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Dates to Remember

March 25	Summer Camp Rally
April 1	Bulletin Deadline
April 6	Board Meeting
April 9	First Aid Supplies
	Summer Camp Booklet Pick-up

Current event schedules at:
www.obsidians.org

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



FREE FIRST AID SUPPLIES FOR TRIP LEADERS

When: Saturday, April 9
Time: 3 PM
Where: Obsidian Lodge

THIS EVENT WILL BE A FIRST AID SUPPLY GIVEAWAY FOR OBSIDIANS WHO HAVE LED TRIPS IN 2021/22, and will help the Safety Committee promote having adequate first aid kits for Obsidian activities. The giveaway is in response to the Club's suspension of checking out first aid kits through the YMCA. The Club encourages everyone, especially leaders, to carry a kit.

Many first aid items will be displayed inside the Lodge, where individuals can walk by each table and take what they need. In addition, Concessions will be selling Sam splints and sit-upons at a discount. Summer Camp booklets will also be available. After picking up your supplies you can visit with others outside.

Take advantage of this unique opportunity and come to the Lodge on April 9 at 3 PM. Lodge Doors will be open to ensure ventilation. Please wear a mask. A notice will be sent to all leaders just prior to April 9.

Lyndell Wilken
Safety Committee

Get Acquainted Hikes Need Leaders

GET ACQUAINTED/RIBBON TRAIL HIKES WILL NOW BE OFFERED ON THE SECOND SATURDAY MORNING OF EVERY MONTH.

This way potential members and new members can plan on a free introductory hike to find out what the Obsidians are all about. All hikes will start and end at the Lodge.

We would like 12 members to commit to leading one hike a year, and 12 other members to commit to being the assistant once a year. We also need members to join our hikes, help answer questions, and socialize. These two-hour outings are a walk through the park and are always enjoyable.

Contact Dorothy van Winkle for details:
dorothyvanwinkle@yahoo.com



Dorothy greeting guests and handing out membership information on the February Get Acquainted Hike. See trip report on page 7.

Welcome New Members!

Patrick Bronson
Eugene, OR 97402

Patty Keene
Eugene, OR 97405

Emilia Rorden
Springfield, OR 97477

Signe Wright
Eugene, OR 97405

AMERICORPS TEAM DEPARTS LODGE

Jim Northrop

AFTER RESIDING AT THE OBSIDIAN LODGE FOR FIVE WEEKS, the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps team departed for their next assignment on February 21. Eugene Parks and Open Space hosted the team to work on the city's parks. The Obsidians offered the Lodge after planned accommodations were cancelled and the team had nowhere to stay.

The nine members of the AmeriCorps team penned a thank you note to all Obsidians. Team Leader James wrote: *Thank you so much for letting us use the Lodge. It was gorgeous, cozy, and we will miss it dearly.* Team member Shayna wrote: *The Obsidian Lodge was amazing to stay in! Special thanks to Jim for our trip to the coast and the best chocolate chip cookies I've EVER had!*

When asked about their favorite project, Team Leader James said it was probably the three-day project to replace pavers with concrete at two picnic shelters at Alton Baker Park. The shelters, located just east of the Nobel Peace Prize plaza, are now wheelchair accessible. At a farewell luncheon, a city park employee praised the team's work and stated that the shelters had been on a list of improvements for 20 years. With the help of the AmeriCorps team, the project finally got done.

The team's last project, perhaps the most meaningful and timely for our community, was helping to establish a Safe Sleep site in a 27,300-square-foot warehouse on Garfield Street. The crew erected 86 pop-up tents inside the warehouse. The team furnished each 8-by-8-foot tent with a sleeping pad, sleeping bag, camp chair, electric heater and bins for storage. The project was finished before last month's cold spell and will provide campers in the Washington Jefferson Park with a warm and safe place to sleep.

The AmeriCorps team was scheduled to work next at a food bank in Tacoma. A few days before leaving Eugene, they learned that assignment was cancelled. The team's next assignment will be preparing a children's camp in Santa Cruz for summer visitors.

At the farewell luncheon, city park employees described the various projects the AmeriCorps team worked on. It was an amazing list, touching every part of the city. The Obsidians should be proud that we were able to help make the AmeriCorps visit a success.

Editors' note:

Jim Northrop was our Club liason and support person during the Corps' stay at the Lodge. He also acted as tour guide during their time off, making sure that they had a chance to visit the Oregon Coast.



Jim strikes a pose in front of the Obsidian Spirit mural outside the Lodge entrance. He is modeling a cap knitted for him by one of the volunteers. Photo by Dave Cooper.

OBSIDIANS

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Website: www.obsidians.org

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Laura Osinga, Vice President
Denise Rubenstein, Secretary
Stewart Hoeg, Treasurer
Denise Bean, Marci Hansen,
Dave Hawkins, Jorry Rolfe
Angie Ruzicka, 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

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Concessions Carla Cooper
Conservation/SciEd K. Coots/A. Ruzicka
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Summer Trips Dave Cooper
Winter Trips Dave Cooper

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Deadline

for April Bulletin

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Black Oak Basin: Eugene's Newest Park

Jorry Rolfe

Parks & Open Space

BLACK OAK BASIN (BOB), NEAR THE RIBBON TRAIL AND CLOSE TO CORYELL RIDGE AND MOON MOUNTAIN, WAS RECENTLY ACQUIRED BY THE CITY OF EUGENE with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) funding. The property had been privately owned, and the former landowner approached the City of Eugene when they wanted to sell the 120 acres. Originally these were homelands of the Kalapuya.

BPA now holds a conservation easement to permanently protect, mitigate, and enhance wildlife and their habitat, and provides stewardship funds toward maintenance of the property. As a result Eugene, as landowner of BOB, has developed an extensive land management plan. Submitted this month for BPA review, it details how and when the city will proceed with stewardship management and protection plans for wildlife and native plant communities. There will be volunteer opportunities for stewardship in BOB, but the exact nature of this work and when it will happen remain to be seen.

Eventually the city plans to provide new trails or improve existing trails on the property for hikers and bikers; however, the conservation vision has priority. This is due to the fact that restoring the oak and prairie aspects of the site, while protecting the riparian buffer, will necessitate heavy equipment to be brought in for the removal of non-native species and tree thinning. There are legacy oaks the city wants to open up to sunlight. This work with machines would disturb any trail improvements. Meanwhile, we can hike on this city property as there are several unimproved paths threaded through the property along with some bike trails.

This new park is an exciting addition and a significant element to have in place in the visionary Rivers to Ridges (R2R) Partnership. One of the guiding principles of R2R is providing uninterrupted open space and recreational corridors or greenways that link park and recreational facilities, schools, wildlife habitat, and natural resource areas.

To view a PDF of the plan, go to [Draft Land Management Plan \(PDF\) \(22.6 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)



Obsidians at Black Oak Basin. Photo by Carla Cooper. See Black Oak Basin ExploraHike trip report on page 8.

