Newsletter of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club

EALPINER



July ▲ August ▲ September ▲ 1993

(ISSAQUAH KING COUNTY Cougar ▲ Squak ▲ Tiger ▲ Grand Ridge

Grand Ridge Victory

Roger Delmar

he vote came in. GRAND RIDGE WILL REMAIN RURAL! After months of intensive strategizing, meetings, public testimony, letter writing, and at times gut wrenching agony, the King County Council on May 24th upheld the rural urban boundary decision of the 1985 Comprehensive Plan. Led by Larry Phillips and supported by Councilors Derdowski, Lange, Simms, Gruger, and Nichols, the strategic importance of keeping Grand Ridge rural won out over very strong and powerful lobby pressures from the developer and the city government of Issaquah.

Many thanks to all those whose participation in letter writing, telephone calling, and testimony giv-

ing influenced this decision. This was a victory for the citizens. We beat a real big guy who threw lots of money and influence at this one.

LIBRARY SYSTEM

Of particular note to the IATC, an eleventh hour hike in some of the most beautiful and sensitive areas of eastern Grand Ridge had real impact on two key visitors. The earth really does have a voice of its own. If we can get people to walk the trails, they may hear it.

Although we won this long-fought battle, the victory has a bitter taste. In 1994 the Growth Management Planning Council will reconsider the Growth Management Act. This could reopen Grand Ridge, as could yet unknown actions of the new King County Exec to be elected and a new

King County Council. We are also fully aware that other important and sensitive areas on the Plateau were lost to urban zoning and development pressures. Our continued vigilance and involvement is necessary.

Postscript: Since the decision was made, Port Blakely has, in a gesture of retaliation, enclosed Grand Ridge behind No "Trespassing" signs.

The IATC wishes to recognize and thank the efforts of Maryanne Tagney-Jones and Roger Delmar in their long standing political and community efforts to preserve Grand Ridge. They were articulate, undaunted, knowledgeable, and passionate in their continued educating, organizing, and lobbying to keeping Grand Ridge as open space. -Ed.

Issaquah Trails Coordinator at the Trailhead

A Talk with Margaret Macleod

George Comstock

argaret Macleod has been the City of Issaquah's Trails Coordinator for about three months now, and the results of her work are beginning to appear. You may have read in the April 28 issue of the Issaquah Press that the City of Issaquah has drafted a wish list for open space acquisition. Margaret strongly believes that the City of Issaquah should acquire more land for public and wildlife use, and she was responsible for submitting the recent applications to the King County Office of Open Space.

One of the properties which will hopefully be acquired for open space is the Tibbetts property, lo cated at the High Point trailhead. The stretch of road between the gate and the power line is all on this property. At present there is a 5-year pedestrian-only access lease and, until this property can be bought, this most used of all Issaquah Alps trailheads is vulnerable. Another 64-acre property on Squak Mountain, fronting on SR 900 more or less across the road from the Cougar Mountain Wilderness Creek trailhead, is being watched. This tract of land formerly belonged entirely to M&H Development, but just recently they sold 24 of the 64 acres to Santana Construction, who apparently plans to use the land as a construction staging area. It is hoped that the entire 64-acre site can be purchased and a trailhead built. Margaret is tracking these

properties and others like them, and will be part of the negotiating team if and when they are purchased.

Land acquisition, though, is not the only thing our Trails Coordinator is doing. Margaret is now working to develop a consistent trail signing system for all the trails in the Issaquah Alps. That sounds simple, but remember that the three mountains

"Margaret is now working to develop a consistent trail signing system for all trails in the Issaquah Alps."

which make up these Alps (Tiger, Squak, and Cougar) are under four different jurisdictions: the State Department of Natural Resources, the State Parks Department, King County Parks, and the City of Issaquah. As a consequence, the signs and trail use rules are inconsistent. For example, in Washington State Parks a trail is open to all usages which are not specifically prohibited, while on DNR land trails are

closed to all usages which are not specifically allowed by a sign posted at the beginning of the trail. As the trails coordinator, Margaret is tackling this and other jurisdictional problems.

Another important task for our trails coordinator concerns law enforcement. Presently Margaret is gathering information about the sorts of problems that need to be addressed, and will propose some solutions in the near future. So far she has received input from Dave Kappler, a City of Issaquah councilman, and Jim Russell, the DNR police officer who patrols the Tiger Mountain area. Further information will be sought from the City of Issaquah police force concerning law enforcement problems.

Other important jobs awaiting Margaret include the development of up-to-date maps covering the entirety of the Issaquah Alps and finding more funding for the creation of additional trailheads.

As you can see, Margaret has set off on a fine path. One thing is sure: Issaquah and the Issaquah Alps are going to be a better place in the future due to Margaret Macleod's work.

As the Issaquah Alps Trails Coordinator, Margaret Macleod wants you to know that she is available to everyone. If you have any questions, feel free to call her at 557-3227. If you need to leave a message, call 1-800-237-0540, hold the line and follow directions, then dial 490-2402.

President's Report

Ken Konigsmark

By the time you receive this edition of the Alpiner, the Trails Club will have hosted or been a key participant in three major events: National Trails Day on June 5th, Return to Newcastle on June 6th, and our Grand Traverse across the Alps on June 12-13. I hope that you were able to participate in at least one of these activities and enjoy the pleasures of our local trails and wildlands. A special thanks to all Club members who helped plan, organize, and conduct these events. Many hours of volunteer effort were donated and are much appreciated by other club members and the general public.

In the past month, the City of Issaquah offered the Club the use of the old train Station Master's house near City Hall as IATC headquarters. A grant application has been made for funds to remodel this historic building into a Trails Headquarters for Issaquah, "the Trailhead City." Upon remodeling, meeting rooms will be available as well as space for Club business and volunteer activities. Maps, books, and pamphlets will be available to direct hikers to the many local trails. Until this is approved and completed, we have been offered the opportunity to clean and fix up the building and use it as Club

headquarters. This will be of immense value to the Club, greatly helping our volunteer officers in mail distribution, record keeping, filing, etc. We are hoping for donations to make this come true (please see separate article). If you can help us, please give me a call.

