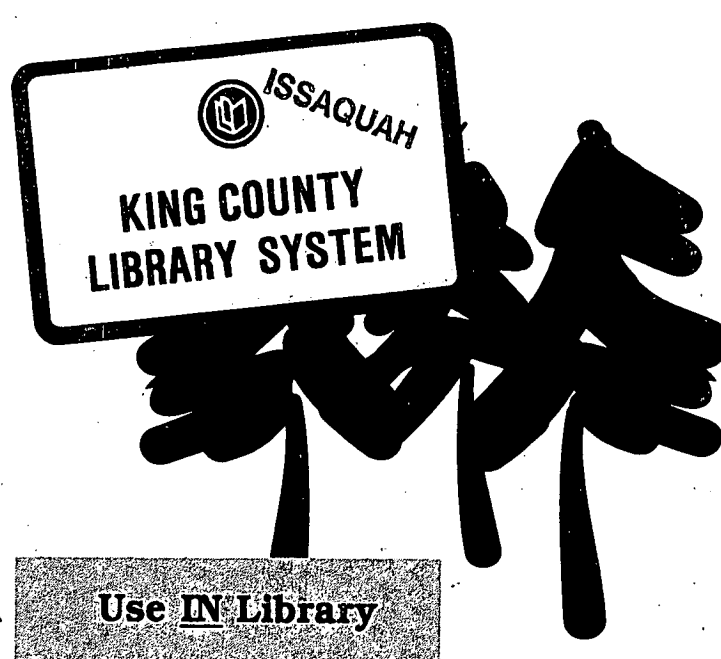


# THE ALPINE



April ▲ May ▲ June ▲ 1994

Cougar ▲ Squak ▲ Tiger ▲ Grand Ridge

## Our Issaquah Aquifer

George Comstock

The next time you take a walk on the Lake Tradition Plateau, take a close look at Lake Tradition and see if something doesn't strike you as a little odd. Where does this water come from? Where does it go to? Yes, you noticed it there's no stream in or out of Lake Tradition, or Round Lake either. You might also notice that the lake level fluctuates quite dramatically from season to season, and year to year.

Take a look at any map of the area, and you will find that the Lake Tradition Plateau, including Lake Tradition and Round Lake, are part of the City of Issaquah Watershed. With only the lakes in mind, one could be forgiven for not drinking the water until getting to Bellevue. Fortunately, however, Issaquah has extremely good drinking water, according to a recently published technical report entitled "The Lower Issaquah Valley Wellhead Protection Plan". This report evaluates the groundwater resources which some 20,000 residents of Issaquah and the Sammamish Plateau rely upon for their drinking water. How does Issaquah get excellent water from a comparatively small, heavily used piece of ground with two small and dubious looking "lakes?"

In fact, Issaquah and the plateau drink groundwater which collects directly under the city itself in gravel deposits. This water is pumped out of the ground by several city owned production wells generally located near the I-90 interchange at Front Street, and hundreds of private wells throughout the vicinity. Drawn from what the Wellhead Protection Plan (WPP) calls an unconfined aquifer, the water under the city might be described as a lake filled

with gravel, with a small city on top. The Issaquah aquifer extends all across the valley floor, bounded by Tiger Mountain to the east, Squak and Cougar Mountains to the south and west, Lake Sammamish to the north, and southward between Squak and Tiger to the "Issaquah Gap", located a little north of the May Valley Road.

The Lake Tradition Plateau and Grand Ridge (on the north side of I-90) are very important aquifer recharge areas. Rain water falling onto these recharge areas enters the ground directly, seeps down through the ground (actually the same gravel deposits which hold the aquifer) and eventually reaches the aquifer under Issaquah. The WPP estimates that it takes approximately six years for rain water falling on Grand Ridge to reach the production wells near I-90 and Front Street, and that approximately one half of the total water supply comes from these recharge areas. Other sources of water include direct recharge from the valley floor, infiltration of water from the east and south forks of Issaquah Creek, and groundwater flowing northward from the Issaquah Gap. The importance of the Lake Tradition Plateau as a recharge area explains why the City of Issaquah owns it as a watershed/conservation area, although it doesn't shed water, but actually absorbs it. The importance of Grand Ridge as an aquifer recharge area is also clear. King County recently stopped an urban development of Grand Ridge pending the results of the WPP, and local residents will surely draw arguments from the WPP to fight development on top of their water source.

To think of the Issaquah aquifer as a gravel filled lake is misleading in one respect, however, since it doesn't give a feeling for the considerable movement of water through these gravel deposits. This groundwater moves generally northward eventually entering Lake Sammamish. The marshy area in Lake Sammamish State Park is where the aquifer is upwelling from deep gravel deposits on its way to the lake. Total water flow into the aquifer is estimated at 20 to 25 cubic feet per second (cfs) from all these sources: a cube of water almost 3 feet to a side entering the ground every second! Issaquah and the Sammamish Plateau presently consume about 5 cfs and the remaining water discharges into Lake Sammamish.

So the next time you go to the Lake Tradition Plateau, remember that you are standing on top of a large gravel sponge that some 20,000 people rely upon daily for their drinking water. And how do Lake Tradition and Round Lake manage to stay on top of this sponge? The answer is that the gravel deposits which make up most of the Lake Tradition Plateau has mixed within it pockets of impervious soils like clays and silts. Two such lenses of impervious soils lie under these lakes, and under other wetland areas scattered around the plateau, which allow rainwater to collect rather than seeping into the ground. These lakes are the merest drops of water in the water supply system for the area. The Lake Tradition Plateau and Grand Ridge are quite the opposite—they are a vital element of a complex and only partly understood water supply system. ▲

## Tradition Plateau Becomes a NRCA

Pamela Wallenstein

On December 20, 1993 the Issaquah City Council changed the zoning of the Tradition Plateau from a Public Use Zone to a Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA). This new designation was recommended by the Land Use Planning Committee and the Ad Hoc Trails Committee.

In November 1992 the City Council approved the Issaquah Area Wildlife and Recreational Trails Plan. Part of the plan included recommendations for the Tradition Lake Plateau. One of these recommendations was for the City of Issaquah to "coordinate and integrate recreational usage as well as educational usage to be consistent with the Natural Resources Conservation status that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has given to the surrounding area including the Tradition Lake Plateau."

The Washington State Legislature in 1987 passed the Natural Resources Conservation Areas Act to "protect outstanding examples of native ecosystems and habitat for endangered, threatened, and sensitive plants and animals." Currently 854 acres on West Tiger Mountain have been designated as a Natural Resources Conservation Area by DNR. DNR's West Tiger Mountain Draft Management Plan recommends expanding the current NRCA to include 4,400 acres on the northern and western slopes of Tiger Mountain. Because the Tradition Lake Plateau is surrounded by the existing NRCA and because the area around the lakes is similar to the area already classified as a NRCA, DNR included Tradition Lake Plateau in its management plan.