Climb School 2022



CLIMB SCHOOL IS BACK IN APRIL 2022! Due to the pandemic we did not hold Climb School in 2020 or 2021. This year the Climbs Committee felt that it was safe enough to hold the class with certain COVID-19 protocols in place. We offered the students from the class of 2020—who were all set and ready to go when the pandemic hit—the first chance at a spot in the class. There were 17 of them who were able to accept. Because we did not want to have too many people in the Lodge, we limited enrollment to twenty-four. That meant we had seven spots to fill, which we did by holding a lottery. Interested folks entered their names in the lottery, and on February 16, 2022 we randomly drew seven names. We wish we could have accommodated all the people who entered their names for the class, but we just didn't have the capacity.

The Obsidians started offering Climb School in January of 1948 and it continues to this day...when not interrupted by a pandemic, of course. Each spring the Obsidians and Eugene Mountain Rescue offer the course in the basic mountaineering skills needed to participate safely on climbs in alpine environments. The emphasis of the course is on basic skills to climb rock and steep snow. This course is not meant to train people to lead groups on rock or glaciers but rather to be a safe team member. In addition, the course does not cover the use of map and compass, weather and avalanche assessment, or crevasse rescue.

The course consists of three classroom sessions and two field sessions, covering introduction to rock climbing and snow skills. Students must be 16 or older to participate, but will need a parent or guardian signature if under 18. Those between 13 and 16 may participate if accompanied by a parent or responsible adult who is also enrolled in the course. The cost of the class is \$150 for nonmembers and \$120 for Obsidian members and Eugene Mountain Rescue volunteers. The Obsidians provide all ropes, anchors, and group gear needed for the field sessions. We also have the following personal gear available if needed: climbing harnesses, rock helmets, prusik loops, belay devices, and locking carabiners.

*Maryanne Reiter
Chair, Climbs Committee*

PACIFIC CREST TRAIL A 50-YEAR LOOK BACK

Bert Ewing

SOME 8,500 DIEHARDS HAVE BACKPACKED THE 2,600-MILE MEXICO TO CANADA PACIFIC CREST TRAIL. In 2019 alone the Pacific Crest Trail Association logged 1,186 finishers out of 8,000 permit holders.

Half a century ago in early 1972, the trail was in its infancy with perhaps four completers to date. Not four thousand. Four. That year, at age 19, I set off on a successful two-summer solo hike of the PCT. A dozen others also hit the trail that year. A few things have changed since then.

For a brief time, the PCT's southern terminus was envisioned as US/Mexico Border Monument 251, 23 miles west of the current marker at Campo. I started at 251. That's another story, but when given good and bad choices that summer, I often seemed to pick the latter.

Oregon's Skyline, Washington's Cascade Crest and California's classic John Muir and Tahoe-Yosemite Trails were well worn. The rest of California lacked a continuous pathway and also a detailed guidebook. So, my 'guidebook' was a heap of notes and frequently outdated National Forest, National Park and USGS topographic maps. Each bureaucracy had its own required permits. Today the PCTA issues a single interagency one.

Each agency creatively mapped a patchwork of existing, marginal, and long abandoned trails. Hundreds of miles of all types of roads coalesced the mess. Sometimes the scribbles didn't even connect between adjacent National Forests. A void of a hundred miles across the Mojave Desert had no official guidance at all. To ensure water sources there, I walked dirt and paved roads and railroads through Tehachapi to Lake Isabella at the Sierra foothills. Another gap from Oregon's Siskiyou Pass to Lake of the Woods proved no problem. I did enjoy the freedom of not marching in lockstep to a rigid route.

Bits of fresh trail materialized all over. Road crossings sometimes sported new PCT signs and splendid tread that faded in a quarter mile. In Oregon, new construction past Cowhorn Mountain abruptly dead-ended for the season, forcing a compass course through dense lodgepole pines.

Personal computers and cell phones and GPS units were a ways off. I navigated by eyeball and map and rarely compass. When befuddled and lucky I might find a weathered township-range-section marker nailed to a tree. Today, electronics can pinpoint every step along with current trail and water details. I wasn't mesmerized by a screen and didn't walk with things stuck in my ears; I just tuned in the surroundings. Each turn or summit was a discovery. And when I got bored, well, I got bored. Different times. Now, virtually every step of the trail can be previewed online. However, a GPS just to verify my location would have avoided innumerable backtrackings. An emergency SOS device could have been a lifesaver in a worst case. I seemed drawn to spots where a sane person would never find me. Being solo though, I tried my best to keep others aware of my plans and progress (read 'pay phones').



Pack 'Rassling', June 26, 1972. "My pack was near its heaviest here (approx. 70 lbs.). I'd wait for a waist-high rock or log to park it on, rather than lifting from or lowering it to the ground."

Many now-monikered 'Trail Angels' offered unexpected but much appreciated assistance. Today, Angels are often casually relied on by hikers. Some Angels even compete in providing their largesse. Maintained water caches are also now depended on. In the Mojave they're a necessity of the trail's final routing, but 'caches of convenience' appear on some only moderately arid sections. Through California, other than in the Sierras, I met only a tiny handful of backpackers, a far cry from today's 'thundering herd'. 'Trail towns' are now overwhelmed by hordes of hikers and a sometimes-rowdy atmosphere. Too often the trail resembles a social gathering or athletic contest rather than a wilderness experience. Race bibs may soon be the norm.

PCT hikers typically encounter storms, lightning, bears, rattlesnakes, scorpions, bees, ticks, biting ants and flies, mosquitoes, mice, and poisonous plants. Add blisters, minor injuries and aches and pains, equipment failures, 'hiker hunger', bad water, dehydration, sunburn, exhaustion, questionable people, reckless drivers and more. Whew! I faced all of these but won't belabor the details. With a dry winter and late season start I sidestepped deep snow and dicey river crossings in the Sierras. The PCT's positives, though, outstrip all these minor irritations.

(Continued on page 5)



