



In This Issue

Message from the President	1
New Members	2
In Memoriam	2
Thanks to <i>Bulletin</i> Committee	2
Cancellations & Postponements	3
Other Organizations	
Cancel Activities Too	3
Summer Camp Reiter Update	3
Board Notes	4
May <i>Bulletin</i> Appeal	5
Social Distancing Observations	5
Trip Reports	6–10
Upcoming Bus Trips	10
Calendar	11
New Release of Liability	11
Wilderness Permits Postponed	11
Photo of the Month	12

Dates to Remember

May 1	<i>Bulletin</i> Deadline
May 6	Board Meeting

Current event schedules at:

www.obsidians.org

The Register-Guard
Sports/Outdoor Calendar—Tuesday

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram:

www.facebook.com/theobsidians

[@Eugene_obsidians](https://www.instagram.com/Eugene_obsidians)



The President's Corner

Maryanne Reiter

PRIOR TO MARCH OF 2020 THERE HADN'T BEEN A TIME WHEN THE OBSIDIANS COMPLETELY CANCELLED ALL ACTIVITIES. With the United States entering World War II, some of the Obsidian activities were cancelled, but most continued and were encouraged by local and federal authorities so that residents knew the trails and terrain of the area, stayed fit, and could provide medical assistance. In March of 2019 portions of the club's activities were curtailed due to all the downed trees and branches from a winter storm. But those were isolated to activities involving the Lodge and local trails.

In 2020 just when we were ramping up efforts to recruit new leaders and examine and address member suggestions for the coming decade, the coronavirus hit. In the second week of March committee members raised concerns about holding Potlucks and other events with large groups in close quarters and where recommended social distancing necessary for curtailing the virus could not be maintained. At that time we decided to cancel all large Obsidian gatherings until May, when we would revisit the issue. We thought we could still have hikes because we could maintain social distancing, but even

...I would still encourage us to stick together.

Not physically, of course,

*but through this trying time to stay in touch with each other
and with what binds us as a club...*

that proved too problematic due to carpooling, signing in, etc. On Saturday, March 21, the Board voted to suspend all activities through April. It was a difficult decision since we all know the importance of getting outside with others as a way to maintain mental and physical health.

The December, 1941 Obsidian *Bulletin* headline read, *LET'S ALLLLL STICK TOGETHER!* to encourage Obsidians to pull together in a time of war. Now, social distancing recommendations say to stay six feet apart. However, I would still encourage us to stick together. Not physically, of course, but through this trying time to stay in touch with each other and with what binds us as a club—the love of exploration and adventure. We may not be able to go hike on our favorite trails with our Obsidian hiking pals, but we can check in to hear if they happened to get out, or are working in the garden, or what they are reading. Our geographic scope of exploration may be limited, but our sense of adventure in the everyday world doesn't need to be. Just like the United States entering the war, it is now more important than ever to stick together and support one another as we navigate a changed world.

On March 17th I fractured my tibia-fibula while skiing and have had to stay home even before the Governor called on all Oregonians to do so. While I miss going out and enjoying time in the mountains with friends, I know this, like the coronavirus, will pass and life will return to normal or something hopefully close to normal. In the meantime, let's remember to reach out to each other and all stick together.

Since I mostly know folks in the club who are climbers, I'd be interested in hearing from all members on what the club means to you and how you're coping with the new social restrictions. Thank you.

Maryanne Reiter, President mreiter1959@gmail.com

Welcome New Members!

Nathaniel Bell
Eugene, OR 97402

Liz Cooney
Eugene, OR 97405

Curtis Lahti
Springfield, OR 97478

Christine Paige
Eugene, OR 97405

IN MEMORIAM

John (Jack) Ewing September 11, 1919–March 17, 2020

BORN IN CLYDEBANK, SCOTLAND, JACK'S LOVE OF ALL THINGS SCOTTISH including haggis, Christmas pudding, golf, and Robert Burns' poetry was well known to his family and friends. His wife Joella hosted an open house with Scottish foods for his 100th birthday.

Jack was already an avid backpacker and mountain climber when he attended Obsidian Climb School in 1966. He backpacked the Mt. Hood Timberline Trail in 1961 and climbed Mt. Rainer in 1967. With his son Bert he climbed Mt. Hood, Mt. Washington, North and Middle Sister. He joined the Obsidians in 1975 after his South Sister climb which was led by son Bert, an Obsidian member. His other two Obsidian climbs were Three Fingered Jack and Mt. Thielsen, also led by his son.