The City Council felt that rezoning the area as a NRCA would be consistent with the existing NRCA that surrounds the Plateau and would also be in line with the recommendations of the City's Trails Plan. Had it been left a Public Use Zone, expansion could have included, among other things, "accessory structures such as restrooms, seating, [and] scoreboards."

Within a NRCA, different levels of usage are permitted. The West Tiger Mountain Draft Management Plan suggests that the immediate area surrounding Tradition and Round Lakes is the most environmentally sensitive. It recommends that recreational use be prohibited in these areas. Other areas on the Plateau could be open to Class 1 activities

story continued on page 4

# 1994 Issaquah Alps "State of the Union"

Ken Konigsmark

Many significant changes, some very good, and some potentially ominous, will impact the Issaquah Alps area in 1994. Following our governmental custom of an annual "state of the union" address, I am providing a summary of the issues expected in the year ahead.

The overall state of the Issaquah Alps in 1994 is amazingly good. Several recent, monumental events have contributed to the expansion and preservation of this priceless area: the purchase of 1800 acres on Rattlesnake Ridge by DNR and King County; the acquisition of Phase 1, Section 9 on Squak Mountain by State Parks; the addition of another 442 acres to Cougar Mountain Park by King County; the planned acquisition of the Tibbitts property at the High Point trailhead by the City of Issaquah; and the designation of the Tradition Plateau by the City of Issaquah (and most of the rest of West Tiger by DNR) as a Natural Resources Conservation Area.

## Membership Dues Increase

Joe Toynbee

At the January 24 meeting, the Issaquah Alps Trails Club Board of Directors approved the following membership dues increases, effective April 1, 1994:

- Annual Regular Dues: \$10 to \$12
- Annual Contributing Dues: \$20 to \$22
- Lifetime Memberships: \$100 to \$120
- Limited Income: \$5 to \$6

More than four years have passed since the dues were last raised. The Board-approved increases are necessary to cover growing costs, such as those for the *Alpiner*. Club members may be assured that an absolute minimum of their dues goes to overhead costs: the Club has no paid staff and occupies a clubhouse provided free of charge by the City of Issaquah. Dues can therefore be used in direct support of the Club objective: **to preserve as much as possible of the Issaquah Alps for public purposes.** ▲

## The Apparatus

President: Ken Konigsmark • 392-3099  
VP, Operations: Teri Morris-Hanson • 747-2999  
Treasurer: Jim Cadigan • 641-4046  
Secretary: Pam Wallenstein • 392-7813  
Board of Directors:  
Harvey Manning, Chairman • 746-1017  
Fred Weinmann • 392-9230  
Ted Thomsen • 454-8643  
Bill Longwell • 222-6775  
Ralph Owen • 746-1070  
Joe Toynbee • 723-6716  
Roger Delmar • 392-9553  
Ken Konigsmark • 392-3099  
Marianne Tagney Jones • 222-7615  
Kathy Shertz • 228-8666  
Hikes Coordinator: Ann Weinmann • 392-9230  
Membership Records: open  
Special Events: Mary Cadigan • 641-4046  
Book Sales/Distribution: Marty Hanson • 392-2458

The City "Trails Coordinator" (Margaret Macleod) is working hard to implement the Issaquah Trails Plan, and serves as a key link to all the managing agencies for the Alps. IATC has strong, positive relationships with DNR, King County Parks, State Parks, and the City which allows dialog on land management issues. We have a strong core of volunteers, including several new additions, who serve the Club in many capacities.

The Cougar Mountain Wildland Park Master Plan is nearing completion, and will provide a solid framework for management of this regional treasure. DNR continues to repair and upgrade trails and facilities on Tiger Mountain, an effort much appreciated by the numerous visitors.

All of the above items represent extremely positive things for IATC and the Alps. Yet, all is not rosy. The threat of a massive development on Grand Ridge will resurface this year. New developments are being proposed for the east slope of Cougar, on the slope of Tiger behind the High School, and on the Manke property at the headwaters of Issaquah Creek. Two huge retail complexes will break ground this spring on both sides of I-90 in the Issaquah flats, bringing Costco and much more traffic to Issaquah. A large expansion of the Preston Industrial Park is proposed which would dramatically alter the Preston interchange. An I-90 bypass along the flank of Tiger Mountain is still being strongly considered by the city. It appears that Lakemont Boulevard will be built up the side of the environmentally-sensitive Lewis Canyon. A company wants to reopen the clay pits on Squak Mountain despite the clear threat of severe environmental damage. The salmon hatchery is threatened with closure, in large part due to the environmental degradation of Issaquah Creek. Lastly, the finalization of Issaquah's Comprehensive Plan during the next few months will define development plans for the next 20 years in the Alps area.

Much good, and some not so good. In the midst of the many positive actions taking place, there is an equal number of threatening issues facing IATC and the lands of the Issaquah Alps. Your voice is needed, along with those of the Officers and Board, in favorably impacting the many challenges that face us. The "state" of the Alps is very, good for now; we all need to work hard to keep it that way for tomorrow. ▲

Alpiner: Sarah Young • 271-9932  
Volunteer Coordinator: Art Wallenstein • 392-7813  
Issaquah Advocate: George Comstock • 392-8929  
Cougar Advocate: Harvey Manning • 746-1017  
Squak Advocate: Ken Konigsmark 392-3099  
Tiger Advocate: Larry Hanson • 392-2458  
Grand Ridge Advocate: Roger Delmar • 392-9553  
Raging River and Preston Advocate:  
Marianne Tagney Jones • 222-7615  
Chief Ranger: Bill Longwell • 222-6775  
MTS Greenway: Ted Thomsen • 454-8643  
Legal Advice: Tom Lucas

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Distribution: Rodi Ludlum

# 1994 Goals Established

Ken Konigsmark

In 1994, IATC will focus on a set of goals established by the Board during a December planning meeting and at the annual meeting in January. These goals were proposed by the Club Advocate (*see the Apparatus*) responsible for each of the respective geographic areas and provide a foundation for Club efforts this year.

## Cougar

1. Promote/obtain approval for Cougar Mountain Wildland Park Master Plan.
2. Oppose/challenge the proposed Lakemont Boulevard extension.
3. Restore and preserve the Licorice Fern trail.

## Tiger

1. Promote public acquisition of Section 12, Tibbetts, and Schroeder properties.
2. Enhance and improve coordination with DNR on Tiger Mountain management.
3. Explore new trail opportunities on S. Tiger.

## Squak

1. Support public funding for acquisition of Phase 2 (western half), Section 9.
2. Favorably influence the State Parks management plan for Section 9.
3. Support acquisition of trailhead area(s) for Squak

## Issaquah

1. Oppose Manke property development plans; build coalitions.
2. Oppose the proposed I-90 bypass.
3. Support efforts to protect and preserve Issaquah water and stream quality.
4. Enhance and improve close Club linkages with the City Trails Coordinator; support implementation of the City Trails Plan.
5. Establish a "watch network" for City affairs.

## Raging River

Support DNR retention of surrounding forestland

## Preston.

Support recreational development/usage of Mitchell Hill.