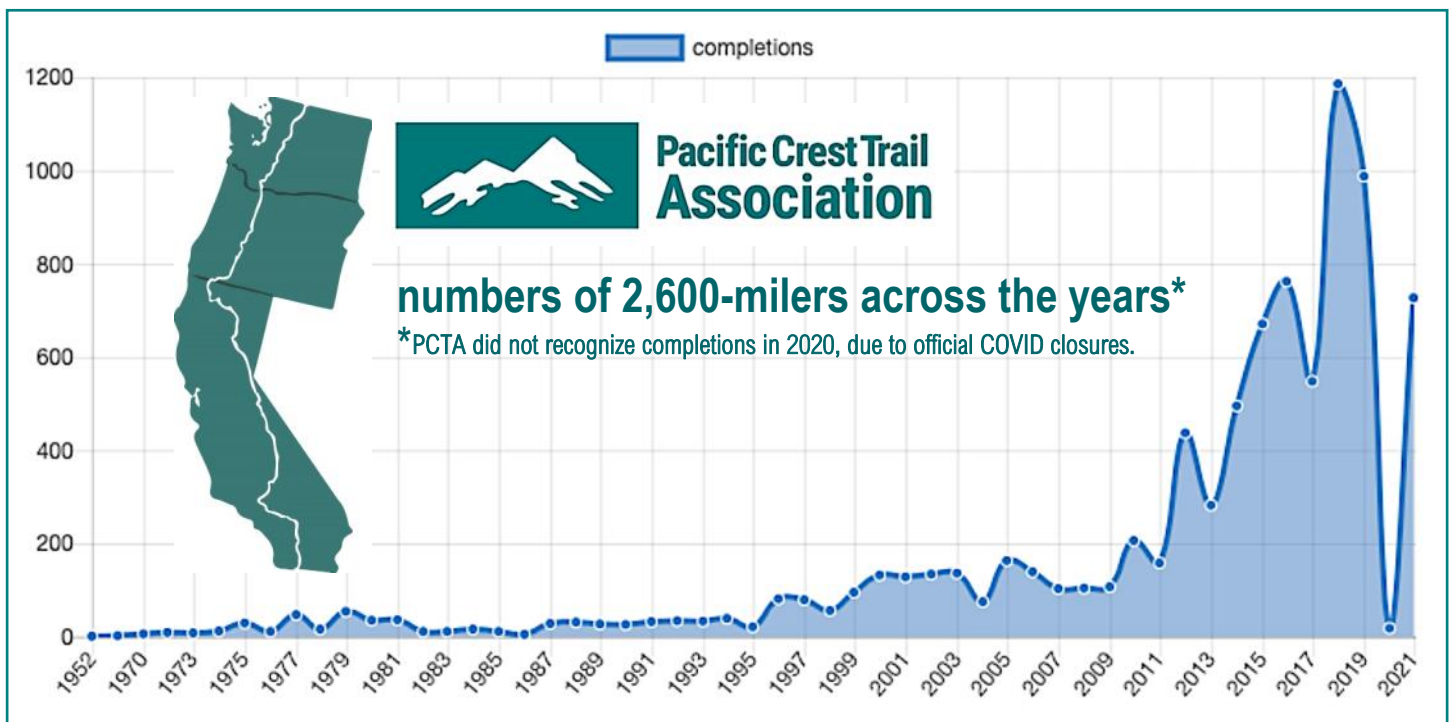
Mexico/US Border Monument 251. Start of Bert's PCT trek. May 17, 1972.

(Continued from page 4)

My frame pack's base weight (without food, water, or stove fuel) topped 30 pounds; my boots weighed almost five. Typical was maybe 40-55 pounds total. The worst was about 75 pounds, well over half my body weight, on a 6,000-foot climb. Across the Mojave I included up to two gallons of water. I reserved Halazone tablets and boiling to treat only the sketchiest water. Giardia and filters were concerns for the future. Most of my meals were home-concocted. I still cringe thinking of leathery dehydrated potato dices. Heavy bear canisters for food were not yet National Park requirements. Recently I've packed with a 14-pound base weight and lightweight shoes and a water filter. Much better.

In October 1972 I stopped at Santiam Pass after nearly 2,000 'continuous footstep' miles. The next year I leisurely finished the last 600 miles to Canada. Many new sections were under construction; the trail was maturing. And I met more thru hikers in pursuit of an adventure of a lifetime. The PCT will always offer that.

Editor's note: To view Bert's journal entries and photos from his trek visit: www.trailjournals.com/journal/entries/25025.



Above graph courtesy of the Pacific Crest Trail Association.

More about Bert Ewing

BERT'S FATHER, OBSIDIAN JACK EWING [1919–2020] INTRODUCED HIM TO BACK-PACKING WHEN HE WAS SEVEN. Bert joined the Obsidians May 3, 1972 with five previous climbs on his application and will soon be a 50-year member. A month after joining, he headed off for the Pacific Crest Trail.

He's also hiked the Oregon Skyline (1970), Appalachian, and Oregon Coast Trails, and much of the Continental Divide Trail (1997–2000). He was a member of Eugene Mountain Rescue in the 70s and 80s. He has gone on 90 trips with the Obsidians, leading 24 of his 44 climbs.

There are two escapades that spring to mind when an Obsidian asks, "Who is Bert?" The first is an off-the-record excursion when Bert and Obsidian Sam Miller climbed Oregon's ten peaks in a week, 7/31–8/6, 1977. Bert wrote for the *Bulletin*: *Sam Miller and I, naïve and gullible and in yet another moment of weakness, fell for the idea.* See: www.obsidians.org/bulletin/Issues/2011_Bulletins/2011_07_Bulletin.pdf (page 3)

The second is another off-the-record climb when Bert and Sam climbed Mt. Washington to await the official Obsidian climbing party. The leader Bob Dark wrote in his trip report: *Not that that is so unusual, but how often does one see Bert & Sam dressed in well pressed suits with ties and polished shoes? Not only that, but would you believe these two were comfortably seated on each side of a tablecloth covered rock on which they had a variety of fruit, a giant grinder sandwich and a bottle of wine (for looks only, of course).*

Seven years ago, Bert became the de facto archivist for our club when he took on the task of scanning every document and photo in the Lodge and now knows all about Obsidian escapades.



For the Obsidians 90th Anniversary Celebration, Bert Ewing created a slideshow with many of the old Obsidian photos he has scanned. Photo by Carla Cooper 11/6/2017.

At the
Airport

PAUL BUNYON
ART CLOUGH
BLANCHE VAN QUIRK
ALICE SMILEY COMFORT
GILBERT MASON
LORIE CROSS
1948



Historic Carvings Revisited

Janet Jacobsen

FLYING OUT OF THE EUGENE AIRPORT? After checking through security, take time to view the *Paul Bunyan and Great Ox* carving at the top of the stairs. Originally the carving was displayed at the Chambers Street Airport (a.k.a. the Eugene Air Park), which closed in 1955. At some point the carving was moved to Mahlon Sweet Field (the new Eugene Airport) which had opened in 1943. For many years the carving was framed behind plexiglass and went unnoticed, past security on the first floor. The four carvers include well known Art Clough (1891–1977) and less known Lorie Cross (1921–2007).

Recognize Lorie's name? His two native maple plaques, *Woodland Carvings*, hang in the Lodge on the wall next to entry room door. They were presented to the Obsidians in 1948 at a banquet and then presented again May 19, 1963 when the Lodge was built. The mystery of how the carvings made their way to the Lodge is featured in October, 2006 *Bulletin*: www.obsidians.org/bulletin/Issues/2006_Bulletins/2006_12_Bulletin.pdf.

Shedding new light on the carvings has given them a history for all of us to appreciate and enjoy.

At the
Obsidian Lodge

TRIP REPORTS



Hikes

Heceta Lighthouse / China Creek

January 29, 2022

Leader: Kathie Carpenter

Photographer: Darko Sojak

Hike: 8 miles, 799 ft. (Moderate)

THE MIDWINTER HEAT WAVE AT THE COAST IS OREGON'S BEST-KEPT SECRET. We left freezing fog behind in Eugene and hiked under sunny skies with temps in the high 50s. Some Obsidians lore to share: Parking is free in the day use



Up the hill to Heceta Head.

area of Washburne Park and the restrooms at the lighthouse are open. The loop along China Creek was closed due to



Gwyneth and Lisa on the trail above Heceta Lighthouse.