He participated in 52 activities and led six hikes as well as a cross-country ski trip and a canoe trip. He was elected to the Obsidian Board in 1979 and was club vice-president in 1981.

An excerpt from his first trip report September 17, 1979 is filled with his pithy wit and dry humor, and possibly reflects skills that he learned as an Eagle Scout:

Some of the party wanted to eat lunch and some wanted to go on to Upper Erma Bell Lake. The leader, being deeply distrustful of democratic processes in hiking or climbing situations, did not put the matter to a vote, but unilaterally decided, very logically, that those who wanted to eat should eat and those who wanted to hike should hike. The campsite at Middle Erma Bell was designated as the meeting place for the return hike to the cars. Everyone seemed happy with the arrangement, which naturally made the leader happy, too. Everybody should be happy on hikes.

He is survived by his wife Joella, his son Bert, a daughter Barbara Carlson (Gary), two grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Editor's note: A short notice appeared in the March 29 issue of The Register-Guard, including the information that a memorial service and full obituary will occur at a later date.



THANKS

THE PRESIDENT AND THE REST OF THE OBSIDIANS BOARD would like to sincerely thank the Publications Committee for producing the April 2020 *Bulletin*. They persevered through the challenges brought by protecting the health and safety of the community from the coronavirus to bring us another outstanding *Obsidian Bulletin*. Thank you all for your great work!

Maryanne Reiter, President

OBSIDIANS, INC

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405

Website: 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

Published monthly, except August and December. Articles, story ideas, letters to the editor, and other editorial submissions may be emailed to:

bulletin@obsidians.org

For reprint rights, contact:

The Obsidian Bulletin

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405

Deadline

for May Bulletin

Friday, May 1, 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: Don Baldwin, Bea Fontana,
Ann Hollander, Yuan Hopkins,
Judy Newman, Nancy Raymond,
Barbara Schomaker, Janet Whitesides

Trip and Event Cancellations and Postponements AT A GLANCE

*All Obsidian Trips and events have been cancelled at least through May 1.
This will continue to be reevaluated.*

EVENTS AT THE LODGE

Bus Trips Rally	Cancelled. (Will not be rescheduled.)
Used Gear Sale	Postponed until further notice.
Summer Camp Rally	Postponed until further notice.
Potlucks	Cancelled until further notice.
ExploraTalks	Cancelled until further notice.

MISCELLANEOUS SPECIAL TRIPS

Basic Climb School	Cancelled.
SOLVE Beach Clean-Up	Rescheduled to July 5.
Green Island Work Party	Postponed until further notice.

EXTENDED TRIPS

Columbia Gorge Menucha Trip	Cancelled.
Summer Camp Reiter	Sign-up date moved to May 15.
Lower Columbia Kayaking	Sign-up date moved to May 24.

THE OBSIDIANS CLUB IS NOT THE ONLY OUTDOOR ORGANIZATION TO CANCEL ACTIVITIES:

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, all Chemeketans (Salem) activities are canceled until further notice.

The Mazama Mountaineering Center (Portland) and Mazama activities and programs are closed/canceled indefinitely.... Our staff is working remotely, as are many of our committees, and will respond to you in a timely fashion.

Pacific Crest Trail Association

Please postpone or cancel your Pacific Crest Trail plans due to COVID-19.

Because no one can travel long distances on the PCT and be certain of avoiding any exposure to the coronavirus, and because anyone at any time can be a carrier of the virus without knowing it, it is clear that anyone traveling the PCT and resupplying in communities along the trail represents a serious risk to others on the trail and people in those communities—particularly high-risk individuals for whom the virus could be deadly....

Seattle Mountaineers

Beginning Monday, March 16, all courses, trips, and in-person activities will be suspended until April 24.

The Sawtooths Are on Hold Obsidian Summer Camp 2020

CONSIDERING THE ONGOING COVID-19 CRISIS, the opening of online signup for Camp Reiter is delayed until May 15. The Summer Camp Rally is postponed until further notice. We will reevaluate ongoing plans, currently at a standstill, for Summer Camp by May 1, so check the Summer Camp page at www.obsidians.org for updates. Stay safe out there.