## Other

1. Prevent zoning conversion of Grand Ridge and other rural lands to urban designations.
2. Improve press contacts and publicity for IATC.
3. Effectively represent hiker interests on usage issues.
4. Establish a County "Visitors' Center" with County Council, Commission of Development Services.
5. Continue close partnership with City of Issaquah to Sound Greenway.

# News Briefs...

## What's New at Cougar Mountain?

the Cougar Mountain Park Staff

Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park is larger now by 442 acres on the slopes east of the Radar Park Trailhead. The southern 3/4 of Section 30 was recently purchased by King County Office of Open Space. This includes the Tibbett's Marsh wetland, the upper reaches of the Bear Ridge, Shangri La, and Tibbett's Creek trails, as well as several important viewpoints and the Fantastic Erratic.

Ralph Leber reports that "little buddy", a young first-year porcupine, recently kept him company during nightly lockups of Radar Park for nearly two weeks. Several local dogs discovered that, despite his name, the porcupine was still wild and quite willing to use his defensive quills. (Please remember to keep your pets leashed while in the Park. It's the law, but it's also for your pet's safety, and especially for the safety of the animals who live within the park.)

We are continuing to build a teaching collection of animal mounts at the Radar Park headquarters. The latest addition was a young beaver who tried to cross Highway 900 near the Wilderness Creek trailhead and was struck by a car. A black bear suffered the same fate in that area roughly two years ago. Once again, we need to seek raised roadways over stream beds and wildlife crossings under the roads that separate Cougar, Squak, and Tiger Mountains. Please report wildlife sightings, including road-kills, to the park staff at 296-4145. (We especially need more data on bird and amphibian populations.)

One final note: look for new information boards on "Birds of Cougar Mountain" at the Red Town trailhead, and "Logging History" at the million dollar viewpoint near the Radar Park trailhead. ▲

## What's Happening on Tiger?

the Staff at Tiger Mountain State Forest Department of Natural Resources

It's been a busy time for us here on Tiger Mountain. Here's a quick run down on recent events.

There have been some changes in the DNR staff at Tiger Mountain State Forest. Wendy Sammarco and Dan Pomerenk have both received promotions within the DNR and have moved out of the area to take their new jobs. Congratulations, Wendy and Dan, we will miss you! Due to budget crunches, we received permission to fill only one of the two vacancies. Jim Matthews was hired in October. Jim comes to us from the Olympia area, where he worked in the Capitol State Forest for four years. He will be focusing on recreation in the Tiger Mountain State Forest, while Doug McClelland will manage the overall operations of the forest. Susan Combs-Bauer and Dave Keihl will continue to be involved with managing Tiger Mountain State Forest as before.

15 Mile timber sale (located about three miles up the West Side Road from the summit) was sold in August to Pacific Lumber and Shipping Company of Packwood, Washington. The 35-acre sale was designed with 12-14 residual trees per acre being left for wildlife and multi-aged forest stand purposes. Harvest work should get underway late this spring or early summer.

DNR's Phase 2 proposal for Tiger Mountain State Forest was given final approval last November. With this funding, we can now develop a trailhead at South Tiger just off the Southeast Tiger Mountain Road and a trailhead at Tiger Summit just off SR 18. There will also be some maintenance and improvements to the trails associated with these new trailheads.

Finally, a note to all of you—please excuse our mess! Work has begun on reconstruction of a portion of the West Side Road. This was part of Phase 1 of the Tiger Mountain Recreation Plan. It is hoped that the reconstruction, which consists of widening and resurfacing the road with gravel, will be completed early this summer. Please be careful when in the area as there is heavy equipment working up and down the road.

Once again, we would like to thank all those that have given us input and an encouraging word now and then. We appreciate it! ▲

## Puget Power Maintenance Work on Tradition Plateau

Ken Konigsmark

In February-March 1994, Puget Power will complete a vegetation maintenance effort within its powerline right of way on the Tradition Lake plateau. This will involve cutting and clearing of fir and alder trees, scotchbroom, and other vegetation within the corridor; however every effort will be made to minimize damage to underlying species such as salal, sword ferns, and mahonia. These efforts are necessary for safety and operational reasons, and are completed about once every five years. ▲

## Cascadia Quest to Complete Tradition Lk. Shoreline Restoration

Ken Konigsmark

Cascadia Quest, an organization which semiannually brings international young adults to our area to do three weeks of environmental restoration projects, is working with the City of Issaquah, DNR, Puget Power, and the Mountains to Sound Greenway (MTSG) to complete an extensive shoreline restoration project in the Tradition Lake area. On March 24, up to 75 young adults will complete numerous projects along the shoreline, including blocking and filling in eroded social trails, planting native vegetation, erecting signage, and other work to restore this fragile area.

Access to the Tradition Lake shoreline will be greatly restricted or eliminated in order to allow the lakeshore an opportunity to restore its environmental quality and to protect the City of Issaquah's water supply. While this may be unpopular with some members of IATC and the public, it is a necessary action resulting from the greatly increased usage of the area and the corresponding environmental damage that has occurred. IATC members are strongly encouraged to abide fully with these restrictions and to enjoy Tradition Lake from a distance, rather than from the fragile shoreline.

In completing this project, the cooperative efforts of the City, DNR, Puget Power, and MTSG, combined with the hard labor of Cascadia Quest volunteers, is much appreciated by the IATC. ▲

## Mountains to Sound Greenway (MTSG) Update

Nancy Keith

The Greenway effort continues to progress with many specific projects planned or underway. Several grant applications have been submitted by MTSG to fund volunteer projects and repairs to missing trestles on the Iron Horse trail (the old Milwaukee railroad grade). The Department of Transportation (DOT) has initiated a broad Greenway "scoping" study, which will result in specific plans for wildlife crossings, signs, scenic viewpoints, trailhead development, roadside plantings, and other DOT initiatives supportive of the Greenway. MTSG is closely following development proposals for Cougar Mountain, a Preston Industrial Park expansion, and other development projects along the Greenway. MTSG is sponsoring several near-term volunteer projects including a Tradition Lake shoreline restoration, a tree planting on the logged slope of Mt. Washington, a tree planting at the log yard along the Preston-Snoqualmie trail and, perhaps, other spring planting projects.

"Closing" ceremonies have recently marked public acquisition of 1800 acres on Rattlesnake Ridge, and 400 acres of Meadowbrook Farm between North Bend and Snoqualmie.

As part of a cross-state effort, Jack Hornung and Gus Nelson have scouted out a Greenway trail route from Seattle's waterfront up and over the Issaquah Alps, the ridge line south of I-90, and on eastward through Yakima to the Idaho border. These efforts represent tangible progress for the Greenway vision. ▲



# Patrolling the Alps

Teri Morris-Hansen

"The people who live in the cities come out here and commit the same crimes," said Jim Russell investigator for DNR who patrols Tiger Mountain State Park. With 14 years of law enforcement and two years with the Department of Natural Resources, Jim has seen it all.

