

Issaquah Alps Trails Club

"The Apparatus"

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Roy Thompson • 831-6339
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*The Alpiner is published in
January, April, July and October by
The Issaquah Alps Trails Club.
P.O. Box 351, Issaquah, WA 98027.
Subscriptions: \$10 per year.
Alpiner mailing list:
Ellen Bloomquist • 392-5470
Editor: Rodi Ludlum • 643-4095*

ALPINER

April • May • June 1991

Smile when you say 'Issaquah Alps'-- we have 15 years of unity and victory

by Harvey Manning
Chairman of the Board

In 1976, in the pages of a brand new publication, *The Weekly*, I performed a miracle. My article, "Rambles in the Issaquah Alps" caught the attention of certain citizens who had been making creative noises in public. Though much time had to pass before they could utter the name I'd bestowed without giggling, the creation--and the unity it expressed--provided the basis of bringing a number of fragmentary agendas into a great big whole. And so, in 1979, the giggling having subsided, the Issaquah Alps Trails Club was born.

I would like to mark the 15th anniversary of the creation of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club by briefly reviewing the games we've won and those remaining on our schedule before the Playoffs (that is, Armageddon).

COUGAR MOUNTAIN

Major and historic victory:
Cougar Mountain Regional
Wildland Park

Works in progress:

1. The Wildside Trail, China Summit, and headwaters wetlands of China Creek must be added to the park. Presently they are in the clutches of the garbage man who now proposes to install a "Western Village" with the obligatory golf course. This laps over onto the slopes of the Curious Valley which has the most popular wildland walking paths in the park--and in the entirety of King County.

2. May Creek County Park must be fleshed out to completion and linked by greenbelt trail corridors to Coal Creek County Park and the Regional Wildland Park. Further, these parks must be protected from invasion by non-park facilities (sewers, stormwater retention ponds, streets and highways). Presently, all parks are officially considered to be "public use areas" which engineers can appropriate for their constructions with no consideration of park values and no compensation of values destroyed and no public notice.

Continued on page 3

'Return to Newcastle' celebrates coal-mining history

King County Parks will again sponsor "Return to Newcastle", our annual celebration of history, parks and open space on Sunday, June 2, from 10 to 5. Historical artifacts will be displayed along with photos and maps. Former miners and thier families will attend to tell about the glory and not-so-glory days of King Coal in what now is King County's largest park. King County will arrange musical entertainment, good food will be on sale and the Trails Club will lead history walks and hikes throughout the day. Trails Club books and maps will be for sale. Spend an hour or the whole day!

There will be a continuous work party on Saturday, June 1, starting at 9 a.m. to help with setting up and trail maintenance. On Sunday, June 2, a number of volunteers will be needed to help at the information table, sell maps and books and lead walks and hikes. Call Mary Cadigan (641-4046) to volunteer. The club also provides overnight security for the site on Saturday and Sunday. David Kappler (392-3571) and his daughters will be staying overnight and welcome all who want to bring their own tent, sleep under the county's big tops or roll in their RV. We will need a Sunday night crew as well.

Cougar Mountain trails improved following winter floods

Cougar Mountain park staff have just completed a new re-route of the Marshall's Hill trail. The new 1/2-mile route replaces the steep "water-chute" road with meandering wooded switchbacks to views of Radio Peak, the Coal Creek Valley, Indian Marsh and Far Country Hill.

During trail construction, fossil leaf prints were found in the hillside rock and both deer and cougar tracks were seen in the fresh dirt. The trail does serve as a horse route so it was made wide and it will remain rough for some time. Park staff will add gravel as necessary and also hope to revegetate the trail edges with native plants and flowers this spring.

Completed earlier this winter was a horse-route bypass of the "Ballpark" area necessitated by our last "100-year flood" (Coal Creek was cut down more than three feet at the old trail crossing. A small footbridge will still allow hik-

ers to cross there, but horses are no longer able to ford at the end of Red Town trail and then proceed along the new trail section near the south bank of Coal Creek.)

On the Task List for this spring is extensive drainage and gravel work and the installation of more log "water bars" to divert rainwater off the trails.

One fun benefit of our snowy winter was "skating" on Cave-Hole pond's one-foot-thick ice. Another benefit was the ability to verify animal populations by tracks in the snow. Deer, coyote, and smaller mammals were in abundance, but bobcat, black bear and even cougar were present in December. (It's really a thrill to find animal tracks that are larger than your own hiking boots!)

The park staff welcomes your suggestions and comments on their message phone: 296-4145.

--Steve Williams

Why wait for the weekend? Take a weekly Wednesday walk

Weekly "Wednesday Walks" are held in the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park area, both on official and exploratory trails. The meeting time is 9 a.m. at the Red Town trailhead parking area. Call Jim Cadigan at 641-4046 for directions and confirmation that the hike will take place on a given Wednesday.

The hike ratings will range from 2B to 3C depending on the hikers, weather

and trail conditions. Elevation gain may accumulate 1,200 feet, but will generally be in short segments (200-300 feet) with level and downhill periods prevailing.

For regular hikers who ordinarily are drawn to more distant environments, these walks will give you a mid-week workout when you don't have time to go for the higher peaks.

Trails Club board meetings are open to everyone

The Trails Club Board of Directors meets monthly to discuss the State of the Alps and plan club activities. Members are welcome to sit and listen--and speak up.

