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Dates to Remember

August 28 *Bulletin* Deadline
 Sept 2 Board Meeting

Current event schedules at:

www.obsidians.org

The Register-Guard
Sports/Outdoor Calendar—Tuesday

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

THE DEADLINE for
Bulletin submissions
 for the September issue
 will be Friday, August 28.

**The annual
 renewal form
 will be in the
 September Bulletin.**

RETURNING RESPONSIBLY TO THE TRAILS

Maryanne Reiter, President and Dave Cooper, Vice-President

IN RESPONSE TO GROWING SAFETY CONCERNS OVER THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, President Maryanne Reiter sent an email on March 12 to announce that Potlucks, ExploraTalks, the Bus Rally, and Climb School were cancelled. Prior to the official curtailing of all activities, club members had already been modifying practices such as having the leader check people in on hikes rather than having each person write their name on the sign-in sheet. A March 21st bike ride was the last outing before all club activities shut down. The Board felt it was best to cancel our activities in order to follow the guidelines set forth by the state and national agencies.



The Obsidian Board held their meeting outside the Lodge on July 1. The Board has continued to meet every month while maintaining social distancing. In April and May they convened via telephone conference. In June and July, with the arrival of summer weather, they gathered in the parking area next to the Lodge entrance.

The editors of the Bulletin have also had to get creative. See photos on pp 6-7.

As we learned more about virus safety precautions and with the state moving to Phase 1, reopening and allowing more activities, we decided to try opening up some local activities on a members only, small group, trial basis. Specific protocols developed for resuming urban hikes addressed member and community safety issues such as face coverings. On May 15, Darko Sojak led a group of six on a hike along the Coast Fork of the Willamette River at Buford Park. With face coverings and social distancing, this group set us back on the path of safely and responsibly having outings again. Richard Hughes soon led some bike rides since they naturally lend themselves to social distancing.

Keeping group sizes small helped leaders monitor everyone’s behavior as they adapted to the new protocols. It was a learning process for all. In the past, the Wednesday hikes up Spencer Butte often attracted about 20 people. As we restarted these hikes we needed smaller groups and two different start times and leaders. This worked well

(Continued on page 2)

Welcome New Members!

Steve Denison
Eugene, OR 97403

Gwyneth Iredale
Eugene, OR 97405

IN MEMORIAM

Shirley B. Froyd 1926–2020

RENAISSANCE WOMAN EXTRAORDINAIRE

SHIRLEY BECAME AN OBSIDIAN MEMBER IN 1982 and led 52 of her 167 trips with the club. She was also a greeter at potlucks, the go-to person for nametags, and a strong advocate for conservation issues. One of the hardworking *Friends of Buford Park Monday Morning Regulars*, she helped tear out invasive species in spite of the poison oak.

Since 1978 Shirley lived at Cerro Gordo near Dorena Lake in Cottage Grove where she spent many years building her log cabin. Outdoor activities strengthened her interest in nature and wildlife which can be seen so vividly in her watercolor paintings. Shirley was a child when she took her first class at the Chicago Art Institute. She later completed an MA in Fine Arts at Cal State.

A member of the Watercolor Society of Oregon, she had two exhibits at the Obsidian Lodge.

What many don't know is that she received an MBA in Commercial Aviation at USC and then earned her living as a flight and ground school instructor at airports and colleges. In 1952 Shirley and her co-pilot flew their Cessna from California to New Jersey, winning the Powder Puff Derby (now called All Women's Transcontinental Air Race.)

Shirley liked to lead Obsidian bike trips on the Row River Trail ending the trip at her log cabin for special treats. She wrote these lines for a trip report to Wildwood Falls. ...*We got to Wildwood Falls a little early so we decided to go a bit further. We were delayed by a blackberry thorn in Shirley's rear (of course) tire. Bob Devine had the proper patch kit and with three expert helpers we were on our merry way again. Upon return to the starting point we went up to Shirley's log house for some hot chocolate. One of the drivers discovered she had left her lights on and came back to a dead battery. So, with more helping hands and finally (a) jumper cable all was made functional again. A fall ride along Dorena Lake is a most pleasant experience.*

She is survived by a son, two daughters, and several grandchildren. Her son, Eric Alan, was quoted in a tribute to Shirley in the May 28th *Cottage Grove Sentinel*: *She was a quiet but central presence in Cottage Grove for over 42 years, who seemed to know and be loved by everyone here. She had a remarkable combination of toughness and sweetness; always openminded, curious and nonjudgmental.*

Editor's Note: A tribute can be found in the June 16, 2020 Cottage Grove Sentinel: cgsentinel.com/article/community-loses-artist-pilot

Returning Responsibly to the Trails (Continued from page 1)

but required some modification. Dave Cooper, Mike Smith, and Denise Rubenstein came up with talking points for leaders to help make clear to participants the best practices and required protocols.

The popular evening hikes at Pisgah were handled the same as the Wednesday hikes—two leaders, small groups, and often different routes. A bonus out of this situation is that new people have stepped up to lead the second groups. Thanks go to Lisa Van Liefde, Gwyneth Iredale, and Angie Ruzicka for helping with Pisgah hikes.

(Continued on page 3)

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, 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..... TBA

The OBSIDIAN Bulletin

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The Obsidian Bulletin

P.O. Box 51510, Eugene, OR 97405

Deadline

for September Bulletin
Friday, August 28, 2020

Editorial Team

Writing & Editorial Staff:
Janet Jacobsen, Lou Maenz

Copy Editors:
Jorry Rolfe, Ethel Weltman

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

Assembly/Mailing Team

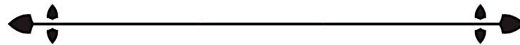
Manager: Lou Maenz

Team: Bea Fontana

Carpooling was a major topic of discussion at the June Board meeting. With the state lifting restrictions on travel, the question became how were we going to deal with trips outside the urban area. The consensus was that while we should discourage it, carpooling was something that should be left to individuals. It was decided that every trip description would state, "Participants will manage their own transportation." The Club does not arrange carpooling nor do the leaders assign people to cars. There is also no mileage fee but rather a suggested amount if you want to voluntarily compensate the driver. While there has not been a fundamental change in our practices, the Board wanted to clarify that carpooling is not the leader's responsibility. As an aid for people arranging their rides, Steve Johnson suggested that participants be specific about driving alone by putting a zero in the "will take" box. If people want to carpool, that is their decision, but no one should feel pressured to drive others if they do not want to take the risk.

Later in June, it was noticed that a number of nonmembers were inquiring about joining in our activities. While still cautious about having new people involved in the out-of-town trips, urban hikes and bike rides were opened up to nonmembers.

We are all excited to be able to offer club activities such as hiking and biking and will remain vigilant about ensuring the safety of our members and our community. Thanks to all of you who have stepped up to lead during this challenging time and to those who have gone on our hikes and bike rides and followed the protocols—this shows that you care about yourself and others. As we go forward we will do all we can with everyone's help to provide safe and enjoyable outdoor activities that enrich our lives by connecting us to nature and each other.



2021 Board Nominees

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE MET IN EARLY MAY TO RECOMMEND THREE CANDIDATES for the Board of Directors for three-year terms beginning in January, 2020. The names of Denise Bean, Joel Greer, and Laura Osinga were presented at the June Board meeting. Qualities that the committee considered important included: demonstrated leadership, professional expertise, enthusiasm, and commitment to the club. All three nominees have led hikes and coincidentally serve on the Finance Committee. Denise earned the *Rookie of the Year* award last year for leading 13 trips!

The election occurs at the October 9 Annual Meeting. According to the Constitution, up to three additional nominees may be submitted by petition to the Secretary before the September Board meeting; signatures of five voting members are required. Bios of the nominees will be published in the September *Bulletin*.

If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee: Dave Cooper, Lana Lindstrom, Jim Northrop, Maryanne Reiter, Jorry Rolfe, or Denise Rubenstein.

Lana Lindstrom, Nominating Committee Chair

Meadow Checkermallow Progress at the Lodge

LAST NOVEMBER 30TH THE TRAIL MAINTENANCE AND LODGE GROUNDS VOLUNTEERS SALVAGED THE UNCOMMON MEADOW CHECKERMALLOW (*sidalcea campestris*) from along the Ribbon Trail and transplanted it in several groupings around the Obsidian Lodge grounds. Obsidians dug up the frosty plants and carried them in totes to the Lodge. John Jacobsen had met prior to planting with Diane Steeck, an ecologist with the city of Eugene, to pick planting locations at the Lodge. The city's hope is that these plants will thrive on the Lodge grounds due to the similar soil type and proximity to their original location.