Under King County's Open Space Acquisition Bond program, both the City of Issaquah (thanks to Margaret Macleod, the new Trails Coordinator) and King County Parks have submitted funding applications for numerous parcels in the Issaquah Alps. Approval of these applications would mean acquiring them for permanent open space. We have been asked by the King County review committee to prioritize these parcels, since not all will receive funding. We will try to do so, but as Harvey Manning stated, "that's like trying to select your favorite child," a tough task indeed! We are hopeful that at least some of these applications will be favorably considered during the final selection process and that more acreage can be added to public open space in the Issaguah Alps.

Summer is here, so get out and enjoy the beauty of the Alps. See you on the trails. ▲



National Trails Day Celebra

Sarah Young

"What would it take for all Americans to be able to go out their doors and within 15 minutes be on trails that would wind through their cities, towns, or villages...

Along the way they could pass shops and restaurants, go to work, school or a park, visit an historic site or the zoo, and experience the great outdoors without a car or bus. If they were to follow the right path, the trail could take them into the countryside or possibly link them up with another trail that would lead them into the deepest wilderness..."—from Trails for All Americans, organizing statement for National Trails Day 1993

On June 5th, we celebrated the accomplishments of lobbyists, organizers, and trail builders who have, little by little, grown our trails system from the

Cascade Mountains to the Puget Sound. On June 5th, trails in a multiplicity of forms—foot, bike, horseback, and paddle—were cleaned up, explored, forged, planted, honored, and recognized on the first National Trails Day. This inaugural event was sponsored by the Mountains to Sound Greenway and hosted by numerous local organizations and businesses including the Issaquah, Bellevue and King County Parks departments, the IATC, Snoqualmie Valley Trails Club, REI, North Bend Ranger Station, and the Mountaineers. The IATC sponsored seven hikes and staffed an education and information booth at the event.

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Newsbriefs IATC Member Appointed to OSC

The King County Council recently appointed IATC member Mark Bullock to serve on the King County Open Space Citizen Oversight Committee. For a brief overview: the Open Space Bond proposition was passed in 1989 to raise \$117 million to preserve open space and to complete a regional trail system in King County. The Conservation Futures property tax was later authorized to offset increases in land values. The Committee monitors the Open Space program's progress and makes recommendations on open space acquisitions and trail routes to the Council. Various participating governments implement the projects. The King County Parks Division's Office of Open Space monitors the programs, conducts field research, acquires properties, and disburses funds.

Some of the open space acquisitions funded by the Bond are helping to preserve the Mountains to Sound Greenway, which include the Issaquah Alps.

The Committee is currently choosing a route for the Sammamish Plateau Trail. As of May, the suggested route goes from Lake Sammamish State Park, through Klahanie, past the Crosse Creek development, into the Union Hill area, and on to the Redmond Watershed. The Trail will be separated in some segments to accommodate foot, bike, and horse traffic.

The members of the Committee recognize that the public benefit of open space and trails must be balanced with environmental impacts and the rights of affected landowners. Mark's proximity to and knowledge of the Alps will help ensure that Alps issues of land use and trail planning are well represented—please contact Mark at 271-9932 with any comments, concerns, or questions.

Progress on Section 9

The originally proposed WWRP \$111 million budget for the Washington State 1993-1995 biennium was ultimately reduced to \$65 million. The State Legislature approved \$1.8 million for Section 9 Phase 1, the eastern portion. However, the final decision on this critical acquisition rests with Washington State Parks. The seven State Parks Commissioners will convene on June 11th to listen to public opinion—the outcome of Phase 1 is promising since this parcel was ranked number 1 in acquisition priority.

The outcome of Phase 2, the western half of Section 9, is less certain. Funding was not approved by the Legislature. The public acquisition of this parcel will have to wait until the next biennium. The \$200,000 proposed for trailheads, trailhead development, signage, etc. on Section 9 also needs approval by State Parks.

Wildlife Specimens Sought

King County Parks has been granted a permit from the State Dept. of Wildlife to collect and display native wildlife at Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park. If you encounter wildlife that has been killed by automobile or died naturally, please contact State Williams, the Renton/Cougar Mountain District Manager, at 296-4145. Common species such as Crow, Robin, Raccoon, and Opossum are not needed; however please contact Stave about the species such as Bobcat and Pileated Woodpecker. If you find a specimen, please note the date, time, and place on a notecard and place the enimal in a glassic bag on ice or in a freezest before contacting the speciment of the date.

A Post-Frontier Trail Ethic For King County

From Anthropocentrism to Biocentrism... From Egotism to Sociocentrism

by Harvey Manning

hen the frontier seemed endlessly capable of absorbing every manner of private recreation on public land, it was unAmerican to restrict individual activity anywhere. Times have changed. In King County demands by the exponential increase of recreationists and the steadily dwindling supply of urban-edge wildland demand a fundamental reevaluation of public policy.

The public has expressed at the ballot box its fondness for open space. Its understanding of wildland ecosystems is overall, incomplete. There is a tendency to accept the democratic principle that "everybody has equal rights" and "never knock the other guy's sport."

Some of the officials responsible for managing open spaces have been trained as playground supervisors and have much to learn about wildland. They often base decisions on the relativism of a "situational" ethic, at best by tabulating "user-days," at worst by counting the "votes" of citizen pressure groups subsidized and stage-managed by the toy industry.

The bulk of King County wildlands presently are in a state of pre-social anarchy, which is to say, government is absent. As always in a melee, the loudest and most violent minorities dominate. One group flies the Confederate battle flag, rough-rides motorcycles and 4x4's, and fires guns indiscriminately; these are the "ya-hoo scofflaws." A better-dressed minority, with much nicer hair, belligerently asserts the Reaganite manifesto that wealth hath its privileges, among them an immunity from social discipline; the fat-tire bicycle is the favorite toy of these "yuppy scofflaws."

A new post-frontier trail ethic founded on biocentric and sociocentric education will give responsible wildland visitors, the general public, land managers, elected officials, and the press a knowledge of the sensitivity and limited resilience of ecosystems. The scofflaws must be socialized by tough laws and plenty of police.

The Frontier Myth vs. Post-Frontier Reality

In 1890 the Superintendent of the Census announced that during the preceding decade the American frontier as an unbroken line had ceased to exist. In fact, the frontier lived on, ringing islands of wildland. Thus it was that the myth arose that the resource was infinite.