If you have a subject you want to discuss at length, call Dave Kappler to arrange space on the agenda. If the matter can be handled in brief, speak to Dave before he calls the group to order so you will not be overlooked.

If you would like to observe how the club operates and hear about the issues it has on the griddle and are as con-

cerned for the future of the area as we are, you may well be fascinated. If you attend two consecutive meetings, the Volunteer Coordinator is likely to come after you to ask what job you'd like to take on. Attend half a dozen consecutive meetings and you may find yourself elected to the board. But take the chance anyhow.

Meeting are held at the Issaquah Community Hall on Sunset Way east of Front Street, next to the fire station. As of this quarter, meetings have been switched to Mondays: April 22, May 20 and June 24.

North-South greenway connections explored in twice-monthly hikes

Jack Hornung and Stan Unger will continue their explorations of the north-south connections to the I-90 Greenway this winter. These hikes are scheduled for the first and third Saturdays of the month: April 6 and 20, May 4 and 18 and June 1 and 15. All are tentatively scheduled to meet at the Issaquah McDonald's at 8 a.m., but be sure to call Jack at 545-9122 or Stan at 283-7823 or 296-8657 to confirm the meeting place.

These will be exploratory full day hikes of perhaps 10-15 miles, probably lasting to about suppertime. They will be taken at a moderate pace but without mountainous ascents and descents. There may be some bushwacking, so come prepared.

The county's proposed interurban trails system will connect the urban areas in western King County with each other as well as with the I-90 Greenway. People living in Renton, Auburn, Redmond, Duvall, Bothell, Snoqualmie and other areas around the Greenway are especially encouraged to come along and help scout these trails.

We also encourage the equestrian and cycling communities, since the proposed county trail system is intended to be multi-purpose.

To avoid misunderstanding, especially about liability in case of injury, we would like to emphasize that these hikes are not sponsored by the Issaquah Alps Trails Club. They are simply explorations long planned by Jack and Stan on which others are welcome to come at their own risk. There will be some road hiking

Trail maintenance workshops offered

The Volunteers for Outdoor Washington are sponsoring a series of two-day trail maintenance workshops April 20-21, May 4-5, May 18-19, June 1-2, June 15-16, June 29-30 and July 13-14.

For more information call 545-4868 or write VOW, 4516 University Way N.E., Seattle, WA 98105.

Climb all the Alps on the longest day of the year

The Fourth Annual Grand Issaquah Alps Traverse is scheduled for Saturday, June 22. This year's route will begin at Preston and end at Newcastle Beach Park on Lake Washington, traversing the summit of West Tiger Mountain 3 plus the high points of Squak and Cougar Mountains.

The hike will be about 28 miles long and total elevation gain about 5500 feet. Though the pace will be moderate, the distance and elevation gain are considerable: participants should be confident that they can handle an effort of this magnitude. Because June 22 is the longest day of the year, flashlights should not be necessary, but should be taken as a precaution.

Hikers will be asked whether their pace is average or faster-than-average and groups will be organized accordingly.

ly. Slower-than-average hikers should stand aside and wave as the swifties go by. All participants will be required to stay with the group and the leader to which they are assigned for the entire traverse.

To register, send your name, address, phone, and hiking pace in a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

Alps Traverse
5908 S. Prentice
Seattle, WA 98178

When you write, let us know if you have a van or other large vehicle to transport several hikers. Detailed instructions for the traverse will be mailed to you.

The first Grand Traverse was held October 29, 1988, the second on September 30, 1989, and the third on July 6 and 7, 1990 as a segment of the Mountains-to-Sound March.

Can't sleep during the full moon? Take an all-night hike instead

The Trails Club will lead a moonlight, dusk-to-dawn traverse of mighty Tiger Mountain July 26-27 in a nocturnal reverse enactment of the middle day of the Mountain to Sound March. The hike will begin in Issaquah and end in Preston with shorter options.

Save this evening and morning when an unusual summer celestial confluence makes possible this spectacular hike. Climb in early evening to West Tiger 3 and watch the sun set over the Olympics. Then relive that magic moment in September of 1988 when the first Grand Traversers gazed spellbound as the lights of Puget Sound City twinkled on--strewn across the night landscape like phosphorescent plankton on an inky sea. Watch the full moon's early rise to guide us in its lunar wash as we hike on the safe and convenient service roads to most of Tiger's peaks.

Then we will hike to east Tiger as the moon's ghostly lantern descends toward the horizon and Aurora's golden glory brings forth the new day over the Cascades to the east. (Unless it rains, of course.) Then to Preston.

If you can't make the whole event, that's no reason to stay home! Partial versions may include an evening ascent and return descent back to Issaquah or

High Point, a very early morning, shorter walk on the railroad grade trail from Issaquah to Preston, joining the main group there.

Full details will appear in the next Alpinist. Let us know of your interest by calling 545-9122 or 391-8027.



Photo: Susan M. Viles-Mussey

Gary Locke, chair of the House appropriations committee and strong supporter of the "I-90 Greenway", was an honored guest at the Trails Club annual potluck in March.

...15 years of Alps

Continued from page 1

3. The Military Road and Red Town Creek, on the boundary of the park, are crucial to the wildland. A subdivision is being planned precisely beside the Military Road. The City of Bellevue holds the whip hand; we need to pump enough muscle into the whip to require a developer's dedication of a buffering greenbelt. Lacking that, we will pursue every administrative and judicial avenue to save Military Road.

