58, offers a grand view of Diamond Peak and southern landmarks. The shelter's southern exposure on a sunny day can offer a warm place to have lunch while looking out towards Diamond Peak. If you want an overnight camping experience the shelter has a new donated stove and wood ready for your use. There is an overhead loft for sleeping, but be sure to take a very warm sleeping bag as the shelter has only three sides, leaving one side open to the elements. The shelter can be accessed from Fuji Creek Road across Highway 58 from the Salt Creek Sno-Park. It is the easiest route although it is a steady four-mile climb to the shelter. Fuji Creek Road is wide and is preferred by those on snowshoes. The path is often packed down, making the hike up easier. Skiers use Fuji Creek Road also but often prefer to leave from the Waldo Road Sno-Park instead. One can ski up the Waldo Road for two miles before turning left onto the Fuji Mt. trail, which leads to a Fuji shelter turn-off. This route is for intermediate and above abilities. All of the trails and shelters are well marked on the Willamette Pass Winter Recreation map which can be purchased at the Forest Service offices or at REI.



Scherer Room Exhibit

Janet Jacobsen

SKETCHBOOKS BY ANNE BONINE, BARBARA ATEN, AND SOTHERS will be on display in February in the Scherer Room at the Lodge. The sketchbooks were part of the *Sharing the Joy of Sketching* exhibit at the Emerald Art Gallery in January. The artists originally came together in 2006 on a sketching tour of the hill towns in Umbria, Italy, led by Ken O'Connell, Professor Emeritus of the U of O art department. They have continued to sketch together once a week, with new sketchers joining in over the years. They call themselves The Top Drawers.



Anne Bonine sketchbook.

AT THE LODGE



POTLUCK

Friday, February 24, at 6:30 PM

Fife Coastal Path: A Winter Trek along Scotland's Blustery North Sea

NATURE, HISTORY, CULTURE AND MORE await you on a continuous hiking route along the east coast of Scotland. Join long-distance hiker Al LePage as he shares an unusual and reflective journey during the darkest, coldest, windiest and wettest time of the year—the last week of December! From St. Andrew's to the Firth of Forth, from the ruins of an old cathedral to the sometimes rocky and rugged, sometimes tame with pastures and quaint villages, there's lots to see and learn and ponder.



Friday, February 24, 2017

Obsidian Lodge

Potluck, 6:30 PM PROGRAM, 7:30 PM

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



ExploraTalk

Tuesday, February 21, at 7:00

Making an Extraordinary Effort: Bold Acts of Strength

LOCAL EUGENE MOUNTAIN RESCUE VOLUNTEERS, John Leavens and Brian Roddy, will each talk about the experience of achieving a major feat of endurance—climbing Denali and finishing the Race Across America. Slides and video accompany this fascinating discussion about what it takes to ensure success, driving us perhaps beyond what we think we are capable of.



Obsidian Calendar

February

4 Sat	Pisgah Trails Hike M Cooper	868-5427
4 Sat	Gold Lake Xski E Hackett	953-7046
4 Sat	Fawn Lake Xski M Hamilton	343-6550
5 Sun	Clear Lake SShoe M James	683-7488
8 Wed	Amazon Headwaters Hike M Smith	520-488-9569
10 Fri	Pisgah Moon Hike Hike M Smith	520-488-9569
11 Sat	Potato Hill SShoe D Hovis	731-3412
12 Sun	Big Lake Xski M Hackett	953-7046
14 Tue	Oregon B'day - Dorris Ranch Hike E Jacobsen	206-1251
15 Wed	Amazon Headwaters Hike M Lodeesen.....	214-709-0352
17 Fri	Big Lake-Brandenburg Shelter SShoe M James	683-7488
18 Sat	Mountain View SS/Bk Pack SShoe D Sojak.....	525-1124
19 Sun	Waldo Lake(&beginner x-ski) SShoe E Hackett	953-7046
19 Sun	Sand Mountain Lookout Xski D Miller	484-4586
21 Tue	Bold Acts of Strength	ExploraTalk
21 Tue	EMX / River Hike E Jacobsen.....	206-1251
22 Wed	Amazon Headwaters Hike M Rundle	653-0741
24 Fri	Fife Trail, Scotland.....	Potluck
25 Sat	Trail Maintenance Trl Mnt M Bell.....	503-884-8829
26 Sun	Eel Creek Hike M Hackett	953-7046
26 Sun	McDowell Creek Falls Hike E Jacobsen	206-1251
28 Tue	Shelter Cove Xski & SShoe E Shuraleff.....	954-4474

