



Pacific Northwest Chapter

SAVE THE DATES for the Mt. St. Helens 40th Anniversary Field Trip

May 15-18, 2020

A remarkable number of our chapter members were living in this region – and many affected to varying degrees – by the eruption of Mount St. Helens (MSH) nearly 40 years ago on May 18, 1980. Some were first-hand witnesses. For example, our chapter Vice President, Mindy Brugman (Environment Canada), and our former Scholarship Committee Chair, Carolyn Driedger (USGS-CVO), were visiting MSH on May 17 and were dissuaded from their plan to camp in one of the mountain's drainages by Dave Johnston, as you know if you saw the *We'll Meet Again* program featuring MSH survivors that PBS aired in 2018 (<https://www.pbs.org/video/rescued-from-mount-st-helens-0ec34w/>).

With all the chapter member connections and local eye witnesses willing to share their stories, it seems appropriate to plan an event to reminisce, look at the changes over the past 40 years, and participate in some of the events being planned by a coalition of organizations (including the USGS's Cascades Volcano Observatory) for that Commemoration Weekend. Mindy and Carolyn will be our co-leaders. A preliminary itinerary is being developed and will be updated as the MSH 1980 Eruption 40th Anniversary plans are officially finalized. We plan to have a few optional events in the Portland area starting the afternoon of Friday May 15. Lodging that night will be on your own. The official field trip group activities will start early in the afternoon of May 16 and continue into the afternoon of Monday May 18. Some of these activities will depend on the weather since they include geologic and nature hikes. We've made arrangements to stay for the nights of May 16 and 17 at the MSH Institute's Science and Learning Center, which is the closest lodging available to Johnston Ridge, about a half hour away. There are real twin beds (some of which are bunk beds) and a big kitchen, so we'll be providing food to prepare our breakfasts and dinners and pack lunches from dinner on the 16th through lunch on the 18th. Between activities, we'll be caravanning, consolidating into as few cars as possible. The tentative price is \$170 for AWG members. A limited number of discounts will be available for student members of AWG (deeper for those willing to be food coordinators). We'll help to organize carpools and, if there is sufficient interest and we have volunteer drivers, may organize rental vans from Seattle and/or Portland at a separate cost for riders. For those who wish to use public transportation, we plan to coordinate pickups at the nearest train and bus station (in Kelso, WA) the morning of May 16.

If you'd like to attend, mark your calendar. Please also contact Marcia Knadle at president@awg-ps.org so we'll have some sense of the interest. We'll send out detailed information and begin registration in late March. Space is limited, so sign up early!