4. Issaquah and King County must immediately get about annexing to the Regional Wildland Park the wildlands on the east side of Cougar, including Protector Ridge, West Tibbetts Canyon, Bear Ridge and the Claypit Canyon. The floods of 1990 have pretty much sunk the ship of any developer trying to pull off a grand-scale "East Village", but the last nail must be driven in Dracula's coffin so a sane development can be contemplated.

5. The Precipice Trail along the north side of Cougar from Lewis Gorge to Goode's Corner Trail is partly guaranteed under terms of the January 1991 annexation of 300 acres to the City of Issaquah. (Warning: promises by developers and their expeditors in government are good only as long as citizens stand by with loaded muskets; the "North Village" developers have repeatedly demonstrated they cannot be trusted.) From Kline Gorge east, The Precipice is in private ownership, the only trail-corridor dedication being in the Summerhill neighborhood. The Issaquah City trail planner has put the Precipice Trail on his map, but only continuing attention and positive action by the city can assure the trail corridor.

6. Lewis Gorge is as superb a wildland as exists on Cougar. The Trails Club is unalterably opposed to building Lakemont Boulevard through that splendid gash in The Precipice. But neither does it support any substitute giant construction through The Precipice; when God created the feature once referred to by a Mayor of Bellevue as a "Chinese wall that must be

There's more! See page 7

April 1991 Hikes and Events

Wednesday April 3
Work party 9 a.m.
Meet at 1st and Andrews.

* Wednesday Walk
Jim Cadigan 641-4046

Thursday April 4
Squak Mt. South Loop. Phil's
Creek to Central Peak to West
Peak to Bullit Creek Gorge
3C 8:30
Gus Nelson 392-7428

Friday April 5
Cougar Mt. falls and wall
2B 9:30
Betty Culbert 432-7387

Saturday April 6
South Tiger Loop
3B 9 a.m.
Ted Thomsen 454-8693

**North-South Connections to
I-90 Greenway: exploratory
hikes.

Sunday April 7
West Tiger Mt.
Hidden Estates Trail
2C 9:30
Warren Jones 284-0748

Tradition Lake Plateau
2A 1 p.m.
Ted Thomsen 454-8643

Monday April 8
Tiger Mt. Leader's Choice
3C 9 a.m.
Patty Olwell 391-6719

Wednesday April 10
Preston, Lake Alice family hike
1A 10 a.m.
Peggy Barchi 432-5446

Work party 9 a.m.
Meet at 1st and Andrews.

APRIL 1991

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28	29	30				

Saturday April 13
Little Si
1B 12:30
Bob Gross 392-0539

Sunday April 14
Work party, Licorice Fern area.
Tools will be provided.
9 a.m.
John Johnson 633-3805

Monday April 15
Cougar Mt. falls and wall
2B 9:30
Betty Culbert 432-7387

Wednesday April 17
Work party 9 a.m.
Meet at 1st and Andrews.

* Wednesday Walk
Jim Cadigan 641-4046

Saturday April 20
Tiger Mt. Trail --
"The Whole Thing"
4D 8 a.m.
Joe Toynbee 723-6716

**North-South Connections to
I-90 Greenway: exploratory
hikes.

Sunday April 21
Cougar Mt. --
Red Town historic hike
2B 1 p.m.
Ann Leber 746-3291

Tradition Lake Plateau
2B 1 p.m.
Dave Kappler 392-3571

Monday April 22
Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Issaquah Community Hall
(next to the fire station)

Wednesday April 24
Work party 9 a.m.
Meet at 1st and Andrews.

Saturday April 27
Flower identification walk.
Slow pace (50-100 flowers)
2A 9 a.m.
Bill Longwell 255-1295

Sunday April 28
Wilderness Peak to
Longview Lookout
2B 9:30
Karen Van Pelt 747-9381

Tradition Lake --Tiger Caves
2B 1 p.m.
Clifton Cooper 932-3124

Tuesday April 30
Tiger Mt. leader's choice
3C 8:30
Joanne Howe 432-0741

* See "Wednesday Walks", pg.2

** See "North-South Connections", pg. 2

May 1991 Hikes and Events

Wednesday May 1
Work party 9 a.m.
Meet at 1st and Andrews.

* Wednesday Walk
Jim Cadigan 641-4046

Friday May 3
Cougar Mt.--a wild forest, a pit
and a big rock 2B 9:30
Betty Culbert 432-7387

Flower identification walk on
paved King County trail
1A 6:30 p.m.
Bill Longwell 255-1295

Saturday May 4
Squak Mt. perimeter loop
sections 4,3,10,9,5,4
3C 8:30 Gus Nelson 392-7428

**North-South Connections to
I-90 Greenway: exploratory
hikes.

Sunday May 5
Peak and a half--Cougar to
Squak and return
4D 9:00
Ralph Owen 746-1070

Tradition Lake Plateau
2A 1 p.m.
Ted Thomsen 454-8643

Tuesday May 7
Little Si 2C 9:30
Al Blalock 746-4155
Ed Bowser 747-3349

Wednesday May 8
Work party 9 a.m.
Meet at 1st and Andrews.