Long before 1890 mathematically literate observers recognized the truth that both frontier and earth are finite; by 1950 a generation of environmentalists was pointing to the obvious, that the end was in sight. Exploiters wishing to log the last ancient tree, to dam the last river, dismissed such predictions as doom-crying; politicians averted eyes, trusting the crunch would not come until they were too far out of office to be held accountable. America now is suffering the final years of economic frontiering—suffering which could have been avoided or ameliorated had the nation faced reality earlier on.

Simultaneously, the recreation frontier is being closed by a combination of factors: the steadily growing mass of humankind; the acceleration of mobility by a proliferation of ingenious machines; the bingeing on dwinding yet still ridiculously cheap non-human energy; and the release from daily labor by the largest number of "wealthies" and "retireds" in the history of the world. More and more people are recreating more and more, more and more heavily and kinetically, on a resource of open space which is steadily less and less as economic frontiering pushes houses, malls, and roads into wildland.

The economic crunch is here. So is the recreation crunch. The post-frontier ethic cannot grandfather-in old frontier freedoms. There can be no more "splitting the difference" compromise.

Anthropocentrism vs. Biocentrism

The first principle of the new post-frontier ethic: Anthropocentrism ("man is the center") gives way to biocentrism ("man is but one of many creatures who can survive only as a community"), not for esthetic or moral or spiritual reasons (though these surely are not beneath contempt) but in order for civilization to survive in a form that merits survival.

Before mankind's economic needs and recreational desires can be addressed, determination must be made of the minimum share of open space required to preserve today's (and/or restore yesterday's) wildwood, wildlife, wild water, and wild atmosphere.

Anthropocentrism is partly based on a liberal and humane foundation of civil liberties, equal opportunity, affirmative action—a fair share of the pie for everybody, all things for all people. But when the subject is the wild Earth, these good thoughts can be cynically distorted.

The Earth is not an affirmative-action playground. It is not a playground at all. It is not a pie to be sliced into little pieces and served up on every plate that the ingenuity of modern man can invent.

People centered on anthropocentrism have compromised the natural world beyond conscience. We must retain all the natural capital we have not yet destroyed. We must focus on restoration — repair of the damage done by the party-is-not-over delusion, the frontier-is-endless myth. We cannot tolerate further degradation through apportioning space casually to existing and future recreations, by further exploitation of whatever amusements the busy little anthropocentric mind may put on the market.

New and steadily more frenetic recreations stridently demand that the old recreations share the ever-dwindling recreation pie. The fact is that even the old, low-frenzy recreations have overused much wildland, stressed or destroyed ecosystems. Backpackers have converted meadow to bare dirt. Races of wild trout have been made extinct by fly fishermen. And these are non-frenetic recreationists.

Compromise rings in the ears of elected officials as a musical evasion of the long-term issues and outcome. A political career can prosper by appearing to appease all voting constituents. But this version of "democracy" serves only the human constituents. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas maintained that the courts should grant legal standing to trees; the Washington Environmental Council filed a suit against the state on the behalf of "Plaintiff Trees" (and won an out-of-court settlement). Compromises which serve only humans evade the long-term cumulative effect of compromise on compromise. A current example is the "forest compromise." Split the forests down the middle. Then take the preserved half and split it down the middle. And again, and again. Environmentalism is not the threat. Political and social compromise-ism is.

The ecosystem's "carrying capacity" of the human presence must be determined. Then and only then can shares be apportioned to human activities. Human votes and "ecosystem voters" must both be counted. Where the resource is limited, as in western King County, the human uses which serve the most people with the least impact must have the dominant share; those which serve the fewest peo-

ple with the heaviest impact may have to be forbidden entirely.

If one thinks biocentrically (which may be defined as looking at the land through the eyes of the land), there is right and wrong, good and bad. Aldo Leopold, whose Sand County Almanac introduced mid-century America to the ecosystem concept, said "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

Indulgence in recreational self-expression never should be permitted at the expense of the land, the water, the air—the commons. Biocentrism (again, seeing the world through the eyes of Nature rather than man) gives a clear, objective measure of what is good and what is evil.

Egotism vs. Sociocentrism

The associated principle of the new post-frontier ethic: Egotism ("selfishness is man") gives way to sociocentrism ("man exists only as a member of a society"). The ya-hoo and the yuppy scofflaws say, "Me first, then my pals, and blank the rest of you fools." Though small minorities, they bully the civil majority into submission.

Woodland Gymnasiums vs. Wildland Museums

Recreation is not purely and simply "people having fun." In a gymnasium-playfield activity, the body rejoices in its existence, its vigor, its kineticism. By contrast, wildland recreation is a complex of relationships between the body, the spirit, and the integrity of the ecosystem. A recreation centered on giving kinetic pleasure to the body drives out the recreations which are founded on a respectful enjoyment of the wildland community. Kinetic recreations have been practiced and are being practiced in "wildlands." But these are then no longer wildlands but woodland gymnasiums. A wildland is a museum. Basketball is not appropriate in art galleries, nor are boom boxes in concert halls.

The Space-Time Dimension

The dimension of space-time is the basis for an absolute criterion for establishing sociocentric priority. An individual's preferred recreation may use more than his fair share of wildland space-time. An example is the motorcyclist on a mountain trail. His exploding hydrocarbons are heard by all the pedestrian and horsefolk and wild creatures in an entire valley, none of whom are much aware of each other, but have forced upon them an awareness of that one space-time super-consumer.

The hog of wildland space-time also is grossly wasteful of a limited resource — the trails. Eyes, ears, nose, skin, and mind assimilate only so many sensations in an hour. Covering 10 miles in that hour on a bicycle, or 20 miles on a motorcycle, or 60 miles in a car do not give the brain five times, ten times, or thirty times more input from Nature than a foot pace of 2 miles per hour. Indeed, the wheels require so much attention from the brain that an hour on wheels gives less wildland experience than an hour afoot; the speed is an insurmountable barrier to intimacy.

Biocentric-Sociocentric Assessments of Wildland Recreations

Recreations can be objectively rated by their impacts on the natural ecosystem and their impacts on the social context by reviewing their exploitation of the space-time resource.

