

# Eyewitness Stories of the May 18, 1980 Eruption – Program Schedule

Sunday, May 17, 2015 – Mount St. Helens Science and Learning Center

Time	Speakers	Story / Location
11:00 -12:00	Mike Iyall Tanna Engdahl Nathan Reynolds Cowlitz Drummers Cowlitz Tribe	The Cowlitz people have had a long spiritual connection and history with Lawetlat'la volcano. In 2013, the significance of Lawetlat'la and this special relationship was recognized through the listing of Mount St. Helens as a Traditional Cultural Property in the National Register of Historic Places. The presentation will be preceded by a performance by the Cowlitz Drummers.
12:30 – 1:15	Carolyn Driedger, U.S. Geological Survey	U.S. Geological Survey scientist David Johnston was one of the 57 people killed during the May 18, 1980 eruption. Discover the monitoring underway by USGS and the Univ. of WA prior to May 18 <sup>th</sup> and the story behind the events that led Johnston to his post at a monitoring site located 5½ miles north of the volcano.
1:15 –2:00	Annie Sullivan Joe Sullivan Mark Dahl	A brief stop for a short walk in the South Fork of the Toutle River valley saved this group from certain death. As the lateral blast burst out the mountainside and surged down the valley towards them they leapt into their truck and found themselves in a race for their lives.
2:00 –2:45	Richard Waitt Liz Westby U.S. Geological Survey  Readings from the new book <i>“In the Path of Destruction Eyewitness Chronicles of Mount St. Helens”</i>	<p>Trixie Anders and Barry Johnston owe their lives to a decision to eat breakfast, which delayed their return to their camp and friend Jim Fitzgerald on Spud Mtn eight miles west of the volcano. While driving back to their campsite they witnessed the eruption and managed to turn around and outrun the approaching blast cloud.</p> <p>Roald Reitan and Venus Dergun were camped beside the South Fork of the Toutle River 26 miles west of the volcano when a massive mudflow engulfed their campsite. Their will to survive took over as this young couple was swept away in a river of concrete-like-mud and logs.</p>
2:45 – 3:30	Keith Ronnholm Gary Rosenquist	Camped 11½ miles northeast of the volcano near Bear Meadows, the two captured incredible photographs of the collapsing north flank of the volcano and the lateral blast. The blast traveled 11 miles in an astonishing minute and thirty seconds and, fortunately, stopped ½-mile before reaching their campsite allowing Keith and Gary to escape with incredible pictures and an amazing story.
3:30 – 4:15	Dick Zais, Former City Manager, Yakima, Washington	On May 18, 1980 residents of Yakima, Washington discovered that volcanoes can have far-reaching effects. Living in an incredibly dusty world, covered with volcanic ash presented unique and unexpected challenges.