



# The **OBSIDIAN** Bulletin

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## Dates to Remember

February 18	ExploraTalk
February 28	Potluck
February 28	Bulletin Deadline
March 4	Board Meeting
March 10	March ExploraTalk
March 15	Bus Rally

Current event schedules at:

[www.obsidians.org](http://www.obsidians.org)

*The Register-Guard*  
Sports/Outdoor Calendar—Tuesday

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## Camp Reiter

### Obsidian Summer Camp 2020 Sawtooth Mountains, Idaho—Chemeketan Campground Friday, August 7–Friday, August 14

*John Jacobsen, Summer Camp Boss*

**WE ARE GOING BACK TO THE SAWTOOTHs OF IDAHO** for Obsidian Summer Camp for the sixth time. Rick Ahrens' summer camp history shows five previous Summer Camps in the Sawtooths: Camp Chase in 1961 at Redfish Lake, Camp Lowry in 1983 up the Yankee Fork of the Salmon at the Bonanza Campground, Camp Montgomery in 1994 at the Chemeketan CG, the Three Sages Camp in 2000 at the Chemeketan CG and Camp Hamilton in 2008 at Bonanza CG. I have attended the last four of those camps and look forward to returning to one of my favorite Summer Camp locations at the Chemeketan CG.

The Chemeketan Campground, between Stanley and Ketcham, Idaho, is at the headwaters of the Salmon River. There is something for everybody in the Sawtooths! Hiking, kayaking, rafting, mountain biking, soaking in hot springs, climbing Mt. Borah (Idaho's highest peak), viewing wildlife, visiting the Yankee Fork Gold Dredge and Custer ghost town, taking the boat across Redfish Lake to hike or rock climb, and possibly visiting the White Clouds Mountains.

Watch the March *Bulletin* and our website for more information about Camp Reiter. A registration form for Camp Reiter will be included with the April *Bulletin*. Online signup for members will begin Sunday, April 12 starting at 7:00 AM, and for nonmembers three days later. The Camp Reiter Rally is scheduled for Friday, May 1 at 7:00 PM.



*Obsidians at Goat Lake in the Sawtooths  
2008 Summer Camp.*

## Bus Rally 2020

**Sunday, March 15, 2-4 PM**

*Sharon Cutsforth, Bus Committee Co-chair*

**E**ACH YEAR THE BUS COMMITTEE HOLDS A RALLY AT THE OBSIDIAN LODGE to announce our planned bus trips. This is always a fun time as we reconnect with old friends and enjoy meeting new people. We welcome all Obsidians, families, friends, and guests. Leaders will present details about the trips they have planned and this will be the first opportunity to sign up for trips that are of interest to you. The cost of each trip is figured at a rate to cover expenses.

We usually have only 25-30 people on our trips, making it easier to move around at our destinations. Travel is aboard a luxury motor coach with a capacity of 50 people. These coaches are taller than many other vehicles so views are less obstructed. The coaches have very large windows for great sightseeing, *kneel* for easy boarding,

*(Continued on page 9)*

## IN MEMORIAM

ETHEL ETTER ALLEN 11/1/1919–1/15/2020

ETHEL WENT ON HER FIRST OBSIDIAN BUS TRIP IN 1995, AND ON HER 187<sup>TH</sup> BUS TRIP THIS PAST DECEMBER. She received her 100-trip patch in 2004. She was a member of the Bus Committee for many years and also led ten trips, several with a focus on pioneers. She led a stage coach road themed bus trip in 2001 to the Trinity Alps and Weaverville that included a visit to the original Etter ranch home where her family lived during the 1920s. Ethel's trip reports are filled with appreciative observations that conclude with a positive phrase and a comment on punctuality: *As all good things come to an end, we returned to Eugene at 5:15 PM.*

Anyone who traveled on the Obsidian bus with Ethel was welcomed with her smile and gracious style. She was always willing to share stories about her experiences. Bus riders also met her family members—Obsidians Barbara and Paul Beard and their daughter Paula.

Friends and relatives filled the Lodge for her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party this past November. During the gathering all were inspired watching Ethel move so elegantly with her tai chi class. In December she went on her last bus trip to Christmas Storybook Land in Albany, and even attended a Bus Trip Committee meeting at the Lodge.

She is predeceased by daughter Nancy Schreiner, also an Obsidian member. She is survived by two daughters, Barbara (Paul) and Bonnie (Mike) and son-in-law, John Schreiner; ten grandchildren; fourteen great-grandchildren; ten great, great grandchildren; many nieces, nephews, grand-nieces, and grand-nephews. A celebration of Ethel's life was held on January 25 at Ebbert United Memorial Methodist Church. Ethel's family played several moving musical numbers. Barbara (bells), Paul (piano), and Paula (flute) played Ethel's favorite song poem, *Trees*.

*Editor's Note: A complete obituary can be found in The Register-Guard, January 19, 2020.*

CORK HIGGINS 7/9/1938–1/21/2020

CORK AND HIS WIFE CAROLYN JOINED THE OBSIDIANS AFTER ATTENDING THE 2000 SUMMER CAMP IN THE SAWTOOTH MOUNTAINS. They attended six summer camps, the last one in 2008 also to the Sawtooths. Cork went on 51 trips; his last hike with the club was to Sweet Creek in October, 2009.

Cork and Carolyn led a Mt. Tom loop hike in 2006 and 2007 from their home on Mt. Tom Road. It was a unique experience for hikers to visit their special places on the hike to the ridge for views of the coast range and valley floor. They both served on the Obsidian Olympic Trials Committee in 2008 to help provide local hikes for visitors. Their daughter Holly joined in 2006. They were interviewed for a feature article in the May, 2007 *Bulletin*: [http://www.obsidians.org/bulletin/Issues/2007\\_Bulletins/2007\\_05\\_Bulletin.pdf](http://www.obsidians.org/bulletin/Issues/2007_Bulletins/2007_05_Bulletin.pdf)

Cork is survived by Carolyn his wife of 61 years and children Clay, Holly, and Quinn. A Celebration of Life will be held at the Obsidian Lodge, Saturday, February 15, 12–3 PM.