Friday May 10
Tiger Mt. Poo Poo Pt.
from High Point 3C 9 a.m.
Tom Palm 783-6005

Saturday May 11
Cougar Mt. -- Bear Ridge
AA Peak, wildflowers 3B 9 a.m.
Gail Palm 783-6005

MAY 1991

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Tiger Mt. caves
2B 12:30 Bob Gross 392-0539

Sunday May 12
Adventure Trail, Wetlands Trail--
plant lovers only! 2A 9 a.m.
Fred & Ann Weinman
392-9230

Monday May 13
Tiger Mt. leader's choice
3C 9 a.m.
Will Thompson 488-8592

Tuesday May 14
Tiger Mt. traverse--car exchange
4D 8 a.m.
Joann Howe 432-0741

Wednesday May 15
* Wednesday Walk
Jim Cadigan 641-4046

Work party 9 a.m.
Meet at 1st and Andrews.

Saturday May 18
Tiger Mt. big trees and caves
2C 9:30
Leonard Eisenberg 392-4034

**North-South Connections to
I-90 Greenway: exploratory
hikes.

Cougar Mt.-- Wilderness Creek
to Coal Creek falls 3C 9 a.m.
Peggy Owen 746-1070

Sunday May 19
Preston to W. Tiger 3C 9 a.m.
Karen Van Pelt 747-9381

Tradition Lake 2B 1 p.m.
Ann Leber 746-3291

Monday May 20
Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Issaquah Community Hall
(next to the fire station)

Wednesday May 22
Work party 9 a.m.
Meet at 1st and Andrews.

High Point railroad grade--
family hike 1A 10 a.m.
Peggy Barchi 432-5446

Thursday May 23
Twin Falls 2B 9:30
Al Blalock 746-4155
Ed Bowser 747-3349

Saturday May 25
W. Tiger 1 3C 8:30
Trudy Ecob 232-2933

Sunday May 26
Squak Mt. routes of the future
3C 8:30 Gus Nelson 392-7428

Coal Creek to Newcastle & back
2B 12:30 Ralph Owen 746-1070

Monday May 27
Little Si --boots required
2C 10 a.m.
Peggy Owen 746-1070

Wednesday May 29
Tiger Mt. Leader's choice
3C 9 a.m.
Will Thompson 488-8592

Work party 9 a.m.
Meet at 1st and Andrews.

Friday May 31
Squak exploration
3C 9:00 Mary Cadigan 641-4046

* See "Wednesday Walks", pg.2

** See "North-South Connections, pg. 2

June 1991 Hikes and Events

Saturday June 1

Little Si 2B 8:30

Fred & Ann Weinman

392-9230

****North-South Connections to
I-90 Greenway: exploratory
hikes.**

Return to Newcastle continuous
work party from 9 to 5.

Meet at Red Town

Dave Kappler 392-3571

Sunday June 2

Return to Newcastle.

See article page 1

Tuesday June 4

Middle Tiger loop 3C 8:30

Joann Howe 432-0741

Wednesday June 5

* Wednesday Walk

Jim Cadigan 641-4046

Work party 9 a.m.

Meet at 1st and Andrews.

Friday June 7

Tiger Mt. caves, W. Tiger rail-
road grade, back via TMT loop
3C 9 a.m.

Tom Palm 783-6005

Saturday June 8

Cougar Mt. Big Tree trail on
precipice 3C 9 a.m.

Gail Palm 783-6005

Sunday June 9

Peak hopping on Tiger

4D 9 a.m. Ralph Owen 746-1070

Tradition Lake Plateau
family hike 2B 1 p.m.

Mary Cadigan 641-4046

Tuesday June 11

Tradition Lake plateau

2B 9:30 Al Blalock 746-4155

Ed Bowser 747-3349

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JUNE 1991

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Wednesday June 12

Work party 9 a.m.

Meet at 1st and Andrews.

Kelsey Creek family hike

1A 10 a.m.

Peggy Barchi 432-5446

Friday June 14

Snoqualmie Ridge

bird identification (4 miles)

2A 6:30 p.m.

Bill Longwell 255-1295

Saturday June 15

Cougar Mt.--Doughty Falls,

Longview Peak bushwack

2B 9 a.m.

John Johnson 633-3805

****North-South Connections to
I-90 Greenway: exploratory
hikes.**

Sunday June 16

W. Tiger 3--3C 9 a.m.

Patty Olwell 391-6719

Tradition Lake plateau, lakes and
big trees. Bring the kids.

2B 1 p.m. Tom Wood 391-8027

Wednesday June 19

* Wednesday Walk

Jim Cadigan 641-4046

Work party 9 a.m.

Meet at 1st and Andrews.

Saturday June 22

Grand Alps Traverse--Preston to

Lake Washington 4D PLUS

Joe Toynbee 723-6716

See article page 3.

Sunday June 23

Tradition Lake plateau

1A 1 p.m. Bob Gross 392-0539

Granite Mt.--beyond the Alps--
not a club-sanctioned hike

4D 9 a.m. Tom Wood 391-8027

Monday June 24

Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Issaquah Community Hall

(next to the fire station)

Tuesday June 25

Lake Annette 2B 10 a.m.

Peggy Owen 746-1070

Wednesday June 26

Tiger Mt. leader's choice

3C 9 a.m.

Will Thompson 488-8592

Work party 9 a.m.

Meet at 1st and Andrews.

Thursday June 27

Lake Alice Road, Snoqualmie
Falls 3B 9:30

Al Blalock 746-4155

Ed Bowser 747-3349

Friday June 28

Squak exploration 3C 9 a.m.