John Jacobsen, Summer Camp Boss



*What if we threw a Summer Camp and no one came?
Actually...pic of setup finished and waiting for the hordes to arrive.
Camp Montgomery 1994 at Chemeketan CG in the Sawtooths.*

MARCH BOARD NOTES

March 4, 2020

By Denise Rubenstein

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

The Board approved the minutes for February 2020.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Stewart Hoeg): Stewart reviewed the year-to-date income and expenses as well as the balance sheet. The Board approved the bills.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bus Trips (Sharon Cutsforth & Jim Northrop): The Bus Committee has completed 2020 trip details and descriptions, which are now posted on the home page under Bus Trips.

Climbs (Maryanne Reiter): The Climbs Committee has been busy developing the 2020 Climbs schedule, working on Climb School and ways to increase our visibility to recruit more climbers and leaders. We also are planning more evening skills classes throughout the year to increase community education.

Conservation/SciEd (Jorry Rolfe & Kay Coots): Twenty-three people attended the February ExploraTalk and \$21 was collected.

Entertainment (Evelyn Nagy, Ron and Pam Swisher): The speaker for the February 28, 2020, potluck was Joe Hindman. He discussed his bicycling trip in Mongolia. We collected \$50 and had approximately 50 guests.

Lodge Building (Dave Cooper): Since the last Board meeting, the Lodge has been rented out for a meeting of the McKenzie River Trust, a celebration of life, and a wedding. Rental agreements have been signed for two other outside groups in the coming months. Rental income processed this year totals \$225.

Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): Spring has definitely sprung at the Lodge. Daffodils and forsythia are blooming, ossoberry is done blooming and is fully leafed out, weeds are growing like crazy, and the grass needs mowing. We have a particularly healthy crop of shiny geranium this year. But other than watching spring springing and the weeds growing, the only Grounds Committee activity in February was minor spruce-ups before Obsidian Lodge functions and rentals.

Librarian/Historian (Lenore McManigal): Trips have been recorded from the February *Bulletin* and new member log sheets have been prepared. The log sheets for members who did not renew have been transferred to the inactive notebooks. We answered a request for information from Joe Gardner of Depoe Bay about his handmade Obsidian felt patch that he is returning to the club. After some research, we know that he was 16 years old when he joined February 14, 1947 and that he competed with other junior Obsidian members in downhill ski meets.

Publications/Bulletin (Lou Maenz): The Publications Committee mailed 412 *Bulletins* including directories.

Membership (Diane Schechter): New members for Board approval: Hannah Alverson, Hollye Holbrook, Sheila Marsonette, Josiah Martens, Margot McDonnell, Scott Wilkinson, and Ken Wong. Total membership: 419.

Safety (Lyndell Wilken): The Safety Committee convened and reviewed the *Obsidian Safety Policies and Procedures Manual*. Two small additions were made to the manual. Dave Cooper also shared improvements he has made to the *Obsidian Trip Leaders Guide* that would make it more user friendly. A discussion was held on how our activities could be improved for safety, and it was suggested that the club purchase some walkie talkies that could be used by trip leaders, if they were interested. John Hegg will do research on what is available.

Winter Trips (Steve Cordon): February trips are concluded, though I haven't gotten all the signup sheets and trip fees back. Estimated numbers: 26 Trips (plus 4 that were cancelled), 204 members and 32 nonmembers participated, generating \$287 in fees.

OLD BUSINESS

Ideas for the Next Decade (cont.): Members took the time to share input so the Board continues to examine those ideas. Homework for Board members next month will be to review the gathered information and rate their top three topics.

New Leader Recruitment (cont.): Leader Mentorship ideas were offered and discussed, e.g., Dave Cooper scheduled a Mt. Pisgah hike with no leader assigned at this point. Perhaps someone who's done it several times will "step forward."

NEW BUSINESS

A new sign-up feature has been added to the website, where certain hikes will have the option of offering a members-only period for a short time.

New Members approved. (See Membership Report.)

Slight additions were approved to the Obsidian Policy & Procedure Safety Manual—a bullet point added to Handling Emergencies, and an addition in the Appendix regarding Sexual Harassment.

John Hegg presented a thorough summary on the costs and features of walkie talkies for the club. While there may be range limitations based on "line of sight" because of terrain, they have proved useful for Climbs and for those who have used them. The Board approved the purchase.

A First Aid training (Emergency Preparedness) will be scheduled for the fall of 2020 with Laurie Monico volunteering her time. It will be a one-day session for any interested members.

OPEN AGENDA ITEMS

Matt Cook inquired if he could film Matt Peterson at our ExploraTalk this Tuesday when the newest information on Forest Service Permits and Fees will be presented. The Board approved the request.

Darko Sojak requested funding for a microplastic filtration sieve at a cost of \$199. It will be used for future Obsidian beach cleanups. The Board approved the request.