Marguerite with Hobbit Beach in background.

bridge damage, which shortened our distance to 6 miles and allowed time for a leisurely lunch at the lighthouse and some hokey-pokey dancin' on the beach. And that, my friends, really is what it's all about! Members: Kathie Carpenter, Marguerite Cooney, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Paul Flashenberg, Gwyneth Iredale, Holger Krentz, Evelyn Nagy, Linda Parks, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Lisa Van Liefde, Nancy Whitfield. Nonmembers: Rachelle Masin.

Get Acquainted / Ribbon Trail

February 5, 2022

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Assistant Leader: Dorothy van Winkle

Hike: 6.3 miles, 430 ft. (Easy)

GUESTS AND MEMBERS ENJOYED THE WALK from the Masonic Cemetery up past the Lodge and on the Ribbon Trail to Hendricks Park. Guests especially appreciated discovering new trails and places. The snowdrops were blooming in several of the cemetery plots. We were surprised to see major clearing to the east of the Ribbon Trail as we walked north from the Lodge. The questions asked were: *How wide is the Ribbon Trail?* and *How big is the development?* See the July, 2009 *Bulletin* for a map and an article about the construction of the Ribbon Trail. Thanks to Dorothy and Jane, who helped keep all of us together. Members: George Ambrosini, Donna Bloomfield, Jennifer Crim, Alan Curtis, Robert Eriksen, Jane Hackett, Vicky Hanson, Janet Jacobsen, Barbara Orsi, Robin Risque, Marie Stringer, Sam Tracer, Dorothy van Winkle. Nonmembers: Vicki Levine, Jane Allen, Patrick Bronson, Sarah Barlow, Michael Nieman, Suzanne Nieman.

Fishing Rock / Salishan Beach

February 5, 2022

Leader: Darko Sojak

Photographer: Holger Krentz

Hike: 12.5 miles, 300 ft. (Difficult)

FROM DRAMATICALLY-NESTED FISHING ROCK, WE HIKE NORTH on a low-lying beach that was lined with fast-eroding sand cliffs. The sand was mostly soft, so our effort was much greater than on a usual beach walk. We passed along the



Going down the steep, slippery trail to the beach.

dozens of cliff-perched houses and some seriously eroded banks, arriving to the top of mostly sunny Salishan Spit right at noon. After a brief lunch overlooking Siletz Bay, we hiked the east side of Salishan Spit, along the Siletz River, and then rushed back on the narrow beach in front of a swiftly-returning tide. That was 12.5 very fast, sandy miles. Most of the participants decided to spend the night in Lincoln City. It was a great day with friends. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Holger Krentz, Jorry Rolfe, Angie Ruzicka, Randy Sinnott, Darko Sojak.

Oregon's Birthday Hike

February 13, 2022

Leader: Janet Jacobsen

Photographer: Megan Mahoney

Hike: 8 miles, 300 ft. (Moderate)

IT WAS A WARM 'SPRING' DAY TO CELEBRATE OREGON'S 163RD 'WINTER' BIRTHDAY—a day early. Starting at the Dorris Ranch, we hiked up to Willamette Heights Park to enjoy the view and to share Oregon trivia while basking in the sun. We headed downtown to see the murals: The Sun at LTD Station, Ken Kesey, Official Simpsons, The Oregon Trail,



*Obsidians by the Latinx Mural (2021)
on wall of Memos Mexican Restaurant on Main Street.*

The Moderns, Springfield 125th Anniversary, and the new Latinx outside Memos Mexican Restaurant. Then it was off to the Booth Kelly Trailhead to complete our loop on the Mill Race and Middle Fork paths. We were glad for the snacks of dried pears (the state fruit) and filberts (the state nut) on our 3-hour-and-20-minute journey. Dave Predeek sent a note thanking the group for listening to his anecdotes and other trivia that only someone who has been in Oregon for a long time would know. Members: Jennifer Crim, Paul Flashenberg, Vicky Hanson, Nancy Hoecker, Christiane Hougardy, Mark Hougardy, Gwyneth Iredale, Janet Jacobsen, Lana Lindstrom, Meghan Mahoney, Dave Predeek, Robin Risque, Marie Stringer. Nonmembers: Jane Allen, Emilia Rorden.

Black Oak Basin ExploraHike

February 14, 2022

Leader: Jorry Rolfe

Assistant Leader: Randy Sinnott

Hike: 5 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

A RAINY WINTER DAY MADE FOR SOME MUDDY TRAILS through this new Eugene park, Black Oak Basin (BOB). The city of Eugene has a draft plan to make this conservation easement again an area of oak savanna and woodland, as it was when the Kalapuya lived here. The group hiked in an exploratory fashion on trails and old logging roads; the area was logged in the mid-1990s. Extensive work will be required to rid the park of thickets of shrubs like blackberries, small non-native trees and some invasive plants, in particular meadow knapweed and false brome. This is a hike in an area near the Ribbon Trail that might be an alternative for the Get Acquainted Hikes. BOB connects with Coryell Ridge and Moon Mountain and there are multiple access points. BOB is mostly surrounded by EWEB and private properties and adds a new connection in the Rivers to Ridges Partnership. It promises to be a great place for a local spring hike—close-in and not too difficult of a terrain to navigate. Members: Mari Baldwin, Donna Bloomfield, Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Patricia Esch, Whitney Gould, Janet Jacobsen, Evelyn Nagy, Jorry Rolfe, Angie Ruzicka, Randy Sinnott, Pat Soussan, Dorothy van Winkle. Nonmembers: Stephanie Midkiff, Gary Griffin.

Recharge Your Hiking

February 18, 2022

Leader & Photographer: Janet Jacobsen

Assistant Leader: Joella Ewing

Hike: 4 miles, (Easy)



National Battery Day: Jim, Ruth, Ginny, and Judy donating batteries to the Nightingale Shelter where host described the facility and how they work to meet the needs of residents.



National Battery Day: A sugar recharge at Sweet Life: Sharon, Ginny, Sam, Karla, Jim, Kathy's hand.

Thirteen Obsidians celebrated National Battery Day by donating AA and AAA batteries to the Nightingale Shelter, followed by an illuminating tour with host Tracy Joscelyn. We appreciated how Joella has donated a hot meal to the residents every Monday for three-plus years. Our next stop was the Masonic Cemetery to view the grave marker for Karl Kordesch (1922–2011), inventor of the alkaline battery. Even though it was quite chilly, it was a pleasant walk while visiting with friends. Our batteries were recharged and warmed up at Sweet Life Petite bakery. Thanks to Jim, Betsy, and Ginny, whose updates about the AmeriCorps, Masonic Cemetery, and the neighborhood history added so much. Members: Sharon Duncan, Joella Ewing, Whitney Gould, Betsy Halpern, Vicky Hanson, Kathy Hoeg, Janet Jacobsen, Judy Newman, Jim Northrop, Ginny Reich, Ruth Romoser, Karla Rusow, Sam Tracer.