## Basic Climb School 2020 Begins March 30

Maryanne Reiter, Climbs Committee Chair

SEE THE OBSIDIAN WEBPAGE OR JANUARY BULLETIN for details. Online registration opens Feb 18, 2020 at 7:00 AM. Obsidian and Eugene Mountain Rescue members can pre-register by contacting Maryanne Reiter, the Climbs Committee Chair at [mreiter1959@gmail.com](mailto:mreiter1959@gmail.com).

## OBSIDIANS, INC

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405  
Website: [www.obsidians.org](http://www.obsidians.org)

### Officers & Board of Directors

Maryanne Reiter, President  
Dave Cooper, Vice President  
Denise Rubenstein, Secretary  
Stewart Hoeg, Treasurer  
John Cooper, Steve Cordon,  
Marci Hansen, Dave Hawkins,  
Kathy Randall, 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

Bus..... S. Cutsforth/J. Northrop  
Climbs ..... Maryanne Reiter  
Concessions ..... Carla Cooper  
Conservation/SciEd ..... K. Coots/J. Rolfe  
Entertainment ..... Evelyn Nagy  
Extended Trips..... Lana Lindstrom  
Finance ..... Stewart Hoeg  
Lodge Building..... Dave Cooper  
Lodge Grounds ..... John Jacobsen  
Librarian/Historian ..... Lenore McManigal  
Membership ..... Diane Schechter  
Online ..... Wayne Deeter  
Publications ..... Lou Maenz  
Publicity..... Marci Hansen  
Safety..... Lyndell Wilken  
Summer Camp ..... John Jacobsen  
Summer Trips ..... Dave Cooper  
Trail Maintenance..... Matt Bell  
Winter Trips..... Steve Cordon

### The OBSIDIAN Bulletin © 2020

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[bulletin@obsidians.org](mailto:bulletin@obsidians.org)

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**The Obsidian Bulletin**

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405

**Deadline  
for March Bulletin  
Friday, February 28, 2020**

### Editorial Team

Writing & Editorial Staff:  
Janet Jacobsen, Lou Maenz

Copy Editors:  
Jorry Rolfé, Ethel Weltman

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

### Assembly/Mailing Team

Manager: Lou Maenz

Team: Tom Adamecyk, Don Baldwin, Clara Emlen, Judy Newman, Yuan Hopkins, Janet Whitesides, Barbara Schomaker, Nancy Raymond

# JANUARY BOARD NOTES

January 8, 2020

By Denise Rubenstein

President Maryanne Reiter called the meeting to order. Board members present: Marci Hansen, Dave Cooper, John Cooper, Lyndell Wilken, Steve Cordon, Kathy Randall, Stewart Hoeg, and Dave Hawkins. Others present: Denise Rubenstein, Clara Emlen, Kay Coots, Carla Cooper, Kathy Hoeg, Evelyn Nagy, Jim Northrop, Lana Lindstrom, and John Jacobsen.

The Board approved the minutes for December 2019.

## TREASURER'S REPORT (Stewart Hoeg)

Stewart reviewed the year-to-date income and expenses as well as the balance sheet. The Board approved paying the bills.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Bus Trips (Sharon Cutsforth & Jim Northrop):** Bus Trips successfully completed seven trips this year, after having to cancel the March trip to Klamath Falls and the March Bus Rally because of the snow storm. There was a total of 190 participants and \$585 in fees were collected and forwarded to Obsidians, Inc. Our finances are well in the black as we begin planning trips for 2020. Our next planning meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 16 at the Lodge. The committee is planning the 2020 Bus Rally for Sunday, March 15, also at the Lodge.

**Climbs (Maryanne Reiter):** The Climbs Committee will kick off 2020 with a meeting on January 22.

**Concessions (Carla Cooper):** Concessions sold \$16 worth of goods in December. We will be meeting in early January to order new merchandise.

**Conservation/SciEd (Jorry Rolfe & Kay Coots):** We start the year with an ExploraTalk on Tuesday, January 21. Mike Houck, an urban naturalist, joins us from Portland to speak about the Portland-Vancouver region's system of parks, trails and natural area—the Intertwine.

**Lodge Building (Dave Cooper):** Received \$140 rent from the McKenzie River Trust for February 8, 2020.

**Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen):** No report, but let's cross our collective fingers for no tree-crushing snow, ice or wind storms this winter.

**Summer Camp (John Jacobsen):** We will be requesting Board consent to change the Summer Camp Committee chairmanship from Lana Lindstrom to John Jacobsen.

I have not fixed dates for Summer Camp yet because of some scheduling issues, but it will likely be about Aug 6–13 with a possible shift a day or two either way.

**Winter Trips (Steve Cordon):** 27 trips completed, 284 members and 44 nonmembers participated. \$287 collected. Three trips were cancelled and/or rescheduled due to weather/snow.

## NEW BUSINESS

- The Board approved the 2020 Committee Members.
- Summer Camp Committee Chair change from Lana Lindstrom to John Jacobsen was approved.
- Stewart Hoeg reviewed the 2020 Obsidian Budget and it was approved. The Club's finances are in good shape with a surplus of funds.
- The IRS mileage reimbursement has been about 9 cents for ten years or so; it was approved to an adjusted rate of 10 cents per mile.
- Marci Hansen suggested that if trip leaders texted photos to her from trips, it would streamline postings on social media. Lots of great pics are taken, but not all end up in our gallery.
- New members were approved.

## OPEN AGENDA ITEMS

Clara Emlen met with a small group to further discuss the possibility of a garage sale for equipment. Plans are still in the making—possibly in April in conjunction with a Get Acquainted Hike at the Lodge.