ADJOURNMENT

STAY CONNECTED!

Will there be a May *Bulletin*? You can help.

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE IS HOPING TO PUBLISH A MAY BULLETIN, but we can't know what will happen next. We would like to, but of course there will not be the usual categories to cover. However, we think you most likely would like to have a *Bulletin*. After all, it has been published since December 1936. Should a pandemic halt its run? Does rain, snow, sleet, drought, or lost pigeons* stop an Obsidian? *See story in March 2020 issue.

For the May issue we invite you to send in funny, hair-raising, adventurous, or even educational tales highlighting an experience you have had on an Obsidian outing. Perhaps send a description of how you've coped during the last few weeks in your home, at work, or when trying to negotiate the great outdoors while maneuvering in a 36-square-foot box of quarantine.

Please submit to the Bulletin@Obsidians.org. We can't guarantee inclusion, and we reserve the right to edit.

Assuming that there *will* be a May *Bulletin*, we're hoping that InstaPrint will be allowed to keep its doors open. If not, please check online for the digital version. The upside of that: it's in glorious color!

One other thing! Continue to check the OBSIDIAN WEBSITE for updates at www.obsidians.org during this period of uncertainty.

Lou Maenz, Publications Chair

Observations While Social Distancing on the Trail during the last week of March

TRAILHEADS AT BUFORD PARK (MT. PISGAH) AND THE ARBORETUM NOW HAVE SIGNS THAT IF PEOPLE DON'T PRACTICE SIX-FOOT DISTANCING, the park will be closed. Red six-foot reminder signs have also been placed near intersections. When meeting a hiker on the Pisgah trails, one needs to maintain distance but to also consider a safe way to greet or not to greet. Some interactions that we have observed: greeting with a hello, mouthing a hello or good morning, avoiding eye contact, keeping mouth closed and holding breath until one passes, turning around and facing the hillside, a slight hand wave in front one's body, a thin smile, a thank you. Some people are anxious, a few are angry, and a very few don't have a clue. The signs say that the six feet includes dogs. We don't think that the dogs can read, but fortunately their owners can.

It *does* keep one alert to keep the distance and be considerate while tiptoeing up the mountain.

Humor aside, be the first to step aside—it encourages all to be safe and promotes a positive mood.

We also thank the Lane County Parks system for placing the signs, providing additional portable toilets, and a hand washing station. Let Lane County Parks know that their efforts are appreciated and effective at laneparks@lanecountyor.gov

Visit www.bufordpark.org for the latest information.

Janet Jacobsen and Bea Fontana



Darko & Angie with the sign at the north trailhead.



Red cone with distancing sign on the way up Mt. Pisgah.



Detail of the sign.

TRIP REPORTS



Hikes

River Path North

February 28, 2020

Leader: David Lodeesen

Hike: 6 miles, 50 ft. (Easy)

A BEAUTIFUL MORNING FOR A NICE AND EASY WALK along the Willamette River. Stopped for lunch at Cafe Yumm in the Delta Oaks Shopping Center and walked the opposite side of the river back to our starting point. The weather was very nice with sunshine highlighting the trees in the early stages of blooming. Ducks and geese galore. Members: Hilary Fisher, David Lodeesen, Wanda Meck.

Hendricks Park Exploration

February 28, 2020

Leader & photographer: Denise Rubenstein

Hike: 3 miles, 150 ft. (Easy)

EXCELLENT WEATHER FOR VISITING TWO GARDENS AND A FOREST. We compared nurse logs in the three different areas; our favorite was in the Rhododendron Garden. Even though



Colorful Oregon Grape in blossom.

it's technically still winter, it looked, smelled, and felt like spring. Members: Anne Campbell, James Dinn, Kathy Hoeg, Evelyn Nagy, Denise Rubenstein, Pat Soussan. Nonmembers: Gwyneth Iredale, Helen Reed, Gloria Youngbauer.

West Kirk Park

March 1, 2020

Leader & photographer: Darko Sojak

Hike: 3.3 miles, 10 ft. (Easy)



Holger Krentz and Cindy Rust in lichen jungle.

THIS EASY SUNDAY AFTERNOON STROLL WAS UNEVENTFUL. We saw cormorants, geese, ducks, egrets, jays, herons and more. Members: Marguerite Cooney, Holger Krentz, Cindy Rust, Darko Sojak, Dorothy van Winkle.