Continued from page 3

Best—Staying away. "Visiting" without impacting by reading books and watching films produced by trained observers, our surrogate eyes and ears.

Next best—Sitting on a log.

Acceptable as a basis of balancing human pleasure and ecological integrity—Walking a trail. A trail so located and constructed as to preserve sensitive areas and leave room for wildlife. Average pace over a day, about 2 miles an hour. Clothing and gear that blend into the background—forest green, dirt brown, field gray. Human sounds inaudible beyond a dozen or so feet. Groups ordinarily no larger than two families; larger parties allowed by special permit.

Rarely tolerable—Jogging. Impact on sensitive terrain is too heavy, on walkers and horses too startling. Allowable only on hard tread of lonesome trails. The jogger who encounters walkers or horses must give it up.

Forbidden—Running. The running foot is as destructive of fragile tread, as traumatic to wildlife and walkers, as a motorcycle. "Mountain-running" and "trail-running" are a growing menace. Running clubs and school systems must be commanded to keep their athletes out of museums.

Facing a murky future in western King County—The horse. Where open space has diminished and population exploded, the millennia-long amicable coexistence between hikers and horsemen has become tricky. Route separation is the obvious answer. But building a trail to horse standards can be expensive. So is keeping a horse in suburbia. Horse trails can be preserved in western King County, but how and where has to be determined. The tendency of horse-owners able to do so is to move to eastern King County, or better, beyond the Cascade Crest to the open pine forests and sagebrush steppe with "land lots of land under sunny skies above, don't fence me in."

Forbidden—Wheels. Mechanical devices are banned in the National Wilderness System by the 1964 Wilderness Act. This national model is complemented by the state legislation authorizing DNR Natural Resource Conservation Areas, where the only allowable recreation is "low impact." King County is acquiring open spaces, many intended to be preserved as wildland. Preparation of the master plan for the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, in progress during 1993, is viewed as a pioneering preliminary to a more comprehensieve King County Wilderness Act.

The pavement bike (the "skinny-tire") is irrelevant to wildland except in its role it has played in preparing the way for the off-pavement "mountain bike" (the "fat-tire"). The latter, invented in the 1970s for the trails of Mt. Tamalpais, north of San Francisco, arrived in the Northwest in the mid-1980s and by the 1990s was outselling the skinny-tire by a wide margin.

The term, "mountain bike," is mischievously misleading. Most use is on city streets where the sturdy machine, much tougher than the elegant skinny-tire, is not disabled by curb-hopping or broken glass. Examples of good routes outside cities are more or-less abandoned logging roads and little-traveled powerline service roads, of which there are thousands of miles in King County, most closed to motor vehicles and often sublimely scenic, the views usually unobstructed by trees. These routes and lonesome country roads are favorites of the "easy riders" who smile at other travelers, do not engage in combat racing, and enjoy their surroundings without brutalizing them.

The adjective, "mountain", is favored by manufacturers, retailers, sensation-seeking journalists, and testosterone-poisoned faddists. Advertising implies that "mountain biking" is akin to "mountain climb-

ing." There would be fewer abuses of the vehicle if it were calmly and rationally promoted as "fat-tire," or backroad," or "off-pavement" bike.

Mt. Tamalpais also is the home of the "bomber," whose sport is the high-speed descent of "single-track trails." This term was coined by wheel people (motorcycles, too) to obscure the fact that since the beginning of time these trails were built by and for feet, human and horse. "Single track" implies the routes have no history and can be taken over by wheels without a qualm.

The bicycle is as morally neutral as a gun. However, just as possession of a gun encourages some people to shoot, the potential of the bicycle to abuse the land leads some riders to do so because they think it is expected of them. Because it is a "go anywhere" vehicle, owners assume they have the right to go anywhere. Guidebooks written by hikers to publicize and thus preserve hiking trails are bought by bombers and used to destroy those trails. The high speed essential to the bombing experience, the contempt for wildlife, the terror and danger to pedestrians and the riders of skittish horses, and the arrogant over-consumption of wildland space-time,

"The bicycle is as morally neutral as a gun....

Because it is a 'go anywhere' vehicle, owners assume they have the right to go anywhere."

argue against permitting bombers on any hiking trails, anywhere. (Easy riders typically are socially responsible and take a slower pace; even so, their speeds are incompatible with walkers and horses.)

Public officials for the most part have failed to understand the challenge of the fat-tire bike. No sensible forest manager any longer has unquestioning faith in "multiple use," yet the U.S. Forest Service remains institutionally wedded to the term, which embodies the trail ethic of the frontier. Urban parks departments are largely staffed by managers trained for playgrounds and picnic grounds where sensitivity to wildlands is absent. For years after establishment of Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, some of the top officials of King County Parks refused to set foot on its trails, referring to the largest urban wildland in the nation as "a blankblank pile of brush." They recoiled from the open spaces being "foisted on them" by the voters, despairing of ever producing "user-days" as they were taught to do in Parks Management 101. Their ethical foundation is jello; when rowdies shout, the jello jiggles and the functionaries dance.

"Bicycle trail" and "motorcycle trail" are favorite oxymorons. "Trail" has favorable connotations in the public mind and use of the word deludes the citizenry into supposing the historic rights of feet have not been stolen by the wheel industry and Mr. Toad (of Toad Hall). The principle that the way to deal with arguing cats is to dump them in a gunnysack has given rise to the theory of multi-use trails. There is no such thing, of course, anymore than there are contented cats in a gunnysack. In the national forests, motorcycles convert foot trails to motorcycle roads. On the urban-edge,

bicycles (skinny-tire as well as fat-tire) convert foot and horse trails to bikeways. The much-hailed King County Trail System is a Bikeway System. A good thing to have, but it is not a trail system. Wheels inevitably expel feet.