June 2020 the meadow checkermallow is blooming and doing well at the Lodge grounds with no social distancing, although it looks like the deer like to munch on the flowers. In late July the flowers (that have not been munched) will have seeded. We expect a larger display next spring.

November 2019 member volunteers: Rick Ahrens, Joanna Alexander, Matt Bell, Kathleen Ehli, Dan Gilmore, Janet Jacobsen, John Jacobsen, Darko Sojak, Pat Soussan, Janet Whitesides. Nonmembers: Jessica Moll, Tom Mulhern, Yolanda Mulhern.

May/June 2020 member volunteers weeding the checkermallow areas: Janet Jacobsen, John Jacobsen, Doug Nelson, and Jim Northrop.

John Jacobsen, Grounds Chair



Jim Northrop works near blooming uncommon checkermallow. They'll wait to mow the grounds until after the plants have had a chance to produce seed. Photo by Janet Jacobsen.

OLALLIE LOOKOUT: IN MEMORIAM

Compiled by

Janet Jacobsen, Bea Fontana and Lenore McManigal (Historian Chair)

LAST MONTH, ON JUNE 10 WHEN STEVE JOHNSON AND BRAD BENNETT HIKED TO OLALLIE MOUNTAIN, THEY WERE SURPRISED TO FIND THE FIRE LOOKOUT BURNED TO THE GROUND. A year earlier when Steve had led an Obsidian hike to Olallie, the lookout was still standing. Steve telephoned the McKenzie River Ranger Station, but no one knew anything about the fire.

Bea Fontana also made a few phone calls, including one to Bill Sullivan who emailed us June 16: *I too was saddened to hear of the Olallie lookout loss. My understanding is that it survived the 2017 fire because the Forest Service had just lost the Rebel Rock lookout, and didn't want to lose the only other remaining lookout in the Three Sisters Wilderness. I'm told they sent a firefighter to wrap it in fireproof Kevlar. If true, that strategy worked—the fire overswept the trail and the entire mountain, but the lookout building remained. People visited it in the summer of 2019. How did it burn over the winter? I dislike the arson theory, because who would do that? An October deer hunter trying to keep warm? I prefer to think that the Kevlar wrapping damaged the lightning rod system of wires on the cabin roof, allowing a lightning bolt to set the place ablaze. Because the surrounding forest had already burned, the fire would have been limited to just the cabin, so it might easily have been unnoticed.*



Photo taken by Steve Johnson on June 10, 2020.

Brad Bennett surveys the burnt remnants of Olallie Lookout.



Photo by Curtis Irish in 2002.

Curtis was an Obsidian member at the time he took the photo. He collects photos of historic lookouts.

THIS HISTORIC LOOKOUT HAS BEEN A FAVORITE DESTINATION FOR OBSIDIANS—at least 67 hikes since 1975. But its history began much earlier when the lookout was accessed from the Elk Lake Trailhead on Century Drive.

July 16, 1931: *Burros will be assigned the task of carrying two lookout houses to the top of Cascade national forest promontories. Ready-cut materials for the lookout stations have been trucked to Elk Lake, and Dee Wright and Ed Woods, veteran packers, will load the houses on muleback and carry them to the summits of Olallie Butte and Horse mountain. (Morning Oregonian)*

September 3, 1931: *A new lookout cabin has just been completed by the Cascade national forest on top of Olallie mountain and a new patrolman's cabin at Rigdon ranger station. Material is on the ground for a new lookout house on top of Horse mountain. (Morning Oregonian)*

July 2, 1966: Once the Cougar Dam was built in 1963, Helen Smith possibly led the first Obsidian trip (a three-day backpack) that included a hike to Olallie Mountain. They drove up the... *McKenzie to the South Fork, up that road to Cougar Dam, crossed the dam to the eastside road, up that road to the newly opened East Fork road. Drove 12 miles up East Fork to the Olallie trail. The next morning they hiked to top of Olallie Mountain. 1966 Aug/Sept Bulletin*

July 2, 1967: *Olallie Mountain was substituted for Fingerboard Prairie 'cause of the new network of roads in the area and the amount of snow... good day was had with lots of time spent at the lookout enjoying the view of the Sisters and locating the different mountains, ridges and other lookouts. Wilma Moore (leader), Frank Moore, John, Lois and Ray Anderson; Clarence and John Johnson; John, Lenore, Kevin, Rick, and Steven McManigal; Blanche Starr. October 1967 Bulletin*

Early 1980s: Obsidians Pete Cecil, John Cecil, Mike Wright, Helen Smith, and Mary Bridgeman replaced the missing exterior siding and rebuilt the shutters. The same crew was instrumental in keeping the Olallie Guard Station going. Pete did a lot of the hauling of materials. Don Allen, *Sand Mountain Society*

July 2, 2019: Steve Johnson led what would be the last Obsidian hike to the lookout.

Eleven members braved a cool cloudy July morning and departed the Pat Saddle trailhead at 10:15 for the first Obsidian hike on this trail since the Terwilliger fire of 2018. The trail itself skirts the Eastern perimeter of the fire sometimes moving into the burn area and sometimes out. Unfortunately the beautiful, 9-foot diameter fir tree that is about a mile in from the trailhead was consumed by the fire. This surprised me as many younger, smaller trees nearby survived. A bit of good news is that the trail has been cleared since the fire and had no obstructions. We arrived at the summit at noon and had our lunch next to the 1932 built dilapidated fire lookout. The promised mid-day clearing of the clouds did not happen and so our views were limited to the surrounding foothills with only brief glimpses of the Cascades. On the hike out we enjoyed the late season wildflowers in the meadows and the occasional sound of a woodpecker. Members: Steven Johnson, Daphne James, Dorothy van Winkle, Rachelle Masin, Jorry Rolfe, Tom Rundle, Dorene Steggell, Randy Sinnott, Emily Rice, Janet Jacobsen, Steve Adey, Kathie Carpenter. September 2019 Bulletin



Photo taken by Keiko Bryan on July 16, 2017—two months before the fire that nearly claimed the lookout.

Randy, Rebecca, Marguerite, Kathy, Ben & Kay on a hike led by Kathy Randall.

Final Thoughts

June 16, 2020: *The Sand Mountain Society (among others, including the Obsidians... I cannot overemphasize how MANY contributed over decades) had a 30-year history of participating in the care of Olallie Mountain Lookout, most recently with the construction of what was meant to be a temporary 2x4 framed wall inside the west wall to keep the building from collapsing in winter.... Taken altogether, including the efforts of the Obsidians before us, hundreds of hours were invested in just preserving the opportunity to rehabilitate this great, high integrity building. The lookout itself seemed to have a will to live, just surviving the Olallie Trail Fire of 2017, which burned just about to the foundation of the lookout and stopped, as if in reverence for the venerable old building, one of the first of its kind, and one of the very last. What a shame to lose it now. excerpts from an email from Don Allen, Sand Mountain Society*

June 16, 2020: *...It seems that so many monuments are being lost these days. But then, perhaps this is right. The fire lookout on Olallie was a monument to a fire suppression program that was based on ignorance of the ecological value of fire. Our understanding of the role of fire in the woods has changed dramatically in recent years. Perhaps the mountains are best left to themselves, without reminders of that valiant but clumsy human interference. Alas! Bill Sullivan, Obsidian Honorary Member*

June 30, 2020: *Bea was [finally] able to get through to the Public Affairs Office of the Willamette National Forest and was told that “the cause of the fire is under investigation.”*

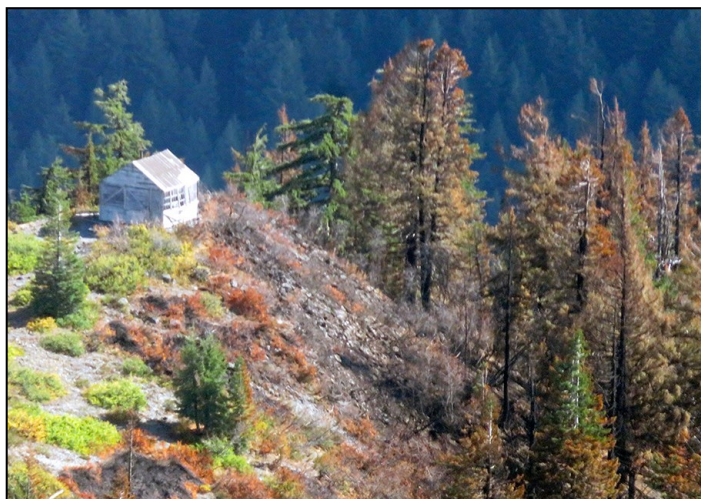
Olallie Mountain hikes on the schedule

August 3, 2020 Leader: Steve Johnson

August 24, 2020 Leader: Joel Greer

For more information, check out these links:

nhlr.org/lookouts/us/or/olallie-mountain-lookout/
www.forestlookout.com/olallie/
oregonlookouts.weebly.com/olallie-mountain.html
cherylhill.net/firelookouts/2014/07/08/olallie-mountain/



Aerial photo taken after the 2017 fire, shows the Lookout still wrapped with protective Kevlar.