Fern Ridge North

March 8, 2020

Leader & photographer: Darko Sojak

Hike: 6 miles, 50 ft. (Easy)

OUR SUNDAY MORNING WALK ON THE NORTH SHORE of Fern Ridge Reservoir was uneventful. Besides fog we saw cormorants, white egrets, hawks, white pelicans, ducks,



Carla, Angie, Marguerite and Liz at Richardson Point lifeguard watch tower.

geese, woodpeckers, yellow-headed blackbirds, swallows, crows, and seagulls. Members: Marguerite Cooney, Carla Cooper, Kathleen Ehli, Holger Krentz, Jessica Moll, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Dorothy van Winkle. Nonmembers: Liz Cooney, Meredith Anderson.

North Fork Willamette

March 8, 2020

Leader: Jane Hackett

Photographer: David Lodeesen

Hike: 6 miles, 400 ft. (Moderate)

WE HOPED TO DRIVE INTO THE SUN, BUT AT LEAST WE DROVE OUT OF THE FOG. It was quiet on the trail—we were the only hikers. It was the earliest I have been on this trail and we hit



Downhill section of trail.

the beginning of wildflower season with snow queen, yellow violets, trilliums and coltsfoot. Starting at Westfir there were two small trees across the trail easily navigated. We stopped for a snack break at the first bridge. The downed trees on the second section of the trail had been removed. The bridge had lost a section of side railing from a fallen tree, but the body of the bridge was solid, so there were no problems crossing. Two large root wads had slid across the trail in separate spots, but they were easy to get around. The group continued up the next section while Joel and I retrieved the car at Westfir. We all noted how low the river was for this time of year. Members: Esme Greer, Joel Greer, Jane Hackett, Jean Harris, David Lodeesen, Lynn Meacham, Denise Rubenstein, Lisa Van Liefde.

Amazon Headwaters/Spencer Butte Hikes

Hike: 6.2 miles, 1,530 ft. (Moderate)

Various Leaders:

Denise Rubenstein on 2/19

COLD, BUT BRILLIANTLY SUNNY. A guest hiker took ill about a half mile into the hike. We helped her back to the trailhead and drove her home, shuttling her car for her. A follow-up call within the hour determined that she was feeling much better. 10 members, 2 nonmembers.

David Lodeesen on 2/26

TODAY WAS THE 7TH ANNIVERSARY OF THIS HIKE that started in 2013, thanks to Janet Jacobsen. Twenty participants started the hike, summited, and returned safely. Sunny and warm on top. 17 members, 3 nonmembers.

Janet Whitesides on 3/4 17 members, 2 nonmembers.

Denise Rubenstein on 3/11

SUNNY AND COLD DAY FOR A LOVELY HIKE. 14 members, 1 nonmember.

Mike Smith on 3/18

Photographer: Tommy Young

[This hike turned out to be the last Wednesday hike until at least May 1.]

THIS WAS THE FIRST SPENCER BUTTE HIKE SINCE “THE DAY THE WORLD CHANGED,” which I called 12 March 2020. People came, I wrote “signed in” on the sheet, they dropped the money in a plastic bag that I placed on the sidewalk, and they were then free to go. We had people leave over a 28-minute period, and we all met on top. I think we need to be better in dividing up if there are more than ten people. On top, we need two groups well apart. Keep it six feet apart, not three or four. And when it comes to starting down, we must



Scarlet elf cap on the trail near the summit.

have smaller groups. This is not only safer to prevent viral transfer—larger groups make passing almost impossible. I’ve noted that a lot over the last couple of years when the number hiking has increased. 15 members, 2 nonmembers.

Leader: Steve Cordon on 3/15

Photographer: David Lodeesen

[Last Blanton to Butte hike until at least May 1.]



Denise reaching the summit of Spencer Butte.

LOVELY CLEAR WEATHER AFTER A CHILLY NIGHT. There was a light dusting of snow. Hikers were good-natured about getting out in the sun while maintaining safe social distancing. 7 members.

Mt Pisgah Hikes

Hike: 3-7.4 miles, 1,000-1,400 ft. (Moderate)

Leader: Janet Jacobsen with Asst. Leader: David Cooper on 3/9 sunset/moonrise:

IT WAS WORTH THE WAIT TO SEE THE MOON RISE above South Sister. 14 members, 4 nonmembers.