Multi-use corridors with separated lanes are possible in urban areas, a slow lane for walkers and wheelchairs, a fast lane for bicycles and rollerskates, a middling lane for horses. Note, however, that the foot lane is not a trail but a "walkway" or "sidewalk". These are excellent to have, of course, as are bikeways, but where they are is not wildland. A multiuse route (again, not a trail) is possible where the track is wide, sightlines long, and the traffic light. Examples are forest-management roads and powerline service roads closed to public motor vehicles. When traffic volume reaches the point of conflict and danger, lane separation is mandatory. Serving wheels as they do, these routes are not wildland, though they may penetrate wildlands and intersect true trails. The fat-tire bombers have shown so little respect for "no bike" signs (which they ignore and vandalize), it is questionable whether bicycles can continue to be permitted indefinitely on multi-use routes. They likely will have to be segregated on new-built routes.

Preserving the Wildness Within

The 1964 National Wilderness Act governs "the wildness without," wilderness enclaves beyond urban limits; King County has a splendid example in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. Valuable as is this "wildness without," equally so is the "wildness within" of "Puget Sound City." In 1987 the legislature passed RCW 79.71, the Washington Natural Resources Conservation Areas Act, authorizing the setting aside of state lands under management of the Department of Natural Resources. Examples in King County are the West Tiger Mountain NRCA and the Mount Si NRCA. Preservation of native ecological communities replaces commodity production as the top priority. Recreation is permitted only if compatible and by statute must be "low impact."

Other wildlands in King County are managed by State Parks, King County Parks, and municipalities. Open-space acquisition continues apace and must continue, not only to maintain a green and quiet element in the urbanizing tapestry and to meet demands for gymnasium-type recreation (in gymnasium-type settings, such as soccer fields) but to preserve and protect large areas as wildland museums, where the sole human use acceptable is "low-impact."

Given the belatedly acknowledged end to the frontier-is-endless myth; given the acknowledgement that the ever-increasing demands of an ever-increasing kinetic energetic population will increasingly exceed the supply of available recreational lands, public policy must apportion recreational opportunities on the basis of the biocentric post-frontier ethic.

High-impact recreations damage and ultimately destroy ecosystems; anthropocentrism must yield to biocentrism. High-speed recreations hog more than a fair share of wildland space-time, a limited resource; egotism must yield to sociocentrism. Urbanedge wildlands must be kept wild, devoted entirely to the uses which are most conserving of Nature and are thriftiest of space-time.

We need a new public policy, a new mentality that acknowledges the precarious and finiteness of extant wildlands and the need to treasure and sustain the wildness of those few remaining places and guard them with deliberate and informed care, because neither we nor the animals are apt to ever have more than we have now.

"It may be the love of wilderness that finally teaches us civilized responsibility." — Wallace Stegner \(\textstyle \)

Issaquah Alps Trails Club Hikes

Hike Leaders Alert: We are short on hikes for this summer quarter. If you have a free week free to call Fred or Ann Weinmann at 392-9230 to have your hike placed on the Club bother.

Saturday July 3

Taylor Mtn. Shaun Creek Falls 2B 9:30 a.m. George Jackman 206-221-3925

Boulder Creek 8 mi. 1000 ft. gain (beyond the Alps) 8:00 a.m. Will Thompson 488-8592 Call leader for signup

Monday July 5

West Taylor Mtn. Trail 3B 9:30 a.m. George Jackman 206-221-3925

Saturday July 10

Squak Mtn. Traverse Hi-lites of a Lovely Peak 3C 9:00 a.m. Joe Toynbee 723-6716

Scout Lake Exploratory Boots required (beyond the Alps) 2B 9:00 a.m. Warren Jones 888-0262

Sunday July 11

Tradition Lake Family Hike 2A 1:00 p.m.
Ted Thomsen 454-8643

Tuesday July 13

Twin Falls
2B 9:30 a.m.
Al Blalock 746-4155

Wednesday July 14

Kelsey Creek 1A 10:00 a.m. Peggy Barchi 432-5446

Saturday July 17

Cougar Mtn. Ramble 3B 9:30 a.m. Ann Leber 746-3291

Sunday July 18

Nike Missile Base Cougar Mtn. 2B 9:00 a.m. Bill McFerren 391-3359

Monday July 19

Squire Creek, 8 mi. 2000 ft. gain (beyond the Alps) 8:00 a.m.
Will Thompson 488-8592
Call leader for signup

Friday July 23

Tiger Mtn. Poo Poo Pt. 3C 9:00 a.m. Mary Cadigan 641-4046

Saturday July 24

Little Mt. Si 5 mi. RT 1100 ft. gain 2B 12:30 p.m. Bob Gross 392-0539

Monday, July 26

Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. Issaquah Community Hall (next to Fire Station)

Saturday July 31

Taylor Mtn. Shaun Creek Falls 2B 9:30 a.m. George Jackman 206-221-3925

Monday August 2

West Tiger Mtn. Trail
3B 9:30 a.m.
George Jackman 206-221-3925
Mount Higgins 7 mi. 3330 ft. gain
(beyond the Alps)
8:00 a.m.
Will Thompson 488-8592
Call leader for signup

Saturday August 7

Peak Hopping on Tiger 15 mi. 3500 ft. gain 4D 8:30 a.m. Ralph Owen 746-1070

Little Si 2C 9:30 a... Al Blalock 74

Bedal Creek 6 m (beyond the Alps)
8:00 a.m.
Will Thompson 488-550

Call leader for signup

Saturday August 21
Snow Lake (beyond the Alph)
3C 9:00 a.m.
Ann Leber 746-3291

Monday August 23

Kendall Catwalk to Gravel and Ridge Lakes (beyond the Alps) 4D 8:00 a.m. 12.5 mi. 3000 ft. gain Mary Cadigan 641-4046

Board Meeting
7:00 p.m. Issaquah Community Hall
(next to Fire Station)

Tuesday August 31

Red Town Dam 1A 10:00 a.m. Peggy Barchi 432-5446

Mount Dickerman (beyond the Alps) 8 mi. 4000 ft. gain 8:00 a.m. Will Thompson 488-8592 Call leader for signup

Saturday September 4

Rattlesnake Traverse Lake to Winery 3D 8:30 a.m. Ralph Owen 746-1070 LES RESIDENCE DE LA COMPANION DE LA COMPANION

12 udation
Like Law Market Pager peaks
2.1 Like Law 1723-6716

Sander Mine Thill 7 and 3000 ft. gain Gryand the Alph)
8.00 a.m.
Well Theorymen 400-0592
Call leader for signap