Amazon Headwaters / Fox Hollow / Spencer Butte / Mt. Baldy Hikes

Hikes: 5.2–6.2 miles, 1,150–1,530 ft. (Moderate)

Various Leaders

June Miller: 1/19 12 Members, 2 Nonmembers

Jorry Rolfe: 2/2 13 Members, 2 Nonmembers

Mike Smith: 2/9 9 Members, 3 Nonmembers

Karen Yoerger: 2/16 11 Members, 3 Nonmembers

Janet Jacobsen: 2/23 5 Members

Blanton Ridge Hikes

Hike: 8.5 miles, 1,740 ft. (Moderate)

Leader: Jorry Rolfe

1/25 6 Members, 2/1 5 Members, 2/8 5 Members, 2/15 5 Members, 1 Nonmember, 2/22 3 Members

Mt. Pisgah Hikes

Hike: 3.0–7.4 miles, 0–1,600 ft. (Easy–Moderate)

Various Leaders

David Cooper: 1/28 14 Members, 1 Nonmember

Lynda Christiansen: 1/30 9 Members, 5 Nonmembers

Dorothy van Winkle: 2/11 7 Members, 2 Nonmembers

Janet Jacobsen: 2/16 12 Members, 2/25 8 Members, 1 Nonmember



Backpacks

Tahkenitch Dunes Backpack

February 18–20, 2022

Leader & Photographer: Russ Davies

Assistant Leader: Mari Baldwin

Backpack: 15 miles 200 ft. (Easy)

FIVE INTREPID OBSIDIANS TOOK OFF FOR THE OCEAN Friday afternoon to backpack from Tahkenitch Dunes–Threemile Lake North Trailhead to the north end of the lake. With weather sunny and minimal wind, we chose the



Mari (with kite), Elizabeth, Scott (with crab float), and Brad in the dunes.

beach route to enjoy the sight and sound of the surf. Cutting inland for base camp, there was less than a half mile to go with a couple of formidable sand dunes to conquer. The camping area was perfect with tree-protected spots for tents, an open sandy area for campfires—where many a story was shared—and a view as far as the eye could see down Threemile Lake. Our companions included only gatherings of scaups, a pair of common goldeneye (?), songbirds, and the sound of frogs from forest and marsh. Saturday we took off south to explore the shores of Threemile Lake. Finding only one spot to penetrate the thick brush—up and over the shoreline dune—we trekked to access a great camping area mid-lake. Back up and over, then meandering in a westerly direction, we reached the beach and continued south to the emer-

gence of Threemile Creek, greeting the ocean. Returning on the beach, shared only with surf-perch fisherman, there was ample time to relax back at base camp. Individual backpack suppers around the campfire were topped off by Russ's Bananas Foster, a gourmet banana-rum flambé—with whipped cream! (Wonder what's in his pocket for next time?!) Although we had a bit of rain during the night, we woke to sun interrupted by only brief showers. Our return was on the inland route where we enjoyed the lush forest and a high-point view back down to the ocean. A great weekend hike with few miles to drive. Members: Mari Baldwin, Brad Bennett, Russ Davies, Elizabeth Grant, Scott Hovis.



Snowshoe Trips

Rosary Lakes

February 4, 2022

Leader: Jean Harris

SShoe: 8 miles, 500 ft. (Moderate)

WHAT A LOVELY DAY TO BE AT WILLAMETTE PASS! The sky was sometimes clear or had scattered clouds. Recent snow created that soft surface that silences the snowshoes. Under the timber, it still crunched. We enjoyed the solitude, only seeing one human with her two well-dressed dogs. There's an old fir tree along the trail with a unique broken top and many limbs going up. This was another beautiful day in the Cascades! Members: Jean Harris, Dave Predeek, Paul Winther.

Nickerson Loop

February 6, 2022

Leader: Jane Hackett

Photographer: Monica Ozwoeld

SShoe: 4.5 miles, 200 ft. (Easy)

ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE MOUNTAINS. Perfect snowshoe conditions. When we started, the temperature was in the low thirties under clear sunny skies with about two inches of new snow. You could see the new snow under the trees



View of the Three Sisters.

where it had not melted and refrozen. Very leisurely lunch in the sun with a view of the Three Sisters. This trip was new to several and enjoyed by all. Back to the cars by 1:30. The temperature never got out of the thirties. Members: Lynda Burdick, Patricia Esch, Whitney Gould, Elizabeth Grant, Jane Hackett, Barbara Orsi, Monica Ozwoeld, Diana Wheat, Nancy Whitfield. Nonmembers: Abigail Glaser, Toni Muller.

Potato Hill

February 8, 2022

Leader: Daphne James

Assistant Leader: Jean Harris

Photographer: Monica Ozwoeld

SShoe: 4 miles, 1,100 ft. (Moderate)

THE CALENDAR SAID FEB. 8, BUT WITH THE SUN BLAZING, IT FELT LIKE SPRING snowshoeing on Potato Hill. Starting early to ensure firm snow, we set out from the Sno-Park pull-off just west of Santiam Pass. From there we snowshoed steadily



Three Fingered Jack in the background.

uphill for a mile, staying left at the junction until we reached marked Jack Pine Rd. After a very short time on Jack Pine, we turned left and bushwhacked east a little way to a ridge with grand views of Three Fingered Jack. Once we left Jack Pine, the trail was not marked, but there were plenty of visual clues and we tied red bandanas to mark our turns. After we snowshoed about a half-mile south along the ridge, Mt. Jefferson came into view and we could see Lost Lake below. Once we saw all of Potato Hill in front of us, we turned right to reach a flat spot at the base of the hill. Here we had views south to Mt. Washington, the Three Sisters and even Diamond Peak off in the distance. We made our way up to the summit for a leisurely lunch gazing at the mountains. Potato Hill summit is a short, if somewhat steep, snowshoe with plenty of opportunities to appreciate our lovely, snow-covered Central Cascades. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Diana Dinn, Jean Harris, Daphne James, Jorma Meriaho, Monica Ozwoeld, Rich Romm.

Gold Lake Via Marilyn Lake

February 13, 2022

Leader: Jane Hackett

Photographer: Darko Sojak

SShoe: 6 miles, 400 ft. (Moderate)

LARGE GROUP WITH GREAT WEATHER. I DID NOT SAY GREAT SNOW. Crusty and frozen is the best description I can give. But the roads were clear and I had more drivers than needed.



Marguerite and Steve at Gold Lake snow shelter.

I had a few new people on the trip so I took the sweep position and Steve Johnson helpfully took the lead. New snowshoes needed a few adjustments and then took off. I, on the other hand, had a pole problem that was followed by a broken snowshoe. Darko carries everything. With two zip ties, it was fixed. Lunch in the sun at the bridge. Steve led everyone out to the edge of Gold Lake for the view. All the lakes were beautiful. Headed back to the cars via the road. Zip ties got me about a mile from the cars before they broke. So off came the snowshoes and I more-or-less post-holed out. Members: Kathie Carpenter, Marguerite Cooney, Jane Hackett, Suzanne Hurt, Steven Johnson, Holger Krentz, Lynn Meacham, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Lisa Van Liefde. Nonmembers: Lorraine Cuevas, Toni Muller, Karima Zuercher.