Photo from Forest Service Facebook, courtesy of Cheryl Hill, Trailkeepers of Oregon.

BULLETIN EDITORS PLAY IT SAFE

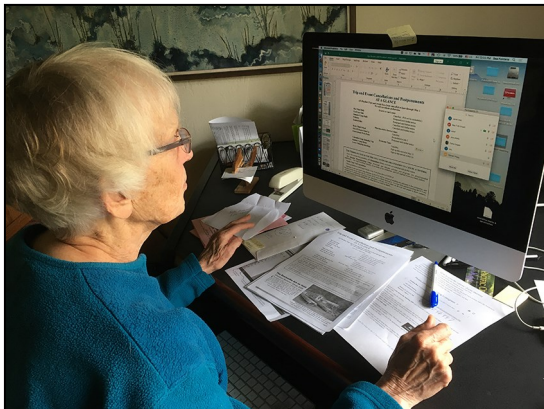
IN A NORMAL MONTH, THE SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE EDITING TEAM WOULD GATHER IN PERSON to proof and put the finishing touches on the draft of the Obsidian *Bulletin*.

But these are not normal times. So we learned to use Zoom. That went surprisingly well, though we did miss indulging in our usual habit of heading over to Cornucopia afterwards for lunch and spirited [no pun intended] conversation.

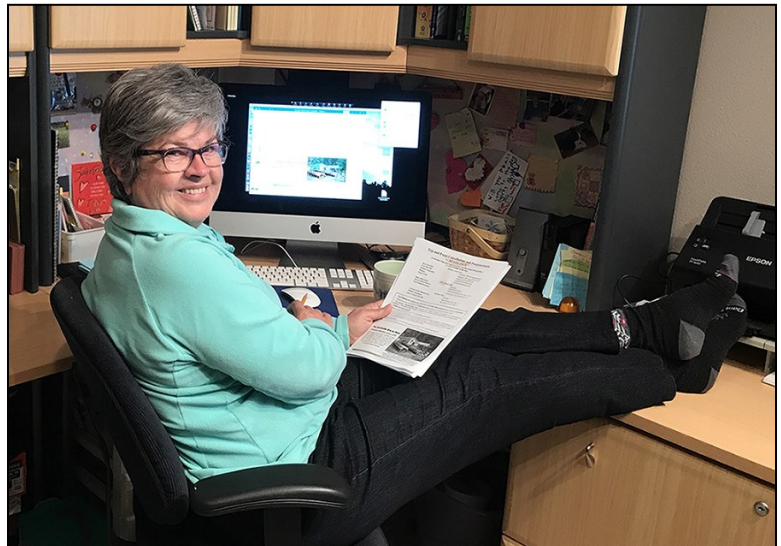
See page 2 sidebar [at the bottom] for a list of the Publications Committee members.



Stewart sits alone in the lovely space he usually provides for the group editing session.



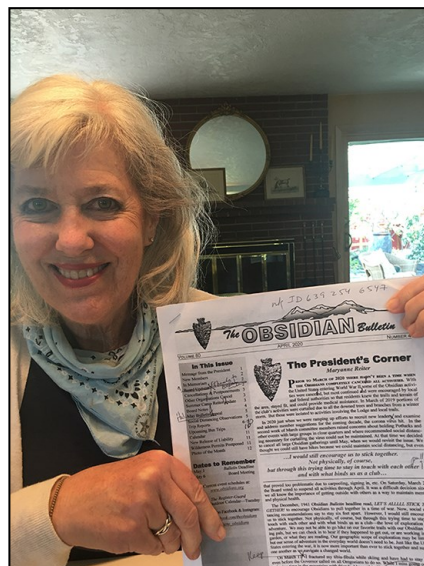
Janet Zooming from home.



Carla enjoys a very relaxed editing session.



Ethel Zooms from her home computer.



Jorry holds her printout of the draft, marked up with handwritten notes for the Zoom meeting.

ASSEMBLY & MAILING

EVERY MONTH, LOU MAENZ HEADS UP A TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS who show up at the Lodge to assemble the *Bulletin* and ready it for mailing. The group varies a bit in size from month to month, but a core of loyal regulars are very dependable. Attendees for each [previous] month are listed in the page 2 sidebar.

In April, working shoulder-to-shoulder in an enclosed space did not seem like a good idea, so Bea volunteered to set up at home and get the job done solo.



Janet delivers the box of Bulletins from InstaPrint to Bea's back door.



Bea does a one-woman assembly operation at home: folding, sticking, and applying the mailing labels. Needless to say, this was not as speedy as the usual crew of 6-9 pairs of hands that can get the job done in an hour.



Lou adds up the numbers and fills in the forms for bulk mailing.

Lou hands off the paperwork and bundles of ready-to-mail Bulletins.

The Gateway Bulk Mailing counter was shrouded by curtains of plastic.



*Photo layout & blurb
by Bea Fontana
Photographers: various*

APRIL, MAY, JUNE BOARD NOTES

April 1, 2020

By Denise Rubenstein

This month's Board Meeting was conducted via conference call due to COVID-19 concerns. 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, Kay Coots and Jim Northrop.

The Board approved the March 2020 minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Stewart Hoeg reviewed the year-to-date income and expenses as well as the balance sheet. The Board approved the bills.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Climbs (Maryanne Reiter): The Climbs Committee cancelled Climb School and the Rock Rodeo for this year. We also postponed scheduling climbs until we know when it will be safe to eliminate social distancing.

Conservation/SciEd (Jorry Rolfe & Kay Coots): Twenty-three people attended the March 10 ExploraTalk.

Extended Trips (Lana Lindstrom): Sign-ups for four Extended trips have been postponed until early May when the COVID-19 picture will hopefully be clearer. Three are camping trips led by Mark Hougardy (state campgrounds are currently closed) and one is a kayak trip led by Emily Rice.

Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): We had a small work party at the Lodge on March 10 to catch up on mowing and a few other odds and ends. Thanks to Dave Cooper and Jim Northrop for their help.

Safety (Lyndell Wilken): A pair of walkie-talkies were purchased to improve safety and communication for some Obsidian activities. Leaders will have the choice of using them or not. Email discussions took place regarding the coronavirus and it was decided to end all Obsidian activities until further notice.

Summer Trips (Dave Cooper): All trips are cancelled until May 1. A determination will be made in the future about when to resume trips, the type of trips, and appropriate procedures.

Winter Trips (Steve Cordon): In March, thirteen trips were completed and 14 others were cancelled, all due to COVID-19 caution. Participants: 126 members and 12 nonmembers.

Winter Trips Season Report: The season came to an early end, though it still was a relatively successful season. Credit goes to our trip leaders, including several new leaders. 102 trips were completed (78 hikes, 9 bikes, 5 Xski, 9 snowshoe, 1 work party). There were 25 trip cancellations and 2 re-schedules (14 due to COVID-19 caution, 2 due to leader illness or schedule conflict, 2 due to limited signups, 9 due to trail, weather, or road conditions). Participants: 936 members and 112 nonmembers. Total fees: \$1147.

OLD BUSINESS

Dave Cooper presented an updated guide for trip leaders. There were no major changes—just clearer language. Approved by the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Update on timing of resuming Club activities: Events are too uncertain at this point to name a date.

Nathaniel Bell, Liz Cooney, Curtis Lahti, and Christine Paige were approved as new members.

The AED pad needs replacement as April marks its 2-year life expectancy.

ADJOURNMENT

May 6, 2020

By Denise Rubenstein

This month's Board Meeting was conducted via conference call due to COVID-19 concerns. President Maryanne Reiter called the meeting to order. Board members present: Dave Cooper, John Cooper, Steve Cordon, Stewart Hoeg, Marci Hansen, Dave Hawkins, and Lyndell Wilken. Others present: Jorry Rolfe, Jim Northrop, and Denise Rubenstein.

The Board approved the minutes for April 2020.

Treasurer's Report: Stewart Hoeg 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): Regretfully the Bus Committee has cancelled the John Day & Beyond and the Columbia Sternwheeler bus trips due to ongoing COVID-19 concerns. We hope to present this same schedule of bus trips for 2021.

Extended Trips (Lana Lindstrom): All three "Hiking the Oregon coast" extended trips have been cancelled. State park campgrounds are still closed and unlikely to open in the near future due to COVID-19 concerns.

Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): The stay-at-home and social distancing guidelines don't seem to have slowed down the growth of grass, weeds and other things at the Lodge grounds, but do seem to have slowed down (well, actually stopped) our mowing, weeding, etc. Hopefully we will have a catchup work party soon.

Librarian/Historian (Lenore McManigal): There were two requests for information. We were unable to answer Steve Johnson's request about his July 22, 1962 junior climb of Three Fingered Jack led by junior member Bob Ashworth who was 17 years old. The summit book and trip report were part of our archives that were given to University of Oregon Special Collections in the 50s/60s. We were able to confirm the date of the climb from Ashworth's log sheet.

Dan Bates, long time member who climbed the ten peaks, asked for a copy of his log sheet. Thanks to Bert Ewing's scans, it was easy to email Dan a copy of his log sheets and membership application. We also sent Dan a copy of the trip report for his first climb, Mt. Washington, September 23/24, 1978 where they camped on the summit and survived a midnight attack from rats. Dan was surprised and pleased with the information.

Publications/Bulletin (Lou Maenz): The *Bulletin* committee

did a stupendous job of getting the *Bulletin* out. Kudos to Bea Fontana!!!!

Summer Camp (John Jacobsen): A month ago the Summer Camp Committee decided to delay the registration for Summer Camp to May 15 and by May 1 reevaluate whether camp happens at all. In light of all that has transpired since then, it didn't require a lot of evaluation for the committee to decide to cancel the 2020 Summer Camp. We were able to get all but \$36 of our reservation fees for the Chemeketa Campground back. We are awaiting processing of the refund. Depending on how things look by August, we are anticipating that we will try to snag reservations for the same Sawtooths campground for the 2021 Summer Camp.

NEW BUSINESS

Update on Oregon outdoor openings—a few parks and boat ramps are starting to open across the state, social distancing still required. The Mazamas are looking at June for reopening activities, possible July for the Obsidians.

Planning for resuming Club activities: Conversation continues, different considerations for different activities—intown hikes, distance hikes, climbs, bike trips, etc. The November Safety Class is doubtful as distancing would be difficult while providing effective instruction. It looks like carpooling doesn't make sense at this time. Again, conversation continues as factors change over time, and the Board will reassess month to month.

Committee chairs have authority to make cancellation decisions.

The 2020 Nominating Committee was formed, consisting of Jim Northrop, Jorry Rolfe, Denise Rubenstein, Dave Cooper, Maryanne Reiter and chaired by Lana Lindstrom. Nominations will be presented at the July Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

June 3, 2020

By Denise Rubenstein

President Maryanne Reiter called the meeting to order outdoors at the Lodge. Board members present: Dave Cooper, John Cooper, Steve Cordon, Stewart Hoeg, Marci Hansen, Dave Hawkins, Kathy Randall, and Lyndell Wilken. Others present: Denise Rubenstein, Jorry Rolfe, Lana Lindstrom, Jim Northrop and Carla Cooper.

The Board approved the minutes for May 2020.

Treasurer's Report: Stewart Hoeg reviewed the year-to-date income and expenses as well as the balance sheet. The Board approved the bills.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Conservation/SciEd (Jorry Rolfe & Kay Coots): Explora-Talks are cancelled for the remainder of 2020. We may consider other opportunities or types of activities such as work parties or field visits. As of yet, no activities are scheduled.

Finance (Stewart Hoeg): Completed a 6-month process of working with the Lane County Department of Taxation to update and reduce our personal property tax asset valuation. The net result is a reduction of the personal property valuation by slightly more than 25% which should reduce this tax in the future by more than \$100 annually. Thanks to Denise Bean and Lana Lindstrom for all their hard work on this.

Lodge Grounds (John Jacobsen): A three-day marathon of grass/weed/blackberry mowing/weed whacking/weed pulling on May 25, 26, and 28 got the Lodge grounds' overgrown thicket beat down somewhat. Thanks to Sam Tracer for helping with his weed whacking skills on May 26. Thanks to Doug Nelson and Jim Northrop on May 28 for their efforts in cutting back the blackberry invasion along 29th Avenue in front of our property, cutting back the poison oak ascending the trees around the Lodge and weeding/cleaning our planting beds. Thanks to Janet Jacobsen on May 25 and 28 for weeding planting beds and clearing around the many oak tree and other planting starts around the place.

Librarian/Historian (Lenore McManigal): With hyperlinks to past *Bulletins*, the self-guided Obsidian Lodge tour PDF of the art, artifacts, and the building is available online in Members Only. We have heard from a few folks who enjoyed reading the articles and recognizing names and events.

Publications/Bulletin (Lou Maenz): There will be no *Bulletin* in August.

Summer Trips (Dave Cooper): In May we have had seven hikes and two bike rides under our trial COVID-19 protocols. Things are going well, and participants have adapted to the new policy. As would be expected, there were initially some questions and sometimes people needed reminders of both rules and best practices. A set of talking points was written to provide leaders with an aid to make sure everyone is clear on the expectations. Thanks to Denise Rubenstein and Mike Smith for their help with this. Thanks to Richard Hughes for prompting us to add specific language regarding bike rides to the protocols.

NEW BUSINESS

Gwyneth Iredale was approved for membership.

Discussion of Obsidian activities for the next phase of opening under COVID-19 conditions: A lot was learned during our initial trial period and the Board will continue to reassess as conditions change. We will resume charging activity fees but continue to limit hikes to members only. Group sizes will be determined by the leader and Dave Cooper.

Obsidian activities requiring carpooling: The 50-mile range limit has been lifted and the stated Club policy is that participants will manage their own transportation.

Board member nominations: The job of the Nominating Committee is to present 3 candidates for the Board for the next term of three years. The candidates are voted on at the October general meeting by attending members. The nominees for this year are Denise Bean, Joel Greer, and Laura Osinga. All three have led trips and participated on committees. The Nominating Committee believes they offer the necessary experience and commitment to serve on the Board. The terms will begin January 2021 and the three candidates will submit bios for the September *Bulletin*. Committee members: Lana Lindstrom (chair), Dave Cooper, Jim Northrop, Maryanne Reiter, Jorry Rolfe, and Denise Rubenstein.

OPEN AGENDA ITEMS

The new walkie-talkies will not be housed at the YMCA just yet.

New batteries for the AEDs at the Lodge will be replaced at this time.

ADJOURNMENT



Yellow Jackets

*Dave Cooper
Summer Trips Chair*

LA TE SUMMER AND EARLY FALL ARE A NASTY TIME TO ENCOUNTER YELLOW JACKETS.

This time of year, they are much more aggressive due to the need to feed meat to their larvae. Your chicken salad is tempting. The adults don't eat meat; they need sugar and other carbs. That makes those cookies and Gatorade pretty hard for them to resist. They are also thirsty this time of the year. As a result of seasonal drying, yellow jackets will be hanging around available water sources.

A group hiking single file in the woods may disturb a nest and one person will be identified and stung. Often it is not the first person in line. I remember when three of us stepped on a small rotted log in the trail that turned out to hold a nest. The fourth person in our group was stung several times. Yellow jackets can/will sting you multiple times. And to top it off, they mark you with a chemical which attracts their colleagues to sting you repeatedly.

They will follow the poor person marked for many yards before going back to the nest.

Avoid squashing a yellow jacket outdoors. When crushed, yellow jackets emit a type of hormone that alerts other nearby yellow jackets to attack. Killing one yellow jacket could lead to further stings.

This time of year it's important for trip leaders to remind the group about yellow jackets and to have people call out to others if they encounter any. Going to Divide Lake two years ago I reminded everyone to be wary of yellow jackets. As we worked our way up the ridge, Darko Sojak hollered back to us that we were approaching a nest in a tree next to the trail. We passed the warning to those following and yet some stings were delivered. It was good that we carried *AfterBite* in our first aid supplies. An OTC antihistamine can such as *Benadryl* can be helpful.

A small percentage (0.05–2%) of the population can have an allergic reaction which could result in anaphylaxis. If stung, watch for signs and symptoms: undue swelling of the extremities and tongue, redness, hives, nausea, blue skin color, wheezing, and trouble breathing/swallowing. If these severe symptoms are present and the person has an *EpiPen*, use it and contact 911 as soon as possible. If you carry an *EpiPen* because you are allergic, tell the group leader where you keep it.

Environmental Stewardship: Recent Efforts to Eradicate False Brome

Jorry Rolfe, inspired by the Trail Maintenance crew

OBSIDIAN VOLUNTEERS CELEBRATED NATIONAL TRAILS DAY SATURDAY JUNE 6TH BY WORKING TO REMOVE THE NOXIOUS WEED CALLED FALSE BROME twenty feet from each side of the Ridgeline Trail. The 0.3 mile section begins at the end of West Amazon Drive where it intersects with Martin Street and then gently climbs through the forested headwaters of the Amazon Creek surrounded by bigleaf maple, Douglas-fir and Pacific yew.