Sunday September 18
Lake Tradition Plateur
5 mi. 500 ft. gain
1B 1:00 p.m.
Bob Gross 392-0539

Wednesday September 22

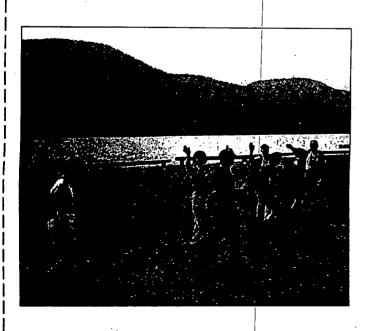
Preston Trail 1A 10:00 a.m. Peggy Barchi 432-5446

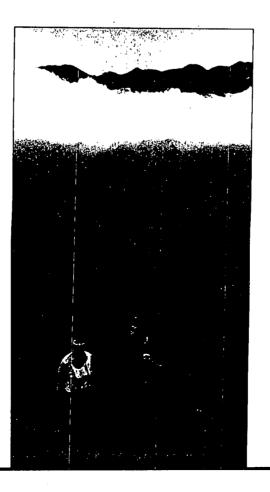
Monday September 27
Mason Lake—Mt. Defiance
(beyond the Alps)
10 mi. RT 3300 ft. gain
4D 8:00 a.m.
Mary Cadigan 641-4046

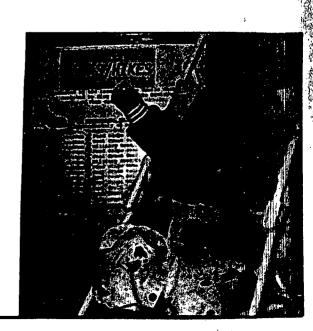
Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. Issaquah Community Hall (next to Fire Station)

Tuesday September 28 Twin Falls

2B 9:30 a.m. Al Blalock 746-4155







Hike Information

HIKE LEADERS

The hike leaders are volunteers who have donated their time to lead people who want to hike and explore the trails in the Issaquah Alps and other nearby foothills (Cascades) in King County. Hikes are scheduled and led year-round regardless of weather. Minimum attendance is 3, including the leader.

Trails in the Issaquah Alps may be good or bad, easy or hard, muddy or dusty, brushy or clear, steep or flat, easy or hard—or all of the above. Some are not much more than animal trails. As *volunteers*, neither the hike leaders, the Trails Club or club directors are in any way responsible or liable for hiker's comfort, transportation, property, safety, or general wellbeing while traveling to and from the trailhead or while hiking or working any trail.

The club's sole purpose is to show hikers where the trails are and to lead the way. The public, other clubs, youth groups, church groups and others are welcome and wholeheartedly invited to join with the hike leader and others who want to hike these trails. Children under 13 should be accompanied by an adult. Please, no pets on these hikes.

HIKE CLASSIFICATIONS

Each hike has a number and letter designation after it (e.g., 2C). Numbers indicate the hiking time and letters indicate the degree of difficulty.

Hiking Time

Class 1: 2 hours

Class 2: 4 hours

Class 3: 6 hours

Class 4: 8 hours

These are approximate hiking times, not including travel time to and from the trailhead (20 to 70 minutes, depending on the hike) and meal times (lunch will add another 20-70 minutes, depending on the mood of the group). The times are based on an assumption of a two mile per hour pace, with a half hour added for each 1000 feet in elevation gain. Trail conditions, weather, and unexpected hazards can extend the hiking time.

24-hour Hikes Hotline: 328-0480

Degree of Difficulty

A: little or no elevation gain, up to 500 feet, no difficulties for average walker

B: some climbing: up to 1200 feet, or some other difficulty

C: more climbing: up to 2500 feet, or some other difficulty

D: much climbing: over 2500 feet elevation gain
This is an *estimated* degree of difficulty. Most trails in the Issaquah Alps are not up to the high standards of state and national parks. Issaquah Trails can be very steep in parts or muddy and brushy. Hikers may gain 1000 feet in just one mile of a five-mile, 1500-foot elevation gain hike. Sometimes there are trees to climb over or nettles and berry bushes to beat through. *Short* doesn't automatically mean easy and *long* doesn't automatically mean tough.

HIKE DESCRIPTION MODIFIERS

Exploration

The leader shows trails and points of interest along the way. The trails to be hiked or points visited depend on the weather and the group's interests.

Leader's Choice

The leader had not decided where to hike before publication of the hike schedule.

Trail Party

Trail maintenance work party.

Variation

The leader may detour, take short cuts and loops, explore or otherwise deviate from the main trail to make the hike more interesting.

Exploratory Bushwhack

The leader goes cross country off the main trail system to explore animal trails, canyons, old logging roads, or old railroad grades. Expect to go through brush, over logs, tiptoe through wildflowers and/or mud and have a good time hiking where others seldom tread.

Youth Hike

For children ages six to 12. Parents must come along.

Toddler's Walk

For parents with very small children or infants.

MEETING PLACE

Trails Club hikes meet in the parking lot just south of Issaquah City Hall. To get there, take Exit 17 (Issaquah–Front Street) off Interstate 90 and turn south into downtown Issaquah. Go one mile or so down Front Street, past the light at Sunset to S.E. Andrews. Turn left into the KC Foods complex. Go one block to parking area between First Avenue and Rainier Blvd. Park south of Andrews Street.

CLOTHING

Dress for the Pacific Northwest outdoors—expect rain, snow, sunshine, fog and everything in between. Bring extra clothing, rain gear, food, drink, matches, flashlight and first aid supplies. Wear comfortable hiking boots or hiking shoes.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Volunteers organize and schedule trail maintenance parties periodically as listed in the hike schedule. These work parties meet at the same place as the regular hikes (see "Meeting Place" above). The Club is well supplied with heavy trail maintenance tools, but workers may also bring their own loppers, weed whackers and other tools. Trail work parties last at least four hours. Trail maintenance is vital to the Club's work and an integral part of the DNR management plan for Tiger Mountain. Work parties must limit their activity to those trails listed by DNR as scheduled for maintenance—no construction of new trails is allowed. Work parties are a great way to meet people! Individuals and groups are also encourage to adopt a trail, or section of trail, and be responsible for maintaining it. A



Overnight to Newcastle-A Special Tradition

Elizabeth Kappler

For the past 11 years, Elizabeth and her family camp out at the Red Town Trailhead of Cougar Mountain Park on the eve of Return to Newcastle. They assist in setting up the tents and facilities, then spend the night overseeing the preparations. -Ed.

