

Chemeketan

Vol. 85/No. 3

March 2012



The Chemeketan Executive Council meets monthly. Check inside for meeting minutes. Above (l-r): Neil Peterson-*Membership*, Jim Rastorfer-*President*, Larry Petersen-*Councilor*, Matt Rieke-*Treasurer*, Pam Wojcik-*Vice President*, Franca Hernandez-*Recording Secretary*, Roz Shirack-*Councilor*, Amy Dale-*Membership*. Not present: Jan Thompson-*Councilor*.

-SAVE THE DATE-

ANNUAL BANQUET FRIDAY APRIL 13

**WITH AFTER-DINNER TALK AND SLIDE SHOW
BY AUTHOR AND CHEMEKETAN BILL SULLIVAN**

MORE INFORMATION: PAGE 8

The *Chemeketans* are a group united in a common interest in outdoor activities. Application for membership may be made after completion of two qualifying trips with the club. For information, contact any member of the Executive Council.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Trip Participation

It is your responsibility to determine from the description of distance, altitude, terrain, trail and possible weather conditions, whether you, your children, and your guests can fully participate. The leader may refuse to take anyone not properly equipped or who is judged incapable of making the specific trip. All valuables should be left at home or carried with you — not left in a vehicle at the trailhead. Dogs/pets are not permitted.

Guests (non-members)

A guest under 18 years of age must provide a signed RELEASE FROM LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK to the trip leader if he/she is not accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

Trip Essentials

Participants should wear appropriate footgear and clothing (no bluejeans), carry lunch, water, raingear, warm sweater/jacket, and the following "essentials":

EXTRA food/clothing/water
flashlight & extra battery
lighter/matches in waterproof container
solar blanket and/or ground insulation in winter
insect repellent
first aid materials sunglasses
pocket knife toilet paper
candle sunscreen
whistle small shovel

Trip Ratings:

DAWDLERS: Pace slow, group makes frequent stops for viewing, photography, etc.

EASY: Max. 5 mi round trip, elevation gain less than 1000 ft.

MEDIUM: 6-10 mi round trip, 1000-2000 ft elevation gain.

HARD: Long, strenuous, and difficult.

Trip Meeting Points

RAS = Rite Aid South, south Commercial, behind bus stop

CCC = WEEKENDS ONLY – Green Parking Lot (lot off Cooley Dr off Lancaster Side)

RLC = Redeemer Lutheran Church at 4665 Lancaster Dr (corner of Hayesville Dr – but never on Sunday)

SKM = Big K Lot, 2470 Mission St., Mission St. side, just west of Jack-in-the-Box

RPR = Roth's Portland Road, 4746 Portland Road NE (park in northwest corner on Portland Road)

PAR = State Motor Pool Park and Ride lot on Airport Road

DEN = 360-1/2 State Street

FMN = Fred Meyer northwest side of lot (River Road side)

SAF = Safeway West Salem, use Capital Manor exit from 22. Park on Edgewater -- southwest corner

MBI = Minto Brown Island Park (1st parking lot on right as you enter island)

Mileage Reimbursement for Drivers

To reimburse drivers for vehicle operation costs, the suggested donation is 9¢ per mile per person to drivers.

Hiking Coordinator for March: Bill Wylie, 503.378.0315, bnpwylie@yahoo.com.

Membership and Bulletins

The best way for prospective members to request club information and guest bulletins is to complete the online "MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION REQUEST FORM", available on our website www.chemeketans.org under "Membership" or "Contact Us". You may mail requests to Chemeketans, Membership Secretary, PO Box 864, Salem OR 97308 or email chememb@chemeketans.org and use an unambiguous subject line and include a snail mail address and phone number. If you mail in names of prospective members on sign-up sheets, instead of directing people to the website, it is very helpful to include email addresses.

Renewing Members: First adult \$26 (\$12 household fee + \$14 dues); Additional Adult \$14 dues; Junior \$3 dues.

New Members: First adult \$31 (\$12 household fee + \$14 dues + \$5 application fee); Additional Adult \$19 (\$14 dues + \$5 application fee); Junior (under 18 years) \$8 (\$3 dues + \$5 application fee). A junior who is the only Chemeketan in a household would also pay the \$12 household fee. The membership year starts January 1st.

Bulletin Editors

Joanne DeMay 971-237-9775 joannedemay08@gmail.com

Bill Geibel 503-873-0270 banjobill1@gmail.com

Mike Berger 503-400-7645 ayenova@comcast.net

Cover Editor: Allan King kingalla@gmail.com

This issue was edited by Joanne DeMay.

The April issue will be edited by Mike Berger.

The May issue will be edited by Bill Geibel.

To submit a Where & When or We Were There, use the online forms on the www.chemeketans.org website. If you do not have internet access, ask a friend or the hiking coordinator to do this for you. You may also [email](#), call, or send your write-ups directly to the editors at their home addresses.

The Chemekeden is located at 360-1/2 State Street, Salem. Members may schedule the facility with the Chemekeden Committee Chair.

The Chemeketan Trip Leader Guide is available at http://www.chemeketans.org/Leader_Guide.pdf.

THUNDERBIRD LODGE: To reserve the Chemeketan cabin on Whitewater Rd., call or email Kim Hyatt: pkhyatt@msn.com, 503.362.2765.

MARCH 2012 CALENDAR

Thu	Mar 1	Peavy Arboretum Hike	Jim Reichwein
Thu	Mar 1	Whispering Woods Park Hike	Mary Narey
Thu	Mar 1	Center 50+ Lunch	Lee Slattum
Sat	Mar 3	Minto Brown Hike	Laura DeVries
Sat	Mar 3	Bald Hill Hike	Franca Hernandez
Sat	Mar 3	Peavy Arboretum Hike	Jim Reichwein
Sat	Mar 3	Santiam Canyon Snowshoe	Lee Slattum
Sun	Mar 4	Nestucca Spit Hike	Tom Burke
Sun	Mar 4	Santiam Canyon X-Ski	Rick Cooper
Sun	Mar 4	Angels Rest Hike	John Huff
Mon	Mar 5	Koffee Klatch at the Beanery	Bill Anning
Wed	Mar 7	Audubon Nature Reserve Blackberry Hunt	Lee Slattum
Wed	Mar 7	Stahlman Point Hike	Sue MacDonald
Thu	Mar 8	Center 50+ Lunch	Lee Slattum
Thu	Mar 8	2 nd Thursday	Dave Carter
Thu	Mar 8	Santiam Pass Area X-Ski	Roz Shirack
Fri	Mar 9	South Salem Hills Hike	Mike & Petra Berger
Fri	Mar 9	Picture Night at the Den	Mary Liepins
Sat	Mar 10	Minto Brown Hike	Laura DeVries
Sat	Mar 10	Santiam Canyon Snowshoe	Jean Gabriel
Sat	Mar 10	Coyote Wall Hike	Dave Carter
Sun	Mar 11	Tillamook Head Hike	Jim Rastorfer
Sun	Mar 11	Beginners X-Ski	Betsy Belshaw
Sun	Mar 11	Elkhorn Mountain Snowshoe	Michael Gurley
Mon	Mar 12	Koffee Klatch at the Beanery	Bill Anning
Wed	Mar 14	Potato Hill Snowshoe	Ralph Nafziger
Wed	Mar 14	Catherine Creek Hike	Ken Ash
Wed	Mar 14	Audubon Nature Reserve Blackberry Hunt	Lee Slattum
Wed	Mar 14	Sweet Creek Falls Hike	Betsy Belshaw
Thu	Mar 15	Center 50+ Lunch	Lee Slattum
Thu	Mar 15	Downhill Ski at Hoodoo	Ted Young
Sat	Mar 17	Multnomah to Wahkeena Falls Hike	Steve Braden
Sat	Mar 17	Silver Falls State Park Hike	Margaret Saxe
Sat	Mar 17	Minto Brown Hike	Laura DeVries
Sat	Mar 17	Fir/Pica Lakes X-Ski	Dave Carter
Sun	Mar 18	Mulkey Creek to Fitton Green Hike	Bill Wylie
Sun	Mar 18	Catherine Creek Hike	Blanka Trunckova
Sun	Mar 18	Santiam Area X-Ski	Don Gallagher
Mon	Mar 19	Koffee Klatch at the Beanery	Bill Anning
Tue	Mar 20	Hamilton Mountain Hike	George Struble
Wed	Mar 21	Audubon Nature Reserve Blackberry Hunt	Lee Slattum
Wed	Mar 21	Mt. Hood Area X-Ski	Roz Shirack
Thu	Mar 22	Center 50+ Lunch	Lee Slattum
Fri	Mar 23	South Salem Hills Hike	Mike & Petra Berger
Sat	Mar 24	Devils Rest Hike	Jean Gabriel
Sat	Mar 24	Minto Brown Hike	Laura DeVries
Sat	Mar 24	Beginners X-Ski	Betsy Belshaw
Sat	Mar 24	Tom McCall Preserve Hike	Matt Rieke
Sun	Mar 25	Eugene Urban Hike	Wayne Wallace
Sun	Mar 25	Where There is Snow X-Ski	Ken Ash
Sun	Mar 25	Little North Fork Hike	Tom Burke
Mon	Mar 26	Koffee Klatch at the Beanery	Bill Anning
Tue	Mar 27	Bayocean Spit Hike	Diane Clayton
Tue	Mar 27	Shellburg Falls Hike	Margaret Saxe
Tue	Mar 27	Tryon Creek State Park Hike	Mary Narey
Wed	Mar 28	Sand Mountain X-Ski	Ken Ash
Wed	Mar 28	Spring Whale Watch	Phyllis Benanti
Wed	Mar 28	Audubon Nature Reserve Blackberry Hunt	Lee Slattum
Thu	Mar 29	Center 50+ Lunch	Lee Slattum

Thu	Mar 29	Nesmith Park, Polk County Museum Hike	Pat Simila
Fri-Sun	Mar 30-Apr 1	Spring Basin Wilderness Backpack	Joanne DeMay
Sat	Mar 31	Minto Brown Hike	Laura DeVries
Sat	Mar 31	Cascade Head Hike	Janet Rafalovich
Sat	Mar 31	Where There is Snow Ski	Ken Ash
Sat	Mar 31	Dog & Wind Mountains Hike	Lee Slattum