On that June day, the first thing that Obsidians Pat Soussan, Clara Emlen and Janet Jacobsen had to do was meet with Parks and Open Space staff member Ivery who helped the three identify this highly invasive species. When you pick a leaf and hold it up to the light, if there is fine fuzz growing along the leaf's edges, it is likely false brome. From the moist soil, the crew then pulled or dug out roots and small, isolated plants before they were in seed. Beyond the 20 feet, city staff would be coming in later to spray with an herbicide.

When I was hiking on the unimproved trail at Iris Ridge on June 2, I saw two Parks and Open Space staff also doing false brome removal work there. These work parties can effectively control small populations of false brome. (On a later hike in June with Janet and others, we saw lots of false brome on the lower section of Trail #4 at Mt. Pisgah.)

The Latin name for false brome is *Brachypodium sylvaticum*. It is a slender, hairy and bright green (staying green into fall and even winter) bunch grass, a perennial that grows 18 inches to two feet tall and at elevations from 200 to 3,500 feet. False brome regrettably threatens and out-competes our native plant communities and tree seedlings in both shady, moist areas and sunny, dry meadow habitats. Cattle and wildlife will not even graze or forage on it!

False brome was first discovered in Oregon near Eugene in 1939, but it was not a problem until the 1990s. It is found as far south as San Francisco and as far north as southwest Washington. The reason it is such a problem (and the reason crews remove it by hand when discovered) lies in the fact that once a few big clumps establish in an area, these clumps spread, forming dense masses, stands or monocrops. These then take over the area which results in a loss of diversity.

We know that diversity gives a beloved natural area not only its ecological vitality but its aesthetic charm. So intensively managing this bunch grass, whether removal by digging or spray, is imperative. Long-term commitment to continued eradication efforts is required so that false brome does not take over our beautiful woodlands.



*Janet has a large sample of false brome grass that we dug up within 20 feet from the trail and bagged for disposal.
Photo by Pat Soussan*

TRIP REPORTS



McKenzie View Loop

May 23, 2020

Leader: Richard Hughes

Photographer: Darko Sojak

Bike: 26 miles, 643 ft. (Moderate)

THIS WAS THE FIRST BIKE TRIP SINCE ACTIVITIES WERE CURTAILED and riders were happy to be out riding after two months. The weather was perfect and no flat tires. All



Regrouping.

members verbally agreed to the “Acceptance of Risk and Release of Liability” prior to beginning the trip. Members: John Anderson, Julie Barnas, Richard Hughes, Lana Lindstrom, Michael Myers, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Harold Thompson.

Lorane Highway Loop

May 29, 2020

Leader: Richard Hughes

Bike: 33.8 miles, 1,899 ft. (Moderate)

A VERY NICE DAY AND A PLEASANT RIDE. Members: Lynda Christiansen, Richard Hughes.

Weyerhaeuser Road Loop

June 5, 2020

Leader: Richard Hughes

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

AS WE ALL KNOW, FUNNY THINGS HAPPEN WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT THEM to occur. Apparently there are two ‘A’ streets in Springfield and Betty Grant went to the “other” one. After

we finally met up, she took her bike off her car and the front shocks pulled completely out of their casing. Not wanting to find out what the third surprise of the day might be, she bagged the ride, feeling gardening would be more relaxing. Steve and I then did the ride in cool, cloudy, but dry weather. No flats or other funny stuff happened. Members: Steve Cordon, Richard Hughes.

Brownsville Loop

June 20, 2020

Leader: Richard Hughes

Bike: 45 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

WE BEGAN THE RIDE UNDER CLOUDY CONDITIONS with anticipation of a sunnier return. Funny how Mother Nature doesn’t follow the forecast. As the drizzle turned to a light rain we forged on into Brownsville where we all were able to recharge our bodies and calm our minds. The ride back was dry with a slight headwind. Members: Steve Cordon, John Hegg, Richard Hughes, Jonathan Jost, Diana Masarie, Lynn Stearney.



Hikes

Coast Fork Willamette Explora

May 15, 2020

Leader & photographer: Darko Sojak

Hike: 7 miles, 230 ft. (Easy)

A STRETCHED OUT STRING OF SIX SOCIALLY SEPARATED SIGHTSEERS STROLLED SWIFTLY staying to the side of



At the South Buford bar.

several similarly socially segregated souls. I surely say: a seamlessly successful savanna spring stumble. Members: David Hawkins, Holger Krentz, David Morris, Evelyn Nagy, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak.

Amazon Park to Hendricks

May 25, 2020

Leader: Janet Whitesides

Hike: 6 miles, 300 ft. (Moderate)

WE HEADED OFF FROM AMAZON PARK ON A BEAUTIFUL SUMMER MORNING, taking off jackets in anticipation of our first short climb up 28th. After crossing Laurelwood Golf Course, we headed into the woods to connect with the Ribbon Trail. We were stopped as we approached a recent large clearing where the trail ended because construction has started on a new housing development. No one was working on the site, but there was a massive earth-moving machine which had begun to clear a large section of forest for the new extension of Spring Blvd, from 30th. We were all appalled at the scale of the damage. Another hiker approached, a local architect, who filled us in on the progress of development. Leaving the destruction behind, we continued on the Ribbon Trail heading north to Hendricks Park. We descended on Fairmount Heights which has some good views of west Eugene from the top. Then to 21st and taking a lovely alley back to Alder, then on to our starting point. We all headed to the top of one of the parking decks near the Sacred Heart Hospital and watched the fly-over of jets commemorating Memorial Day and health care workers, a few who also came out to watch with the small crowd. Members: Rebecca Eastwood, Evelyn Nagy, Jorry Rolfe, Janet Whitesides.

Dorris Ranch

May 30, 2020

Leader: Jane Hackett

Hike: 7 miles, 100 ft. (Easy)

IT WAS GOOD TO GET BACK TO THE TRAIL. We all enjoyed the brisk walk that included more elevation than advertised. Leaving Dorris Ranch we walked to the midway point where we turned on to the Mill Race Path. After passing the old Booth-Kelly Mill we picked up the trail that leads up to the Springfield Pioneer Cemetery. We then decided to go on up to Willamette Heights Park. Much of this trip was new to some of the people. We were back to the cars by 11. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Jane Hackett, Holger Krentz, Michael Myers, Denise Rubenstein, Nancy Whitfield.

Mt Pisgah Sunset/Moonrise hikes:

June 5, 2020

1. Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Asst. Leader: Angie Ruzicka

Photographer: Darko Sojak

Hike: 6.5 miles, 1,300 ft. (Moderate)

WE TIMED OUR TWO HOUR HIKE ON THE PISGAH BACK TRAILS (#4 and #2) to reach the summit for sunset at 8:45 and



Dave, Janet, Evelyn, Marguerite and Angie.

join the other Obsidian hikers who left from the North Trail-head. Columbine, tiger lilies, balsam root and abundant yellow elegant tarred, *Madia elegans* brightened the landscapes. It was easy to social distance, wear face coverings, and visit while we enjoyed the sunset. It was cloudy to the east so we headed down before the moonrise at 9:15. Thanks to Angie who sent everyone an email about the trip's safety guidelines and handled the preliminary introductions in the parking lot. Members: Marguerite Cooney, David Hawkins, Janet Jacobsen, Evelyn Nagy, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak.

2. Leader: Lisa Van Liefde

Hike: 4.1 miles, 1,030 ft. (Moderate)

NICE EVENING, EVEN NICER GROUP! Everyone enjoyed socially distanced visiting with others at the top. Great sunset, but too many clouds and it was getting cold, so we all decided to head down without seeing the moon—this time. Members: Kay Coots, Richard Hughes, Gwyneth Iredale, Lana Lindstrom, Jorry Rolfe, Lisa Van Liefde.

Wild Iris Ridge

June 7, 2020

Leader: Jane Hackett

Hike: 3.8 miles, 620 ft. (Easy)

WE THOUGHT THE PARKING LOT WOULD HAVE PLENTY OF ROOM BUT IT WAS PACKED. Great hike. Good views of the coast range and no rain. We all wondered where the iris are? We debated whether we were too early or too late? Anyway, we had a good hike. Members: Jane Hackett, Nancy Hoecker, Holger Krentz.