## Welcome New Members!

**Merany Corson**  
Columbus, MT 59019

**Michael Myers**  
Eugene, OR 97405

**Marian Jacobs**  
Eugene, OR 97408

**Joan Skarda**  
Florence, OR 97439

**Joanna Merson**  
Eugene, OR 97401

**John Skarda**  
Florence, OR 97439

**Jessica Moll**  
Eugene, OR 97405

**Jodi Wiktorowski**  
Creswell, OR 97426

## Trip Leader Training

*Dave Cooper, Summer Trips Committee Chair*

**T**HERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE IN OUR CLUB WHO WOULD MAKE EXCELLENT LEADERS. Are you one of them? In an effort to help folks feel more comfortable and confident in taking on this role, leader apprenticeship training is going to be offered. You'll be taken through all the steps to lead a successful hike. This could mean one-on-one or small group training for everything from planning your trip to writing the trip report. There will be hikes for potential leaders and assistants. We want to make this a very good way for you to find out if leading is a role for you as an Obsidian. Watch the *Bulletin* and online for more information.



# 2020 OBSIDIAN COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Bus Committee:** Sharon Cutsforth (chair) Jim Northrop (co-chair), Judy Adamcyk, Tom Adamcyk, Rick Ahrens, Ethel Allen, Barbara Beard, Paul Beard, Don Payne, Judy Phelps, Marcia Claypool, Judy Garwood, Vern Marsonette, Mary Ellen West, Evelyn Nagy, Verna Kocken, Joella Ewing.

**Climbs:** Maryanne Reiter (chair) Brian Hamilton, Marci Hansen, Danni Harris, Eric Gran, Wayne Deeter, Danny Manning, Jen Marlow, Trina Kanewa.

**Concessions:** Carla Cooper (chair) Keiko Bryan, Nancy Whitfield, Mari Baldwin, Chris Shuraleff.

**SciEd/Conservation:** Jorry Rolfe/Kay Coots (chairs) Joanna Alexander, Angie Ruzicka, Diana Wheat, Randy Sinnott.

**Entertainment:** Evelyn Nagy, Pam and Ron Swisher (chairs) Dave Cooper, Richard Hughes, Toresa Martell, June Miller, Esme Greer, Yuan Hopkins, Mary Livingston, Lana Lindstrom, Joel Greer.

**Extended Trips:** Lana Lindstrom (chair) Diane Schechter, Chris Shuraleff, Emily Rice, Daphne James.

**Finance:** Stewart Hoeg (chair) Laura Osinga, Lana Lindstrom, Dan Christensen, David Hawkins, Denise Bean, Joel Greer.

**Lodge Building:** David Cooper (chair) John Jacobsen, Doug Nelson, Joel Greer, Esme Greer, Dorene Steggell, Clara Emlen, Brian Hamilton, Vern Marsonette, Jane Hackett, Sandra Larsen, Meg Kieran, Joella Ewing.

**Lodge Grounds:** John Jacobsen (chair) David Cooper, Doug Nelson and Jim Northrop.

**Librarian/Historian:** Lenore McManigal (chair) Janet Jacobsen.

**Membership:** Diane Schechter (chair) Carla Lyon, Brenda Kame'enui, Mary Hamilton, Dorothy van Winkle, Joel Greer, John Cooper, Laura Anderson, Helen Martz.

**Online/Webmaster:** Wayne Deeter (chair) Jan Anselmo, Marci Hansen, John Jacobsen, Steve Cordon.

**Publications/Bulletin Production:** Lou Maenz (chair) Jorry Rolfe, Janet Jacobsen, Carla Cooper, Ethel Weltman, Bea Fontana, Stewart Hoeg. **Assembly/Mailing:** Tom Adamcyk, Don Baldwin, Clara Emlen, Yuan Hopkins, Verna Kocken, Nancy Raymond.

**Publicity:** Marci Hansen (chair) Brian Hamilton, Darko Sojak, Carla Cooper, Diane Schechter, Chris Stockdale.

**Safety:** Lyndell Wilken (chair) Jim Northrop, John Hegg, Maryanne Reiter, Mike Smith, Dave Cooper.

**Summer Camp:** John Jacobsen (chair) Lana Lindstrom, Steve Cordon.

**Summer Trips:** Dave Cooper (chair) Jane Hackett, Kathy Randall, Mike Smith, Steve Cordon.

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

**Winter Trips:** Steve Cordon (chair) Mike Smith, Dave Lodeesen, Jane Hackett, David Cooper.

## Premium Members

### Platinum Members (\$200 or more)

Hildreth, Dick  
Murray, Darian  
Murray, Karen

### Gold Members (\$100-199)

Aten, Barbara  
Bradley, Joan  
Claypool, Marcia  
Cooper, Carla  
Cooper, David  
Coots, Kay  
Duncan, Sharon  
Dunlap, Larry  
Firth, Leah  
Fontana, Bea  
Jacobsen, Janet  
Jacobsen, John  
Landes, Michael  
McIvor, Andrew

Newlove, Natalie  
Northrop, Jim  
Raymond, Nancy  
Ross, Ben  
Rusow, Karla  
Sojak, Darko  
Strutin, David  
Yoerger, Karen

### Silver Members (\$50-99)

Baldwin, Don  
Barnes, Jennifer  
Bean, Denise  
Beckwith, Jane  
Bienvenue, Donald  
Brown, Ben  
Brown, Max  
Carver, Deb  
Castleberry, Rob  
Christensen, Dan  
Christiansen, Lynda

Clinger, David  
Cole, Dallas  
Curtis, Alan  
Cutsforth, Sharon  
Dame, Wendy  
Doerr, Don  
Emlen, Clara  
Ewing, Joella  
Fern, Jacquie  
Froyd, Shirley  
Garwood, Judy  
Gates, Sheridan  
Glover, Elizabeth  
Green, Kellie  
Hanson, Vicky  
Hovis, Scott  
Hull, Diantha  
Kameenui, Brenda  
Kocken, Verna  
Krentz, Holger  
Lodeesen, David  
Lowder, Bill