FUTURE EVENTS

Fri	Apr 13	Annual Banquet at Roth's West Salem	
Wed	Apr 4, 11 and		
Sat-Sun	Apr 14-15	Chemeketan Climb School	Bill Saur
Mon-Wed	Apr 30-May 9	PCT Warner Springs to Idyllwild	Tom Eaton
Wed-Sun	May 9-13	Lost Coast Backpack	Bob Custer
Mon-Wed	May 21-23	Columbia Gorge Hiking	Joanne DeMay
Thu	May 24	Backpack Class at the Den	Joanne DeMay, Rick Cooper
Sun-Sat	May 27-June 2	Canyon De Chelly Camp/Hike	Hardin King
Fri-Sun	June 22-24	Rogue-Umpqua Divide Wilderness Backpack	Joanne DeMay, Allan King
Fri-Sun	July 13-15	Bull of the Woods Backpack	Rod Graves
Sun-Sat	July 15-21	Strawberry Wilderness Traverse Backpack	Rick Cooper
Wed-Wed	July 18-25	Bob Marshall Wilderness Backpack	Joanne DeMay
Fri-Sun	July 27-29	Rebel Creek Backpack	David Anderson
Fri-Sun	Aug 10-12	Dollar Lake Backpack	Bill Sullivan
Sat-Thu	Aug 11-16	Stuart Fork Trinity Alps Backpack	Karen Huntzinger
Fri-Sun	Aug 24-26	Broken Top Loop Backpack	Rod Graves
Thu-Mon	Aug 30-Sep 3	Chicago Basin 14'er Circuit Climb	Robin Smith
Sun-Sat	Sep 2-8	Desolation Wilderness CA Backpack	Allan King
Fri-Sun	Sep 14-16	Mt. Jefferson Wilderness Backpack	Larry Davis
Fri-Sun	Sep 21-23	Indian Heaven Wilderness Backpack	Lelia Barlow

2012 CHEMEKETAN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

President	Jim Rastorfer	503-390-4640	rastyjim@yahoo.com
Vice-President	Pam Wojcik	503-362-3439	pjwojcik@comcast.net
Recording Secretary	Franca Hernandez	503-510-1635	
Membership	Neil Peterson	503-581-9591	
Membership	Amy Dale	503-999-4069	adale5333@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Matt Rieke	541-928-2767	riekemattthew@gmail.com
Councilor	Larry Petersen	503-983-8181	ldpete2546@q.com
Councilor	Jan Thompson	503-931-2886	tjthompson5@earthlink.net
Councilor	Roz Shirack	503-399-8615	rozshirack@msn.com

CHEMEKETAN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

2011 Annual Meeting Minutes Monday, January 9, 2012, 6:00 pm

Present: Roz Shirack, as facilitator
Attendees: 21 people were present -- *please refer to attached sign-up sheet. All meeting materials are stored at the ChemekeDen*

Moment of silence for the deceased Chemeketans members of 2011 – Roz Shirack:

- Walter Fairfax
- Kathleen Grasing
- Kenneth McTeague
- Charles Moiseve

- Jay Quast
- Walter Taylor, Jr.
- Lewis Timm

Membership 2011 report – Mike Berger and Pat Simila

Treasurer's 2011 report without accounting for 2011 Annual Outing – Matt Rieke
 Matt pointed out that the Climbers section of the Club was the bulk of the income. Susan Watkins will audit the Treasurer's records by the end of January 2012. Outing accounting is forthcoming.

Committees Reports (*please see complete attached reports*):

Annual Outing to Sawtooth Mountains Wilderness, Idaho – Dave Carter

Pam Ewing is the Outing treasurer and her financial report is pending. Dave said the next Outing will be in the Trinity Alps Wilderness in California, August 4 – August 18, 2012

Backpack – Joanne DeMay “Successful year!”

Biking – Dori Nelson (not present and no report)

Chemeketan cabin, Thunderbird Lodge – Kim Hyatt
 Said there had not been many people renting the lodge. There were volunteers who did some small repairs. There were two formal work trips.

Chemekeden – Robert Roner (not present and no report)

Chemeketan Store – Neil Peterson

Climbers – Mike Niemeyer (not present)

Roz Shirack read the report. Advised members there is a separate bank account and accounting for the Climbers group

Conservation – Jim Rastofer Nothing to report.

Dawdler – Mary Narey

She requested that the online post-trip report form be reinstated online. It appears, however, the form is still online.

Entertainment – Roz Shirack organized the Annual Banquet held at Roth's Hospitality Center in April 2011.

Bill Sullivan was the guest speaker. He presented a slideshow on his favorite hikes in Oregon for each month of the year. 105 Chemeketans attended. There is no chair for 2012, but Roz Shirack and Jan Thompson will coordinate the next annual banquet. The position is still considered vacant.

Hiking – Nancy Rockwell (not present) Roz read the report.

Historian – June Zink (not present)

Roz says that June put all the 2011 Bulletins into a notebook. She also included 2011 news clippings involving the club.

Paddle – Jan Thompson (not present). No report

Litter patrol – inactive

Matt Rieke will contact ODOT to see if club can be reinstated to collect litter along Hwy 22 near the Thunderbird Lodge

Midweek hikes – Don Gallagher (not present) Roz read report

Miscellaneous Events – Roz Shirack - The 2nd Thursday Pizza Night was held throughout the year.

She said there were some events that were listed by interested individuals in the Bulletin but not coordinated through the Miscellaneous Events Committee.

Picture Night – Mary Liepins (not present) Roz read report

Technology Committee – Rob Kimmich (not present) Roz read report. Says they're looking for a Webmaster

Trail Maintenance – Larry Petersen - A total of 19 volunteers contributed 424 hours for trail maintenance days in 2011. Twelve of the 19 volunteers worked 16 or more hours, and their names have been submitted to the Forest Service for special recognition and a Northwest Forest Pass.

Winter Sports – Ken Ash (not present) Roz read report

Risk Management Committee (not present) Roz says the volunteers on that committee are:

- Ken Betterton, Chair
- Rick Roemer
- Ken Hartung
- Petra Berger

New Business – Roz thanked the 2011 Chemeketan Executive Council for their service in the past year and welcomed the new 2012 Council:

Jim Rastorfer	503 390 4640	President
Pam Wojcik	541 362 3439	Vice President
Franca Hernandez	503 510 1635	Recording Secretary
Neil Peterson	503 581 9591	Membership Secretary
Amy Dale	503 999 4069	Membership Secretary
Matt Rieke	541 928 2767	Treasurer
Larry Petersen	503-983- 8181	Trail Maintenance
Roz Shirack	503 399 8615	Chemeketan Store & Miscellaneous Events
Jan Thompson	503 931 2886	Paddling Committee & Entertainment Chair

Roz informed everyone that the new meeting schedule for the Executive Council is the third Wednesday of each month and the meetings are open to the general membership.

There was a random drawing for gift cards from Sports Authority and three members present won the cards for a value of \$40.00 each.

Meeting ended 7:05 pm

Submitted by Franca Hernandez, Recording Secretary

Executive Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday January 18, 2012, 6:00 pm

Present: Jim Rastorfer, Pam Wojcik, Neil Peterson,
Matt Rieke, Amy Dale, Roz Shirack, Franca Hernandez
Absent: Larry Petersen, Jan Thompson

Approve Jan 9, 2012 annual all-member meeting minutes

ACTION: Franca Hernandez moved to approve the Jan. 9, 2012 minutes as corrected by the Council; Amy Dale seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously approved.

Approve Nov 30, 2011 minutes with the revisions approved by the Council. There was no Dec. 2011 meeting.

ACTION: Roz Shirack moved to approve the Nov. 30, 2011 minutes as corrected by the Council; Amy Dale seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously approved. Jim Rastorfer and Amy Dale abstained from voting because they were not present at the Nov. 30, 2011 meeting.

Note: All the 2011 Executive Council minutes reside at the ChemekeDen. Franca Hernandez, Recording Secretary, will also provide electronic copies upon request. (see Roster for her email)

Treasurer's Report for November presented at the all-member meeting January 9, 2012. Disbursed to members of the Executive Council via e-mail of 1/8/2012.

Nov 2011 reports:

- a. Bank Activity
- b. Statement of Receipts and Disbursements
- c. Statement of Assets and Liabilities with prior year comparison

The club's revenues total \$2,692.92. That includes \$2.92 in interest and dividend income, \$2,690.00 renewal memberships in checking account number ending 9241.

The club's expenses totaled \$1,151.10, which consisted of: \$288.97 in ChemekeDen expenses (rent/utilities x2), \$22.998 in member reimbursement of postage costs, \$233.96 in tax payments, \$50.00 in corporation license renewal fees, \$178.00 in trail maintenance mileage reimbursement, and \$342.94 in bulletin/ballot/information expenses.

The club's assets are valued at \$124,952.61 compared to \$120,523.34 at the same time last year.

Treasurer's Report for December 2011. Presented at the meeting of January 9, 2012. Disbursed to members of the Executive Council via e-mail of 1/8/2012.

Dec 2011 reports:

- Bank Activity
- Statement of Receipts and Disbursements
- Statement of Assets and Liabilities with prior year comparison

The club's revenues total \$9301.64. That includes \$4.64 in interest and dividend income, \$9192.00 renewal memberships and \$100.00 cabin rental income in checking account number ending 9241.

The club's expenses totaled \$1,858.95, which consisted of: \$324.20 in Chemekeden expenses (rent/utilities X2), \$31.00 in member reimbursement of postage costs, \$200.43 in trail maintenance equipment purchase reimbursement, and \$1303.32 in bulletin/ballot/information expenses.

The club's assets are valued at \$132,313.97 compared to \$131,112.81 at the same time last year.

Matt Rieke said that he will shortly transmit an updated version of the Treasurer's report that will include Pam Ewing's Chemeketan Annual Outing report.

There is a need to update the signatories at the Club's bank because of the changes on the Executive Council and change in Climbing group's chair.