Recently Jim called for backup to investigate a shooting; confronting people firing weapons is a common event. "You don't know what you're going to walk up on: felons with guns, stolen guns or maybe they're shooting someone." On this particular occasion the shooters thought they were shooting into empty woods, but had actually been shooting through the woods and into a nearby road.

Along with reckless shooting crimes Jim investigates timber theft, fish and game violations and littering. Prior to active law enforcement efforts on Tiger Mountain people brought up their old cars and refrigerators, used them for target practice and then abandoned the shot-up hulks in the woods.

Jim shares the credit with his volunteers for the more peaceful atmosphere on Tiger Mountain. He stays in constant communication with the hang gliders, and his hand-picked groups of equestrians and hikers he has trained to patrol the trails.

"The citizen groups have become my eyes and ears out here."

This past November, which was brutally cold for our area, Jim sent out six of his equestrian volunteers to search for a mentally unstable 31-year old woman who had been living in the woods. One of the woman riders located her and was able to bring her down to safety.

Jim will soon use his volunteer group from the IATC to perform surveillance work on the parking area at Highpoint.

"The IATC has been instrumental in keeping this forest as pristine as it is. The constant communication with that type of club makes the difference in an area like this. It can be the saving feature in the Tiger Mountain State Forest."

On the west side road leading up to Poo Poo Point Jim points out an area where he found a car stolen from Issaquah just parked in the woods and destroyed beyond imagination. Another time in this same place he found some trash and personal items dumped. Searching through the pile he came across some names and called the people. The pile belonged to a young man who had supposedly committed suicide.

Along the same road Jim recently saw a bobcat crossing the road ahead of him. He's also seen bear and tells a great story about surprising a bear one day while out hiking with his wife. The bear appeared to charge them and then turn sharply to run

parallel to the road they were running on. It turned out the bear was only following his own trail to safety and appeared as startled as Jim and his wife to be running along together.

"This job is a balance. It is extremely serious, but there is some funny stuff, too."

In addition to the Tiger Mountain area, Jim patrols the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River, Mount Si, and the Eatonville areas. He also works in the Marckworth Forest, a 12,000 acre forest east of Duvall and Green Mountain near Hood Canal. As part of an 8-person investigative team Jim and his co-workers provide law enforcement for all the state owned forest lands. He has an extensive knowledge and love for nature and the areas he works. He drives a 4-wheel drive vehicle, rides horseback, motorcycle, mountain bike and hikes the trails. In the Enumclaw area they use snowmobiles.

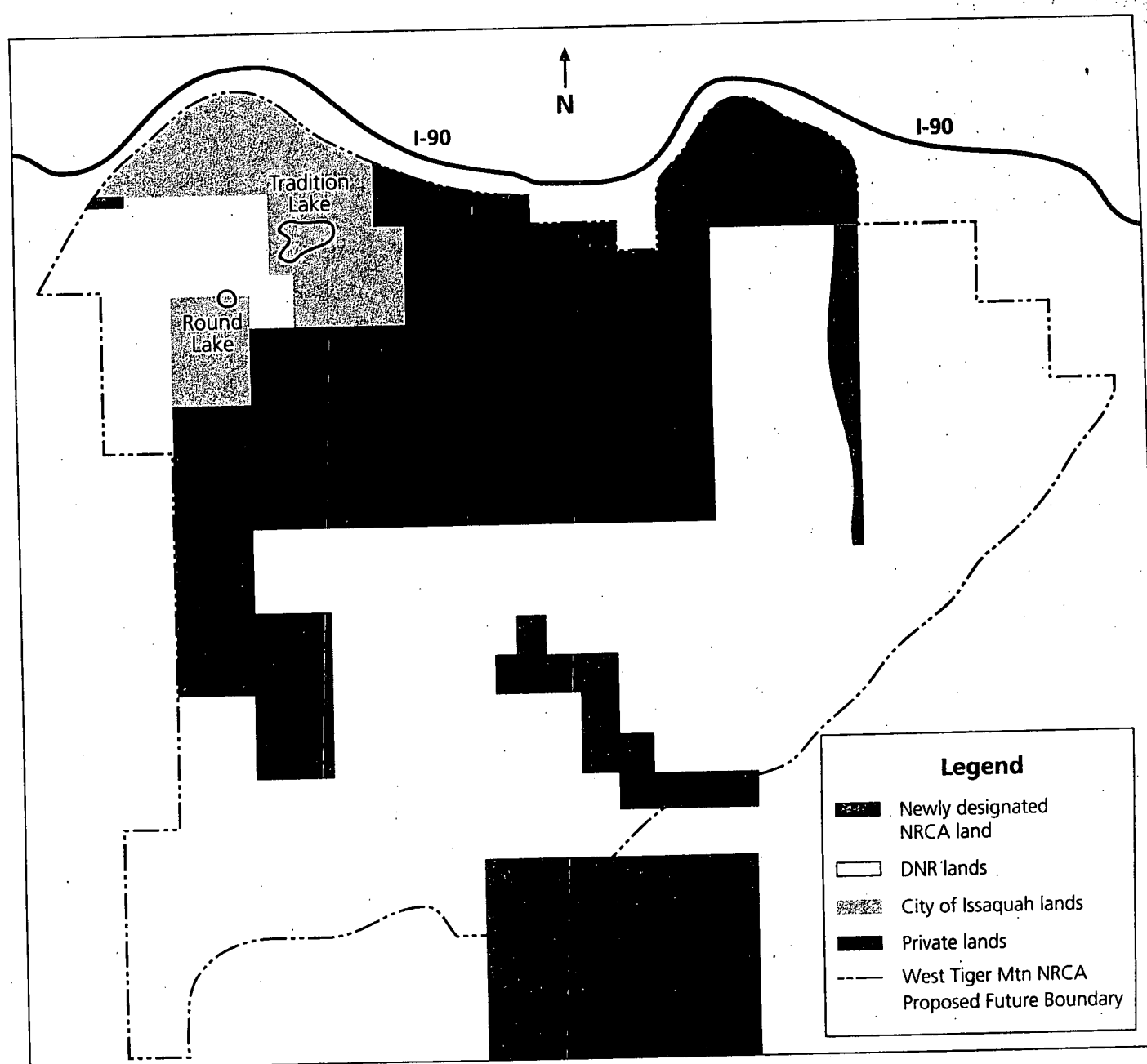
On the personal side, Jim describes himself as a family man devoted to his wife of 20 years. They both enjoy hiking and are members of the IATC. A native of Indiana, Jim is also a fluent Spanish speaker. "I have a knack for languages." In his patrol vehicle he carries the latest edition of Reader's Digest—in Spanish.

When asked about his future with DNR, Jim answered with a smile, "I'm exactly where I want to be." ▲

## NRCA cont.

such as bird watching, nature study, sight-seeing, environmental education and landscape photography. There could also be areas open to Class 2 usage—hiking (sustained levels), jogging/training (individual), and leased pets. The power line corridors and graveled service roads on the Plateau could be open to horses, mountain bikes, and all authorized vehicles. Limiting activities to select areas could then act to protect the most sensitive areas of the Plateau.