Mary Cadigan 641-4046

Saturday June 29

Squak Mt. leader's choice

3C 9:30 Ann Leber 746-3291

Sunday June 30

Cougar Mt. DeLeo wall, Coal

Creek loop 2B 12:30

Ralph Owen 746-1070

* See "Wednesday Walks", pg.2

** See "North-South Connections, pg. 2

Snoqualmie Valley Trails Club Spring Hike Schedule

Saturday April 6
Tolt River Forks & Tolt River
Bridge. 6 miles 700' 2B 9 a.m.
FC Diane Guthrie 788-6755

Saturday April 13
Taylor Mt. logging roads.
8 miles 1500' 3C 9 a.m. FC
Joe Toynbee 723-6716

Friday April 19
Owl hike, spot via Twin Falls
8 miles 2300' 3C 10 a.m. NB
Tom Palm 783-6005

Saturday April 20
Griffin Marsh 8 miles 2A 9:30
FC Pat Brewington 888-2426

Saturday April 27
Dingford Creek and Cripple
Creek Falls 5+ miles 500' 2B
9 a.m. NB Mike Leake 333-4243

Sunday April 28
Dirty Harry's balcony
5 miles 1300' 2C 9 a.m. NB
June Stevens 222-5452

Saturday May 4
Snoqualmie River Valley cleanup
day North Bend ranger district.
For signup and information,
please call Pat Brewington
888-2426.

Sunday May 5
Mt. Washington 10 miles 3350'
4D 9 a.m. NB
Tom Palm 783-6005

Saturday May 11
Exploring the base of Mt.
Washington 3B 10 a.m. NB
John Johnson 633-3805

Saturday May 18
Lake Hancock 7 miles 1200' 2B
9 a.m. NB Diane Guthrie
788-6755

Sunday May 19
W. Defiance Peak--Hiking boots
required. 11 miles 3400' 4D 8:30
NB Jerry Wheeler 242-9344

Saturday May 25
Fuller Mt. 3 mi 850' 2B
9:30 NB Gail Palm 783-6005

Sunday May 26
Mailbox Peak--Hiking boots
required 6 miles 4,000' 4D
8 a.m. NB
Warren Jones 284-0748

Sunday June 2
Celebrate trails! Mt. Si via old
trails. 8 miles 3,450' 4D 9 a.m.
NB Warren Jones 284-0748

Little Si. 5 miles 1200' 2C
10 a.m. NB Pat Brewington
888-2426

Saturday June 8
Quartz Creek. 8 miles 2,800' 3D
8 a.m. NB Warren Jones 284-
0748

...the Alps, the whole Alps and nothing but the Alps

Here it is! Continued from page 3...

breached", she was trying to tell the
City of Bellevue something. So far the
city is deaf. The Trails Club takes a re-
gional stance on Cougar Mountain is-
sues, leaving others the treatment of lo-
cal matters. In March 1991 an organi-
zation was formed that is allied in cer-
tain regional concerns to the Trails
Club but is more specifically local:
"dedicated to the quality of life on Cou-
gar Mountain." For information on
joining write:

Friends of Cougar Mountain
5448 156th Ave. SE
Bellevue, WA 98006
(or call 562-8092)

Squak Mountain

Greatest act of environmental
benevolence in local history:
the gift to the people by
Stimson Bullitt of Squak
Mountain State Park.

Saturday June 15
The search for other trails.
8 miles 600' 3B 9:30 NB
Daucy Brewington 888-2426

Saturday June 22
Rachor Creek exploratory bush-
wack. 3B 10 a.m. NB
John Johnson 633-3805

Sunday June 23
Lakes Talapus and Olallie 6 miles
1,400' noon 2C NB
Clifton Cooper 932-3124

Saturday June 29
Lake Annette 7.5 miles 1,400'
3C NB June Stevens 222-5452

Snoqualmie Valley Trails Club 888-2426

*FC = meet at the Fall City Park
and Ride junction of SR 202 and
203.*

*NB = meet at the North Bend
Park and Ride 4th and Main by
the library.*

And thanks to the voters of
King County who passed the
\$117 million open space bond
issue in 1989, on the moun-
tain's west side down to SR
900, and on the east side down
to the Issaquah-Hobart Road,
there are now more than 400
acres of wildlife travel corri-
dors.

Works in progress:

1. Section 9, 640 acres on the
mountain's south slopes must be ob-
tained. In the spring of 1990 the Wash-
ington Wildlife and Recreation Coali-
tion ranked the property among the top
ten on its statewide wish list. The
Grand Ridge Partnership had just ac-
quired this piece of Northern Pacific
Land Grant for \$500,000. The state
tendered an offer of \$2 million, which
most speculators would consider a very
decent profit. But the Partnership want-
ed \$2.2 million. (For cab fare?) The
state might well have dickered. But the
Partnership neglected the simple cour-
tesy of timely response and the state,

Don't stop now! See page 9

A tribute to the man who said yes to the Tiger Mountain Trail

by Bill Longwell
Chief Ranger

Howard Millan, long-time Weyerhaeuser employee, died last December. Howard was largely responsible for the creation of the Tiger Mountain Trail. He was also a life member of the Trails Club. All of us owe him a great debt.

When I-90 motorists drive past the High Point trailhead and see the hundred cars parked there every weekend, they may remember the days of no parked cars. In those days, the two or three people who hiked Tiger met each other perhaps once every two or three years. Tiger was a true wilderness.

A few interested people spent 10 years planning a different future, but they believed the change--more people on more Tiger trails, more protection for the trails--would never occur in their lifetime.