Finley Wildlife Refuge

June 14, 2020

Leader: Jane Hackett

Photographer: Darko Sojak

Hike: 5.5 miles, 100 ft. (Easy)

GREAT TRIP. SOME PEOPLE HAD PREARRANGED RIDES PRIOR TO THE TRIP. I offered my car to take two. We had windows open to allow for good air flow and we all wore masks. I had



Marguerite and Kathie at Woodpecker loop boardwalk.

also wiped down all hard surfaces with a bleach solution and let car air out. The hike was enjoyed by all. The day started with gray skies and cooler temperatures. The birds of note were: turkey vultures, acorn woodpeckers and one owl we

could not identify. White daisies were the predominate wild-flower; the meadows were full of them. At lunch at the headquarters, we were the only people there so we had lots of room to spread out. Very few people were on the trails. We left around 1:00 and noticed more cars and activity. We made an early dinner stop in Monroe at a brew pub where there is a large area to social distance. Good food. I believe this was the first time for most of those in our group to eat out since March. We all loved it. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Marguerite Cooney, Clara Emlen, Patricia Esch, Jane Hackett, Holger Krentz, Darko Sojak.

Mt. Baldy Sunrise

June 14, 2020

Leader: Darko Sojak

Hike: 3.5 miles, 950 ft. (Moderate)

MILLIONS OF DAISIES AND CHIRPING BIRDS MADE TODAY'S WINDLESS CLOUDY MORNING PRETTY SPECIAL. Members: Holger Krentz, Darko Sojak.

Mt. Pisgah

June 16, 2020

Leader: Carla Cooper

Hike: 4 miles, 1,040 ft. (Moderate)

IT WAS A DAMP MORNING WHEN WE STARTED OUT and just as we started the final push to the summit of Mt. Pisgah, it began to rain in earnest. The rain continued for the rest of the trip, but we all had our raincoats and agreed it felt good to get out and stretch our legs. Members: Carla Cooper, Kay Coots, Peg Straub.

Smith Rock

June 19, 2020

Leader: Janet Whitesides

Photographer: Evelyn Nagy

Hike: 6.5 miles, 300 ft. (Moderate)

THIS TRIP WAS ORIGINALLY PLANNED FOR THE LAST WEEK IN MAY, which had to be cancelled due to the COVID pandemic. I was hoping to be there when the park might be less crowded and cooler. On this day, SRSP was packed. We might have gotten there just in time to get the last parking places.



Janet Whitesides at Smith Rock.

So good to see folks out enjoying the beautiful day and space, and, good for the state coffers. If everyone paid their parking fees, the park probably had a good day, but I would prefer to be there when less crowded. It was definitely hard to maintain a healthy distance from others on the narrow trails. And it was warm: upper 80s in the sun, but 0 humidity. We ended our hike earlier than the leader would like due to the heat. Crooked River, which runs through the canyon had some birds: red-winged blackbirds, several plumps of geese, Stellar jay's, and others. But the water and condition of the river didn't seem healthy. The water was brown/greenish, with lots of the grass that, I think, is an invasive, along the banks. I didn't swim as planned. We did stop by Suttle Lake on the way home and I did get a brief dip, which was refreshing. We did not camp, this was a day trip. Members: Evelyn Nagy, Kathy Randall, Cindy Rice, Janet Whitesides.

Marys Peak Wildflowers

June 20, 2020

Leader: Tom Rundle

Hike: 5.5 miles, 1,250 ft. (Moderate)

WE UNLOADED AND GEARED UP AT CONNER'S CAMP IN LIGHT RAIN. It looked like it might be a rainy day, but as soon as we hit the trail the rain began to let up and mostly stopped in about 30 minutes. The big logs blocking the trail last year were all sawed through. We took the trail up through the south side meadow. It was foggy with visibility about 150 yards; however, we saw lots of wildflowers as far as vision was possible. We walked the upper roadcut to the summit noting the pillow basalt and more wildflowers along the way. At the summit it was misty and windy, so we decided to hike down to the upper parking area for lunch. After lunch, we hiked back to Conner's Camp as the clouds lifted off and sun breaks began to appear. Members: Leah Firth, Vicky Hanson, Holger Krentz, Tom Rundle.

Summer Solstice hikes on Mt. Pisgah

June 20, 2020:

1. Welcoming Summer Sunrise

Leader: Darko Sojak

Hike: 3.5 miles, 950 ft. (Easy)

FIRST SUNRISE OF THE SUMMER WAS CLOUDY. Our cheery group lingered on the summit of Mt. Baldy to enjoy the balmy morning. Besides chirping birds and a bunny, we saw fresh bear scat on middle of the trail. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Marguerite Cooney, Jorry Rolfe, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak.

2. Mt. Pisgah Summer Solstice

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 6.5 miles, 1,300 ft. (Moderate)

WE MET ONLY TWO HIKERS ON OUR TWO HOUR TREK on Trail 4 and 2 to the summit. Even though it was cloudy and we thought it wouldn't matter if we were late for the sunset, I asked everyone to pick up our pace the last 800 ft. of elevation. It was a surprise on top to see that we were actually early and that the sun was successfully shining on the Mt. Pisgah Sighting Pedestal. The other surprise was that were so few people celebrating— basically just the other Obsidian group led by Gwyneth Iredale. It was a quiet scene for viewing,

conversations, and photos. We were back down at our cars before dark. Members: Marguerite Cooney, Janet Jacobsen, David Lodeesen, Jorry Rolfe, Peg Straub.

3. Mt. Pisgah Summer Solstice

Leader: Gwyneth Iredale

Photographer: David Lodeesen

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

THE MT. PISGAH SOLSTICE GROUP THAT OPTED FOR A SHORTER HIKE than Janet Jacobson's enjoyed a more leisurely pace up the main trail, encountering fewer than normal



*...and there it was.
The setting sun shines through the sighting pedestal
at the summit of Pisgah.*

people due to the imposing, discouraging clouds. We were glad to not have to mask up often for passers by as we kept a safe social distance while enjoying conversation. After reaching the summit with plenty of time to marvel at the dramatic, low clouds in the eastern valley, we were joined by Janet's group, exchanged warm greetings, and lined up behind the slit in the bronze relief sculpture in hopes of a solstice sunset despite the clouds. Luckily enough, the sun broke through the clouds just above the horizon before setting behind the coastal fog bank. Spirits buoyed by our good fortune, we made good time down the main trail. Members: Joanna Alexander, Mari Baldwin, Nancy Hoecker, Gwyneth Iredale.

Ridgeline Special 2

June 21, 2020

Leader: Lana Lindstrom

Hike: 7 miles, 950 ft. (Moderate)

IT WAS A PERFECT SUNDAY MORNING TO WALK PART OF THE RIDGELINE TRAIL and through the Spring Blvd McMansion neighborhood with friends. No bikers and just a few runners. The tiger lilies this year are particularly spectacular and plentiful. I was pleased to share a 'secret' passage between streets that only one person knew about.... and she and I had discovered it together! Members: Linda Anson, Marguerite Cooney, Richard Hughes, Lana Lindstrom, Jack Loe, Jorry Rolfe, Denise Rubenstein.

Kentucky Falls

June 22, 2020

Photographer: Esme Greer

Leader: Joel Greer

Hike: 6 miles, 850 ft. (Moderate)

THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF THE KENTUCKY FALLS HIKE IS NOT THE HIKE ITSELF, but finding the trailhead! Despite having scouted the hike and arriving at the trailhead with no navigational problems on Memorial Day, I managed to take one wrong turn at a confusing intersection of gravel roads high in the Coastal Range near Roman Nose mountain. Fortunately, we recovered quickly, though not without some angst and confusion, and arrived at the trailhead only 10 minutes later than expected. Also fortunately, my seven fellow hikers had great attitudes, and the hike was very enjoyable for everyone. It was a clear day, and the temperature was in the low 60s at the beginning and mid 70s at the end. We saw all three beautiful waterfalls, then hiked to a beautiful pool about 0.8 miles south on the North Fork Smith River Trail for a very pleasant lunch stop. But our adventures weren't finished yet: about 1.4 miles into the uphill return, Esme realized she had left a hiking pole at our lunch spot. So six of the hikers proceeded to Upper Kentucky Falls and waited while Joel and Esme walked/jogged back to retrieve the hiking pole. I really



Dorothy and Jean at Lower Kentucky Falls..

appreciated the great attitude of this group. Everyone was super cheerful and just happy to enjoy the chance to socialize (while doing our best to maintain social distance) and enjoy the beauty of the hike. Members: Brad Bennett, Keiko Bryan, Marguerite Cooney, Esme Greer, Joel Greer, Jean Harris, Lynn Meacham, Dorothy van Winkle.