ACTION: Matt Rieke moved to change the authorized signatory from Roz Shirack to Jim Rastorfer for the General Fund bank account; Amy Dale seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously approved.

ACTION: Amy Dale moved to change the authorized signatory from Jess Palacios to Bryon Snapp for the Climbing Group bank account; Franca Hernandez seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously approved.

Via email Matt Rieke submitted various reimbursement requests that were reviewed at the meeting.

Matt Rieke

Ink for my printer	\$13.99
Postage	\$27.39
File Holder for 2012	\$9.49
	\$50.87

Roz Shirack for Risk Management Committee

Postage	\$17.98
---------	---------

Copy costs	\$48.90
	\$66.88

Bill Wylie for the Cabin, Thunderbird Lodge

Two fire extinguishers	\$127.50
firewood *	\$110.00
mileage*	\$46.20
	\$283.70

*Bill Wylie, Cabin Maintenance Chair, authorized Lon Johnson to obtain and deliver firewood.

ACTION: Amy Dale moved to approve reimbursement requests; Neil Petersen seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously approved.

Matt Rieke said that he has not received an insurance bill yet. Also said did not receive a bill from U.S. Forest Service for the annual lease payment for the land on which sits the Chemeketans' cabin. The payment should be about \$570.00. He called the contact person about five or six times but has not received a return call. He reached someone else at the U.S. Forest Service who said payment is due 30 days after a bill is received by the Club.

Matt Rieke said he received a \$151.20 check from the IRS without an explanation letter. The Club's tax preparer does not know why a check was sent. Matt deposited it in the Club's account.

Note: Copies of Treasurer's report are available upon request.

Membership Report - for the period between 11/30/2011 and 12/31/2011. Last membership report from Mike Berger and Pat Simila, prior Membership Chairs.

There are currently 755 active, paying members including 10 life members and 9 junion members. There were 255 membership reimstatements this month.

We received and processed 33 guest requests for complimentary electronic bulletins. This brings the total number of guests receiving a three-month complimentary email notification of electronic bulletin availability to 76. In addition, there are 33 businesses, agencies, and libraries as well as 3 other outdoor clubs who receive a printed bulletin for no charge.

There was 1 new adult member application submitted by Carina Cassim.

Monies received for reinstatements and new memberships totaled \$6,141.

ACTION: Amy Dale moved to approve membership for Carina Cassim; Pam Wojcik seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously approved.

Review and consideration of new Chemeketan Trip Sign-Up sheet – Franca Hernandez

It was agreed that at the Nov. 30, 2011 meeting the changes had been unanimously approved by the 2011 Executive Council. The discussion at this current meeting with the new Council was how to format it. Based on Council suggestions, Franca will draft another form.

Mary Narey, Dawdler Committee Chair, re online post-trip form.

It was found that the form she liked using is still at the Chemeketans' website.

ACTION: none

Mazama vendor list for Chemeketans bulletin

No one has time to follow up on this.

ACTION: none

New Business:

- Roz Shirack said it is time for the Executive Council policy updates. She will send the form to Jim Rastorfer and Franca Hernandez.
- There was a \$20 Sports Authority gift card with a Mar. 30, 2012 expiration date that was not given to anyone at the annual 01/09/12 all-member meeting. What to do?

ACTION: Franca Hernandez moved to give the card to Roz Shirack in recognition of her excellent work as the Club's past president; Amy Dale seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously approved.

- The other cards without expiration dates that Sports Authority donated to the Chemeketans were given to Jim Rastorfer to hold for the Club.
- Jim Rastorfer, as the new Chemeketan president, is the new contact for sending all-member email. (see Roster for Jim's email)

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm
Next meeting: Feb. 15, 2012, 6 pm in the ChemekeDen

Submitted by Franca Hernandez, Recording Secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE ANNUAL BANQUET: FRIDAY APRIL 13

The Chemeketan Annual Banquet will be Friday, April 13, at Roth's Hospitality Center, 1130 Wallace Rd. NW in west Salem. Socializing begins at 5:30 PM. The buffet dinner will be served at 6:00 PM. Master of Ceremonies for the evening will be Lee Slattum. The banquet is an opportunity for new and long-time members to socialize and share common interests of outdoor recreation.

After dinner, author and Chemeketan Bill Sullivan will lead us on a dozen new hikes between Salem and Bend via a slideshow. His talk will feature hikes in his new 2012 edition of 100 Hikes in the Central Oregon Cascades, as well as good stories about local history, wildflowers, and outdoor lore.

Sullivan is the author of three novels and a dozen books about Oregon, including the popular "100 Hikes" series, "Oregon Trips & Trails," "Hiking Oregon's History," and "Oregon Favorites." His journal of a 1000-mile hike he took across Oregon, "Listening for Coyote," was chosen by the Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission as one of Oregon's 100 most significant books in the state's history. Bill will have his new book and the latest editions of his other "100 Hikes" books for sale after the program. Check the April Bulletin for menu choices and costs and how to make reservations. Reservations will be due by April 6. Last year was a sell-out, so be sure to send in your reservation soon after the April Bulletin comes out with the Banquet details.

Discount Vendors: The stores listed below will honor your Chemeketan membership sticker with a discount.

Oregon Mountain Community, 2975 NE Sandy Blvd, Portland, 503-227-1038. 10%.

The Mountain Shop, 1510 NE 37th, Portland, 503-288-6768. 15%. (note new location)

Next Adventure, 426 SE Grand, Portland, 503-233-0706. 10%.

US Outdoor Store, 219 SW Broadway, Portland, 503-223-5937. 10%.

Peak Sports, 207 NW 2nd, Corvallis, 541-754-6444. 10%.

Redpoint Climbers Supply, 8283 11th St, Terrebonne, 800-923-6207. 10%.

NEW! Sports Authority, 831 Lancaster Dr. NE, Salem, 503-378-0300 - \$10 off any purchase of \$50 or more.

PERU 2012 – Choquequirao (the "Other Machu Picchu")

Arrive in Cusco Sept. 9, leave Cusco Sept. 30). This trip is rated medium to hard due to the nature of the trek.

Explore ancient and contemporary Peru. Our trip of slightly over 3 weeks will begin (after arrival in Cusco) in the charming Urubamba Valley town of Ollantaytambo, an original Inca City far from the crowds of Cusco and 2000 feet lower. We will visit many ruins there, nearby salt flats and agricultural and archaeological sites, and a ceramic workshop. We will visit in a weaver's private home in Chinchero and in Cusco explore more ancient sites including Sacsayhuaman and Pisac. We will trek, fully supported, across the Apurimac River to the famous ruins at Choquequirao which are not nearly as often visited as the more accessible and famous ruins of Machu Picchu. After crossing several high passes, seeing the silver mines, the picturesque town of Yanama, and crossing several rivers we will work our way towards Machu Picchu where we

will have a full day, bracketed by 2 nights in Aguas Calientes. We'll return to Cusco for a few free days with additional opportunities for day hiking, sightseeing, and visits to other nearby communities if desired before returning home. Leader is Ellen Gradison who has led outings to Peru the past 5 years. ellengradison@peak.org. Approximate costs, exclusive of air to Cusco \$3300-4200, depending on the group size. Single tent occupancy and special diets on trek are at no extra charge.

Washington Discover Pass is now required at Washington State Parks, Fish and Wildlife lands and Department of Natural Resources areas. For more information: www.discoverpass.wa.gov/.

Ads: A Chemeketan club member may place one small non-commercial ad per year—for example offering outdoor equipment for sale—in the *Chemeketan Bulletin*, free of charge. These classified ads are subject to space availability. There will be no display ads on the back cover. Ads must be sent via email directly to the editors and must be received by the first of the month preceding the month in which they are to be published.

Annual Chemeketan Outing: August 4-18, Trinity Alps, California: information and registration forms will be in the 2012 Roster and Prospectus and on the Chemeketan website.

WHERE AND WHEN

Refer to General Information on Page 2 for trip ratings, meeting point locations and other important information. Trips leave promptly at the time stated, so be there a few minutes ahead of time. RT = round trip.

Thursday, March 1, CENTER50+ LUNCH LEE SLATTUM

Into the fourth year, our Chemeketan and guest lunches continue at the new City of Salem Senior Center, the Center50+, at 2615 Portland Road NE. Lunch is served between 11:30 and 1:00. The cost is \$4.50 if you are 50 or better; \$6.50 if you are younger. A reserved sign identifying us as Chemeketans will claim our table. Drop in for some good food, conversation, and a chance to do some networking. Be among the first to stay for bingo.

Thursday, March 1, WHISPERING WOODS PARK Hike PRE-REG W/LDR: MARY NAREY 503-364-1294

Come explore part of the Tualatin River Basin with me! Whispering Woods Park is located in Area 3: Beaverton Creek. According to the park description, it is a "protected little dell where the birds are often in full chorus." It is described as "a bird watcher's dream" according to Laura Hill. There are many native wildflowers as well which may be in bloom at this time. This trail has not been scouted yet but will be prior to the hike. We may add on Arleda Park which is very close. Since some of this region has been set aside in the city as a wetland, boots are a required piece of attire especially if rain has been recent. Bring binoculars, dress warm, and bring rain gear along with a lunch. Slow pace. RATED: DAWDLERS, Driving dist RT 80 miles, Hike dist 4 miles.

Thursday, March 1, SAF, 9:00 a.m., PEAVY ARBORETUM Hike JIM REICHWEIN 541-753-9573

We will start our hike on the Forest Discovery trail hiking to Cronmiller Lake then continue on the Section 36 loop trail to view some old growth Douglas fir and possibly early wildflowers. We will hike as far as the group wishes. Bring lunch, and be prepared for good old Oregon wet weather. **Meet the leader at Peavy Arboretum.** Moderate pace. RATED: MEDIUM, Driving dist RT 60 miles, Hike dist 4 miles, Elev. 150 feet.