Leader: Janet Jacobsen on 3/19 spring equinox

Photographer: Keiko Bryan

VIRTUAL SIGN IN (ONLY THE LEADER'S HANDS TOUCHED THE SIGN-UP SHEET) and our small group of six made it comfortable to comply with social distancing. Spring equinox arrived earlier than any other equinox in the last 124 years. We



Janet picking up the fee bag as Steve and Lynn watch from a safe distance. *Yet another use for an Obsidian shopping bag!*

celebrated with a long walk in the arboretum enjoying the wildflowers especially on the Jette Trail where fawn lilies blanketed the hillside. Camas was even blooming. Four of us decided to continue to the summit taking the steep Trail 35. The 3½-mile hike with sunny weather and friends was just the ticket to uplift our spirits. The parking lot on all three levels was packed when we returned to our cars. 6 members.

Leader: Janet Jacobsen on 3/21:

[Last official Obsidian hike until at least May 1.]

WHILE WE HAPPY HIKERS WERE ENJOYING A BEAUTIFUL SUNNY DAY AND SPRING FLOWERS, we were unaware that the Board voted to cancel all activities until May 1 because of the COVID-19 virus. By starting at 8:30 we met very few people on Trails 5, 56, and 2 to the summit. Everyone was respectful of the social distancing. We avoided more hikers on the main trail by taking Trails 4 and 3 over to the North Trailhead. The loop hike took around 3¼ hours. It was not a surprise when we returned to the parking lot to find all the levels filled with cars. From our conversations on the hike, it was also not a surprise that the Board canceled activities. As Lynn Meacham said later, "It was nice to go out on a high note." 9 members.



Bike Trips

Veneta Loop

February 28, 2020

Leader: Richard Hughes

Bike: 25 miles, 1,100 ft. (Moderate)

FOUR RIDERS SOUGHT TO GET IN ONE MORE SPRING-LIKE RIDE before winter returned. Heading south we encountered about a ten-mph headwind. That soon ended when reaching Noti. All found refuge at Our Daily Bread. Members: Richard Hughes, Steven Koester, Darian Morray, Harold Thompson.

Weyerhauser Road Loop

March 21, 2020

Leader: Richard Hughes

Photographer: Darian Morray

Bike: 29 miles, 1,200 ft. (Moderate)

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS WAS TO RESTATE THE SOCIAL DISTANCING OF SIX FEET during the trip. Also all members verbally agreed to the Acceptance of Risk and Release of



Happy riders at Weyerhauser and Hills Creek Rd. Lana, Ruthy, Julie, Richard and Lynda.

Liability. From there we had a beautiful ride forgetting about the latest news in the world. Members: Julie Barnas, Lynda Christiansen, Richard Hughes, Ruthy Kanagy, Lana Lindstrom, Darian Morray.



Trail Maintenance

West Trail Drainage

February 29, 2020

Leader: Matt Bell

Photographer: Pat Soussan

Trail Maintenance: 1.5 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

OUR GROUP MET ON A CHILLY CLOUD-COVERED MORNING at the Main Trailhead parking lot to work independently to clear the drainage and cobble of the West Trail. We hiked up the trail carrying our tools for the day, Terra Hoes and shovels. Our group cleared out the drainage ditches and chipped dried accumulated duff and muck off of the cobble steps. We also added some brush to the trail



Matt enjoys the hike up the West Trail.

sides to help people use the cobble trail. Many of our group hadn't ventured up the West Trail before, so after clearing the drainage, we decided to hike up to the summit and back down the Main Trail. As we approached treeline a cold breeze picked up and our group began to receive a pelting of graupel. The graupel continued as we enjoyed the dramatic views and brownies Janet had carried to the summit. We then descended the Main Trail back to the parking lot. Thanks go to Janet for cleaning the trailhead steps. Members: Matt Bell, Kay Coots, Kathleen Ehli, Dan Gilmore, Janet Jacobsen, June Miller, Denise Rubenstein, Pat Soussan.



Work Party

Leap Day Tree Planting
February 29, 2020
Leader: Darko Sojak
Photographer: Pat Soussan
Work Party: 2 miles, 50 ft. (Easy)

THANKS TO THE GREAT GROUP OF ENTHUSIASTIC VOLUNTEERS, today's work party planting trees and shrubs went very well. Ten Obsidians, together with twenty other



Diana Wheat planting a tree.

volunteers, planted and mulched about 450 bare root plants. In partnership with the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council, we worked on two locations along the Coast Fork Willamette river in Cottage Grove. Members: Jennifer Baer, Mari Baldwin, James Dinn, Esme Greer, Joel Greer, Nancy Hoecker, Michael King, Holger Krentz, Darko Sojak, Diana Wheat.