Little Nash

February 20, 2022

Leader: Jane Hackett

Photographer: Darko Sojak

SShoe: 5 miles, 500 ft. (Easy)

FIRST TRIP THIS YEAR THAT I'VE LED IN TRUE WINTER CONDITIONS. Five inches of fresh snow, and it was snowing harder when we drove away than when we arrived. No great



Our group at Trail #302.

views of Three Fingered Jack but we did get out in the sun with those beautiful winter shadows. The trip was enjoyed by all. Members: Michael Dunne, Robert Eriksen, Patricia Esch, Whitney Gould, Jane Hackett, Barbara Orsi, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Diana Wheat. Nonmembers: Sariantra Kali.



Ski Trips

Sand Mountain Loop

February 5, 2022

Leader & Photographer: Sam Miller

Xski: 9 miles, 1,000 ft. (Difficult)

FOLLOWING THE ARRIVAL OF A DECENT SNOWPACK IN EARLY JANUARY, dry weather with sunny days prevailed in the weeks preceding this ski trip. A few inches of fresh snow fell in the days prior to our departure, but no one in our group of four skiers was optimistic that good ski conditions would prevail. We were prepared for a day of sliding on crunchy crust and boilerplate ice. What we encountered on



On the summit of Sand Mountain.

the day of our ski was a nice surprise. The light snow from earlier in the week had not disappeared and was pleasantly skiable as the temperature rose during the day. The conditions were more spring-like than what one might expect in early February. We ate lunch on the summit of Sand Mountain under blue skies with fine views of the surrounding Cascade peaks. Everyone agreed that it was another good day to be outdoors in Oregon. Members: Russ Davies, Lubos Hubata-Vacek, Sam Miller, Harold Thompson.

Little Nash Xski and/or SShoe

February 9, 2022

Leader: Jane Hackett

Xski: 5 miles, 500 ft. (Easy)

THIS WAS A DAY THAT WAS TRULY ENJOYED BY ALL PARTICIPANTS. It had a few challenges but all were handled with humor. We were a little late out of the parking lot. This was to our advantage as far as the snow was concerned as there was more time for it to soften up. Three skiers and two snowshoers started up the road about 11:30. A couple of folks were getting reacquainted with their skis and the frozen snow was of little help. Another, who had been skiing all winter, had no problems. The two on snowshoes just crunched along. We had great views of Three Fingered Jack, Maxwell Butte and Coffin Mt. We settled in for lunch with great views of all of the mountains. By around 1PM the snow was mushy and most were ready to start back. One continued on for another 15 minutes while the rest of us started down the road on the long

run back to the cars. No problems for the snowshoe folk. After three miles, everyone did better on their skis. Someone pulled out his excellent downhill skills and took off, making big snowplow turns. Snowplowing when you have not done it in a while turns your legs to noodles. You fall in the shade on the frozen snow and break a pole. Enough of skiing, you say! Put the skis on the pack and join the snowshoers. The all-winter gal came storming past in perfect snowplow position and with a big grin. We all met up at the final junction only to find out snowplow-gal has had the sole delaminate off the entire length of one boot. We decided that the most dangerous part of the trip was the parking area with its inch of ice, and we had two slow-motion falls before we were safe in the cars. Members: Jane Hackett, Holger Krentz. Nonmembers: Mitch Temple, Signe Wright, Dale Van Metre.

Redtop Mountain

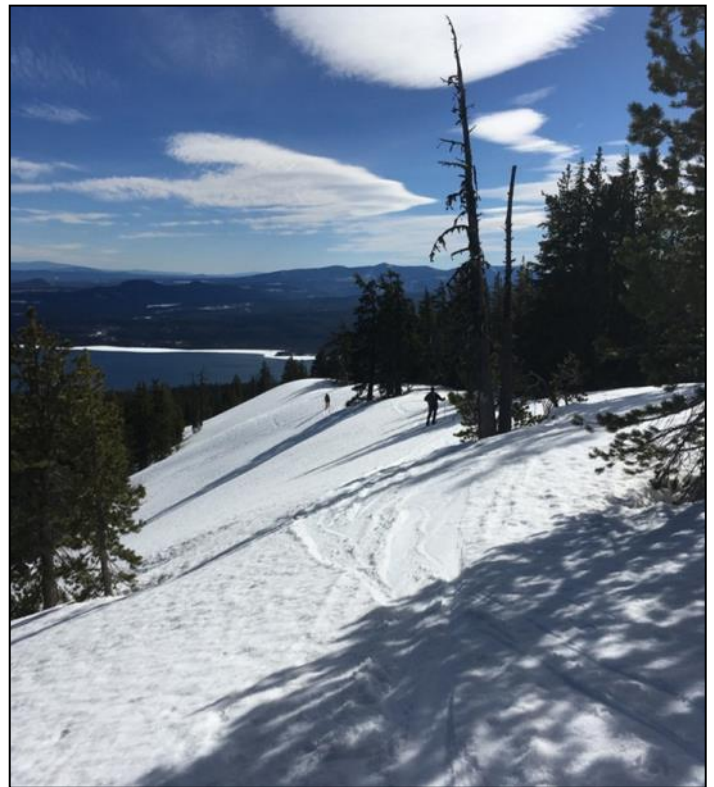
February 13, 2022

Leader: Harold Thompson

Photographer: Russ Davies

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

SIX SKIERS LEFT THE CRESCENT LAKE SNO-PARK AT 9:30 AM with hope for a good day on the snow in spite of no fresh snow having fallen for a couple of weeks. It was a bluebird day, warm and clear, and we were on the summit of Redtop by 1:00 PM for lunch. After removing the skins from skis, we



Skiing the nose.

were ready for our descent. The top half of the mountain was in good shape for skiing, with the sun having warmed the snow just enough to make turns with relative ease. The lower half, through the trees, was more difficult, at times bordering on survival skiing. All made it back to the cars before 4:00 PM. Certainly a successful ski day even without any new snow. Members: Russ Davies, John Hartman, Lubos Hubata-Vacek, Harold Thompson. Nonmembers: Chrissy Anderson, Larry Winiarski.



Stewardship

Tie Trail Ditch-Digging

January 29, 2022

Leader: Matt Bell

Photographer Pat Soussan

Trail Maintenance: 1 mile, 500 ft. (Moderate)

OUR GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS BRAVED FREEZING TEMPERATURES AND FROSTY ROADS to meet up with Marlon Troubnikoff from Eugene Parks for a brisk morning of ditch-digging and clearing. We hiked up the Ridgeline and Tie Trails and worked our way back out. We broke into two



Marlon, Lisa, Matt, and Jennifer digging with terra hoes.

groups of three to work on the new ditches. Janet, Pat, and Dave hiked back down the trails to do some light brushing and culvert-checking. We hiked out after completing the new ditches and cleaned the existing ditches along the way. We arrived back at the Fox Hollow trailhead and enjoyed some treats prepared by Janet and juice brought by Jorry. Special



Matt, Lisa, and Jennifer work on the lower ditch.

thanks go to Clara for cleaning the Fox Hollow trailhead kiosk and cutting back the blackberries behind it. Members: Matt Bell, Jennifer Crim, Clara Emlen, Dan Gilmore, Janet Jacobsen, Dave Predeek, Jorry Rolfe, Pat Soussan. Nonmembers: Ed Lizewski, Lisa Marks.