Lyon, Carla  
Mac Afee, Patricia  
Martz, Helen  
Masarie, Diana  
McCoy, Verlean  
McGlinsky, Juli  
Miller, June  
Miller, Sam  
Milliman, Greg  
O'Donnell, Jack  
Osinga, Laura  
Parramore, Ken  
Payne, Don  
Pegg, John  
Phillips, Daniel  
Randall, Kathy  
Reinhard, David  
Riggs, Judy  
Romoser, Ruth  
Rundle, Tom  
Ruzicka, Angie  
Sather, Ellen

Sayre, Gordon  
Scherer, Carol  
Stewart Smith, Meg  
Terry, Judy  
Thompson, Harold  
Unger, Ron  
Wallace, Barbara  
White, Nancy  
Whitfield, Nancy  
Wilken, Lyndell  
Willhite, Dalen  
Wolling, Sue  
Wolters, Kris  
Young, Tommy



# TRIP REPORTS



## Bus Trips

### **Christmas Storybook Land in Albany, OR December 9, 2019**

**Leader: Barbara Beard**

**Assistant Leader: Paul Beard**

**T**WENTY-THREE OBSIDIANS AND FRIENDS LEFT THE SHOPKO PARKING LOT at 12:30 for an afternoon of Christmas cheer. The weather was a little chilly, but our spirits were warm and ready to begin celebrating the Christmas season with friends. Arriving at our destination, we were happily greeted by our host Joyce for a marvelous tour through hundreds of decorated trees and scenes of different fairy tales. We also saw collections of moving trains, teddy bears, dolls from all over the world, Santa and his reindeer, angels and much more. This is a must for your holiday events, especially when shared with the young at heart and children. All displays are located inside a huge building at the fairgrounds so weather is not a factor. We had completed most of our tour when a few overhead lights began to flicker, sections of displays dimmed and then went out, and we were left in the dark. We were directed to the large doors. We were told that a transformer had been damaged in the area, all power was disconnected in the southeast part of Albany, and it would take about five hours for repairs. This was disappointing, but it did not dampen our spirits for the rest of the trip. We drove backroads to Corvallis and enjoyed several light displays along the way. Next stop was the Old Spaghetti Factory in Corvallis where we enjoyed a marvelous dinner—YUM! Our driver Rick was knowledgeable about backroads in the area, and our return trip to Eugene via Junction City, Harrisburg and Coburg had a lot to offer, especially Coburg City Park and Riverfront Park in Harrisburg. We all felt our Christmas season had really begun after the terrific sights of lights on our way back from Corvallis. Members: Judy Adamcyk, Thomas Adamcyk, Ethel Allen, Barbara Beard, Paul Beard, Paula Beard, Barbara Bruns, Clara Emlen, Joella Ewing, Sharon Gadowski, Esme Greer, Joel Greer, Janet Jacobsen, Vern Marsonette, Jim Northrop, Don Payne, Judy Phelps, Barbara Wallace, Marian West. Nonmembers: Pete Ferrero, Sheila Marsonette, John Mellott, Theresa Mellott.

## Extended Trips

### **Cape Lookout Cabins**

**January 9, 2020**

**Leader: Evelyn Nagy**

**Photographer: Lana Lindstrom**

**Ext Trip: 5 miles, 800 ft. (Moderate)**

**T**HE KING TIDES, THE FULL MOON, AND AN AMAZING OCEAN STORM MADE FOR AN ENJOYABLE TRIP at Cape Lookout State Park on Oregon's north coast. The trails on the

Cape were often difficult in places because of many exposed tree roots. The long nine-mile sandspit beach was passable during low tide. Our deluxe cabins provided places for warmth, camaraderie, comfort and homemade meals. On the way back some of us stopped to take the trail on Whalen Island, and to watch the ocean smash on the rocks causing the geyser-like spouting horn in Depoe Bay. We had lunch at Local Ocean on Newport's bayfront and everyone was home by dark. Members: Joanna Alexander, Linda Anson, Sandra Larsen, Lana Lindstrom, Evelyn Nagy, Cindy Rice, Emily Rice, Jorry Rolfe, Chris Stockdale.



*Cape Kiwanda king tide—steep drop-off and zero beach.*



## Bike Trips

### **Long Timber Brewing Loop**

**January 4, 2020**

**Leader: Richard Hughes**

**Bike: 20 miles, 700 ft. (Easy)**

**F**RIDAY EVENING, AS THE HEAVENS DRENCHED THE EARTH, I lay awake wondering what the ride will look like on Saturday. Well, as you know, the skies cleared and we all donned our best pair of shades while we rode around Monroe. After the ride we spent equal time at lunch (at Long Timber Brewery) as we did riding. This is winter cycling at its best. Members: Richard Hughes, Ruthy Kanagy, Lana Lindstrom, Joanna Merson. Nonmembers: Tim Vignos.

### **100 Mile Bakery Loop**

**January 19, 2020**

**Leader: Richard Hughes**

**Bike: 24 miles, 500 ft. (Easy)**

**"No. 6 OREGON ROLLS PAST CAL, 105-55,** behind a season-high 31 points by @BallySatou and 22 from @ErinnSB21". Hard to compete with the Duck Women vs a bike ride; how-

ever, six of us did show up, maintaining our personal priorities. The ride was worth every calorie expended as it was easily replaced at the Public House at the ride's end. Members: Lynda Christiansen, Kathleen Ehli, John Hegg, Richard Hughes, Lana Lindstrom. Nonmembers: Dale Schaper.