The IATC is enthusiastic and supportive of this important zoning change. This new Natural Resources Conservation Area classification will help further protect this wonderful area. ▲



# Issaquah Alps Trails Club Hikes and Events\*

## April Hikes

### Saturday April 2

Shaun Creek Falls and Taylor Mt. Summit

3B 9:30 a.m.

George Jackman 221-3925

Squak Mtn. Loop

3C (11 mi. round trip)

8:30 a.m.

Bill Longwell 222-6775

### Sunday April 3

Southwest Tiger Mtn.

3C 9:00 a.m.

Ralph Owen 746-1070

### Monday April 4

Taylor Mt. Summit Trail Party: RSVP

4B 8:30 a.m.

George Jackman 221-3925

### Saturday April 9

Cougar Mtn. Views

2B 9:30 a.m.

Ann Leber 746-3291

### Sunday April 10

Cougar Mtn. Wildlands

Visit flowers with a Cougar Mt. expert

2B 12:30 p.m.

Mary Cadigan 641-4046

### Wednesday April 13

Squak Mtn. Leader's Choice

3B 9:00 a.m.

Ted Thomsen 454-8643

### Friday April 15

Lake Desire Flowers Galore!

2B 9:30 a.m.

Betty Culbert 432-7387

### Saturday April 16

Squak Mt. Trail Maintenance

(brushing and grubbing)

3C 8:30 a.m.

Joe Toynbee 723-6716

Tradition Plateau Loop

Plants, geology, & history

2A 10:00 a.m.

Dave Kappler 392-3571

### Sunday April 17

Coal Creek Town

History and fossils

2A 9:00 a.m.

Bert Drui 746-0709

### Tuesday April 19

Little Si

2B 9:30 a.m.

Al Blalock 746-4155

### Thursday April 21

Lake Hills Green Belt Family Hike

1A 10:00 a.m.

Peggy Barchi 432-5446

### Saturday April 23

Tiger Mtn. South

FLOWERS, FLOWERS

2A 9:00 a.m.

Bill Longwell 222-6775

### Sunday April 24

Tradition Plateau Introductory Stroll

2A 1:00 p.m.

Ted Thomsen 454-8643

### Monday April 25

BOARD MEETING

7:00 p.m. at Clubhouse, 1st and Bush

### Saturday April 30

Twin Falls and Little Si

to climbing wall

3B 9:30 a.m.

Ann Leber 746-3291

## May Hikes

### Sunday May 1

Rambles on Tradition Plateau

2B 1:30 p.m.

Steve Cavit 271-7780

### Tuesday May 3

Taylor Mtn. Trail Maintenance

4B 8:30 a.m.

George Jackman 221-3925

### Friday May 6

(These 2 flower hikes on May 6 are real treats. Two botanist leaders in one day!)

Lake Desire Flowers Galore!

2B 9:30 a.m.

Betty Culbert 432-7387

Preston Trail: And More Flowers!

1A 6:30 p.m.

Bill Longwell 222-6775

### Saturday May 7

Tiger 1

3C (moderate pace) 8:30 a.m.

Trudy Ecob 232-2933

### Sunday May 8

Lake Tradition Plateau

1B (4mi./500 ft. gain) 1:00 p.m.

Bob Gross 392-0539

### Monday May 9

Middle Tiger/East Tiger Loop

(some off trail travel)

3C 9:00 a.m.

Warren Jones 888-0262

### Thursday May 12

Lake Tradition

2A 9:30 a.m.

Al Blalock 746-4155

### Saturday May 14

Tiger Mtn. Traverse

4C 8:30 a.m.

Joe Toynbee 723-6716

### Sunday May 15

Nike missile site and clay pit

2A 9:00 a.m.

Bert Drui 746-0709

### Tuesday May 17

Squak Mtn. St. Park

2C (6 mi./1200 ft. gain) 9:30 a.m.

Mary Cadigan 641-4046

### Thursday May 19

High Point RR Grade Family Hike

1A 10:00 a.m.

Peggy Barchi 432-5446

### Saturday May 21

Rattlesnake Ledge

1C (2 mi./1100 ft. gain) 12:30 p.m.

Bob Gross 392-0539

### Sunday May 22

Squak Peak and 1/2

3C 9:00 a.m.

Ralph Owen 746-1070

### Monday May 23

BOARD MEETING

7:00 p.m. at Clubhouse, 1st. and Bush

## June Hikes

### Saturday June 4

National Trails Day (see article)

Rattlesnake Ridge Lake to winery

4D 8:00 a.m./Ted Thomsen 454-8643

### Sunday June 5

RETURN TO NEWCASTLE

(see article)

### Tuesday June 7

Twin Falls

2B 9:30 a.m.

Al Blalock 746-4155

### Thursday June 9

Tiger Mtn. Poo Poo Pt.

3C (8 mi./1700 ft. gain) 9:00 a.m.

Mary Cadigan 641-4046

### Saturday June 11

Rattlesnake Ledge/Cedar Butte

3C 9:00 a.m.

Peggy Owen 746-1070

### Sunday June 12

Lake Tradition Plateau

1B (4mi./500 ft. gain) 1 p.m.

Bob Gross 392-0539

### Thursday June 16

Lake Tradition Plateau

Family Hike

1A 10:00 a.m.

Peggy Barchi 432-5446

### Friday June 17

Lake Tradition Bird Identification

1A 6:30 p.m.

Bill Longwell 222-6775

### Saturday June 18

Snoqualmie Ridge Bird Identification

1-2A 8:30 a.m.

Bill Longwell 222-6775

### Sunday June 19

Newcastle Hills Traverse

Peggy's Trail to Wilderness Creek

3C 8:00 a.m.

Bert Drui 746-0709

### Saturday June 25

Tiger Mt. Trail to RR grade

2C (moderate pace) 8:30 a.m.

Trudy Ecob 232-2933

### Sunday June 26

Tradition Plateau Loop

Plants, geology, and history

2A 10:00 a.m.

Dave Kappler 392-3571

### Monday June 27

BOARD MEETING

7:00 p.m. at Clubhouse, 1st and Bush

### Tuesday June 28

Little Si

2B 9:30 a.m.

Al Blalock 746-4155

**\* Note the NEW HIKE MEETING PLACE by the old Stationmaster's house at 1st and Bush. This new location is at the other end of the gravel parking lot where we used to meet, only a few hundred yards away. Park beside the Clubhouse in the gravel lot or on the EAST side of the logs opposite the Issaquah Food Bank. Do NOT park on the side of the logs closest to the Food Bank**

## 24-hour Hikes Hotline: 328-0480

## 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.

#### 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

#### Leader's Choice

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

#### Trail Party

Trail maintenance work party.

#### Exploratory

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.

### Family Hike

For parents and children. Easy pace. Call leader for hike particulars.

### MEETING PLACE

Trails Club hikes meet in the parking lot at the corner of 1st and Bush next to the "IATC Clubhouse", the little gray Stationmaster's house. To get there, take Exit 17 (Issaquah Front Street) from Interstate 90 and turn south into downtown Issaquah. Go about one mile through town on Front Street past the light at Sunset and turn left on Bush Street. Go one block and turn into the lot on the left. Park beside the Clubhouse or on the east side of the logs opposite the Issaquah Food Bank. Do NOT park on the side of the logs closest to the Food Bank.