Mt. Baldy

June 23, 2020

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Hike: 8 miles, 1,000 ft. (Moderate)

YES, EVERYONE SAID THEY HAD A FACE COVERING and had read the latest Obsidian COVID-19 Protocols. Jorry explained the location of the Be Noble property before we started up the trail at the west end of Martin Street. We met few people on the shady trail to Fox Hollow, Dillard, Mt. Baldy and Spring Blvd. We met John Cooper and then later, Carla and Dave Cooper. On our return we met more hikers and with practice, we were like a dance

team stepping aside. Perhaps that was Vicky Hansen's influence. With the rising temperature, we were thankful for the forest canopy. Thanks to the enthusiastic Obsidians who made the hike so pleasant! Members: Kay Coots, Vicky Hanson, Janet Jacobsen, Lynn Meacham, Jorry Rolfe, Paul Winther.

Heceta Head Loop

June 27, 2020

Leader: Tom Rundle

Photographer: Holger Krentz

Hike: 6.6 miles, 850 ft. (Moderate)

WE HIKED FROM THE CARL G. WASHBURNE MEMORIAL STATE PARK SOUTH ALONG THE BEACH, stopping to explore one of the smaller reefs at low tide. We couldn't explore the larger reefs because the tide was beginning to come back in. We hiked up the Hobbit Trail, but didn't see any Hobbits because they are so clever at hiding. Then through the mud and over the hill to the Heceta Head Lighthouse for lunch. After lunch we hiked the Valley Trail and the China Loop



Many crab shells on the side of the Hobbit Trail.



Randy with a new friend.

enjoying the sunbreaks and wetland forests along the way. Then we hiked back to the Washburne parking area taking a questionable shortcut that led to walking about two blocks along busy HW 101. Members: Marguerite Cooney, Gwyneth Iredale, Holger Krentz, Evelyn Nagy, Jorry Rolfe, Tom Rundle, Randy Sinnott.

Weyerhaeuser Haul Rd.

June 28, 2020

Leader: Denise Bean

Hike: 5.2 miles, 150 ft. (Moderate)

OUR HIKE INCLUDED TWO PEOPLE ON THEIR FIRST OBSIDIAN HIKE. The group of regulars answered lots of questions and did a great job making the nonmembers feel comfortable and included. Meeting behind the McDonalds at the intersection of OR-126 and Bob Straub Parkway left us with only a five-mile drive to the trailhead. The trailhead was really the starting place at the intersection of Wallace Creek Road and the old Weyerhaeuser Haul Road. The weather cooperated with only a few sprinkles at the beginning and the end. We did the Haul Road from Wallace Creek to Hills Creek Road. It has lovely views of the Jasper Valley. Members: Denise Bean, Carla Cooper, Nancy Hoecker, David Lodeesen, Nola Nelson, Kathy Randall, Peg Straub, Lisa Van Liefde, Dorothy van Winkle. Nonmembers: Andrew Mylko, Amanda Bell.

Bachelor Mt. via Bugaboo Ridge

June 29, 2020

Photographer: Esme Greer

Leader: Daphne James

Hike: 8.2 miles, 1,600 ft. (Moderate)

THERE ARE TWO EXCELLENT REASONS TO HIKE THE BUGABOO RIDGE TO BACHELOR MOUNTAIN HIKE: stellar mountain views and splendid spring wildflowers. On the day we hiked, persistent grey skies prevented us from seeing the anticipated views of the Cascade Range, but the wildflowers did not disappoint. The many varieties of flowers, both those our Obsidian experts could identify and those that left us baffled, were out in force, making conditions superb for a memorable



Beautiful wildflowers.



Kathie, Angie, and Darian.

spring wildflower hike. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Marguerite Cooney, Esme Greer, Joel Greer, Jean Harris, Daphne James, Darian Morray, Angie Ruzicka.

Horse Rock

June 30, 2020

Leader: Tom Rundle

Hike: 3.2 miles, 630 ft. (Easy)

THE LOWER TRAIL HAS BEEN IMPROVED DURING THE LAST YEAR with many of the small limbs across the trail removed and others modified into water bars. On the Meadow Trail, the rocks were often wet and slippery. Visibility was limited to about a quarter mile by cloud cover over the nearby ridges. When we reached the Horse Rock dike complex, we were up in the clouds and visibility was limited to about 200 feet. As we found various places to eat lunch, the clouds lifted off and by the time we finished eating, there were long sunbreaks. On the way down we stopped a few times to enjoy the view. Wildflowers were everywhere. Members: Joanna Alexander, David Hawkins, Kathy Randall, Tom Rundle, Peg Straub, Diana Wheat.

Swing Hill Loop

June 30, 2020

Leader: David Cooper

Hike: 2 miles, 360 ft. (Easy)

THIS WAS A NICE AFTERNOON WALK and it was good to be out and have a non-member along. We didn't meet many people today. Members: Carla Cooper, David Cooper. Non-members: Elizabeth Block.

Amazon Headwaters/Spencer Butte Hikes

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

Various Leaders:

Mike Smith on 5/20:

ON THIS FIRST SPENCER BUTTE HIKE AFTER THE LOCKDOWN, I had people spread out at the bottom and I followed about 15 minutes later after everybody had arrived. I was not able to be

with most of the people except on the summit. Some changes need to be made.

I recommend:

1. Masks are mandatory to be worn on the trail any time there is passing or being passed. If nobody is well ahead of you, a mask may be removed. The reason is that droplets can hang in the air for some time after passage. I wore a mask the whole time up and down without difficulty.

2. If following someone, a mask must be worn. People cough and spit on the trail.

3. On top, masks may be removed only when eating and drinking, and one should be well away from others in doing so. If not eating or drinking, masks are important to be worn here, because talking spreads droplets and allows them to hang around for several minutes.

4. People can stop to chat but stay apart. I realize for some this is difficult. Again, talking is a higher spread activity than just distancing. 10 members

Denise Rubenstein on 5/20:

GREAT TO BE BACK ON THIS TRAIL. It wasn't too busy, but I sure wish hikers would leash their dogs. I'm thinking about 50% of hikers were wearing masks and stepping aside to pass worked out pretty well. 4 members

Mike Smith on 5/27:

SECOND HIKE SINCE PHASE I BEGAN with no significant problems. I have found keeping the mask on is easier than trying to put it on and take it off, but whatever works for people. It was a nice day on top, and 35 species of wildflowers were seen. 8 members

Denise Rubenstein on 5/27:

GEORGIOUS DAY, PERFECT HIKING WEATHER. Our group is following all Obsidian protocols—a good thing as not all Spencer hikers are wearing masks. Our 8:30 start time worked OK. The trail started to get busy towards the end so a later time is not recommended. 4 members

Janet Jacobsen on 6/3:

SPREAD OUT, FIVE OF US STARTED UP THE TRAIL AT 7:30 AM. We maintained social distancing and wore our face coverings continuously or where needed. We tried to be the first to step aside/face the woods when meeting other hikers. The early morning hikers were respectful and sometimes beat us to the punch. It was a pleasant morning and everyone on the trail—not just Obsidians—seemed to be in a good mood, quick to smile and say “Thanks.” On the way down we met Jorry Rolfe's group. Everyone wanted to talk with Tommy Young who was on his first hike in several months. No hugging! Tommy pointed out the columbine and tiger lily flowers. We thank Eugene Parks and Open Space for trimming the vegetation on the sides of the Amazon Headwaters Trail. 5 members

Jorry Rolfe on 6/3:

ON THIS MILD LATE SPRING MORNING, THE SIX OF US ENJOYED HIKING a comfortable pace to the summit. We all adhered to the applicable rules and guidelines set by the Board. 6 members.

**Denise Rubenstein on 6/10:
Photographer: Tommy Young**

LOVELY HIKE AND TOMMY AND JANET SPOTTED OUR FIRST PHANTOM ORCHID. They are particular to the PNW and not so easy to spot. They are all white and without chlorophyll



Tiger Lily.



Snails breakfast on the trail.

which means it can't make its own food, so the phantom orchid has to steal all of its nutrients from other plants. There are a variety of different ways that plants do this, but the phantom orchid uses fungi as go-betweens. There's no direct contact between the orchid and its host plant (in this case, actually, the dead plants rotting on the forest floor). Instead, the tiny fibers of the fungus enter the roots of the host plant and pass nutrients along to them. Source: *Flowers of Marin*. 3 members

Steve Cordon on 6/10:

WE DID SEE A PET GOAT HIKING THE TRAIL up around the steps. The goat looked giddy being around rocky scramble terrain. 5 members

Janet Jacobsen on 6/17:

THE EARLY MORNING START AT 7:30 MEANS WE MEET FEWER PEOPLE. A plus! I was able to show everyone the enticing display of the waxy white Indian Pipe flower near the beginning of the Amazon Headwaters Trail. Later on the Tie Trail Tommy and I spotted the phantom orchid. On the way down we met the 8:00 group and many more hikers. We tried to be first ones to step aside. We welcomed nonmember Steve Denison and signed his application as safely as we could. Social distancing does not dim our hiking experience. 4 members, 1 nonmember.