Saturday, March 3, 8:30 a.m., BALD HILL NATURAL AREA Hike PRE-REG W/LDR: FRANCA HERNANDEZ

Bald Hill Natural Area is a 284-acre county park in Corvallis with several miles of trails. There are various habitats of upland prairie oak savannah, oak woodlands, riparian areas and wetlands. Beautiful vistas of the valley and the coast range. Bring good hiking and rain gear. Please pre-register by email listed in the Roster. Moderate pace. RATED: EASY-MEDIUM, Driving dist RT 80 miles, Hike dist 5 miles.

Saturday, March 3, 9:00 a.m., MINTO BROWN Hike LAURA DEVRIES 503-363-4641

Join the Minto Walkers! We walk 3-4 miles every Saturday at Minto Brown Island Park. Meet at the last parking lot. All

fitness levels welcome. Moderate pace.
RATED: EASY, Hike dist 4 miles.

Saturday, March 3, SANTIAM CANYON Snowshoe PRE-REG W/LDR: LEE SLATTUM

The snow gods have been fickle this season, but hopefully we'll be snowshoeing in deep, fluffy snow to some worthwhile destination, providing us with an aerobic workout and splendid views, perhaps upon a butte or craggy bluff. The distance covered will probably not be more than eight miles or more than 1000 feet of vertical. You will, of course, need to be in reasonably good aerobic shape. I have two pairs of loaner snowshoes and enough ski poles to accommodate most heights. Moderate pace. RATED: HARD.

Saturday, March 3, SAF, 9:00 a.m., PEAVY ARBORETUM Hike JIM REICHWEIN 541-753-9573

I plan on hiking the section 36 Loop, Powder House, and the Callaway Creek trails. If the group wishes, we can hike an additional trail. These are year-round trails but good traction footwear is necessary in these wet winter conditions. If weather permits, we can lunch at the top of the Arboretum. **Meet the leader at Peavy Arboretum.** Moderate pace. RATED: MEDIUM, Driving dist RT 60 miles, Hike dist 4 miles, Elev. 200 feet.

Sunday, March 4, SANTIAM CANYON X-Ski PRE-REG W/LDR: RICK COOPER 503-362-9719

We will travel up the Santiam Canyon looking for snow. Depending on conditions, we will ski, snowshoe or hike. Please call or email leader (at cooperm50@gmail.com) a couple days before the trip to find out the destination and to pre-register. Moderate pace. RATED: MEDIUM, Driving dist RT 180 miles, Ski dist 7 miles, Elev. 1000 feet.

Sunday, March 4, ANGELS REST Hike PRE-REG W/LDR: JOHN HUFF 503-507-7348

We will hike to Angels Rest where we should have great views of the Columbia Gorge. If we have enough hikers for two cars we will spot one at Wahkeena Falls and hike there from Angels Rest. If we only have one vehicle we will drive to Wahkeena and hike the trail to Multnomah Falls for treats at the lodge. Come prepared for muddy trails. Moderate pace. RATED: MEDIUM, Driving dist RT 140 miles, Hike dist 6 miles, Elev. 1500 feet.

Sunday, March 4, SAF, 8:00 a.m., NESTUCCA SPIT Hike TOM BURKE 503-930-5704

If March comes in like the lamb I am hoping for, this exploratory sandy trek will be a pleasant Sunday outing on the beach, up the inlet and over the dunes. Please do come prepared however, since wind, rain, and sun are all quite possible. Hike distance is approximate (between 5 & 7 miles). We will reward our effort at one of the several treat stations

that Pacific City has to offer. Moderate pace.
RATED: EASY-MEDIUM, Driving dist RT 110 miles, Hike dist 6 miles, Elev. 50 feet.

Monday, March 5, 10:00 a.m., KOFFEE KLATCH AT THE BEANERY

Reality coffee, competition for Chemeketan Idol. Join the madness.

**Wednesday, March 7, AUDUBON NATURE RESERVE BLACKBERRY REMOVAL
LEE SLATTUM 503-364-9325**

Like many of you, I am both a Chemeketan and a Salem Audubon member. I have volunteered to lead a blackberry removal program at the Audubon Nature Reserve, located in West Salem on Eola Drive, behind the Safeway grocery store on Edgewater. We work every Wednesday morning from 9:00 to 11:00, using shears to cut up the vines down to their base. No dragging or stacking is involved. We are now also working on other invasive plant species. At 11:00, we quit and head to the McDonald's on Wallace Road to drink senior coffee and have a good visit. Since starting in February 2011, we have made very noticeable progress with our collaborative effort.

**Wednesday, March 7, STAHLMAN POINT Hike
PRE-REG W/LDR: SUE MACDONALD 503-873-1429**

Depending on weather conditions, this hike could be dry, muddy, icy or snowy and we would need to use snowshoes. A close-by trip and, if the sky is clear, a great view of Jefferson awaits. Wear boots and prepare for the weather. In December the trail was in great shape. Moderate pace.
RATED: MEDIUM, Driving dist RT 80 miles, Hike dist 5 miles, Elev. 1300 feet.

**Thursday, March 8, CENTER50+ LUNCH
LEE SLATTUM**

See write-up for Thursday, March 1.

Thursday, March 8, 6:00 p.m., SECOND THURSDAY-WALERY'S

DAVE CARTER 503-393-3649

We will meet at Walery's Pizza house located at 1555 Edgewater St. in West Salem. Come and enjoy a pizza supper and discuss your recent winter activities. See you there. Slow pace.

**Thursday, March 8, SANTIAM PASS AREA X-Ski
PRE-REG W/LDR: ROZ SHIRACK 503-399-8615**

We will ski somewhere in the Santiam Pass area where we find best snow conditions. This will be an intermediate level ski of about 7-8 miles and likely less than 1,000 ft of elevation gain. Fast snowshoers are also welcome. Call leader a few days before the trip for details. Moderate pace.
RATED: MEDIUM, Driving dist RT 170 miles, Ski dist 7 miles, Elev. 1000 feet.

**Friday, March 9, SOUTH SALEM HILLS Hike
PRE-REG W/LDR: MIKE & PETRA BERGER 503-400-7645**

We are scheduling this hike every 2nd and 4th Friday morning. Get some fresh air and an early start on your

weekend. Join us for this scenic hike on Cole and Moore Roads. These quiet gravel country roads are in hilly south Salem. Come prepared for the weather - rain or shine - and bring some cash in case you decide to join us for lunch afterward. It includes several hills and is not a dawdler hike. Moderate pace.

RATED: EASY-MEDIUM, Hike dist 4 miles, Elev. 800 feet.

**Friday, March 9, DEN, 7:00 p.m., PICTURE NIGHT
MARY LIEPINS 503-363-6385**

Joanne DeMay and several other Chemeketans spent a week or two each summer over the course of 8 years section-hiking the PCT through Oregon. She'll share photos and stories from their successive adventures.

**Saturday, March 10, 9:00 a.m., MINTO BROWN Hike
LAURA DEVRIES 503-363-4641**

Join the Minto Walkers! We walk 3-4 miles every Saturday at Minto Brown Island Park. Meet at the last parking lot. All fitness levels welcome. Moderate pace.
RATED: DAWDLERS, Hike dist 4 miles.

**Saturday, March 10, SANTIAM CANYON Snowshoe
PRE-REG W/LDR: JEAN GABRIEL**

The location of this snowshoe trip will depend on snow conditions. I have several possible destinations in mind, many of which have views on a clear day. The distance will be 6-8 miles with an elevation gain of 800 to 1200 feet, so this trip is rated difficult. Pre-register by phone, not by e-mail. See roster for phone number. Moderate pace.
RATED: HARD, Driving dist RT 180 miles, Snowshoe dist 8 miles, Elev. 1000 feet.

**Saturday, March 10, COYOTE WALL LOOP Hike
PRE-REG W/LDR: DAVE CARTER 503-393-3649**

This is a wonderful loop hike of Coyote Wall. We will begin by traveling through a mixed oak/conifer forest below Coyote Wall to an open meadow with a great view of the gorge. We will then begin traveling along the top of the wall to the full, open, view of the wall and of the gorge. We will travel in the meadow down to the beginning of the trip to complete the loop. This is a great spring hike with good views of the gorge. Maybe a few early spring flowers will also be out. We will have lunch at a good viewpoint. So come with your lunch, camera, and be dressed for hiking. Moderate pace.
RATED: MEDIUM-HARD, Driving dist RT 145 miles, Hike dist 8.5 miles, Elev. 1950 feet.

**Sunday, March 11, BEGINNERS X-Ski
PRE-REG W/LDR: BETSY BELSHAW 503-370-8789**

We will go where there is snow and have a bit of exercise in the woods. Moderate pace.
RATED: EASY, Driving dist RT 180 miles, Ski dist 5 miles, Elev. 500 feet.

**Sunday, March 11, TILLAMOOK HEAD Hike
PRE-REG W/LDR: JIM RASTORFER 503-390-4640**

This hike north of Cannon Beach is mostly forested with some good ocean views. We will hike north from the Indian Beach trailhead in Ecola State Park to Tillamook Head summit. On the way we pass Hiker's Camp, where there is a viewpoint of

the Tillamook Rock Lighthouse about a mile off shore. In this area there are some WWII bunkers. We will pass "Clark's Point of View" where William Clark marveled: "I beheld the grandest and most pleasing prospect which my eyes ever surveyed." Come prepared for muddy trails and unpredictable weather. Moderate pace. RATED: MEDIUM-HARD, Driving dist RT 230 miles, Hike dist 8 miles, Elev. 1350 feet.

Sunday, March 11, SKM, 8:00 a.m., ELKHORN MOUNTAIN Snowshoe

MICHAEL GURLEY 609-410-3764

Celebrate daylight savings (groan) with a brisk snowshoe (conditions permitting) hike up Elkhorn in the Upper North Fork Santiam. We'll start early so as to maximize daylight and hopefully reach the summit by lunchtime. March in the lower Cascades can be iffy weather, so experience, preparedness, and a good attitude are important. The pace up the forest road will be quick, but with occasional stops to adjust clothing, catch our breath, and snap photos. Looking for a group of about 4-8. The summit is the objective, but if we make good time, we'll check out the high lake as well. Moderate pace. RATED: MEDIUM-HARD, Driving dist RT 80 miles, Snowshoe dist 12 miles, Elev. 2800 feet.