North Bank Restoration Project

February 12, 2022

Leader: Darko Sojak

Work Party: 2 miles, 20 ft. (Easy)

THIS WAS OUR THIRD RESTORATION AND STEWARDSHIP PROJECT AT THE NORTH BANK in cooperation with Eugene Parks & Open Space. A cold morning turned into a beautiful warm day. We planted dozens of bare root snowberry, bigleaf maple, red twig dogwood, cottonwood, alder, chokecherry, and mock orange plants. Thank you for volunteering! Members: Carla Cooper, David Cooper, Clara Emlen, Meghan Mahoney, Linda Parks, Kathy Randall, Jorry Rolfe, Karla Rusow, Angie Ruzicka, Darko Sojak, Marie Stringer. Nonmembers: Toni Muller.



*Kelsey of Eugene Parks explaining.
Photo by Megan Mahoney.*



*Kathy Randal.
Photo by Darko Sojak.*

FEBRUARY BOARD NOTES

From Minutes by Denise Rubenstein February 2, 2022

President Maryanne Reiter called the Zoom meeting to order. Board members present: Denise Bean, Marci Hansen, Dave Hawkins, Laura Osinga, Jorry Rolfe, Denise Rubenstein, Angie Ruzicka, and Lyndell Wilken. Others present: Dave Cooper, Carla Cooper, Kay Coots, Stewart Hoeg, Steve Johnson, Jim Northrop, Diane Schechter, Darko Sojak, and Sue Zeni.

The Board approved the minutes for January 2, 2022.

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

Lodge Building (Dave Cooper): AmeriCorps arrived a week later than expected due to some COVID testing delays. They have settled in and will be heading out to another location Feb 20.

Librarian/Historian (Lenore McManigal): We have been redistributing the log sheets in the active, inactive, and deceased log binders and then making new labels for each binder. We researched and wrote an article for the February *Bulletin*, to follow up on Lana Lindstrom's question about the historical winter sports exhibit at the Oregon Historical Society that highlights the Obsidians skiing in 1927.

Membership (Diane Schechter): Total membership is 387.

Publications/Bulletin (Lou Maenz): The *Bulletin* was folded by a small crew on 1/12/2022 and mailed for a cost of \$60.36 leaving \$481.41 in the bank account. Folders were Nancy Raymond, Yuan Hopkins, Judy Newman, Barbara Schomaker, Don Baldwin, Lou Maenz, Tom Adamecyk.

Safety (Lyndell Wilken): Saturday, April 9 at 3 PM has been set for the First Aid supply distribution. The event will take place outside at the Lodge if weather permits, or inside with doors open and masks on. Participants will drop by to pick up first aid supplies that can supplement or update their existing first aid kits. Summer camp booklets will be handed out for those attending summer camp. All first aid supplies have been ordered and received. Dave Cooper will be compiling a list of Obsidian leaders and most avid hikers who will be sent an invitation to the April 9 event.

Stewardship (Jorry Rolfe & Darko Sojak): There were two trails outings and one stewardship project: (trails) one to rake off storm debris from the Main Spencer Butte Trail and one to dig ditches on the Tie Trail; (stewardship) to remove blackberry vines during our volunteer day at Green Island with McKenzie River Trust.

Summer Camp (Lana Lindstrom): Lots accomplished this month. Thanks to Lynn Stearney, a contract has been signed with the dinner caterers. Joel Greer finished the camp booklet. Steve Johnson continued organizing the equipment and will present the proposed COVID-19 protocols to the Board. And we set dates: the Rally will be Friday, March 25, 7 PM either at the Lodge or on Zoom. Registration for members will open Thursday, March 31, 7 AM. The booklets will be distributed to those who have registered and paid on Saturday, April 9 at the Lodge (along with first aid supplies to eligible members).

Summer Trips (Dave Cooper): Summer trips are already being scheduled.

Winter Trips (Dave Cooper): There were 28 outings in January. Of these, we had six snow trips and one backpack. Income from trips fees was \$306. The February schedule is looking good. It's great to have more trips in the snow.

OLD BUSINESS

- The Board approved additional members to the 2022 Committees. Lodge Grounds: Clara Emlen; Publications: Lou Maenz (Chair), Carla Cooper, Bea Fontana, Stewart Hoeg, Karen Yoerger, Ethel Weltman, Janet Jacobsen

- Strategic Planning Updates:

Membership: The Membership Task Group will meet again in February and will continue focusing on increasing membership, retaining members, increasing online options, and reduced dues for low-income individuals. Member retention is the highest in years, likely due to targeted emails. Members of the task group include Russ Davies, Sheridan Gates, Jean Harris, Jim Northrop, Laura Osinga, Diane Schechter, and Lyndell Wilken.

Tax Status: The club is waiting for forms to be returned from the government. A \$600 fee will be required for documents which require payment via a charge card which the club has.

Online: The task group is looking at the option of having a local data specialist (Theo Glick) update the database and then have another company develop the website and host the database. This is a new option since Theo came forward recently. We need to explore it as a new possibility before making a final decision. Theo is an Obsidian and expert in the field. Discussion followed and Marci will take the questions raised to meetings with website builders on this Friday and Monday and then report back to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

- Finance Committee recommended that \$3,872.44 of 2021 investment income be allocated to the Contingency Fund. The motion was approved.
- The Safety Committee will have first aid supplies available on April 9 for interested trip leaders. This will coincide with pick ups for Summer Camp Booklets.
- Changes in verbiage for the club's Policies and Practices will result in some committees looking to update language and provide consistency in formatting. To be methodical in the collection and presentation of the changes Maryanne will email a request to committee chairs for review and response. The goal will be to present changes to the Board for review at the April meeting and approval at the May meeting.
- New members approved are Suzanne Hurt and Ane McKee.
- Steve Johnson reports that Summer Camp preparations are going quite well. The campsite and caterers have been secured, the booklet complete and the Rally set for March 25. Steve is also updating equipment such as...hot showers! The Board discussed COVID protocols, and the consensus was that proof of full vaccination (boosters included) be mailed in with the member's check.

ADJOURNMENT



MT. RAINIER • GOAT ROCKS WILDERNESS • MT. ADAMS

SUMMER CAMP 2022

Sue Wolling

WE'RE COMING TO THE END OF A WINTER THAT REALLY SHOULD HAVE BEEN RAINIER—but maybe we can placate the weather gods by substituting a Rainier summer—Mount Rainier, that is: the site of the 2022 Summer Camp, July 31–August 6!