Snowshoe Trips

Big Lake Snowshoe
March 2, 2020
Leader: Daphne James
Photographer: Darian Morray
Snowshoe: 6.8 miles, 220 ft. (Moderate)

WE HAD A GOOD, IF SOMEWHAT CLOUDY, DAY at Big Lake. It had snowed recently, and the trails were in excellent condition. Although the clouds prevented us from



Lunch at Big Lake: Chris and Daphne.

seeing the excellent views of Mount Washington, the temperatures were pleasant, and the winds did not pick up until the very end of the day. We snowshoed two miles on the

west leg of the South Loop Trail then went off trail until we found the road and intersection that took us to the campgrounds on the west side of the lake. Though these campgrounds are typically bustling with people and vehicles in the summer months, it was quite peaceful for our lunch overlooking lovely Big Lake. After lunch we continued to make our way around to the south side of the lake. We snowshoed the road back to our trailhead at Ray Benson Snow Park. Members: Laura Anderson, Marguerite Cooney, Jean Harris, Daphne James, Darian Morray, Kathy Randall, Chris Shuraleff, Nancy Whitfield. Nonmembers: Riccie Shipley.

Fay Lake
March 14, 2020
Leader: Jane Hackett
Photographer: David Lodeesen
SShoe: 5 miles, 350 ft. (Moderate)

FAY LAKE REMAINED AN ELUSIVE DESTINATION. Eight of us were greeted by 8–10 inches of new snow and a beautiful day for a snowshoe trip. Following blue diamonds and the map, we made it into Big Meadow Campground and realized that we had run out of diamonds and could not match the map to the roads and trails. We returned to the main junction where



The crew stops for lunch.

the sun was out and we could enjoy lunch. We continued up the road toward Maxwell Butte snow cabin just to enjoy another mile or so before returning to the cars. Members: Liz Cooney, Marguerite Cooney, Jane Hackett, Daphne James, David Lodeesen, Lynn Meacham, Jessica Moll, Michael Myers.

UPCOMING



Bus Trips 2020

THE BUS COMMITTEE WAS DISAPPOINTED TO HAVE TO CANCEL the Bus Rally and the OMSI trip. Please contact Sharon Cutsforth or Judy Garwood if you would like a hard copy of the bus trips schedule mailed to you. This is a difficult time for all, and we will decide before May 1 whether the May trip will go as scheduled. If a trip is cancelled, we will return or refund any payments received. May we all stay well!

Seneca Lumber & Dune Buggy Ride
May 28 (Thurs)
Leaders: Barbara & Paul Beard, Craig Molitor
Cost: \$83 (\$85 nonmembers)
Reservations & checks to: Judy Garwood, 683-5539
Load bus at (former) Shopko 7:30 AM, depart 8:00

JOIN US FOR A DAY OF LEARNING, RELAXING AND PLAYING. Traveling north on Hwy. 99, our first stop will be at Seneca Lumber to learn more about the innovative technology and cogeneration process they utilize to generate power and thermal energy from waste products left behind after logging and

lumber production. This will be followed by a coffee break at Orchard Point Park on Fern Ridge Lake before continuing our drive to the coast via Hwy. 36 and Triangle Lake. Lunch will be on your own in Old Town in Florence. After lunch we'll drive south of Florence to board large buggies for a tour in the dunes. Be sure to bring warm clothing, a hooded coat or sweatshirt, and be prepared for the weather. Our return trip will be on Hwy. 126 with a stop at the Gingerbread House for snacks before returning to Eugene at approximately 6:00 PM.

Other destinations, dates & leaders for 2020 are:

- Mt. Angel Abbey: June 16 (Tues), Jim Northrop**
- Odell Lake Lodge: July 14 (Tues), Jim Northrop**
- John Day Fossil Beds & the Wallowas: September 21–26 (Mon–Sat), Jim Northrop**
- Columbia River Sternwheeler: October 14–16 (Wed–Fri), Barbara & Paul Beard**
- Holiday Party at the Lodge: December 12 (Sat)**

The 2020 Bus Trips are now listed on the Obsidians home page, middle of the page under **Bus Trips**.

Online registration is available for all 2020 bus trips.

Watch for trip details in future *Bulletins*.

Bus Trip information will also be posted on the Obsidians home page: www.obsidians.org

Contact information: bustrips@obsidians.org
 Sharon Cutsforth, Committee Co-Chair, 746-4929 or
 Jim Northrop, Committee Co-Chair, 343-3426.