## Ski Trips

### Midnight Lake

January 12, 2020

Leader: Sue Wolling

Xski: 6 miles, 600 ft. (Moderate)

**T**HE FORECAST OF "10 TO 18 INCHES OF SNOW WITH WIND 24 TO 30 MPH AND GUSTS AS HIGH AS 49 MPH"

WAS DAUNTING, but eight of us decided to give it a go anyway—and we're glad we did! Though trail was broken for the first flat mile to Pengra Pass, the trail to Midnight Lake was under about eight inches of fresh snow. Thanks to Harold's mighty trail-breaking, with a little help from Sue, we made it to Midnight Lake without much trouble. It was tempting to declare victory and glide down the same trail we had just broken, but we decided to soldier on to Bechtel Shelter. The snow on this leg suddenly became much deeper—somewhere between knee and thigh-deep in places—but with Sam pitching in to help break trail, we made it to Abernethy Road. Sam and Harold rewarded themselves with some turns through the trees while the rest of us stayed on the road to regroup at Bechtel Shelter for a chilly lunch while the group before us struggled to get a fire started in the stove. Getting back on skis helped us to warm up and we enjoyed a glide down to Pengra Pass and back to the parking lot. As it turned out, only about five inches of snow fell while we were there, and the predicted winds never materialized (except for a few seconds of a windy white-out on the drive back), so we were glad to have enjoyed a snowy day in the mountains. Members: Sharon Friedland, Becky Lipton, Sam Miller, Randy Sinnott, Harold Thompson, Susan Wanser, Sue Wolling. Nonmembers: Linda Gilbert.

### Redtop Mountain

January 19, 2020

Leader: Harold Thompson

Xski: 9 miles, 2,100 ft. (Difficult)

**SEVEN HOPEFUL SKIERS LEFT CRESCENT LAKE SNO-PARK** at 9:30 with blue skies overhead and plenty of recent snow under foot. Trail-breaking started right away since no one had skied in since the last heavy snows. The summit of Redtop was reached at 1:30 and our group hunkered down for lunch with crystal clear views from Mt. Jefferson to Mt. Thielsen. Then came the challenge. The snow was in the worst possible condition with thick breakable crust and a heavy deep soft layer underneath. There was plenty of practice falling down and working hard to stand back up. The conditions improved as we descended, and by 4:30 everyone was back at the cars. It was a good day, and the trip proved the old adage that a ski day with bad conditions is still better than no ski day at all. Members: Lubos Hubata-Vacek, Gordon Sayre, Bill Sullivan,

Harold Thompson. Nonmembers: Chrissy Anderson, Larry Winiarski.



## Snowshoe Trips

### Salt Creek Falls

January 11, 2020

Leader: Scott Hovis

Snow Shoe: 3.5 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

**S**NOW CONDITIONS WERE GOOD: two feet of packed snow and six to twelve inches of new snow. The drive up was difficult because of inclement weather, but both cars had all-wheel drive. The right-hand turn into Salt Creek Sno-Park is one mile past the tunnel. The outhouse there is reasonably clean. Be sure to park at the children's snow park, NOT at the area before the bridge; state police are writing parking tickets. Solitude was good and the insulating snow made for a peaceful hike. BEWARE of cliffs. To get to the trailhead hikers must cross the narrow bridge. Tip: Walking right down the middle of the bridge forces cars to stop for you; otherwise, they often dangerously keep going, leaving only a few inches of clearance between the car, hiker, and railing. Thanks. Members: Denise Bean, Marguerite Cooney, Jacquie Fern, Scott Hovis, Jessica Moll, Kathy Randall, Lisa Van Liefde.

### Bechtel-Midnight Lake-Odell Overlook

January 20, 2020

Leader: Mike Smith

Photographer: Darian Morray

Snow Shoe: 7 miles, 800 ft. (Moderate)

**NO ONE WAS SURE WHAT WE WOULD FIND** for snow conditions at Gold Lake, but after the weekend we hoped there would be decent tracks, and we were right. We headed towards Bechtel Shelter which had far more snow in front of it than it had two weeks earlier when I had gone through it. We then reached the road and found the trail to Midnight Lake.



*En route to Bechtel Shelter.*



We had good tracks all the way to the lake and had lunch there. It was cloudy by then, but the temperature was well above freezing. We continued north on the PCT all the way to Odell Overlook, running into three Obsidians out on the trail and a few others at the overlook. We went up to Diamond View and finished with the CJ Trail. Other than a few snow bombs, the hike was uneventful. I'm looking at another trip as far as Arrowhead Lake, another mile further south on the PCT. Members: Marguerite Cooney, Jean Harris, Daphne James, Brenda Kameenui, Lynn Meacham, Darian Morray, Rich Romm, Mike Smith. Nonmembers: Riccie Shipley, Kai Rowland.



## Hikes

**UO Art Walk**  
**December 14, 2019**  
**Leader: Mark Hougardy**  
**Hike: 2 miles (Easy)**

**T**HE UO HAS MANY ARTISTIC WORKS, STATUES, AND DESIGNS THROUGHOUT THE CAMPUS. Many are hidden in plain sight. On this exploratory walk, we enjoyed learning more about some of the pieces that are available for all to see. Members: Anne Campbell, Nikki Frank, Sheridan Gates, Kathy Hoeg, Mark Hougardy, Laurie Marshall, Darian Morray, Karen Morray, Evelyn Nagy, Cindy Rice, Denise Rubenstein, Dorothy van Winkle. Nonmembers: Joanna Merson, Christine Borgen.

**Fairmont Streetcar Walk**  
**December 18, 2019**  
**Leader: Mark Hougardy**  
**Hike: 2 miles (Easy)**

**T**HE CLICKETY-CLACK OF THE FAIRMOUNT STREET CAR LINE SOUNDED ALONG THE STREETS OF EUGENE FROM 1907 TO 1927. The line ran from the train station to the UO, then down University Avenue and through the historic Fairmount neighborhood on its several mile loop. We walked much of the former route and saw that a great deal of the old track line is emerging from the asphalt. We made a small detour to the old brickyards that were along the route. Members: Mark Hougardy, Sandra Larsen, Laurie Marshall, Jim Northrop. Nonmembers: Cathy Ellis.

**Solstice-ish Mural Saunter at Dusk**  
**December 20, 2019**  
**Leader: Mark Hougardy**  
**Hike: 1.5 miles (Easy)**

**T**HE LONG SHADOWS AND DARKENING COLOR PALETTE OF DUSK are an interesting time to see Eugene's downtown art murals. On our short walk we saw about a dozen murals and small art pieces in a new light. Members: Linda Anson, Mari Baldwin, Kathy Hoeg, Mark Hougardy, David Lodeesen, Helen Martz, Darian Morray, Karen Morray, Evelyn Nagy, Janet Whitesides. Nonmembers: Barbara Orsi.