Every year, just as school is coming to an end and it seems as though summer has finally come, my Dad, my sister and I pack our camping equipment, and our s'more ingredients and head out to old Newcastle. We leave Saturday afternoon, and about 25 minutes later we have arrived.

We come that Saturday before the Return to Newcastle event and spend the night in the big tents, guarding all of the things already set up, the tents, and whatever else. My sister, my friends and I play down by the creek, following the creek bed, walking in its waters. Being careful to watch out for nettles—the incredibly abundant and annoying plant. We go back to places we remember from last year. We find new places around the high banks of the creek. We explore new trails and new routes.

It begins to get dark, and we all come back to the tent and eat our dinner. We build a fire in our small, circular barbecue, and we all sit around and make s'mores, then get up and try to find our water bottles to quench our thirst. We sit around the fire in uncomfortable folding chairs, one side of us warm from the fire, the other cold. We play our own version of Trivial Pursuit, seeing by the light of our trusty flashlights.

Late in the night we crawl into our sleeping bags, tired and cold, waiting for sleep to overcome us. Although I know that there is no such thing as monsters, I worry about the possibility of things sneaking up on me in the night, when my back is turned. More realistically I wonder about cars coming into the area, near our tent—people that could not be doing good.

As sleep finally comes to me, I relax on the hard pad, feeling the gravel, until I am awakened by the hustle of morning preparations for the big day. As we change into our clothes and pack up our things, we start to see more people coming in to Return to Newcastle.

I have gone with my Dad up to that spot and stayed overnight every year since Return to Newcastle first started, in a big, olive green army tent. Starting a wonderful tradition.

The Proposed Issaquah By-Pass

George Comstock

he IATC has taken a formal position opposing the proposed Issaquah by-pass—at least as it is now presented. This arterial is proposed to run from an enlarged I-90 Sunset Interchange along the High School Trail and would connect to the Issaquah-Hobart Road at a point to be specified south of the city limits. This alignment would sever two trailheads, one right near the present Sunset Interchange, and one near the Issaquah High School, as well as obliterate the High School Trail. This bypass would also create a substantial barrier between downtown Issaquah and Tiger Mountain. Additionally, the enlarged Sunset Interchange would become a mass of concrete spaghetti right on top of the East Fork of the Issaquah creek—hardly a welcome addition to the Mountains-to-Sound Greenway. These are among the reasons why the Trails Club is opposed to this particular by-pass proposal.

But don't think it will be easy to lobby for a better solution to the worsening local traffic problems. Technical reports prepared for our government agencies have been referring to this by-pass with an ominous conviction. Here is a quote from the Alternatives Feasibility Report of the East Sammamish Access Improvement Study, submitted to the King County Roads Division in March 1993:

"In regards to regional connectivity, the Sunset Interchange has been identified in the I-90 Issaquah Area Access Study as the preferred location for interconnection of a new arterial which would link I-90 and Issaquah-Hobart Road. A new plateau arterial connecting through the Sunset Interchange could provide a continuous link between the plateau neighborhoods and neighborhoods and cities to the south of Issaquah."

So far, the City of Issaquah has been shying away from notions of "regional connectivity," concentrating instead on convincing Issaquah residents that this by-pass will solve the local traffic problems—perhaps because they fear the public will correctly translate "regional connectivity" as "freeway". And unfortunately, public input received last fall doesn't seem to have had much effect. At two separate meetings, more than 100 attendees, all of whom know a freeway when they see one, were clearly opposed to the by-pass proposal presented, but city officials have remained almost completely silent on what that means, concentrating doggedly on their "by-pass feasibility studies" instead.

So what is to be done? More public input would likely help. Perhaps if our elected officials understood that Tiger Mountain and its slopes facing Issaquah were really an important feature of the town, not just some picturesque backdrop to be viewed through a windshield, they would recognize that their proposal was not a by-pass at all, but rather a spear right through the center of Issaquah's heart.

King County Open Space Acquisitions Proposed

Pam Wallenstein

here are \$65.4 million dollars available this year for land purchases in King County. The money is coming from two different sources. First, \$5.4 million to be used to acquire open space comes from the 1989 Open Space Bond Measure. This money was generated through a property tax on residential land. Ken Konigsmark has written a letter supporting the purchase of the M&H Development property. The M&H property is located at the base of Squak along SR 900. Purchasing this parcel of approximately 65 acres would provide a west side trailhead for Squak Mountain and connect Squak with Cougar. This land was partially logged last November and the lower 25 acres have been sold to Santana Construction for use as a construction yard. Possible run-off of silt would damage Tibbetts Creek and Lake Sammamish.

The second funding source, the 1993 Regional Conservation Futures Acquisition Program, provides for \$60 million. This money comes from a portion of property taxes set aside for open space acquisition. The funds are divided equally among four entities: the City of Seattle, suburban cities, unincorporated areas, and "regional" spaces. The regional

classification is open to all areas and is for purchase of land with regional significance.

Ken Konigsmark has written letters for the Club in support of the program. In unincorporated areas, the IATC Board supports acquisition of 1,800 acres on Rattlesnake Ridge that is currently owned by Weyerhauser and is available for purchase for approximately \$1.5 million. This parcel is critical for linking open spaces along the Mountains to Sound Greenway and to the Issaquah Alps. It would preserve wildlife habitat and corridors and provide recreational land use.

The Club also wrote a letter supporting the purchase of an 80-acre parcel in the Lake Desire Area that contains one of the few remaining true bogs in our region. It is on the southwest side of Spring Lake and the option for purchase of this land expires in September '93.

The Club supports the purchase of three properties of regional significance. These properties on Cougar Mountain include the China Creek headwaters, Section 30 on the eastern slope of Cougar, and the Cougar Ridge/Military Road area.