Monday, March 12, 10:00 a.m., KOFFEE KLATCH AT THE BEANERY

Reality coffee, competition for Chemeketan Idol. Join the madness.

Wednesday, March 14, AUDUBON NATURE RESERVE BLACKBERRY REMOVAL

LEE SLATTUM 503-364-9325

See write-up for Wednesday, March 7.

Wednesday, March 14, CATHERINE CREEK Hike PRE-REG W/LDR: KEN ASH 503-884-3160

Hopefully, we will go far enough up the gorge to escape the rains and get a view up the Columbia. Contact by phone or at mrkenash@comcast.net. Moderate pace. RATED: EASY-MEDIUM, Driving dist RT 250 miles, Hike dist 8 miles, Elev. 800 feet.

Wednesday, March 14, 8:00 a.m., POTATO HILL Snowshoe

PRE-REG W/LDR: RALPH NAFZIGER 541-926-4245

Depending upon the weather and snow conditions, we will snowshoe the Potato Hill/Hash Brown loop. Otherwise, we will do something somewhere else. Be prepared for the weather. Leader's email: nafziger@peak.org. RATED: MEDIUM, Driving dist RT 170 miles, Snowshoe dist 5.3 miles, Elev. 1040 feet.

Wednesday, March 14, SWEET CREEK FALLS Hike PRE-REG W/LDR: BETSY BELSHAW

This is a long drive for a short hike, but the falls are beautiful. The trail is divided into sections with several falls along the different sections, and the trails themselves are interesting. The wild flowers are plentiful, if we have timed the trip correctly. Moderate pace. RATED: EASY, Driving dist RT 250 miles, Hike dist 5.2 miles, Elev. 650 feet.

Thursday, March 15, CENTER50+ LUNCH LEE SLATTUM

See write-up for Thursday, March 1.

Thursday, March 15, SKM, 7:30 a.m., DOWNHILL SKI AT HOODOO

TED YOUNG 503-362-1525

Pre-register with leader (503-362-1525). Thursday is a two for the price of one day at HooDoo. Fast pace. RATED: MEDIUM, Driving dist RT 180 miles.

Saturday, March 17, 9:00 a.m., MINTO BROWN Hike LAURA DEVRIES 503-363-4641

Join the Minto Walkers! We walk 3-4 miles every Saturday at Minto Brown Island Park. Meet at the last parking lot. All fitness levels welcome. Moderate pace. RATED: DAWDLERS, Hike dist 4 miles.

Saturday, March 17, FIR/PICA LAKES X-Ski PRE-REG W/LDR: DAVE CARTER 503-393-3649

This trip starts from the Big Meadows trailhead and goes near Fay Lake. Then we will go cross-country to both Fir and Pica Lakes. The cross-country part of the trip is not on a trail or road. If you haven't been here before this is your chance to visit both of these lakes. Depending on snow conditions we may ski to the point we leave the road and then snowshoe the rest of the way. We will retrace our steps to return. Don't forget this is St. Patrick's Day so be prepared for some extra fun. Moderate pace. RATED: MEDIUM-HARD, Driving dist RT 170 miles, Ski dist 8 miles, Elev. 800 feet.

Saturday, March 17, SILVER FALLS Hike PRE-REG W/LDR: MARGARET SAXE 503-585-3209

The falls should be full and spectacular at this time. We will start at the North Falls and hike to the South Lodge for lunch. There is always a blazing fireplace waiting, a welcome sight to cold and wet hikers. We will return to our cars via the Rim Trail. Be prepared for rain and muddy trails. Like always, bring your 10 essentials. Moderate pace. RATED: EASY-MEDIUM, Driving dist RT 50 miles, Hike dist 7 miles, Elev. 600 feet.

Saturday, March 17, MULTNOMAH TO WAHKEENA FALLS Hike

PRE-REG W/LDR: STEVE BRADEN 503-363-5259

We will hike up the Multnomah Falls trail and continue around to the back side of Wahkeena Falls for the way down. The trail to Multnomah Falls climbs steeply, gets easier going around the top to the back side of Wahkeena and then descends steeply. I have not scouted this recently but am familiar with the route. If the trail is blocked or snowy, we can go up and down as far as possible from each falls as the group is willing and able. Be prepared for wind, rain, mud and fantastic waterfalls! Fast pace. RATED: MEDIUM, Driving dist RT 156 miles, Hike dist 5.5 miles, Elev. 1600 feet.

Sunday, March 18, 8:00 a.m., MULKEY CREEK TO FITTON GREEN Hike

PRE-REG W/LDR: BILL WYLIE 503-378-0315

Fitton Green is a very scenic upland prairie west of Corvallis that overlooks Kings Valley and the coast range. The route consists of trails and gravel access roads, and we return the same way. A stop at the New Morning Bakery is planned. Moderate pace.

RATED: MEDIUM, Driving dist RT 80 miles, Hike dist 6.9 miles, Elev. 1170 feet.

Sunday, March 18, SANTIAM AREA X-Ski

PRE-REG W/LDR: DON GALLAGHER

Let's plan on finding some new snow for a late season cross-country ski trip. Depending on snow conditions, we could end up at Ray Benson, Maxwell Butte or Potato Hill Sno Parks.

Pre-register at dongall39@comcast.net. Moderate pace.

RATED: MEDIUM, Driving dist RT 160 miles, Ski dist 6 miles.

Sunday, March 18, RPR, 8:00 a.m., CATHERINE CREEK Hike

BLANKA TRUNECKOVA 503-409-1606

This spring hike in Columbia Gorge to Catherine Creek can be changed to longer Coyote Wall hike. The group of hikers will decide. The grass widows will be in full bloom. Moderate pace.

RATED: MEDIUM, Driving dist RT 200 miles, Hike dist 2.5 miles, Elev. 400 feet.

Monday, March 19, 10:00 a.m., KOFFEE KLATCH AT THE BEANERY

Reality coffee, competition for Chemeketan Idol. Join the madness.

Tuesday, March 20, 8:00 a.m., HAMILTON MOUNTAIN Hike

PRE-REG W/LDR: GEORGE STRUBLE 503-364-3929

This is a favorite spring hike. We get wildflowers, waterfalls, and stunning views of the Gorge. A good workout, but not extreme. Leader was last on this trail two years ago. Moderate pace. RATED: MEDIUM-HARD, Driving dist RT 200 miles, Hike dist 7.6 miles, Elev. 2000 feet.

Wednesday, March 21, MT. HOOD AREA X-Ski

PRE-REG W/LDR: ROZ SHIRACK 503-399-8615

We will find a scenic trail with good mountain views somewhere in the Mt. Hood area to celebrate the long-awaited first day of Spring. Sun and good snow are prerequisites, otherwise we may ski closer to home. This will be an intermediate level ski of about 7-8 miles and likely less than 1,000 ft of elevation gain. Call leader a few days before the trip for details. Moderate pace. RATED: MEDIUM, Driving dist RT 170 miles, Ski dist 7 miles, Elev. 1000 feet.

Wednesday, March 21, AUDUBON NATURE RESERVE BLACKBERRY REMOVAL

LEE SLATTUM 503-364-9325

See write-up for Wednesday, March 7.

Thursday, March 22, CENTER50+ LUNCH LEE SLATTUM

See write-up for Thursday, March 1.

Friday, March 23, SOUTH SALEM HILLS Hike

PRE-REG W/LDR: MIKE & PETRA BERGER 503-400-7645

We are scheduling this hike every 2nd and 4th Friday morning. Get some fresh air and an early start on your weekend. Join us for this scenic hike on Cole and Moore Roads. These quiet gravel country roads are in hilly south Salem. Come prepared for the weather - rain or shine - and bring some cash in case you decide to join us for lunch afterward. It includes several hills and is not a dawdler hike. Moderate pace.

RATED: EASY-MEDIUM, Hike dist 4 miles, Elev. 800 feet.

Saturday, March 24, BEGINNERS X-Ski

PRE-REG W/LDR: BETSY BELSHAW 503-370-8789

We will enjoy a bit of comradeship in the snow at a location to be dictated by snow conditions. Moderate pace.

RATED: EASY, Driving dist RT 180 miles, Ski dist 5 miles, Elev. 500 feet.

Saturday, March 24, DEVILS REST Hike

PRE-REG W/LDR: JEAN GABRIEL

Starting from Wahkeena Falls in the Columbia Gorge, we'll hike the Wahkeena Trail and then take the cut-off to Devils Rest. The waterfalls and creek along this trail are beautiful this time of year. We may run into lingering snow towards the top. See roster for phone number to pre-register. Moderate pace.

RATED: HARD, Driving dist RT 165 miles, Hike dist 7 miles, Elev 2400 feet.

Saturday, March 24, 9:00 a.m., MINTO BROWN Hike

LAURA DEVRIES 503-363-4641

Join the Minto Walkers! We walk 3-4 miles every Saturday at Minto Brown Island Park. Meet at the last parking lot. All fitness levels welcome. Moderate pace.

RATED: DAWDLERS, Hike dist 4 miles.

Saturday, March 24, SKM, 8:00 a.m., TOM MCCALL

PRESERVE Hike

MATT RIEKE 541-928-2767

This preserve belongs to the Nature Conservancy. 271 gorgeous acres of land where you see the change from a warm wet climate to the west and a dryer hotter climate to the east. The preserve is just east of the town of Mosier and next to Rowena Dell. We should find plenty of balsamroot, lupine, red paintbrush and many other flowers. Two trails, one to the peak across meadow and through scrub oak forest. Wear long pants as poison oak is prevalent on both trails. Views of Mt. Hood, Mt Adams and Mt St Helens await you at the top. On the lower trail there are 2 ponds and close-up views of the Columbia River Gorge in both directions. Slow pace with maximum 5 miles. We won't need to go to the top of the peak if the group wants to stop before that. A wonderful spring hike. Hope to see you. Slow pace.

RATED: DAWDLERS, Driving dist RT 180 miles, Hike dist 5 miles, Elev. 1100 feet.