Howard Millan narrowed the time frame.

In 1972 the Mountaineers, through a committee chaired by Ruth Ittner, formed a subcommittee to build a Tiger Mountain Trail, patterned after the new Mt. Si Trail, also built by the Mountaineers. This group of interested people intended to work with the Department of Natural Resources and Weyerhaeuser. The committee was willing. DNR was willing. Weyerhaeuser was not.

In the fall of 1972, two innocents, Phil Hall and I, met with the manager of Weyerhaeuser's Snoqualmie Mill to discuss the proposed trail. Tiger Mountain was then part of the company's Snoqualmie Tree Farm. Phil and I expected a quick approval of the trail. It didn't come.

Weyerhaeuser's man in Snoqualmie told them that Weyerhaeuser would not approve of such a trail because it would bring too many people, a situation the company could not tolerate. Trail-walkers would constitute a pressure group that would eventually protest Weyerhaeuser clearcutting. People

would eventually drive the company from Tiger. He was right.

So. Sorry. No trail. We retreated with our tails between our legs.

Even though planners could build no trail, they did plan an ever-changing route. For four years, altimeters, red tape, maps and animal trails served these true believers.



Howie Millen (far right) and Buick. Spring 1939.
Photo courtesy Harvey Manning. See page 9.

Also during these years, Ruth Ittner quietly negotiated with Weyerhaeuser for permission to build. She didn't give up. In late 1976 she contacted Howard Millen, Weyerhaeuser's recreation manager.

Howard was the company's first trained forester, its first land buyer and perhaps its first recreation manager. Because of his intense interest in trails, he was appointed to the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail Advisory Council. During the hectic years of Pacific Crest Trail construction in the 1970's, Howard Millan was the voice of reason and calm, experience and knowledge. He advocated volunteer work on the Pacific Crest Trail long before volunteers became politically popular.

In November, 1976, Howard asked the Tiger Mountain trail-builders to meet him. As Phil and I entered the la-

byrinth of Weyerhaeuser's corporate headquarters, we wondered about the outcome of this meeting. Thanks to Howard Millan, the outcome was the exact opposite of that 1972 meeting.

Howard told us that Weyerhaeuser now had no objection to the building of the Tiger Mountain Trail. Weyerhaeuser would welcome visitors to Tiger.

They could view current logging practices and enjoy walking the trails at the same time.

Trail work began immediately.

In the first year of construction Howard Millan was a vital member of many work parties. Over the years Howard's enthusiasm and advice were invaluable. His vast knowledge of trail building and of early logging practices helped unlock several mysteries of the 1920's logging on Tiger. Much of the logging history published by the Trails Club came from Howard. Every work party became a seminar and Howard was the teacher.

In recent years Howard's friends learned that he had taken a considerable professional risk for his enthusiastic support of the Tiger Mountain Trail. But his interest never flagged, in spite of that. Whether on Tiger or on the Pacific slope of the Cascades and Sierra, trails always received his enthusiastic support.

For his service, trail-walkers are thankful. We are saddened that such a dedicated friend has passed on. Howard's picture is on the front cover of the DNR Tiger Mountain Map.

Umbrella organization formed for neighborhood groups

An umbrella organization is being formed to get neighborhoods talking to each other and formulating possible group actions.

For information call:

Susan Allen, Woodridge 746-9477

Chris Heaton, Wilburton, 462-1406

Ted Rothstein, Bridle Trails, 885-0950

On the road and in the woods with Howie Millen

Resplendent in merit-badge sash and Eagle Scout badge, Senior Patrol Leader of Troop 324, Howie was the cynosure of a Tenderfoot's eyes in the fall of 1937. Hiking with him was a treat. So was riding in his 1925 Buick touring car. The drive to Moss Lake, start of the trail to the Tolt River Forks and the Ol' Swimmin' Hole, took about three hours, half the time in motion, the rest watching Howie patch tubes. (Memory, probably hyperbolic, says he carried three spare tires, but never had fewer than five flats.)

When I entered the University, I hitched rides with him (not in the Buick!) to campus, where he was in the College of Forestry. Came the Big War and for him the Marines. Afterward, we kept track of each other from a distance. He had become Weyerhaeuser's first higher-educated forester. I had taken up climbing, wilderness preservation and badmouthing Weyerhaeuser. We had a lot of fun with that when we ran into each other at Congressional hearings on parks and wilderness, of which there were (it seemed) dozens in the 1960's. I'd spot him and his company cohorts in a corridor and startle the milling throng by letting out a yell, "Here come the Black Hats!" Howie laughed. His cohorts didn't.

It was impossible to get Howie really mad. I suppose that was why Weyerhaeuser put him in charge of watching the likes of me. As I recall, his busi-

ness card identified him as "Public Affairs Forester". (He explained that once he got out of the woods the company couldn't figure a place for him in the organization chart so he made up the title and had cards printed on his own hook.) His job was to keep an eye on us White Hats. All the more fun for both of us.

The Issaquah Alps gave us the opportunity to hike together again. He had organized an informal club at company headquarters and invited me on the group's Tiger hikes. To walk the woods with Howie was to see through his eyes a half-century and more of the Industrial Revolution. He himself dated back to the final years of "lokie logging"; during a logger's strike in the 1950's he ran the "speeder" on fire patrol over the miles of rails along the White River and high on the flanks of Mount Rainier. He often paused to drink from Goodwater Spring, reputed throughout the Enumclaw hinterland to have the purest and best-tasting water in the world.