**Mike Smith on 6/17:
Photographer: Tommy Young**

7 members



Hard to find phantom orchid.

David Strutin on 6/24:

GOOD HIKE. 6 members

Darian Morray on 6/24:

A GROUP OF EIGHT HIKERS LEFT IN STAGGERED ORDER around 8:00 AM. We followed the Martin Street trail segment to Fox Hollow and then diverted to the Dillard trail segment

because of a temporary closure of the Ridgeline trail at Fox Hollow. We proceeded to the top of Mt. Baldy and returned by the same route. 8 members

**Janet Jacobsen on 7/1:
Revised hike on The Ridgeline Trail:
52nd to Spencer Butte
5.2 miles, 1,170 ft. (Moderate)**

SINCE THE FOX HOLLOW TRAIL WAS CLOSED due to trail maintenance, we met at 7:30 at the 52nd Willamette Trailhead. We lingered on top until two hikers from the 8:00 group appeared. We met very few hikers who did not have face coverings to use when meeting others on the trail. Several of us added extra miles by hiking the Blanton Trail section. 9 members

Mike Smith on 7/1:

FORTUNATELY UNEVENTFUL HIKE from 52nd St. to the top and back, the changes being due to the trail work on the Ridgeline between the Tie Trail and Fox Hollow. 4 members

**Beach Clean-up with SOLVE
July 5, 2020
Leader & Photographer: Darko Sojak
Hike: 2.5 miles, 50 ft. (Easy)**

IN BEAUTIFUL SUNNY WEATHER WE HIKE TO BERRY CREEK ESTUARY, half a mile north of Baker Beach Trailhead where we jointly collected 42.4 lbs. of mixed marine debris. For the first time we used the microplastics filtration sieve that the Board approved for purchase at the March 4 meeting. A huge thanks to all volunteers! Members: Jane Hackett, Nancy Hoecker, Gwyneth Iredale, Holger Krentz, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Diana Wheat.

Holger Krentz and Jane Hackett sifting microplastics, using the Obsidians' newly acquired filtration sieve for the first time.



Angela Ruzicka crossing Berry Creek.



Obsidian Trail Maintenance Upcoming Events

Wednesday, July 19, 5:30–8:00 PM

Wednesday, August 26, 5:00–8:00 PM

Saturday, September 26, 9:00 AM–12:00 PM

EACH MONTH THE OBSIDIAN TRAIL MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE COORDINATES WITH EUGENE PARKS AND OPEN STAFF for a project, usually on the Ridgeline Trail.

As public health recommendations continue to evolve, the City will be adapting and making changes to provide a safe experience for the volunteers. Right now this means that you must sign up on the Obsidian website so that the committee can arrange for the required RSVP with the city. Events will have enhanced hygiene protocols. You will need to bring your own tools, gloves, and face covering.

For information and/or to get on the email list for details about the monthly projects email

Matthew Bell at trails@obsidians.org
or Pat Soussan at pdsoussan@gmail.com

Matt Bell, Trail Maintenance Chair

PLEASE HELP KEEP OREGON CLEAN

IF YOU ENCOUNTER LARGE GARBAGE OR DEBRIS on private or public grounds, please take a moment and report to SOLVE via this form:

www.solveoregon.org/litter-report-form

Thank you.
Darko Sojak*

*Darko adopted the Berry Creek Beach and is responsible for cleaning this section three times a year. He has been participating in SOLVE beach cleanups since 2012.

OBSIDIAN CALENDAR

July

20 Mon Koosah Falls around Clear Lake Hike **M** Bean 953-6868
 21 Tue Campus Walk Hike **E** Jacobsen 206-1251
 22 Wed Broken Top Crater Hike **D** Johnson 520-2470
 22 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M** Rubenstein 248-514-5092
 22 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M** Iredale 505-0055
 25 Sat Grizzly Peak Hike **D** Johnson 520-2470
 26 Sun Annual Beach Barefoot Hike **M** Sojak 799-9199
 28 Tue Paradise Park Hike **D** Johnson 520-2470
 29 Wed Trail Maintenance Trl Mnt **M**Bell 503-884-8829
 29 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M** Jacobsen 206-1251
 29 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M** Whitesides 919-593-5578
 31 Fri Obsidian Grand Tour Hike **D** Johnson 520-2470
 31 Fri North Umpqua Trail CarCmp **M** Sojak 799-9199

August

1 Sat South Sister Climb **D**McGlinsky 232-0421
 2 Sun Mt Pisgah Sunset/Moonrise Hike **M** Jacobsen 206-1251
 2 Sun Mt Pisgah Sunset/Moonrise Hike **M** Cooper 517-6785
 3 Mon Olallie Mountain Hike **M** Johnson 520-2470

3 Mon Koosah, Sahalie, Tamolitch/Blue Pool Hike **D** Bean 953-6868
 6 Thu Eugene Book Walk Hike **E** Jacobsen 206-1251
 20 Thu Yosemite Backpack Bk Pk **D** Johnson 520-2470
 23 Sun Black Crater Hike **D** Sojak 799-9199
 24 Mon Olallie Mountain Hike **M** Greer 281-701-0205
 26 Wed Trail Maintenance Trl Mnt **M** Bell 503-884-8829
 30 Sun Erma Bell Lakes Hike **M** Greer 281-701-0205

September

10 Thu Steens Mountain CarCmp **M** Hackett 953-7046
 12 Sat Scott Mountain Hike **D** Greer 281-701-0205
 19 Sat Mt McLoughlin Climb **D** Kanewa 525-1709
 26 Sat National Public Lands Day Trl Mnt **M** Bell 503-884-8829

October

31 Sat Trail Maintenance Trl Mnt **M** Bell 503-884-8829

November

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

Desert Trail Association and Oregon Natural Desert Association Update

Lou Maenz

FORTY-EIGHT YEARS AGO, CONGRESS DESIGNATED A NATIONAL RECREATIONAL TRAIL TO RUN THROUGH THE DESERT AREAS FROM MEXICO TO CANADA. Thus the Desert Trail Association (DTA) was formed with the mission to establish a border-to-border hiking trail and to promote activities that educate the public to the need for maintaining the desert eco-systems through hiking and backpacking.

In 1987 the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) was formed. Its mission is to protect, defend, and restore the wild lands of eastern Oregon. To that end they have cobbled together a trail from the eastern Oregon border at the Owyhee State Park to Rt. 78 near Bend. The Oregon Desert Trail traverses some of the most spectacular natural areas of the state's dry side, including Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge, Steens Mountain, and the Owyhee Canyonlands. To craft this 750-mile route located on public land and public rights-of-way, ONDA stitched existing trails, old Jeep tracks, and historical wagon roads together with stretches of cross-country travel. Their aims are to improve access to the wonders of the desert and to let explorers take a choose-your-own-adventure approach to getting to know this region.

What has evolved is that ONDA has created the Oregon Desert Trail system. The overarching DTA has periodically coordinated efforts with them. Unfortunately, the DTA is now closing down. It is an organization spread out over too many miles and too many states, with too few people volunteering. The trail they were trying to develop—border-to-border, Mexico to Canada—was a monumental task that proved impossible. Although they are no longer functional, the work they did, the hours they put in, have certainly not been wasted and have enriched our desert country.

The DTA was not able to sustain its project. However, the Desert Trail itself does not go away. It is mapped through the Sonoran Desert, the Mojave Desert and into the Great Basin and southeastern Oregon.

Luckily, in Oregon we have ONDA and the trail they have created. DTA is liquidating its assets and, as per articles of incorporation, will be transferring resources to ONDA to continue and maintain their sections of the Oregon Desert Trail as well as to continue trail development.

Renee Patrick of the Oregon Natural Desert Association, who gave an excellent presentation to the Obsidians in the fall of 2017, wrote in the DTA newsletter: *The Desert Trail Association may not be moving forward with plans to refine, establish, and publicize the hard work of their 48 years as an organization, but I'm happy to report that ONDA will continue to tend to the Oregon sections of their route that overlap with Oregon Desert Trail.*

The final issue (Summer 2020) of the Desert Trails newsletter gives tribute to the many DTA loyal volunteers and with an upbeat note states: *There will still be hiking trips and other outings offered in the Great Basin and Mojave Deserts.* If you have questions or want to be notified of these informal outings, email Dan Chamness at chamness@crestviewcable.com Dan has been a Desert Trail and Mazama member since 1976, and an Obsidian since 1978. He will be leading many of the outings including ones to Death Valley and Jarbidge Wilderness. Dan invites Obsidian members to join him.



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July/August 2020



*Indian Pipe on Amazon Headwaters Trail. Photo by Tommy Young.
See Janet Jacobsen's June 17 trip report on page 17.*

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