Sunday, March 25, SKM, 8:00 a.m., LITTLE NORTH FORK Hike

TOM BURKE 503-930-5704

I have never done this hike in the spring but will expect all to be prepared for muddy condition even though I have made reservations for a beautiful spring day. We will start at the lower end, on to Shady Cove for lunch, and return to enjoy what we missed on the way in. Moderate pace.
RATED: MEDIUM, Driving dist RT 78 miles, Hike dist 9 miles.

**Sunday, March 25, WHERE THERE IS SNOW X-Ski
PRE-REG W/LDR: KEN ASH 503-884-3160**

We will go where there is snow and enjoy same. All the usual rules apply for an intermediate ski. Hope to see you there. Moderate pace.

RATED: MEDIUM, Driving dist RT 170 miles, Ski dist 8 miles,

**Sunday, March 25, EUGENE URBAN Hike
PRE-REG W/LDR: WAYNE WALLACE 503-999-2612**

This hike will emphasize the street art of Eugene. We will cross the river twice on pedestrian bridges, walk along the river and cross the UO campus. Lunch will be at a restaurant along the way. Note that this is a long walk and will take all day. Limit of 2 cars or 10 hikers to keep from looking like an invasion force. Moderate pace.

RATED: MEDIUM, Driving dist RT 130 miles, Hike dist 10 miles, Elev. 200 feet.

Monday, March 26, 10:00 a.m., KOFFEE KLATCH AT THE BEANERY

Reality coffee, competition for Chemeketan Idol. Join the madness.

**Tuesday, March 27, SHELLBURG FALLS Hike
PRE-REG W/LDR: MARGARET SAXE 503-585-3209**

This is such a great hike and so close to home. We'll start out by hiking on a road leading through a cow pasture. Next we'll visit Shellburg Falls and continue to the campgrounds for lunch. Then we'll hike on down the road to view Stassel Falls. We can extend our hike one mile by doing August Mountain loop. The trails are muddy and slippery at this time so wear your boots and bring raingear. Moderate pace.

RATED: EASY, Driving dist RT 50 miles, Hike dist 5 miles, Elev. 600 feet.

**Tuesday, March 27, TRYON CREEK STATE PARK Hike
PRE-REG W/LDR: MARY NAREY 503-364-1294**

Located in Portland near Lake Oswego, Tryon Creek is the only state park within a major metropolitan area. It is a favorite for hikers, families and others who wish to commune with nature quietly in the midst of a city. We will hike from the Nature Center along well-maintained forested trails lined with trillium blossoms, hopefully, to the end of the trail and make a loop back to the nature center. Wear boots because trails may be muddy close to the creek if rain has been recent. Bring snacks and water for the trail and money for lunch in Lake Oswego. Moderate pace.

RATED: EASY-MEDIUM, Driving dist RT 90 miles, Hike dist 6 miles, Elev. 200 feet.

Tuesday, March 27, SKM, 8:00 a.m., BAYOCEAN SPIT Hike

DIANE CLAYTON 503-585-9548

Meet at SKM at 8 am to carpool. Meet leader in Tillamook at Cheese Factory near ship. Bring lunch, water. Wear boots. Be prepared for rain/wind. Visit what was to become the Atlantic City of the West in the early 1900's. Nature had other ideas and by 1971 she reclaimed the city that is no more. Slow pace.

RATED: DAWDLERS, Driving dist RT 140 miles, Hike dist 8.5 miles, Elev. 50 feet.

**Wednesday, March 28, SAND MT X-Ski
PRE-REG W/LDR: KEN ASH 503-884-3160**

If weather conditions allow we will ski across the flats from Ray Benson, near Hoodoo, and up the mountain. There can be good views from the top. This is an advanced intermediate trip. Ken may be contacted by email at mrkenash@comcast.net. Moderate pace.

RATED: MEDIUM-HARD, Driving dist RT 180 miles, Ski dist 10 miles, Elev. 1200 feet.

**Wednesday, March 28, SAF, SPRING WHALE WATCH
PHYLLIS BENANTI 503-585-1162**

Spring Whale Watch Week is the last week of March. I'm planning to stop at five sites between Lincoln City and Devils Punchbowl with my binoculars in hand. We can include a beach walk if weather and tide permits. Wear warm clothes and remember your binoculars. Also bring some money for lunch in Depot Bay. Moderate pace.

RATED: DAWDLERS, Driving dist RT 150 miles, Hike dist 2 miles, Elev. 0 feet.

**Wednesday, March 28, AUDUBON NATURE RESERVE
BLACKBERRY REMOVAL**

LEE SLATTUM 503-364-9325

See write-up for Wednesday, March 7.

**Thursday, March 29, CENTER50+ LUNCH
LEE SLATTUM**

See write-up for Thursday, March 1.

**Thursday, March 29, SAF, 11:00 a.m., NESMITH PARK,
POLK COUNTY MUSEUM Hike
PAT SIMILA 503-581-5369**

The hiking portion of the trip is short and very easy. We will park at the Polk County Fairgrounds, walk along Rickreall Creek in Nesmith Park and visit the Nesmith family cemetery. Then we will eat lunch at Farrol's Restaurant, followed by a visit to the interesting Polk County Historical Museum. Slow pace.

RATED: DAWDLERS, Driving dist RT 25 miles, Hike dist 1.0 miles.

**Friday-Sunday, March 30-April 1, SPRING BASIN
WILDERNESS Backpack**

PRE-REG W/LDR: JOANNE DEMAY 971-237-9775

Tempting fate once again, but who can resist the chance to backpack in Oregon in March? This beautiful but tiny new wilderness area is on the John Day river near Clarno, overlooking the former Rajneeshpuram. We'll hike in a few

miles to set up camp on Friday, explore the wilderness on Saturday, hike out Sunday. Moderate pace. RATED: EASY.

**Saturday, March 31, 8:00 a.m., CASCADE HEAD Hike
PRE-REG W/LDR: JANET RAFALOVICH 503-371-1039**

Cascade Head is one of the best hikes on the coast. We'll start at the Nature Conservancy trailhead and hike to the top of the grassy promontory for lunch and great views of the Salmon River estuary. Trail conditions can be muddy. Moderate pace. RATED: MEDIUM, Driving dist RT 120 miles, Hike dist 6 miles, Elev. 1100 feet.

**Saturday, March 31, 9:00 a.m., MINTO BROWN Hike
LAURA DEVRIES 503-363-4641**

Join the Minto Walkers! We walk 3-4 miles every Saturday at Minto Brown Island Park. Meet at the last parking lot. All fitness levels welcome. Moderate pace. RATED: DAWDLERS, Hike dist 4 miles.

**Saturday, March 31, WHEREVER THERE IS SNOW X-Ski
PRE-REG W/LDR: KEN ASH 503-884-3160**

Get in one of the last skis of the season as the daffodils are blooming. Contact by phone or at mrkenash@comcast.net. Moderate pace. RATED: DAWDLERS, Driving dist RT 180 miles, Ski dist 8 miles, Elev. 1000 feet.

**Saturday, March 31, DOG & WIND MOUNTAINS Hike
PRE-REG W/LDR: LEE SLATTUM 503-364-9325**

It is now spring and time to start hitting on the Columbia River Gorge in preparation for the club's annual outing in California's Trinity Alps. We'll do flower-famous Dog first. Nearby neighbor Wind comes second. This roundish mountain has a protected Native American archaeological site on its summit because of its quest pits. As part of this whaler of a day, we'll make an obligatory refueling stop in the Salmon Row Pub of Cascade Locks. Moderate pace. RATED: HARD, Driving dist RT 212 miles, Hike dist 9.8 miles, Elev. 4000 feet.

CHEMEKETAN CLIMB SCHOOL

**Wednesday, April 4 & 11, Saturday-Sunday, April 14-15,
CHEMEKETAN CLIMB SCHOOL
PRE-REG W/LDR: BILL SAUR 206-525-6025**

The 2012 Chemeketan Climb School is a great introduction to basic mountaineering and rock climbing skills. Students attend two classroom sessions and a weekend field session. Chemeketan Climb School, or an equivalent, is required to participate in club-sponsored climbs. The classroom sessions will be held on two Wednesday nights April 4 and 11 from 5:30 to 9:15 p.m. Both classroom sessions will be held in the clubroom, the Chemekeden, at 360-1/2 State St., above Cooke's Stationery in downtown Salem. Students must attend both classroom sessions to complete the school. The field sessions will be held on April 14-15. These two days are devoted to rock climbing practice at Horsethief Butte on Saturday and snow skills at Mt. Hood on Sunday. Horsethief

Butte is on the Washington side of the Columbia River opposite The Dalles, Oregon. We'll be camping Saturday night at the state park and eating a buffet dinner at Spooky's Pizza in The Dalles. The costs for both the camping and the buffet are included in your registration fee (\$145 for members). Climb school students must be at least 16 years old by April 15, 2012. Students who are 16 or 17 years old must be accompanied by a guardian who is a paid climb school participant. The guardian is expected to stay with and be responsible for the younger participant throughout the weekend field sessions. The number of climb school participants is limited to 40. Please register on line at http://www.chemeketans.org/climb_school.asp where further information is available. You may also contact Bill Saur at bsaur@comcast.net (phone 206-525-6025) or Amanda Blankenship at una20_1999@yahoo.com.

FUTURE EVENTS

**Monday-Wednesday, May 21-May 23, COLUMBIA GORGE
HIKING**

PRE-REG W/LDR: JOANNE DEMAY 971-237-9775

We'll spend two nights, Monday and Tuesday, at the Cascade Motel in Cascade Locks. I've reserved one large cabin with a kitchen. We can enjoy a couple of the longer gorge hikes without the drive back home and do a little celebrating in the

evenings. Let me know of your interest in case I need to book another cabin. email: joannedemay08@gmail.com.

Sunday-Saturday, May 27-June 2, CANYON DE CHELLY

PRE-REG W/LDR: HARDIN KING 503-845-9340 Base-camp in beautiful Canyon de Chelly. Day hike 6-10 miles with elevation +/- of 1200' in different environments daily; view numerous Anasazi cliff dwellings; enjoy rock art of Anasazi/Ute/ Hopi/Navajo; become acquainted with three

generations of a Navajo family and share a sweat/potluck with them. Live/hike surrounded by: quiet beauty of patina-covered red-rock canyon walls, turquoise blue sky, green desert riparian areas; and, sleep with canyon walls providing views of crystal clear desert night skies. Interested? Call/email Hardin King asap: 503-845-9340 or hardinking@hotmail.com. Moderate pace.

