



## **AWG-PNW 2018 Field Trip**

### ***Klamath Mountains and Oregon Caves National Monument***

**Dates: September 8-10, 2018  
(Saturday-Monday)**

**Location: Cave Junction, OR**



Please join us for a three-day field trip in the beautiful Klamath Mountains in southwestern Oregon and northwestern California! This trip will focus on the Klamath accreted terranes, comprised of a classic ophiolite sequence and varied metamorphic rocks. For those with more time, this trip could comprise part of a longer trip. Options on the way down or back include the Oregon and northern California coast, a trip across the Cascades past Crater Lake, or a short detour from Grants Pass to Ashland for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival (there are no plays on Mondays).

**Leaders: Sheila Alfsen** (Geology Instructor at Portland State Univ., Chemeketa CC, and Linn-Benton CC) and **Roger Brandt**. Roger (now retired) was in charge of education at Oregon Caves National Monument and still lives in Cave Junction. Sheila lived in Cave Junction for 14 years.

#### **Description:**

Straddling the southwest corner of Oregon and the northwest corner of California (see map on the last page), the Klamath Mountains is a most interesting physiographic and geologic province. It consists of a series of terranes that accreted during the Mesozoic Era, adding to the extent and complexity of North America's west coast. Time permitting, we'll stop at the redwood forest.

On our first day (Saturday Sept. 8), we will drive toward Crescent City, CA and examine the Josephine Ophiolite, part of the Klamath accreted terrane and one of the most complete and best exposed ophiolites on Earth. We will view parts of this ocean floor sequence as they are exposed in various locations along the scenic Smith River. That evening, Sheila will give a presentation about the geology of the area and the caves.

On our second day (Sunday Sept. 9), we will explore the Oregon Caves NM, including taking a cave tour. The tours last approximately 90 minutes and involve walking, stooping at times, and climbing staircases. Although not as large as cave systems in other parts of the country, the Oregon Caves are unique in that they are formed out of marble rather than limestone. The Visitor Center has a bookstore and cave exhibit, as well as a cafe, so we'll spend some time there.

On our third day (Monday Sept. 10), we will have an additional (and optional) trip to the entrance to the scenic and wild Illinois River Corridor. Here we will see some contacts between terranes and the rock alteration that occurred during the accretion process. The Illinois River Valley boasts other attractions, including wineries, a large-cat park, the Kerbyville Museum and an authentic blacksmith shop.

We expect to start each day no earlier than 9 am and end no later than 6 pm (3 pm on Monday).



## Pacific Northwest Chapter 2018 Klamath Mts. Field Trip

**Lodging options:** For the 3 nights of Friday Sept. 7 through Sunday Sept. 9, we have booked a large group campground that will accommodate several tents, a cabin with 3 beds with a kitchenette for group use, and 3 motel rooms, each with 2 double beds, at **Country Hills Resort** ([www.countryhillsresort.com](http://www.countryhillsresort.com)), located about halfway up the road from Cave Junction to Oregon Caves National Monument. The campground has bathrooms with pay showers. The cabin and motel rooms have bathrooms. The motel rooms have air conditioning; the cabin has a swamp cooler instead of air conditioning, but by mid-September, days are warm and nights are cool. (The average high in September is 88° and the average low is 45°.) There are a few other motels in Cave Junction as well as the Chateau at Oregon Caves (if you want fancier – and more expensive – digs), as well as other campgrounds in the area. Motels in particular tend to fill up early, so if you're fairly sure you want to attend but don't want to stay with the group at Country Hills Resort (or if you want your own private campground space there), we urge you to make your own bookings soon. If you want to come as a couple and share a king bed at Country Hills Resort, they only have one such motel room, so you should book it for yourself ASAP at 541-592-3406. Finally, if you wish to have a single motel room, or if you don't wish to stay in a room for all three nights, please book your own room.

**Food:** Everyone will be responsible for their own food, including making your own lunches. (The cafe at Oregon Caves MN serves lunch, so you may not need to pack a lunch the second day.) Campers should bring coolers for their food, but there is a full refrigerator in the kitchen in the cabin for those staying in the motel. On the field trip driving days, we'll take a cooler along with ice for people to put their lunches, snacks, and (space permitting) drinks in. Those staying in the cabin or motel rooms can get a continental breakfast at the office starting around 6:30 am, but it's only hot drinks (coffee, tea, cocoa) and pastries, so you may wish to bring food to supplement that, along with your lunch provisions. For those who require real coffee, there's a Dutch Brothers coffee store (opens 5 am) in Cave Junction about 10 minutes back down the road, as well as a bagel place and a proper restaurant that both open at 7 am. Campers may wish to cook their own dinners (at the campground or in the cabin); otherwise, there are 5 or 6 restaurants with a wide range of cuisines serving dinner in Cave Junction. There is also a Shop Smart grocery store in Cave Junction (open from 7 am to 10 pm) if you wish to get your supplies there (and boost the local economy). A few necessities, including ice and ice cream, are available at Country Hills Resort when the office is open.

**Cost:** It will be late July before we can set final prices, mainly because that's when we'll know how many people are attending. We will require a **deposit of \$40 by July 15 (non-refundable after July 25)**. The tentative base price for AWG members will be **\$95**, which covers no lodging or camping arrangements – i.e., you make your own arrangements. This fee is to cover leader expenses, a guidebook, and subsidies for a limited number of student members of AWG. If you stay at the group campground (which is reserved for Friday through Sunday nights), you will need to pay an additional \$5 for the 3 nights, or **\$100**. If you wish to have a bed in one of the motel rooms (double occupancy) or in the cabin with Sheila and me (triple occupancy), you will need to pay an additional \$115 for the 3 nights, or **\$210**. Non-members of AWG are welcome to come, but will need to add an extra \$20 to the base price. Again, these prices are all **tentative** and conservative and are meant only for planning purposes at this point. Once we know how many people will come based on how many paid the deposit, we'll set a final, likely lower, price in late July, and ask for balance payments by August 31. If it turns out that you each pay your own cave tour admission fee, the price will all be about \$10 less. If we email the guidebook for you to print out (or just those portions you want to bring along) on your own, that will reduce the price. Finally, the more participants we have signed up by July 15, the lower the final price. Please encourage your friends to come!

**Transportation:** We will not be renting any vans, but we will try to help organize carpools, both on the way to/from Cave Junction and during the trip. Sheila's house in Dallas, OR (about 10 miles west of Salem) will

be available to those who wish to break up the long trip, especially those headed back to points north of Portland. She can offer tent space in her large flat back yard and floor space (and a very limited number of couch/bed spaces) in her house.

**For information on registering:** If you're interested in coming or have questions, please contact **Marcia Knadle** at [marciaawg@aol.com](mailto:marciaawg@aol.com) or call or text her at **206-718-3183**. She will send you information on how to register. AWG student members who wish to get a \$30 discount should register ASAP, since there are a limited number of discounts, and they are first-come, first served. Same goes if you wish to stay at Sheila's house on the way down or back. Please say if you wish to stay in the campground or in our room block (double or triple occupancy). If we don't have at least 8 people signed up by the end of July, we will likely cancel the trip, in which case, all deposits will be refunded.