**Carry Cans for FOOD For Lane County**  
**December 20, 2019**  
**Leader: Tom Rundle**  
**Photographer: Janet Jacobsen**  
**Hike: 5.7 miles, 85 ft. (Moderate)**

**ON THIS ANNUAL HIKE, TEN OF US DELIVERED 64 LBS. OF FOOD BY BACKPACK.** We also donated about \$90. We received an interesting tour of the facility, observing how donations are sorted, preserved, and repacked for distribution. Tom Mulhern, the Executive Director for FFLC and new Obsidians member, told us that the new West Broadway Center will have a 3,500 square foot freezer and refrigerated cooler to be able to accept more food donations. Members: Steve Adey, David Cooper, Steve Cordon, Nancy Hoecker, Janet Jacobsen, David Lodeesen, Laurie Marshall, Kathy Randall, Denise Rubenstein, Tom Rundle.



*Some carried cans, some carried cash.*

**UO Tree Walk**  
**December 21, 2019**  
**Leader: Mark Hougardy**  
**Hike: 1.5 miles (Easy)**

**A**N EXPLORATORY WALK THROUGH THE UO GROUNDS to learn more about the trees and some of the historic people who worked hard to bring trees to the once tree-less campus. Members: Nikki Frank, Mark Hougardy, Denise Rubenstein. Nonmembers: Isabella Pierce, Judith Moman, L Zachary Dubois.

**East Skinner Historic Homes Walk**  
**December 22, 2019**  
**Leader: Mark Hougardy**  
**Hike: 1.5 miles (Easy)**

**T**HE ORNATE AND STATELY HOMES ALONG THE EASTERN SIDE OF SKINNER BUTTE ARE OFTEN OVERLOOKED, but this area was once the economic heart of Eugene. Here a visitor will find homes of early timber and wool executives who stayed close to their mills on the Millrace. On our walk we stopped by the historic Mims House. Members: Nikki Frank, Mark Hougardy, Wanda Meck.

## South University Holiday Lights Walk

December 23, 2019

Leader: Mark Hougardy

Hike: 2 miles (Easy)

WE HAD ANTICIPATED SEEING MORE LIGHTS THAN WE DID, but did see a few and learned a little about the historic homes in the area. Afterward, ten of the group enjoyed dinner at the McMenamins on 19<sup>th</sup>. Members: Jane Allen, Linda Anson, Denise Bean, Anne Campbell, Kay Coots, Nikki Frank, Nancy Hoecker, Kathy Hoeg, Mark Hougardy, Sandra Larsen, David Lodeesen, Lynn Meacham, Denise Rubenstein, Sue Wolling. Nonmembers: Adina Rubenstein, Erin Rubenstein, Isabella Pierce.

## Wild Iris Ridge Holiday

December 25, 2019

Leader: Betty Grant

Hike: 3.4 miles, 620 ft. (Easy)

IT WAS CHRISTMAS MORN AND THE SUN WAS SHINING while our small group of three completed this ridge hike enjoying the views, the warmth and Christmas greetings with others who had the same idea that we three did. 'Tis a lovely way to spend an hour or so on Christmas Day. Members: Betty Grant, Nancy Hoecker, Darko Sojak.

## The Day After In-Town Walk

December 26, 2019

Leader: Steve Adey

Hike: 8 miles, 1,200 ft. (Moderate)

WE DECIDED TO START FROM 30TH AND WILLAMETTE. We meandered south to explore two access points to the Blanton section of the Ridgeline Trail and several neighborhood backways. It took about 3.25 hours. Members: Steve Adey, Mari Baldwin, Janet Jacobsen, David Lodeesen.

## Walk through the Solar System

December 30, 2019

Leader: Mike Smith

Hike: 7.5 miles, 50 ft. (Easy)

SIX OF US WALKED THE SOLAR SYSTEM EXHIBIT OUT TO NEPTUNE and learned that at the same scale, if we continued walking around the world and came back to the Eugene Science Center, we would reach Proxima Centauri, the closest star to the solar system. It was a nice day to take a walk. Members: Marguerite Cooney, Nancy Hoecker, Evelyn Nagy, Jorry Rolfe, Mike Smith. Nonmembers: Cynthia Poindexter.

## Spencer Butte Hikes

New Year's Day January 1, 2020

Short Hike Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 2.2 miles, 600 ft. (Easy)

10 members, 3 nonmembers

Mid-Length Hike Leader: Steve Cordon

Hike: 5.5 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

18 members, 5 nonmembers

Long Hike Leader: Mike Smith

Hike: 9 miles, 2,000 ft. (Difficult)

8 members, 2 nonmembers

## EmX/River Hike

January 3, 2020

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 5.6 miles, 100 ft. (Easy)

WITH UPDATED LTD TOUCH PASSES AND HONORED GUEST PASSES, WE CAUGHT THE 9:39 EMX to the Springfield Station to begin our walk through Island Park. It soon felt like a balmy spring day—a record high of 60 degrees—as we followed the Canoe Canal to Alton Baker Park. Stops included the Springfield Chamber of Commerce, heron watching, Autzen Stadium Duck Shop and 5<sup>th</sup> Street Market (lunch). What a pleasant amiable amble! Members: Joanna Alexander, Anne Campbell, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Nancy Hoecker, Kathy Hoeg, Janet Jacobsen, Sandra Larsen, David Lodeesen, Ginny Reich, Jorry Rolfe, Nancy Whitfield. Nonmembers: Marian Jacobs.