March

1 Wed	Amazon Headwaters Hike M Cooper	868-5427
3 Fri	Wild Iris Ridge Hike E Cooper	868-5427
4 Sat	Fish Lake SShoe M Hovis	731-3412
8 Wed	Amazon Headwaters Hike M Strutin	221-9015
12 Sun	Pisgah Moon Hike Hike M Smith	520-488-9569
14 Tue	Pi Day Hike E Jacobsen	206-1251
15 Wed	Amazon Headwaters Hike M Morray	953-5679
21 Tue	Wilderness Management	ExploraTalk
22 Wed	Amazon Headwaters Hike M Lodeesen.....	214-709-0352

24 Fri	Images from the Polar Extremes.....	Potluck
25 Sat	Trail Maintenance Trl Mnt M Bell.....	503-884-8829
29 Wed	Amazon Headwaters Hike M Rundle	653-0741
30 Thu	Salem Exploration Hike E Jacobsen	206-1251

April

1 Sat	SOLVE Beach Clean Up Hike E Sojak.....	525-1124
7 Fri	Backpacker's Rendezvous (Lodge) Hougardy.	505-7031
10 Mon	Mt Pisgah Full Moon /Sunset Hike M Smith	520-488-9569
18 Tue	Conservation in Our Backyard	ExploraTalk
25 Tue	Owyhee Rafting Trip Ext Trip E Rice.....	517-0757
28 Fri	Cycling Hokkaido, Japan.....	Potluck
29 Sat	Trail Maintenance Trl Mnt M Bell.....	503-884-8829

May

1 Mon	Deer Creek Center Hike E Stockdale	221-2293
16 Tue	TBA	ExploraTalk
19 Fri	Cycling New Zealand	Potluck
19 Fri	Malheur Wildlife Refuge Ext Trip E Camp	347-703-9852
19 Fri	Alder Creek Restoration Trl Mnt M Hougardy	505-7031
31 Wed	Trail Maintenance Trl Mnt M Bell.....	503-884-8829

June

3 Sat	National Trails Day Trl Mnt M Bell	503-884-8829
20 Tue	Total Solar Eclipse	ExploraTalk
23 Fri	Conserving Rhinos in S. Africa	Potluck
28 Wed	Trail Maintenance Trl Mnt M Bell.....	503-884-8829

July

26 Wed	Trail Maintenance Trl Mnt M Bell	503-884-8829
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August

21 Mon	Total Solar Eclipse of 2017 Hike E Sojak.....	525-1124
30 Wed	Trail Maintenance Trl Mnt M Bell.....	503-884-8829

Shopping for trips? A few tips...

TO SEE THE LATEST UPDATES TO OUR TRIP SCHEDULE, be sure to visit the Obsidian Online System Login at:

www.obsidians.org/onlinesignup/index.htm. There you will find the necessary links to retrieve your password, if you have forgotten it, or to register if you are a nonmember.

Can't spot the trip you want? Be sure to scroll down through the entire list to view all current selections.

On the Obsidian home page www.obsidians.org you will find a handful of links (Summer Trips, Climbs, Bus Trips, and many more) taking you to expanded descriptions of upcoming trips and events.

Wondering if an upcoming trip is a fit for you? Follow THE REPORT PAGE link to search for reports of past trips.

FOR SALE

ELAN Gateway Cap SKIS with bindings, 72" - \$40

ROSSIGNOL R28 Ski Boots, 282 mm - \$30

Contact Darko Sojak at

525-1124

or

darchey@comcast.net



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February 2017



Photo of Oregon Coast on 12/29/16 by Dave Lodeesen (See Cummins Creek Hike on page 7.)