### 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 encouraged to adopt a trail, or section of trail, and be responsible for maintaining it. ▲



## Hike Event for Women

Issaquah Parks & Recreation will offer a special hike for women. "Woman Walk" is an opportunity for women of all ages to explore nature and wilderness. This 3-hour event involves a variety of leaders (Margaret Macleod, Marilyn Moon, and Nancy Finelli) who will share what they each enjoy about walking/hiking and nature. Women are encouraged to participate at their own comfort level (very easy to moderate) and discover what they most enjoy about being out of doors.

WomanWalk will be offered Saturday, May 7th from 1-4 p.m. Participants should dress appropriately for the Northwest weather, wear supportive shoes, and carry drinking water. The group will meet at the Issaquah City Hall south parking lot and carpool to the Tiger Mountain High Point Trailhead. After an opening talk at the Interpretive Center, participants will break up into small groups to explore. The program will conclude with a 4 p.m. return to the City Hall parking lot.

This is a real treat for Mom to celebrate Mother's Day weekend! Call Parks & Recreation at 391-1008 to register—class cost is \$2.00. For more information call Marilyn Moon at 392-1732 or Margaret Macleod at 557-3227. ▲

## Washington Trails Month Planned for June!

Ken Konigsmark

The first annual National Trails Day was held in June 1993, with Washington holding more trails events than any other state due to the dedicated efforts of Mark Boyar and the Washington Trails Association. Because of the success in 1993, plans for 1994 have been expanded to include a full month of trail events during June.

Trails month will kick off on June 4th with an all-day Trails Festival in North Bend. Events will include guided hikes on newly acquired Rattlesnake Ridge, Mt. Si, in the Middle Fork valley, and in the Alps—as well as informational booths, food, and musical entertainment. Similar hikes will be scheduled throughout the entire month so that you'll have an opportunity to participate on many such events.

Specific hike dates and start times are not yet established, however pamphlets listing events throughout the entire state for the month of June will be published and available in May. Look for these at recreational stores, park offices, or similar locations as we approach June 4th. ▲

# The Snoqualmie Valley Trail

Bill Longwell, IATC Chief Ranger

*1911 Milwaukee Railroad Spur Line  
Rattlesnake Lake to Duvall  
31 miles, 867 elevation loss  
Maps: North Bend, the old Bandera, Chester Morse Lake, Snoqualmie, Fall City,  
Carnation, Monroe.*

This Milwaukee Railroad branch, now a King County trail, begins amidst peaks and ends almost at tidewater. Started in 1908 by The Great Northern Railroad and completed in 1911 by The Milwaukee Road, this spur once served communities and industries along the Snohomish and Snoqualmie Rivers.

Numerous picturesque stations once graced the line at each community. Just one remains, a carefully restored building (now a two-room meeting hall) in lower Duvall and under the Duvall-Woodinville highway bridge.

Passenger service ceased in the valley in 1930 and freight service in the lower valley from Monroe to Cedar Falls in 1972. The last train ran in the upper valley perhaps in 1987; it served the Weyco Mill at Snoqualmie and used tracks through Cedar Falls and Renton. Burlington-Northern removed the last track in the upper valley in late 1991.

In the late 1980s AT&T installed a fiber-optic line from the King-Snohomish County line along the grade to Snoqualmie and rebuilt some of the trestles for a trail. AT&T dedicated the grade to King County for a park-trail route.

Although most of this abandoned grade is now a county linear park, much is still unimproved. Fifteen of the 32 existing trestles have concrete tread and metal fencing. The other 17 offer challenges. In wet times the ties and stringers are slick and scary. The spacing of ties is not always consistent and sometimes hikers worry about “falling through the cracks.” The missing trestle at Spring Glen is a headache.

Although the valley bottom is much the same as it was in 1911, the hillsides above the grade are not. Development after development rises along the entire length of this old grade.

But, in spite of any drawbacks, this trail offers a **GRAND** passage through Snoqualmie Valley. **WALK IT!**

From RtIsnk Lk.	From Duvall	Elev.	Comments
8.3	22.7	415'	UNIMPROVED trestle; Mt. Si Golf Clubhouse; Meadowbrook Slough NOTE: The grade continues almost one mile and over two UNIMPROVED trestles to another trestle crossing of the Snoqualmie River. As of Jan. '94, descending from this trestle is DANGEROUS. AVOID. Take Park-N. Bend Rd. from Clubhouse and walk detour 4.2 miles to grade at Tokul Road.
9.2	21.8		Snoqualmie; junction of Meadowbrook and Park. Turn right, cross Snoqualmie River bridge to
9.4	21.6	400'	Mill Pond Road; follow left
9.9	21.1	408'	Outlet of Mill Pond
10.2	20.8		Old NPRR trestle, partially destroyed. Continue Mill Pond Road
11.2	19.8		Snoqualmie River
11.4	19.6		Tokul Road (left is S. Falls) go right to
12.5	18.5	500'	Tokul Tunnel; drop down bank right onto grade
12.7	18.3		Faint trail S. to old logging road to Tokul Road
12.9	18.1		Views to Olympics; enter Tokul Valley; giant RR horseshoe bend
13.2	17.8		Begin improved curved trestle; white water below. At N. end of trestle note a Weyco 1/4 mile long tree identification trail leading to Tokul Road. Walk this!
13.9	17.1		Trail right up slope to tree plantation
14.0	17.0		Trail right to plateau
14.1	16.9		Leave Tokul Creek Valley
14.3	16.7		Snoqualmie Valley views
14.5	16.5		Road up to plateau; down to houses
14.6	16.4		Bonneville power line; views across to Snoqualmie Ridge
14.9	16.1		Road access right to power line and trails; road downhill blocked; gully with stream
15.1	15.9		Gully; views of Spring Glen
15.2	15.8		Gully
15.3	15.7		Gully
15.5	15.5	388'	HALFWAY Spring Glen Road (356th)
15.7	15.3		Begin climb into gully; NO trestle. Look for trail on S. side of grade
15.8	15.2		West end of gully
16.0	15.0		Fall City views; stop and rest
16.1	14.9		Gully and water
16.2	14.8		Road downhill
16.4	14.6		Fall City water supply
16.6	14.4		Road left
16.9	14.1	293'	Road downhill to Fall City; SE 39th Pl; site of old Fall City RR siding
17.2	13.8		Road downhill and gate
17.4	13.6		Clear-cut above grade
17.7	13.3		Road downhill
17.8	13.2		Improved trestle and bridge
17.9	13.1		Horse trail to clear-cut; slides
18.0	13.0		End slide area
18.6	12.4		Grade curves right
18.7	12.3		Road downhill
18.8	12.2		Road blocked
19.3	11.7		Road both sides of grade
19.4	11.6		Gravel road (SE 3rd)
19.8	11.2		Truck dump
19.9	11.1		Trail downhill
20.0	11.0		Improved trestle; Griffen Cr.
20.1	10.9	140'	Horse trail left; Griffin Cr. Rd. (NE 8th)
20.2	10.8		Davidson Sawmill and Boy Scout Camp Don Bosco (324 Ave)
20.5	10.5		Gated road and homes, paved road (NE 16th)
20.7	10.3		Grade begins long straight stretch