Before he arrived on the scene, University degree in pocket, "forestry" was done by Swedes with double-bitted axe and jaw full of snoose. Young Howie would draw up plans for a clearcut, give precise instructions to the woods boss, who would enthusiastically nod, "Yah, Howie, ve do it yoost like you vant." Howie would return to find the job had been done precisely the way Swedes had been doing it since the donkey and lokie

replaced Babe, Paul Bunyon's big blue ox.

I've been going over in my mind those last hikes with Howie on Tiger Mountain. Often we'd reminisce about our hikes, half a century earlier, to the Tolt Forks. I'd been revisiting, alone, the favorite hangout of Troop 324, including the crystal depths of the Ol' Swimmin' Hole.

We had an epic adventure when we forded the North Fork, got lost on the sunblasted, newly clearcut plateau between the forks and nearly died of thirst. At dusk we lowered ourselves and our packs down a cliff to a cramped camp on a tiny gravel bar of the South Fork. Next morning--swearing never again to walk the abandoned railroad grade to the plateau--we waded the South Fork to the Ol' Swimmin' Hole. How long was that wade? Two miles? Five? Cold feet, cold knees, all the water we could drink--delicious.

And there was the jolly weekend on the Virginia V to Camp Sealath, where Troop 324 performed a Good Deed for the Campfire Girls, who in that era were too delicate for the heavy work of trail maintenance.

Howie and I had a lot of reminiscing to do. Never quite got it all done.

Harvey Manning

More about what's happening in all the Alps territory...

Don't settle in.

This is a brief hop from p.7 to p.10..

operating under legal strictures, was compelled to divert the funds to another acquisition. Free enterprise, yo!

The Grand Ridge Partnership takes its name from its proposal to develop Grand Ridge. The waters there are stormy, stirred by Friends of Grand Ridge. The partnership is setting out on its perilous voyage in a rowboat with gunwales awash from the weight

of the Partners: Ken Behring, the football man from California who is infamous on other counts as well, and Port Blakeley Mills, which encourages the press to contrast it to Behring by calling it "old, local money" (the press is too historically ignorant to understand "old, local money means they participate in the genocide of the Original Settlers and the in subsequent "Great Barbecue" of theft from the public domain). To give its rowboat additional ballast, the Partnership has engaged Subdivision Management, notorious for its engineering on Cougar Mountain.

In my personal opinion, the Partnership from Hell would do wisely and well to 1) dump those engineers and 2) instantly make a free gift to the people of Section 9.

Aside from its importance to completing the park, Section 9 has virtually life-and-death importance to every person who lives in the valley flatlands. Squak is a rainwater sponge, a natural stormwater retention facility. The flooding of MacDonald Creek and Issaquah Creek have made front pages. As

*Told you! Go directly to page 10
Do not pass go. Do not collect \$200*

Page 9

Why we need all the good green Alps we can get

No more dribs and drabs. Promise. This is all the rest.

Continued from page 9.

the floods grow in size and frequency, large portions of the floodplain may have to be evacuated permanently. The possibility of development on Section 9--as on all highlands of the Issaquah Alps--gives folks downstream the horrors.

2) The trails plan now before the City of Issaquah must be implemented. A trail from City Hall to Squak Mountain State Park is just one of the excellent features of the proposed plan.

Once-Green Issaquah Plain and Still-Blue Lake Sammamish

The most popular unit of Washington State Parks: Lake Sammamish State Park
Works in progress:

1. The agenda for Lake Sammamish is too large for a quick outline. Had Ruth Kees and other citizens been heeded in the 1970s by the City of Issaquah, King County, and the state, their warnings about flood frequency and severity heard, enormous sums of money lost to recent floods (and more to those impending) could have been saved. Instead, catering to the desires of developers to pave every flat acre from May Valley to Lake Sammamish, government listened to developers' experts who told them what the developers wanted them to hear. Are these developers still in reach of the law? That question will be raised as more and more residential and commercial sites go under the waters.

Some positive steps are being taken on the plains and along the lakes, but the easiest and least expensive way to keep Lake Sammamish blue and keep Issaquah reasonably dry is to keep the hills green.

For information on joining an ally of the Trails Club, a regional organization that is assuming a larger role with every heavy rainfall, write:

Save Lake Sammamish
1420 NW Gilman Blvd.
Issaquah, WA 98027

Tiger Mountain

• Major and historic victory:

The 12,000-acre Tiger Mountain State Forest

• A brand new hurrah: The 855-acre West Tiger Mountain Natural Resources Conservation Area, established February, 1991, making a magnificent I-90 Greenway pair with the Mount Si Natural Resources Conservation Area. (For a map, see the next Alpiner.) Part of a system authorized by the legislature in 1985, these preserves are managed by the Department of Natural Resources not for dollar income but are "protected for future generations" as a supply of high-quality water, wildlife habitat, gene-pool reserves of native plants, wildland classrooms and recreation that is focused on enjoyment of nature rather than gymnastic exercise.

Works in progress:

1) Completing the natural boundaries of the State Forest by acquiring the "Menasha" section along Fifteenmile Creek;

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the "Preston Mills" tract in Many Creek Valley; the parcels on the Tradition Plateau which threaten to put lawnmowers and boom boxes on the border of the Conservation Area wildland; and the property on the service road from High Point to Lake Tradition.