Margaret Macleod, Issaquah's Trails Coordina-

tor, is submitting applications on behalf of the City for funding five regional properties. The IATC supports these acquisitions and has written letters on their behalf. These parcels include a key property on the northwest slope of Squak Mountain as well as four properties on the west and north slopes of Tiger.

The NW Properties parcel on Squak Mountain is 160 acres to the north of the M&H property mentioned earlier. It abuts the Mountainside Drive trailhead and contains a stretch of the primary access trail to Squak Mountain State Park. It is essential that this property be acquired in order to retain access to the Park.

The properties on Tiger Mountain include the 18-acre Tibbetts property, the 50-acre Schroeder property abutting Tradition Lake, the highly visible 80-acre Group export 1 property located below West Tiger Summit, and the 36-acre Overbeck property. The Overbeck property would provide an alternative trailhead to Tiger Mountain from the High Point area. •

Come Hike With Us, Too!

The Snoqualmie Valley Trails Club is just like the IATC. Except in a different place, "beyond the Alps," in a neighboring and by no means despicable mountain range, the Cascades. The concept behind the success of the IATC—make defenders of the trails by putting feet on them—needed to be extended. And so it has been.

"You don't have to be a member to hike with us!" But if you are a member, you get the newsletter listing the upcoming hikes. If you love the IATC, you'll go crazy over the SVTC. For further information call 888-2426. Or send \$10 (check or money order) to Snoqualmie Valley Trails Club, 45053 SE 166th, North Bend, WA 98045. Annual dues are \$10 (family). Memberships are renewable on May 1. Memberships received after January 1 are applied through April of the next year.

WANTED: Clubhouse Donations! Volunteer Clubhouse Custodian! Volunteers Coordinator!

The City of Issaquah has offered us the opportunity to establish a clubhouse in the Station Master's house near City Hall. To do so, we need to acquire an office desk and chair, filing cabinets, office mail boxes, and especially a PC or word processor. If you or someone you know would like to donate any of these items to the Club and to the purpose of preserving, protecting, and promoting the Alps, please call Ken Konigsmark at 392-3099. Any donations would be greatly appreciated, and are tax deductible.

We also need a volunteer Clubhouse custodian to look after the Club's office, schedule use of club facilities, and keep Club materials and hiker information up to date. If you are interested in the custodian role or have ideas about bringing this clubhouse operation into reality, please call Ken Konigsmark.

Volunteers Coordinator

A volunteer to coordinate volunteer activity is urgently needed. We need someone who will follow up with membership renewals that indicate an interest in volunteering for the Club—this includes matching up interested new volunteers with the appropriate Advocate or Board Member, linking volunteer skills with special projects, and reviewing the membership data base for volunteer opportunities.

This position is critical to the smooth and effective operation of the Club! It is important to find someone who can help us bettter tap the many valuable people resources the Club has. Please contact Bill at 391-3359 if you'd like to know more about what you can bring to this position.

Board Briefs

Pam Wallenstein

Highlights follow from the previous quarter's IATC board meetings. Members are invited to attend. Call Ken Konigsmark if you have a topic to add to the agenda. Board meetings this summer are scheduled for July 26, August 23, and September 27.

April

The old Railmaster's house in Issaquah is available to the Club to be fixed up as a Trails Headquarters! Margaret Maclod, Issaquah's Trails Coordinator, will move her office into the Station Master's house. She is applying for a grant to repair and furnish the building.

REI purchased over 180 books from the Club. Many outdoor stores and bookshops are now carrying IATC materials.

Bill Longwell led the effort to re-route a trail to detour the microwave towers on West Tiger 1. No one should be near the towers for longer than six minutes due to microwaves. Weyerhauser donated \$500 to the Club to reroute the trail.

Santana Construction purchased the lower 25 acres of the M&H parcel that was logged on Squak last November. They plan to use it as a construction yard, which would pollute Tibbetts Creek and further limit access to Squak Mountain from Issaquah.

The Club will join the Issaquah Chamber of Commerce. Maryanne Tagney Jones will represent us.

May

The Board toured the old Railmaster's house which will be the new Trails Headquarters for the City of Issaquah. Much work will be done to restore this historic site and develop it as a trails headquarters.

George Jackman has been helping build trails on Rattlesnake Ridge and has written a letter of thanks to the Cedar River Watershed staff in North Bend to thank them for their technical assistance. The Club and the Mountains To Sound Greenway are establishing trails across the northern slope of Taylor Mountain, the upper reaches of the Raging River, and across the top of Rattlesnake Mountain.

DNR succeeded in securing funding for the Washington CCC to work on Tiger Mountain.

Trail work continues at Tradition Lake. Trails on West Tiger III are completely rebuilt and open for use! The trail from Issaquah High to Poo Poo Point has new bridges, parking, and toilet facilities, and is now open.

The Board reaffirmed that Club hikes will remain within the Alps as defined in the Bylaws. (The Club Bylaws define the Alps to consist of Cougar, Squak, Tiger, Grand Ridge, Taylor, and Rattlesnake Ridge.) This was a difficult decision, as so many members like to hike and lead hikes "beyond the Alps". •

Issaquah Alps Trails Club P.O. Box 351 Issaquah, WA 98027

Issaquah Alps Trails Club Membership Application

P.O. Box 351, Issaquah, WA 98027

Name:				•	
Address:			,		
	 	 		<u> </u>	

Phone:	☐ New	□ Renewal
☐ Annual Regular Dues\$10 ☐ Annual Contributing Dues\$20	cover the r	rest of the club's overhead expenses ar
☐ Lifetime Membership	allow us so events, pul	ome financial leeway in planning spec blishing trail guides and keeping our

- ▲ 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.
- 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.

☐ I would like to get involved with the club's activities. Please send me a volunteer questionnaire.

Issaquah Alps Trails Club 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 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 and Grand Ridge map \$1.00 (includes tax and shipping)
- ▲ T-Shirt: "Issaquah Alps Trails Club" Specify size (S,M,L,XL) color (blue or white) and sleeve length. Short sleeve: \$11, long sleeve: \$15.00.
- ▲ T-Shirt: "Mountains to Sound March" Specify size (S, M, L, XL). \$11.00. All shirts are blue and short-sleeved.



SHORT LOAN

SSAQUAH

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