It's time to mark your calendars for these important dates:

- **March 25, 7 PM:** Summer Camp Rally (hopefully at the Obsidian Lodge, but on Zoom if necessary). The Summer Camp Rally should actually be called *Summer Camp—REALLY*, because it's when Summer Camp finally starts to seem real. When you see the photos of the amazing country we'll be exploring, hear about the food that will be served up each evening after your day of hiking, and see the friends you'll spend the week with, you'll *real-ize* that you don't want to miss it!
- **Thursday, March 31, 7 AM:** Summer Camp registration opens for Obsidian members. Registration is limited to 90 people, so don't wait to sign up!
- **Sunday, April 3:** Summer Camp registration opens for nonmembers. It's entirely possible that there will already be a waiting list by this time—but don't give up. Life happens, and a number of people from the Wait List usually end up able to attend Summer Camp.
- **Saturday, April 9, 3–5 PM:** Summer Camp registrants can pick up the all-important camp booklet at the Lodge. This booklet gives you lots of details about how to reach camp, what to bring, what hikes you'll want to do, and much more. The booklet is also available to read or download on the Obsidian website.



Goat Rocks Wilderness: hiking up to Old Snowy.



Goat Rocks Wilderness: Goat Lake.

What Will it Cost?

INFLATION IS FOR KAYAKS, NOT SUMMER CAMP! Even though prices are skyrocketing, the cost to attend Summer Camp remains quite low. There are two tiers of fees for the 2022 Summer Camp: those who will be camping (either in a tent or a small RV/van) will pay a fee that includes food and the campsite/logistics, while those who prefer to camp in a motel will pay for food and logistics only, while reserving and paying for their own lodging.

Fees for those in the group campground (tent or RV):

Members: \$270 (Financial Need: subtract \$50)

Members 16 and under: \$220

Nonmembers: \$310

Fees for those staying in motels/elsewhere:

Members: \$195

Members 16 and under: \$145

Nonmembers: \$235

So, put some spring in your step and get ready for Summer Camp!

OBSIDIAN CALENDAR

March

5 Sat Mt Pisgah (long) Hike **D** Jacobsen 206-1251
6 Sun Mural Walk - Downtown Area Hike **E** Hougardy 206-9532
8 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M** Rolfe 206-9501
9 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M** Grant 514-1176
12 Sat Get Acquainted/Ribbon Trail Hike **E** van Winkle 485-7416
13 Sun UO Gargoyles&Colophons Walk Hike **E** Hougardy 206-9532
14 Mon Pi hike Hike **E** Jacobsen 206-1251
15 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M** Rolfe 206-9501
16 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M** Yoerger 510-2832
17 Thu Mt Pisgah Sunset/Moonrise Hike **M** Jacobsen 206-1251
18 Fri Pine Bench Bkpk BkPk **M** Davies 797-4004
22 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M** Rolfe 206-9501
23 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M** Smith 520-488-9569
26 Sat Trail Maintenance TrlMnt **M** Bell 503-884-8829
29 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M** Rolfe 206-9501
30 Wed Amazon Headwaters Hike **M** Morray 953-5679

April

1 Fri Eugene Book Loop Walk Hike **E** Hougardy 206-9532
5 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M** Rolfe 206-9501
9 Sat Free Safety ReSupply for Leaders Wilken 343-3080
9 Sat Get Acquainted/Ribbon Trail Hike **E** van Winkle 485-7416
12 Tue Blanton Ridge to Spencer Butte Hike **M** Rolfe 206-9501
23 Sat Beach Clean Up with SOLVE WrkPrty **E** Sojak 799-9199
29 Fri Tumalo/Cottonwood Canyon CarCmp **M** Hougardy 206-9532
30 Sat Trail Maintenance TrlMnt **M** Bell 503-884-8829

May

4 Wed Silver Falls / Abiqua Falls Hike **M** Johnson 520-2470
7 Sat McKenzie River Trust Stewardshp WrkPrty **E** Sojak 799-9199
8 Sun Salmon Creek Mother's Day Hike **M** Sojak 799-9199
9 Mon Pisgah Native Plant Nursery Hike **E** Predeek 345-5531
23 Mon Pisgah Native Plant Nursery Hike **E** Predeek 345-5531
25 Wed Trail Maintenance TrlMnt **M** Bell 503-884-8829

June

4 Sat National Trails Day TrlMnt **M** Bell 503-884-8829
16 Thu Low Tide Wanders CarCmp **E** Hougardy 206-9532
28 Tue Macduff Mountain Hike **D** Johnson 520-2470
28 Tue Mt. St. Helens Area South CarCmp **M** Hougardy 206-9532
29 Wed Trail Maintenance TrlMnt **M** Bell 503-884-8829

July

27 Wed Trail Maintenance TrlMnt **M** Bell 503-884-8829
27 Wed Goat Rocks Wilderness BkPk **D** Lipton 736-7498
31 Sun Rainier Summer Camp SmCmp Johnson 520-2470

August

15 Mon Exploring Hood 4th Annual Camp CarCmp **D** James 683-7488
22 Mon Hoh Valley to Blue Glacier BkPk **D** Lipton 736-7498
31 Wed Trail Maintenance TrlMnt **M** Bell 503-884-8829

September

24 Sat National Public Lands Day TrlMnt **M** Bell 503-884-8829

FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION about our activities, visit the Obsidians website: www.obsidians.org

If you plan to join Obsidians trips, be prepared to abide by our protocols: [COVID-19 Protocols](#)



WELCOME

New and Returning Leaders to the Ankeny Wildlife Refuge

Brenda Kame'enui

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT LEADING AN OBSIDIANS TRIP? WOULD YOU APPRECIATE A SERIES OF EASY WALKS WITH BIG REWARDS? Consider the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Ankeny Refuge. Ankeny, not far north off I-5, sports easy viewing of remarkable birdlife from a series of trails, loops, and boardwalks, and is home to the brand new Ankeny Hill Nature Center. This brilliant collaboration of USFW and the Salem Audubon Society, through a large gift of Salem businessman Mark Gehlar, helps visitors connect with the Ankeny through “accessible trails, interpretive signage, and a new overlook with spectacular views of the refuge” (*The Register-Guard*, February 6).

Early March is a great time to observe migratory flocks of geese, ducks, and other birds that use the area for nesting, and as the month moves further into spring, wildflowers are abundant. With the Finley Refuge a short distance north of Eugene on Highway 99, Southern Willamette Valley residents may not consider the Ankeny destination, but it's a true gem of the valley. List the Ankeny, and bird enthusiasts will flock to your trip!

Learn more at: [Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge](#).

Getting to the Refuge: From I-5, take Exit 243 (Ankeny Hill Road). Turn west onto Ankeny Hill Road. Proceed 0.25 mile to stop sign. Turn right onto Ankeny Hill Road. Proceed 1.5 miles to Ankeny Hill information kiosk and viewing area.



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EUGENE, OR 97405

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March 2022



*On top of Redtop! Photo by Harold Thompson.
See Redtop Mountain trip report on page 11.*

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