2) The Tiger Mountain State Forest Recreation Plan adopted by the DNR in January 1991 invites our continuing, thoughtful comment. The plan is dynamic, not set in concrete, and will change to meet evolving use demands and resource limitations. Preserving the highest-priority resources, flora and water and wildlife automatically gives highest priority among recreations to the highest, which is that of the trail pedestrian. However, the heavier impact of horses can be absorbed by certain "harder" travel routes and bicycles can mingle amicably with horses and pedestrians on roads. The guiding rule will not be, as on the disaster areas that King County Parks calls "multi-use" trails, that the faster travel mode dominates the slower; instead in sensitive areas, the more consumptive use always must yield to the less.

"Mountain-biking" places such stresses on the land and on the existing community of wildland users that it will not have all the freedom in the Issaquah Alps its more strident enthusiasts have been demanding. However, bikers with a reasonable, balanced view of their sport are working with the DNR and other travelers, including members of the Trails Club, to develop routes on other lands. The DNR's Marckworth Forest at the Cascade front east of Duvall holds great promise for a spacious network of bikeways.

Grand Ridge

The localist agency of Friends of Grand Ridge lies outside the regionalist program of the Trails Club, but some of the former coincides with the latter. The Regionalist concerns include: the steep slopes, particularly of the "breaks" down to East Fork Issaquah Creek; the wetlands, notably those in the Ice Age valley separating Grand Ridge from the East Sammamish Plateau; wildlife travel corridors from Tiger Mountain over Grand Ridge to the Plateau; multi-use travel corridors with separate trails for hikers, horses and bicycles, coal-mining history, which must be researched and preserved for antiquarian interest and to assure the public safety.

Rattlesnake Mountain-

Taylor Mountain-Raging River

The two mountains have their south feet in the Cedar River Watershed, closed to the public, a de facto wildlife sanctuary, a Cascade-to-Issaquah Alps "reservoir" of critters which is among the least-appreciated unique glories of Puget Sound City. Recreation can be given increased opportunities, always subservient to the needs and pleasures of the animals. The Tiger Mountain model of a "working forest in an urban environment" can properly be extended here. The Raging River never has been given deserved prominence and study.

I-90 Greenway

A forthcoming issue of the Alpiner will describe actions taken and planned by the DNR, other government agencies and the role of Representative Gary Locke, chair of the House Appropriations Committee, who took part in the Summer 1990 Mountains to Sound March and intends to rigorously advance the Greenway.

Membership Application Issaquah Alps Trails Club

P.O. Box 351, Issaquah, WA 98027

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

- Annual Regular Dues \$10
- Annual Contributing Dues \$20
- Lifetime Membership \$100
- Limited Income \$5
- All memberships cover the entire family.
- A regular annual family membership is \$10. This covers the cost of printing and mailing the Alpiner and a part of the club's overhead expenses.
- Contributing memberships at \$20 or more cover the rest of the club's overhead expenses and allow us some financial leeway in planning special events, publishing new trail guides and keeping our trail maintenance tool supply fit and ample.
- Lifetime memberships at \$100 give us room to be creative and visionary, to venture forth on projects otherwise beyond our means and dreams.

Issaquah Alps Mail Order Service

P.O. Box 351, Issaquah, WA 98027

- ☐ *Guide to Trails of Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, Coal Creek Park, May Creek Park* By Harvey Manning and Ralph Owen. 1990 updated edition. This new edition brings you all the old favorites plus new favorites—new trails on the west side connecting to Renton and May Creek plus and *all new maps!* \$8.50 (includes map, tax and shipping)
- ☐ *Guide to Trails of Tiger Mountain* By Bill Longwell. 1989 updated edition. New trails: Tradition Plateau Trail (adding Swamp and Wetlands Trails), the *new* Bootleg Trail, the *new* Preston Trail. Plus encounters with animals. \$8.50 (includes map, tax and shipping)
- ☐ *Bedrock and Bootsoles--An introduction to the Geology of the Issaquah Alps* By Marvin Pistrang. A thorough but simple chronology of the geology of the Alps from the early Eocene period to modern times. \$3.50 (includes tax and shipping)
- ☐ *The Coals of Newcastle: A hundred years of hidden history* By Richard K. McDonald and Lucille McDonald. A complete history of the once-thriving coal mining area on Cougar Mountain, now hidden from all but hikers. More than 100 photos, four maps and Tim O'Brian's account of the incredible Seattle and Walla Walla Railroad. \$11.50 (includes tax and shipping)
- ☐ *Tiger Mt. map* \$1.75 (includes tax and shipping)
- ☐ *Cougar Mt. map* \$1.75 (includes tax and shipping)
- ☐ *Tradition Lake map* Free. Send business-sized (#10) stamped, self addressed envelope.
- ☐ *Grand Ridge Map* Free. Send business-sized (#10) stamped, self-addressed envelope.
- ☐ *T-Shirt: "Issaquah Alps Trails Club"* Specify size (S,M,L,XL) color (blue or white) and sleeve length. Short sleeve: \$11, long sleeve: \$15.
- ☐ *T-Shirt: "Mountains to Sound March"* Specify size (S, M, L, XL). \$11. All shirts are blue and short-sleeved.
- ☐ *Poster: Mountains to Sound March.* Full-color poster depicts the dramatic sweep of Interstate 90 as it winds down out of the Cascades into Seattle. \$12.50.

Issaquah Alps Trails Club

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