RATED: MEDIUM-HARD, Hike dist 45 miles, Elev. 1200 feet

Saturday-Saturday, August 4-18, 81ST CHEMEKETAN OUTING IN THE TRINITY ALPS, CALIFORNIA

See Roster & Prospectus for full details.

Thursday-Monday, August 30-September 3, CHICAGO BASIN 14er CIRCUIT, DURANGO CO Climb ROBYN SMITH 503-428-2454

One of the many highlights of this trip is the old steam train ride from Durango CO to the Needleton trailhead where we will hop off and throw on our packs to begin our 3,000' hike

into the surrealistic Chicago Basin nestled in the San Juan mountain range. We'll set up base camp and prepare ourselves for the next two days of climbing four of Colorado's 14ers (only 3 are countable of the 54 countable 14ers). Day two we will arise early to depart camp at 11,500' and ascend Windom Peak 14,082' and then follow a steep gully over to saddle then a ridge leading to Sunlight Peak 14,059'. We'll work our way back to camp to rest up for day three. Another early start will have us departing camp to scramble up Mt Eolus 14,083' but before we do that we'll grab North Eolus 14,039' along the way first. Back to camp to rest up for the early hike out. We'll have a train to catch and we won't want to miss it! The Durango & Silverton Train information can be found at info@durangotrain.com. Current pricing is \$83 rt but we may be able to get reduced pricing as a group. See leader for transportation options. There are flights into Durango but we'll be driving from Denver for those who fly into there instead. Moderate pace.

2012 BACKPACK SCHEDULE

Monday-Wednesday, April 30-May 9, PCT WARNER SPRINGS TO IDYLLWILD Backpack

PRE-REG W/LDR: TOM EATON 541-499-1584

Springtime hike through Anza-Borrego desert to San Jacinto pine forest in southern California. We'll have a car shuttle, hike 8 - 12 miles per day. Limited to 10. For information: ateaton@charter.net.

Wednesday-Sunday, May 9-13, LOST COAST Backpack PRE-REG W/LDR: BOB CUSTER 541-745-3994

The beautiful Lost Coast runs along the King Range Mountains of northern California from Mattole to Shelter Cove. The trail is 24 miles along the ocean on rocks, sand, and dirt. Some points cannot be passed at high tide. Bear canisters are required and can be rented in Petrolia. We will set up a shuttle and then hike 3 days from north to south. The trail is basically flat but the difficult walking in some places makes this a hard trail. The drive time to Mattole is about 8.5 hours. Moderate pace. RATED: Medium Hard, Driving Dist RT 850 miles.

Friday-Sunday, June 22-24, ROGUE-UMPQUA DIVIDE WILDERNESS Backpack PRE-REG W/LDR: ALLAN KING 503-390-9990 & JOANNE DEMAY 971-237-9775

We will explore a section of the Rogue-Umpqua Divide Wilderness, 75 miles east of Roseburg, just west of Crater Lake. If the snow level cooperates, we'll do a 12-mile loop, and climb up to the restored fire lookout on Hershberger Mountain. This backpack is designed for people new to backpacking or those who have not slept out under the stars for a long time and want to see how it feels to carry a pack again. Call or email Allan (kingalla@gmail.com) or Joanne (joannedemay08@gmail.com) if you have questions. Moderate pace.

RATED: MEDIUM, Hike dist 12 miles, Elev. 2000 feet.

Friday-Sunday, July 13-15, BULL OF THE WOODS Backpack

PRE-REG W/LDR: ROD GRAVES 541-401-0368

We'll leave from the trailhead at the end of Rd 6340, go 3 miles to lookout for lunch, then 3 miles to Welcome Lakes to camp. Next day, 3-1/2 miles to Lake Lenore for lunch, 1 mile cross country to Dicky Creek to camp. Last day, 4 miles down Dicky Creek to trailhead on Rd 140. Need 2 cars for shuttle. Moderate pace. RATED: MEDIUM, Driving dist RT 150 miles, Hike dist 15 miles, Elev. 3250 feet.

Sunday-Saturday, July 15-21, STRAWBERRY MOUNTAIN TRAVERSE Backpack

PRE-REG W/LDR: RICK COOPER 503-362-9719

This excellent backpack takes us across the Strawberry Mountains near John Day, Oregon. Following Doug Lorain's suggested itinerary, we will spend five days on the trail climbing Strawberry Peak in route and taking a dramatic day hike to High Lake. Expect exceptional scenery, wildflowers and butterflies. This backpack is rated hard. Total distance is 52 miles with 11,700 feet of elevation gain – of which 17 miles and 4000 feet are optional side trips. Moderate pace. Although we will be on the trail only four days, two additional days are required to make the drive and to set up the shuttle on the one end and unwind it on the other. We will camp at a nearby campground. Please contact leader at cooperrm50@gmail.com to sign up or for further information. Moderate pace.

RATED: HARD, Driving dist RT 700 miles, Hike dist 52 miles, Elev. 11700 feet.

Wednesday-Wednesday, July 18-25, BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS Backpack JOANNE DEMAY 971-237-9775

For years I've wanted to see the Bob Marshall because of its reputation as the most remote and pristine area in the lower 48. No reason to wait any longer. I have not yet chosen which route we'll take out of the many possibilities, but it is

guaranteed to be beautiful and rugged. I've been in contact with a backcountry ranger and have good information and trail recommendations. Like the Tetons and the Wind River, there are grizzlies here. About 10 hours, 650 miles, driving each way. Limit 8.

Hike dist 40 miles.

Friday-Sunday, July 27-29, REBEL CREEK, THREE SISTERS WILDERNESS Backpack

David Anderson toodamp@gmail.com

A 12.3-mile loop with opportunities for side trips. The first 4 miles are in lush old growth along a stream; the last part has views and meadows. The trail is not very heavily used.

Friday-Sunday, August 10-12, DOLLAR LAKE BACKPACK BILL SULLIVAN

Saturday-Thursday, August 11-16, STUART FORK (TRINITY ALPS) Backpack

KAREN HUNTZINGER 503-364-0063

We will visit the crown jewels of the Trinities, Sapphire and Emerald Lakes. Saturday and Thursday are travel days, we will meet at the Outing Sunday morning. Expect views of peaks, flowers, good swimming, with possible bear and rattlesnake sightings. No fires. Limit 10 Moderate pace. RATED: MEDIUM, Driving dist RT 850 miles, Hike dist 30 miles, Elev. 3300 feet.

Friday-Sunday, August 24-26, BROKEN TOP LOOP Backpack

PRE-REG W/LDR: ROD GRAVES 541-401-0368

Begin at Three Creeks Lake trailhead, hike 6 miles to Golden Lake. Next day, 3 miles to Green Lake for lunch, then 4 miles to camp near Crook Creek. Last day, 3 miles cross-country to Tam McArthur Rim Trail, then 4 miles to Three Creek Lake trailhead. Lots of Sisters photo ops. Moderate pace. RATED: MEDIUM, Driving dist RT 260 miles, Hike dist 20 miles, Elev. 1500 feet.

Sunday-Saturday, September 2-8, DESOLATION WILDERNESS Backpack

PRE-REG W/LDR: ALLAN KING 503-399-9990

Backpack on the Pacific Crest Trail through the Desolation Wilderness near Lake Tahoe, California. We'll begin at Echo Lakes and finish at Donner Pass. The area has many alpine lakes, granite peaks, and multiple passes. I do not have elevation change at this time. Experienced backpackers only. Moderate pace.

RATED: HARD, Driving dist RT 1180 miles, Hike dist 64 miles.

Friday-Sunday, September 14-16, MT. JEFFERSON WILDERNESS Backpack

PRE-REG W/LDR: LARRY DAVIS 503-390-8210

We'll hike past Duffy Lake and Mowich Lake, explore and camp in the Eight Lakes Basin two nights, and may take a long day hike around Marion Lake. Moderate pace.

RATED: MEDIUM-HARD, Driving dist RT 160 miles, Hike dist 24 miles, Elev. 3500 feet.

Friday-Sunday, September 21-23, INDIAN HEAVEN WILDERNESS Backpack

PRE-REG W/LDR: LELIA BARLOW lelia.trips.com.

In this area of southern Washington near Mt Adams, we will hike past mountain lakes, going through subalpine forest and meadows. We'll camp at lakes where swimming is an option, and huckleberries should be plentiful. Relaxed pace. Backpacking distance is 6.8 miles and 900 feet of elevation gain total. Optional day hiking of 4+ miles. Group size limited to 8 participants. Well-equipped beginners in good hiking condition are welcome!

RATED: EASY-MEDIUM, Driving dist RT 240 miles, Hike dist 6.8 miles, Elev. 900 feet.

WE WERE THERE



Minto Brown Walkers

Beginners Snowshoe, December 21

The snow was a bit crunchy but no problem for snowshoes. Ken Ash, Sylvia Dawson, David Jackson, Jack Kerson, Ron Noble, Trish Rossitto and Vivienne Torgeson enjoyed birthday cookies and a good fire at North Blowout Shelter. It was a gorgeous day and no one was in a hurry to get back.

New Years Eve Hike and Potluck, December 31

We hiked the Upper Dan's Trail loop via Jackson Creek Road and the Upper Horse Trail to Dimple Hill and back to Chip Ross Park. The day was overcast without wind or rain and we had a good view from Dimple Hill except for some low lying fog. Marys Peak had a white crown with a frosting of snow on the surrounding forest. We subsequently potlucked at

Blanka's house with lots of interesting food and good conversation. Participants were Sylvia Dawson, Lorraine Resoff, Dave Carter, Bill Geibel, John Savage, Nancy Rockwell, Roz Shirack, Nancy Arntson, David Jackson, Allan King, Linda Willnow, Blanka Trunekova, Frances Hernandez, Rosamund Irwin, Joanne DeMay, Wayne Wallace, Ken Ash, Penny Wylie and Bill Wylie.