## Finley Wildlife Refuge

January 22, 2020

Leader: Jane Hackett

Hike: 5 miles, 100 ft. (Easy)

THE THREE OF US TOOK MOST OF THE DAY TO COVER THE 5.5 MILES ON THIS TRIP. No rain but the trees were drippy, thick with moss, and the trail was wet and muddy. Keiko took lots of pictures of the local fungi and many different small flocks of song birds that hang out here during the winter. I did not expect to see many small birds. We detoured out to the main office to use the bathroom and have lunch. After completing the hike we stopped at the boardwalk going out to Cabell Marsh, a huge expanse of water with nothing to see. We heard a lot but everything must have been in the grass on the far side. One more brief stop at McFadden Marsh gave us something to look at. We counted more than 30 white egrets in the grass across from the parking lot. We saw a red tail hawk that never moved even as we walked under the branch it was sitting on. He provided great viewing. In the marsh itself there were some 50 tundra swans along with pintails and other assorted ducks. The day also included great blue herons and harrier hawks. Members: Keiko Bryan, Lynda Christiansen, Jane Hackett.

## Thurston Hills Trails

January 24, 2020

Leader & Photographer: Denise Bean

Hike: 6.1 miles, 635 ft. (Moderate)

WE MET BEHIND McDONALD'S ON MAIN where four drivers drove 17 of us to the Thurston Trail Head two miles away. We hiked an easy six miles back to the meeting area behind McDonald's. The middle 1.5-mile section of the trail was muddy and slippery. We also followed some large cougar tracks. We had no stragglers! We spent time on the top oak savannah and then followed the service road down with nice views of the valley. We made it back to the cars around 4. About ten of us stayed for a Mexican dinner at Torrero's. I drove the four shuttle drivers back to their cars. It was an easy one-way shuttle. A nice time for all. Members: Joanna Alexander, Linda Anson, Denise Bean, David Hawkins, Nancy Hoecker, Ruthy Kanagy, Sandra Larsen, David Lodeesen, Vern Marsonette, Evelyn Nagy, Ginny Reich, Jorry Rolfe, Denise Rubenstein, Diane Schechter, Lisa Van Liefde, Dorothy van Winkle. Nonmembers: Ron Smith.





*At the Upper Meadow on the Thurston Hills Trail.*

### River Path North

January 28, 2020

Leader: David Cooper

Assistant Leader: Carla Cooper

Hike: 6 miles, 0 ft. (Easy)

A LITTLE RAIN DOESN'T DETER OBSIDIANS from getting together for a walk along the river. The Willamette was high and muddy today as we strode the River Path. There were a few newly downed trees as a result of recent windy days and saturated soils. But Obsidian good fortune gave us several rain-free miles. A pleasant lunch at Cafe Yumm! was an ideal way to take a break. Members: Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Jane

Hackett, Nancy Hoecker, David Lodeesen, Jorry Rolfe, Dorothy van Winkle, Nancy Whitfield.

### Amazon Headwaters/Spencer Butte

Hike: 6.2 miles, 1530 ft. (Moderate)

Various Leaders:

Janet Jacobsen 12/24 13 members, 3 nonmembers

Steve Cordon 1/8 17 members, 5 nonmembers

Lana Lindstrom 1/15 13 members, 3 nonmembers

Tom Rundle 1/29 14 members, 1 nonmember

### Mt. Pisgah Hikes

Hikes: 3–6.5 miles, 1,000–1,600 ft. (Moderate)

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

12/21 Winter Solstice 17 members, 2 nonmembers

12/28 11 members

1/10 Sunset/moonrise 3 members, 1 nonmember

1/26 5 members

Leader: David Cooper

1/12 Ganderflanking 7 members, 3 nonmembers

### Ridgeline Hikes

Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte

Hike: 8.5 miles, 1,730 ft. (Moderate)

Leader: Betty Grant 12/22 5 members

Leader: David Cooper 1/25 13 members, 2 nonmembers

Hendricks Park/Ridgeline/LTD

Hike: 11 miles, 800 ft. (Moderate)

Leader: Steve Adey 12/23 4 members

Spring Blvd to Spencer Butte

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

Leader: Janet Jacobsen 1/18 8 members, 1 nonmember

## Mileage Reimbursement Change

*Stewart Hoeg, Treasurer*

**I**N LATE 2008 THE OBSIDIANS FORMED AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO ADDRESS SUGGESTED MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATES given dramatic increases in gasoline prices. The goal was to create a formula as a basis for the club's suggested reimbursement rate.

The committee recommended a formula of 1/6 of the IRS's annual mileage reimbursement rate for individuals. This formula was based on the committee's assumption of four people in a car and that roughly 1/3 of the IRS's number for reimbursement was based on fixed costs.

The Board has reviewed this calculation annually since 2009. Although the IRS reimbursement rate has varied annually, the result of the calculation has always rounded to \$.09 per mile until now.

Due to the IRS's new, higher reimbursement rate for 2020, the Board decided at the January meeting to increase the reimbursement rate for drivers to \$.10 per mile.

### Bus Rally (Continued from page 1)

and are air conditioned. They have plenty of storage space, both above the seats and underneath the bus. We have chartered the buses from MTR Western for many years and are well acquainted with some of their excellent drivers, who are pleasant, cheerful and helpful. It is a great way to relax and enjoy travel.

Our first trip this year will be *A Day at OMSI* on Thursday, April 16. Come to the Rally to learn about other trips being offered in 2020. There will be refreshments and door prizes (including two gift certificates, each for \$25 off the cost of a bus trip). We look forward to seeing you at the Rally.



## AT THE LODGE



### ExploraTalk

Tuesday, February 18 at 7 PM



### Hike, Bike, Skate, Surf, Ski: The Geography of Adventure

**Nick Kohler**

UO's **NICK KOHLER** WILL PRESENT on how adventure endeavors, lifestyle sports, and outdoor recreation have transformed landscapes and cultures. He teaches a class that has students consider how people experience place through recreation and how geographical locations have been shaped by outdoor pursuits.



Friday, February 28 at 6:30 PM

### Biking Mongolia Joe Hindman

**E**XPERIENCE MONGOLIA FROM THE SADDLE OF A TOURING BICYCLE. Accompany Joe Hindman on a 477-mile, three-week solo bike ride across a swath of the Mongolian steppe. Experience the Mongolia of Genghis Khan, nomads, yurts, yaks, ovoos (sacred stone heaps), hunting eagles, horse culture, and vast open spaces.