All Obsidian trips and activities have been cancelled until at least May 1, due to COVID-19 concerns.

OBSIDIAN CALENDAR

May

27 Wed Trail Maintenance Trl Mnt M..... Bell 503-884-8829 26 Wed Trail Maintenance Trl Mnt M..... Bell 503-884-8829
28 Thu Seneca Lumber & Dune Buggy Ride BusBeard 994-2337 30 Sun Lower Columbia Kayaking Trip Ext Trp M .. Rice 517-0757

June

6 Sat National Trails Day Trl Mnt M Bell 503-884-8829
16 Tue Mount Angel Abbey BusNorthrop 343-3426
24 Wed Trail Maintenance Trl Mnt M..... Bell 503-884-8829
28 Sun Depoe Bay-Newport Ext Trp M Hougardy 206-9532

July

12 Sun Newport-Waldport Ext Trp M..... Hougardy 206-9532
14 Tue Odell Lake BusNorthrop 343-3426
26 Sun Waldport to Heceta Head Ext Trp M..... Hougardy 206-9532
29 Wed Trail Maintenance Trl Mnt M..... Bell 503-884-8829

August

7 Fri Sawtooths Summer Camp SmCmp.....Jacobsen 914-1132

September

21 Mon John Day Fossil Beds & Wallowas Bus.. Northrop 343-3426
26 Sat National Public Lands Day Trl Mnt M Bell 503-884-8829

October

14 Wed Columbia Sternwheeler & Hood Train Bus . Beard 994-2337
31 Sat Trail Maintenance Trl Mnt M..... Bell 503-884-8829

November

28 Sat Trail Maintenance Trl Mnt M..... Bell 503-884-8829

December

12 Sat Bus Trips Christmas Party BusCutsforth 746-4929

New Release of Liability for Obsidian Activities

EVERYONE WHO SIGNS UP FOR AN OBSIDIAN ACTIVITY DOES SO ONLINE AND ALSO SIGNS THE TRIP ROSTER at the beginning of that trip. Many do not realize there is a statement that explains your *Acceptance of Risk and Release of Liability*, just above where you sign. The statement was recently revised as a result of three insurance companies/brokers urging the Obsidian committee looking into club insurance to incorporate stronger language, specifically clarifying that we are not guides—we are volunteers who organize outings. The statement was decades old, so research was done on what other outdoor clubs currently use.

The Release of Liability forms from the Chemeketans, Mazamas, and the Sierra Club, in addition to several other clubs were studied. Safety Chair Lyndell Wilken collected the various outdoor club statements. A more robust statement was crafted to replace the old statement. The new language was approved by the Board, and it is now on all activity signup sheets. The new statement reads as follows:

Acceptance of Risk and Release of Liability

I accept that outdoor activities can be dangerous, and that the Obsidians, Inc. activity leaders are volunteer facilitators and not professional guides. I accept all risks of this trip as my sole responsibility. I am providing my own equipment for my safety and comfort, including first aid supplies and medicines. I am physically fit for this trip. I have informed the trip leader of any condition that might affect my ability to participate in this activity. I agree to abide by Obsidians, Inc. policies.

I, the undersigned, in consideration of Obsidians, Inc. sponsoring this trip and allowing me to participate, release Obsidians, Inc., its officers, agents, and members from all claims on account of my death or injury resulting from any act, or failure to act, even if negligent, during my participation in this trip or activity, including travel to and from the trailhead or other starting point.

If you have any questions, please contact Lyndell at lyndellwilken@gmail.com.



Update: Wilderness Permits Postponed

ON MARCH 27 THE FOREST SERVICE ANNOUNCED THAT THE INITIAL RELEASE OF PERMITS FOR THE CENTRAL CASCADES WILDERNESS IS POSTPONED. They were originally planned to be released on April 7. The reasons for the deferral have to do with COVID-19 public health and safety measures.

Look for more information in early May about the permit availability and implementation of the permit system. The Forest Service states with regard to potential issues with reservation, “We do not know if we would be able to honor early summer reservation.”



OBSIDIANS, INC.
P.O. BOX 51510
EUGENE, OR 97405

OBSIDIANS, INC. IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORTED STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
EUGENE, OR
PERMIT 803

April 2020



*A great walk for the first day of spring! See: Mt. Pisgah–Spring Equinox hike trip report on page 8.
Photographer: Karen Yoerger.*

ENJOY the photos in color! ONLINE *Bulletin* at www.observians.org