## "Enter Snake Valley"

Pamela Wallenstein

Can you imagine walking through the woods and coming across a huge ball of snakes? The strange phenomenon occurred at Tradition Lake and was observed at times for over 50 years. I spoke with Linda Hjelm who is the City Historian for Issaquah. She is the grand daughter of Charlotte Adair, a settler who married in 1910 and lived her life in Issaquah. Linda remembers her grandmother telling her that it was not at all uncommon to run into balls of snakes on her walks near Tradition Lake. Linda says she remembers this story because it seemed strange to her that her grandmother would go into the area as she was so terrified of snakes. Linda is not sure of the time of year the snakes appeared nor the exact location where they were seen, but it was a usual occurrence for her grandparents to go on Sunday afternoon walks as they didn't cost any money. They probably went first to Round Lake and then on to Lake Tradition along the route where the power lines are today.

## Snoqualmie Valley Trail (cont.)

From RtIsnk Lk.	From Duvall	Elev.	Comments
21.0	10.0		Paved two-lane road; gates; (NE 24th)
21.6	9.4		Improved trestle; Remlinger Farm Rd. (NE 32nd)
21.8	9.2		Howard A. Miller Athletic Field; old Tolt HS
22.2	8.8	70'	Carnation; Entwistle Road; site of old Carnation Station
22.6	8.4		Strawberry fields; Carnation Grade School
22.7	8.3		NE 55th; dogs
22.9	8.1		Paved road
23.5	7.5	61'	Hwy 203 crossing; Horseshoe Lake
23.8	7.2		Improved trestle over slough
24.2	6.8		Field access road
24.3	6.7		Improved trestle
24.5	6.5	50'	Improved trestle; Harris Creek
24.6	6.4		Improved trestle; Stillwater Store
24.8	6.2		BOR parking lot; dirty toilet, vandalized area, sign—"Do not kill swans. Swans are protected."
24.9	6.1		Swamp and snags
25.0	6.0		Gated road
25.3	5.7		Improved trestle
25.5	5.5		Improved trestle; another BOR parking lot
25.9	5.1		Improved trestle, access road, Stuart, flood flotsam; site of old siding
26.0	5.0		Pilings; old Carnation Farms; Stuart spur to
26.1	4.9		Improved trestle
26.7	4.3		Improved trestle
26.8	4.2		Access road to Hwy 203 (203 mile 11)
26.9	4.1		Trail repair (from flooding)
27.1	3.9		Access road to Hwy 203
27.4	3.6		Access road to pasture and farm
27.9	3.1		Road to farm; trail rough
28.1	2.9		UNIMPROVED trestle; walk with care
28.2	2.8		Access road to Hwy 203
28.5	2.5	50'	Novelty Hill Road to Redmond
28.6	2.4		UNIMPROVED trestle
28.9	2.1		Barbed wire barrier
29.0	2.0		UNIMPROVED trestle; told Pipeline Trail
29.1	1.9		UNIMPROVED trestle
29.3	1.7		Duvall County Park
29.4	1.6		UNIMPROVED trestle; grade missing; drop to road
29.6	1.4		UNIMPROVED trestle
29.7	1.3		No trestle; drop to road and barbed wire
29.9	1.1		No trestle; drop to road
30.2	0.8		UNIMPROVED trestle; Duvall sewage system
30.3	0.7		Improved trestle
30.5	0.5		Improved trestle
31.0	0.0	50'	Restored 1912 Milwaukee-Duvall Railway Station and Duvall-Woodinville Bridge; Hwy 203 mile 15 Grade perhaps walkable 2-4 miles further. Expect impediments (buildings, gaps, brush). ▲

David Horrocks, a grandson and son of settlers, remembers his father telling him that there were an awful lot of snakes in the area of Tradition Lake. His father, David Horrocks Senior, was born in 1884 in New Castle and moved to Issaquah when he was four years old. David's grandfather was a coal miner who worked in the mines on Cedar Mountain.

The first mention of this bizarre and unusual snake phenomenon was in the original land survey of the Issaquah area that was done in 1864 by Edwin Richardson. From his field book entry dated September 22, 1864:

"5.00 Enter Snake Valley, land level and gravelly, timber straight and scattering, without undergrowth. 34.00 A point about 5 chains [330 feet] N. from N.W. shore of Tradition's Lake, area about 12 acres. Note—Vicinity is almost covered with various species of snakes, they also were knotted together in heaps upon the fallen timber and hung dangling from the lower limbs of small trees. Many were observed devouring or disgorging other snakes of lesser size; those necessarily crushed beneath our feet filled the air with a nauseous stench."

There has never been any evidence that the snakes actually ate each other.

I found an article on the snakes in Harriet U. Fish's book *This Was Issaquah*. Also, a Tacoma News Tribune story of 1954 says that the lake was boggy and covered with the type of plants which would have been a great breeding ground for snakes and salamanders and other things for the snakes to eat. The snakes could have been five or six feet long, and were probably common garter snakes and possibly a type of boa found in western Washington.

The Tacoma News article mentions that Robert Fraser, who lived northeast of the Lake, was interviewed and recalled that there used to be many large snakes around his house. His wife claimed that she would have to "go out and sweep them off the porch with a broom."

To add a fish story to this snake lore, there supposedly was good fishing in the Tradition Lake. Yet you had to work quickly if you caught a fish. If you landed a fish on the shore, you had to grab it fast or a "big snake would have it."

No one is quite sure where the snakes congregated, or more importantly, what eventually happened to them. It is believed that Tradition Lake was a water source for the City of Issaquah at one time. Somehow this might have changed the lake. In any case I heard many theories and ideas about what caused the snakes to disappear. Yet, after talking with David Horrocks and Linda Hjelm, I am convinced that there is some truth to this snakey story. There must have been some unusual "balls of snakes" at Tradition Lake. ▲

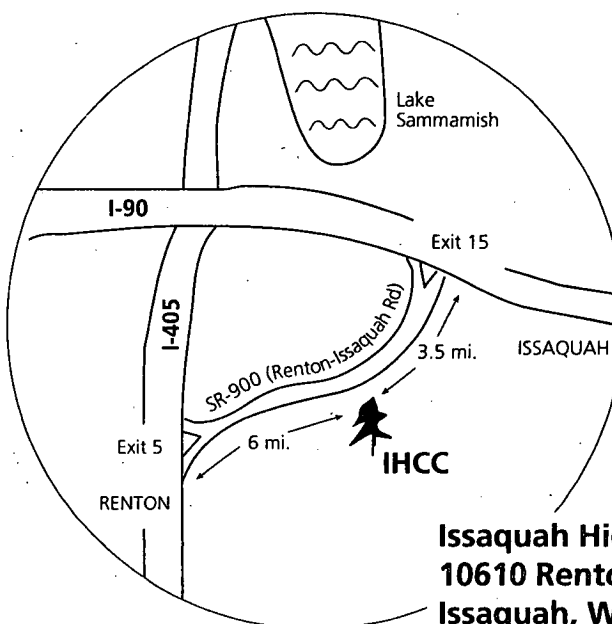
## Annual IATC Potluck in April

Calling all members: Come out for an evening of fine food, fellowship, and fun at the potluck on Saturday, April 16. The time: 6-10:00 p.m. The Place: Issaquah Highlands Camping Club, 10610 Renton-Issaquah Road, SE.