New Years Day XC Ski, January 1

Ken Ash, Bill Caldwell, Steve Dougherty, Jack Keegan and Trish Winkler skied up Big Meadows road on the first scheduled XC of the year and the season that actually happened as planned. Snow was so good we didn't stop till we got to Mt. View Shelter, about 8.65 miles RT. We hauled out 2 garbage bags of trash someone had thoughtfully left.

Warrior Rock, January 7

This trip was a hike along the Columbia River on Sauvie Island. We were treated to some misty sprinkles on the drive to the trailhead, but the weather improved and held good for our hike to Warrior Rock. After stopping at the little store by the bridge to the island to obtain our parking permit (fee now \$7.50) we arrived at the trailhead about 10 am to start our hike. We spotted several eagles on our way to the trailhead. After making sure everyone had arrived and after introductions we began our hike. We stayed on the beach along the Columbia for a short distance before turning left and into the island forest area to pick up the trail. The signing is a little awkward at the start regarding access to the field at the trailhead. Walking on the beach eliminates this problem. We passed two men on the beach fishing for sturgeon. No luck so far. After hiking through the mixed cottonwood forest on a good trail we arrived at Warrior Rock lighthouse and had lunch there enjoying the view and the river traffic. Beaver apparently also had a meal at Warrior Rock not too long ago as there was considerable evidence of their work in the area. After lunch we walked a short distance almost to the end of the island and were able to look across to the community of St. Helens. We returned to the trailhead and counted noses as the group was quite large. With all accounted for we headed for home agreeing that we had had a very enjoyable day. Those on the trip were G. Duxbury, L. Harms, B. Dolp, B. Cardwell, L. Reily, R Graves, A. Hanus, E. Collier, B. Belshaw, M. Hook, B. Trunekova, D. Foulger, K. Blocksom, M. Pennington, M. Elliott, A. King, C. Li, H. Wang, M. Thomassen, J. Poyer, M. Fortune and coleaders J. DeMay and D. Carter.

Maxwell Butte Loop X-Ski, January 23

After days of watching the weather forecasts and (lack of) snow levels an opening finally appeared on Monday Jan. 23. By moving a regularly scheduled ski trip a couple of days early we were able to ski on a beautiful cloudless day on one of the northern loops in Maxwell Butte to the Mountain View Shelter for lunch. The views of snow-covered Jefferson, Three Fingered Jack, Washington, and the Sisters were magnificent. The snow was just about right for following our own tracks for a rapid return trip to Big Meadow Road on which we were able to dust off some downhill skills. At the vehicles we also got a couple of reminders.....always take an extra key.... and always carry a metal coat hanger, just in case. The story had a happy ending. Skiers: Bob Young, Mary

Liepins, Neil Peterson, Carol Doolittle, Bill Caldwell, Sharon Wright, and leader Don Gallagher.



Maxwell Butte Ski: Mary Liepins, Bob Young, Neil Peterson, Carol Doolittle, Bill Caldwell photo Don Gallagher

Mt Pisgah, February 4

We had a beautiful sunny February day for this hike south of Eugene. We started out at the north trailhead, through meadows, then joined the main trail to the summit. We could see Diamond Peak and the Sisters from there while we ate lunch. On our return we hiked through the arboretum where we took in the old barn and the octopus tree, an old incense cedar. We agreed that Mt Pisgah is a real gem for winter hiking. Hikers were Jim Rastorfer, Mike and Petra Berger, Melba Boyd, Marcia Kenagy, Debra Dawes, Mary Elliot, Kim Wentz, and John Huff leader.

Silver Falls Hike, February 8

The falls were magnificent! Six of us met at the Lodge for an 8+ mile trek with a cumulative elevation gain of 1215' according to Garmin. Saw many new falls and a few old ones due to the closed, storm damaged, canyon trails. Despite rain showers the participants who enjoyed the day were: Chet Zenone, Debra Dawes, Sylvia Dawson, David Jackson, Tim Taylor and leader, Sue MacDonald.



Mt. Bailey across Diamond Lake

THE GREAT PCT ADVENTURE: CASCADE LOCKS TO THE CALIFORNIA BORDER

This article was written by Ray Drapek, the guy we have to thank for envisioning this adventure and planning every campsite along the 498 miles of the way.

A California border crossing never meant so much.... to me anyway. There was a flurry of pictures of the members of the “fab four” standing next to the border sign. The fab four consists of me, Joanne DeMay, Allan King, and David Fox. We were the original four who started hiking the Pacific Crest Trail 8 years ago at the Columbia Gorge heading south. Each year we picked up where we left off the year before and kept going. Our PCT hikes ranged from 4 to 9 days. Three of us made all 8 years and have hiked the entire Oregon PCT. David had to miss one year. Now, we realize that as hiking feats go this is not really all that ground-breaking. We have passed many through-hikers over the years, and presumably a significant percentage of them make the entire PCT from Mexico to Canada in a single season. Whereas they'll hike anywhere from 20-30+ miles in a day, for us any day over 10 miles was a big day. Still I think we had it over them for quality versus quantity. Usually by mid-afternoon we were done hiking for the day. We often had an opportunity for a refreshing swim and a leisurely dinner. At dusk as we sat around the campfire telling jokes and solving the world's problems we would often see the headlamps of through-hikers as they tried to squeeze in as many miles as they possibly could. Joanne noted the “1000 mile stare” on many of their faces.

Two things can make for a memorable backpack: 1) finding amazing places or 2) experiencing (and surviving) nature at its worst. We had many opportunities to score both ways. Our hike in the Jefferson Wilderness was cut short one year when the trail ahead was closed due to raging wildfires. We passed a couple of through-hikers who had come out of the burn area, and they spoke of walking a ridge-line and looking at flames coming up the hill towards them from below: “So I like... said.....hey dude do you think maybe we should start running?” They made some fast tracks and thankfully came out OK. Then there was our camp at George Lake on Mt.

Washington. George Lake sits in a little bowl that funnels the winds, and we managed to arrive as a storm blew in. Howling winds and sub-freezing temperatures made for a very chilly night. There was no breakfast the next morning. We packed as fast as we could and headed down the trail. By mid-morning the warm sun reflecting off the lava flows near Little Belknap crater gave us enough of a respite for a snack. But by evening at South Matthieu Lake the storm came on again. I dove into my tent around 6 pm and didn't emerge until morning. But what a glorious morning it was. The sun was out, we brushed the snow off our tents, and then admired a spectacular view of North Sister with a brilliant white covering of fresh snow.

And then there was the Sky Lakes Wilderness. We had three days of nearly unrelenting rain. Your choice was to splash down the stream which was the trail, or to make your way through the soaking wet thick underbrush next to the trail. For two evenings the rain did stop long enough for Joanne to somehow miraculously get a fire started. I don't know how she did it given that everything for 50 miles around was soaking wet. Those fires probably saved some of us from serious cases of hypothermia. We were close to 20 miles from the nearest road and would have been in really bad shape. But the warm fire didn't prevent me from picking up a case of what the GI's used to call “trench foot”. Thank goodness for modern antibiotics.


Water is the main constraint I worked with when planning these trips, even in wet Oregon. The “PCT Data Book” generally provides good information on reliable water sources, but not always. For example there was the small “lakelet” 2.3 miles north of Windigo Pass, or rather the infamous disappearing pond. When we arrived, the basin of what had been the lakelet was easy to spot, but all that was left was a very small shallow pond in the middle. It was crowded with the dying remnants of what had once been the lake's fauna. The water was so shallow it was hard to collect from, so Joanne dug a small hole near the edge. The next morning when we got up the pond had receded to a small puddle. Joanne's hole

was at least 20 feet away from the edge of the puddle. It was as if someone had pulled the plug in the bathtub and all the water had drained out below. But the biggest water challenge was a 26-mile stretch between Mt. Thielsen and the South Rim Village at Crater Lake. We actually cheated on that stretch and left a cache of water near Grouse Hill. We also left Barry Wulff to mind the cache, which had a double advantage: when we arrived at Grouse Hill Barry had picked up some pizzas from the Diamond Lake Lodge.

People have asked me where the really great places were along the trail, and I usually say you already know about them: Jefferson Park, Crater Lake, and virtually any time you are near any of Oregon's signature peaks. But some of our favorites were small places, memorable campsites that stick out in our memories. I couldn't list them all in this article, but I'll mention a few. First are the dark and spooky woods at the top of Benson Plateau just south of the Columbia Gorge. Large conifers (we think they were noble firs) were dropping massive cones all around us. It would have been good to have helmets that night. Then there is Wasco Lake, just north of Three Fingered Jack. We had hiked for hours through the devastation of the wildfires from the year before. Several ponds, which might have served as nice campsites in another year turned out to be devoid of foliage and filled with dust and ash. We were all hot, tired, and grumpy. Wasco Lake came into view like an oasis. There still were living trees around it, lots of shade, and the lake was clean and ideal for a good swim. That night as we ate dinner crowds of the most brazen deer ever surrounded our campsite. It was a little creepy since they far out-numbered us and pushed ever closer as we tried to eat our dinner. In year 8 we entered the Soda Mountain Wilderness hot and tired. The campsite I had selected for the night near the base of Soda Mountain had been panned by several sources. The water was a muck hole, and we were told we would be better off to hike two miles to the next spring. The problem was we were really bushed and wanted to stop ASAP. So with minimal expectations we hiked down to the muck hole only to find that a pipe with crystal clear water fed the muck hole. There was a beautiful meadow and if you crossed to the other side you had a spectacular view of the Rogue Valley. At sundown a couple of us sat and watched as the lights of Ashland began to glow below.

For the last 8 years the annual PCT trip has been a highlight of my year. It always feels like a reunion when the gang gets back together and starts out for another trek. Every year we've had 1-3 additional companions join in and all have been great company. Campfire conversations are always animated. It has been fun getting to meet some of the through-hikers. They come from all corners of the globe. Those who have stopped to talk often have amazing stories to tell. I hope that in another few years I will have the chance to write another article like this one about our trek up through Washington.



 **Shemeketan**
P.O. Box 864
Salem, OR 97308

**Periodicals
Postage Paid
at Salem, Oregon**