#### Potluck

Friday, February 28  
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.*



# OBSIDIAN CALENDAR

## February

12 Wed Amazon Hdwtrs/Spencer Butte Hike **M** ..... Rundle 653-0741  
 14 Fri Oregon's Birthday Hike **M** ..... Jacobsen 206-1251  
 15 Sat Pleasant Hill Loop Bike **E** ..... Hughes 933-5542  
 16 Sun Fay Lake SShoe **M** ..... Hackett 953-7046  
 18 Tue River Path North Hike **E** ..... Cooper 868-5427  
 18 Tue The Geography of Adventure ..... **ExploraTalk**  
 19 Wed Amazon Hdwtrs Hike **M** ..... Rubenstein 248-514-5092  
 22 Sat Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M** ..... Grant 514-1176  
 22 Sat Brownsville Loop Bike **M** ..... Hughes 933-5542  
 23 Sun Nickerson Loop SShoe **M** ..... Hackett 953-7046  
 23 Sun Gold Lake Snow Park Off-Trail Xski **D** ..... Sayre 515-9450  
 25 Tue Maxwell Butte Shelter SS Camp SShoe **M** ..... Hovis 731-3412  
 26 Wed Amazon Hdwtrs/Spencer Butte Hike **M** ..... Cordon 513-3452  
 28 Fri Biking in Mongolia ..... **Potluck**  
 29 Sat Leap Day Tree planting Work Party **E** ..... Sojak 799-9199  
 29 Sat Veneta Loop Bike **M** ..... Hughes 933-5542

## March

4 Wed Amazon Hdwtrs Hike **M** ..... Whitesides 919-593-5578  
 8 Sun North Fork Willamette Hike **M** ..... Hackett 953-7046  
 10 Tue Forest Service Permits and Fees ..... **ExploraTalk**  
 11 Wed Amazon Hdwtrs/Spencer Butte Hike **M** ..... Cordon 513-3452  
 14 Sat Get Acquainted Pi Hike Hike **E** ..... Jacobsen 206-1251  
 15 Sun Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M** ..... Cordon 513-3452  
 15 Sun 2020 Bus Trips ..... **Bus Rally**  
 18 Wed Amazon Hdwtrs/Spencer Butte Hike **M** .. Smith 520-488-9569

19 Thu Mt. Pisgah – Spring Equinox Hike **M** ..... Jacobsen 206-1251  
 21 Sat Drift Crk. Wilderness N. Trail Hike **M** ..... Smith 520-488-9569  
 24 Tue Salem Exploration Hike **E** ..... Northrop 343-3426  
 25 Wed Amazon Hdwtrs/Spencer Butte Hike **M** ..... Cordon 513-3452  
 27 Fri Long Distance Walking in the UK ..... **Potluck**  
 28 Sat Beach Clean-Up with SOLVE Hike **E** ..... Sojak 799-9199  
 30 Mon Basic Climb School 2020 ..... Reiter 521-8472

## April

5 Sun Finley Wildlife Refuge Hike **E** ..... Hackett 953-7046  
 14 Tue Seneca and Sustainability ..... **ExploraTalk**  
 18 Sat Cottage Grove Mural Walk Hike **E** ..... Hougardy 206-9532  
 19 Sun Shellburg Falls Hike **M** ..... Hackett 953-7046  
 19 Sun Used Gear Sale ..... Maenz 741-6863  
 20 Mon Grand Canyon Backpack 2020 Bk Pk **D** ..... Adey 520-9285  
 24 Fri TBA ..... **Potluck**

## May

13 Wed Hart Mountain Car Camp ..... Hackett 953-7046  
 17 Sun UO Scamps & Scholars Walk Hike **E** ..... Hougardy 206-9532  
 29 Fri Biking Taiwan! ..... **Potluck**

## June

7 Sun Horsepasture Mountain Hike **E** ..... Hackett 953-7046  
 14 Sun Lookout Creek Hike **M** ..... Cooper 868-5427  
 15 Mon Steens Mountain Car Camp ..... Hackett 953-7046



## Bus Trips 2020

The annual Bus Trips Rally will be held on Sunday, March 15 at the Obsidians Lodge from 2–4 PM.

See details on page 1 of this Bulletin.

Destinations and dates for this year's trips are:

**OMSI**—Portland, Thursday, April 16

**Coast trip**—Thursday, May 28

**Mt. Angel Abbey**—Tuesday, June 16

**Odell Lake Lodge**—Tuesday, July 14

**John Day & Beyond**—Monday–Saturday, September 21–26

**Columbia River Sternwheeler**—Wednesday–Friday, October 14–16

**Holiday Party at the Lodge**—Saturday, December 12

Watch for trip details in the March *Bulletin*.

Bus Trip information will also be posted on the Obsidians home page: [www.obsidians.org](http://www.obsidians.org)

Contact information: [bustrips@obsidians.org](mailto:bustrips@obsidians.org)

Sharon Cutsforth, Committee Co-Chair, 746-4929, or Jim Northrop, Committee Co-Chair, 343-2426



**M**AY 4–6 WILL SEE A RETURN TO THE COLUMBIA GORGE HIKING TRAILS on an extended trip to [Menucha.org](http://Menucha.org), a retreat center near Corbett. Look for detailed information, along with the signup date, in the March *Bulletin*.

*Chris Shuraleff*

## For Sale Winter Sports Equipment

Mountainsmith lumbar pack in excellent condition.  
New at REI \$90. Mine \$35.

Fischer Touring Crown X-country skies, 180 cm. \$40.

Exel ski poles 150 cm. \$15.

2 pair ski gloves \$5 each pair.

Call Sandra 687-2589





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February 2020



*Whalen Island and Sand Lake. Photo by Lana Lindstrom.  
(See Cape Lookout report on page 5.)*

ENJOY the photos in color! ONLINE *Bulletin* at [www.observians.org](http://www.observians.org)