It's an opportunity to see old friends and meet new members. Coffee, tea, and punch will be provided—or bring a beverage of your choice, along with your own table settings, including cups or glasses. Bring your favorite dish...or may we suggest that persons whose last names begin with:

- A-D: bring dessert
- E-H: hors d'oeuvres or bread
- I-M: main dishes (casseroles)
- N-R: pasta or rice salads
- S-Z: vegetable or fruit salads

If you would like to be part of the crew helping with set-up, decorations, kitchen, or clean-up, please call Teri Morris-Hansen, 747-2999. ▲



**Issaquah Highlands Camping Club**  
10610 Renton-Issaquah Rd., SE  
Issaquah, WA 98027



# Volunteers: We Need Your Help

Arthur Wallenstein

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club must use the skills, interests, and talents of our membership to maintain and strengthen our club and its well-established record of accomplishment. We are a *totally* volunteer organization and we rely completely upon the willingness of members to donate time, intellect, ideas, and strength to further the advocacy, hiking, special events, trail maintenance, and administrative priorities of our membership. Past efforts and success have brought the IATC a respected position in the environmental, recreational and public policy community, but we must build for the future and your volunteer help is needed now!

## Current IATC Volunteer Opportunities

**Treasurer.** Volunteer with financial or bookkeeping interests to maintain IATC books and financial records. Need not attend Board Meetings. Prepare brief monthly financial reports and yearly financial report. 1-2 hours per week.

**Hike Leaders.** Lead Club-sponsored hikes of your favorite trails in the Alps. Try it once and we know you will like it. Volunteer for three months for a few hikes and you will be a confident leader enthusiast. Time is as little or as much as you wish to hike. Coordinators: Ann and Fred Weinmann.

**Special Events.** Staff our booth for a few hours at Salmon Days. Help out or lead historic walks at Return to Newcastle. Help with the Annual Potluck. A few hours of your time. Coordinator: Mary Cadigan.

**Pamphlet Delivery.** Keep our brochures in supply at the libraries and Chambers of Commerce in Issaquah, Redmond, Renton, Kirkland, and Belle-

vue. Think of other locations where members may be recruited. Quick and easy—a few hours per month. Coordinator: Teri Morris-Hansen.

**Advocacy—City of Issaquah.** Work with experienced advocates to attend key City meetings regarding land use, open space, environmental protection, and the trail systems. 3-5 hours per month. Coordinators: Roger Delmar and George Comstock.

**Advocacy—Raging River and Preston.** Help maintain Preston as the jewel of the Greenway by attending meetings with County staff, developers, and community groups in Preston to ensure preservation of open space and trails—excellent learning opportunity. 2-3 hours per week. Coordinator: Maryanne Tagney-Jones.

**Advocacy—Cougar Mountain.** Work on issues concerning May Creek State Park, Seattle-Walla Walla Railroad Project, Licorice Fern Greenbelt Far Country Creek Trail, and the Precipice Trail above I-90. 2-3 hours per week on one of the projects. Coordinator: Harvey Manning.

**Advocacy—Squak Mountain.** A person with interest and some knowledge of Squak trails who is willing to learn about local advocacy issues such as participating in developing a management plan for the eastern half of Section 9, the newly acquired addition to the State Park. IATC wants to ensure that State Parks officials include public input into this project. 1-2 hours per week. Coordinator: Ken Konigsmark.

**Administration—Membership Renewals.** Quarterly assembly of membership renewal notices. Direct other volunteers in stuffing envelopes and bulk mailing.

Critical work for Club operations. 8-10 hours per quarter and some planning work. Coordinator: Pam Wallenstein.

**Administration—Membership Records.** Maintain membership records using existing DOS database on IBM PC-compatible. *Volunteer must have access to IBM-PC compatible for this work.* Produce labels for the Alpiner and special mailings. Correct membership information. Members will call if records in error or Alpiner not received. Some compensation available; full reimbursement for supplies. Critical work for Club operations. (10 hours per quarter plus one hour per week.) For more information, call Cindy Blair at 562-7227 evenings. Coordinator: Teri Morris-Hansen.

**Administration—Public Relations.** Exercise your talents in developing media materials, occasional press releases, developing ideas and strategies to further IATC projects (2 hours per week). Coordinator: Teri Morris-Hansen.

**Hotline Responders.** Four people to work at home returning messages left on the Hotline. Seven volunteers handle calls one day per week to provide information on IATC membership, hikes, and issues (30 minutes each person per week). Also needed: a phone personality and voice to record the weekly Hotline message. Coordinator: Teri Morris-Hansen.

Please do not pass up these volunteer opportunities—please go back and read them again. Your help is critical to the continued operation and success of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club. Thank you. ▲

## Issaquah Alps Trails Club Volunteer Application

c/o Art Wallenstein, P.O. Box 351, Issaquah, WA 98027

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Day phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Best time to call: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle areas of volunteer interest:

Treasurer	Advocacy—Issaquah	Membership Renewals
Hike Leader	Advocacy—Preston	Membership Records
Special Events	Advocacy—Cougar Mtn.	Public Relations
Pamphlet Delivery	Advocacy—Squak Mtn.	Hotline

Other areas of volunteer interest: \_\_\_\_\_

Or call Art Wallenstein after 8 p.m. evenings or weekends at 392-7813.



## Join Former Coal Miners at 'Return to Newcastle'

King County Parks is sponsoring "Return to Newcastle", our annual celebration of local history, parks, and open space on Sunday, June 5, 10 to 5 p.m.

The event is held in the Newcastle area of Cougar Mountain, near the Red Town trailhead. For directions, call Teri Morris-Hansen at 747-2999 or follow the signs from Newport Way and 150th.

Historical artifacts will be on display along with photographs and maps. Former miners and their families will attend to tell about the coal mining days in what is now Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, 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 on sale. Spend an hour or the whole day! See you there! ▲

# Sharing the Wildlands

Fred Weinmann

Not really a high mountain dweller, and certainly not a beaver, nevertheless, we refer to them as mountain beavers. Others call them mountain boomers (but they don't boom), sewellel, or chehalis, and to the scientists they are *Aplodontia rufa*. To the first human inhabitants of the northwest they provided warm coat-makings, to us they represent a survivor who has adapted well to both us and our practices of periodically denuding the forests. They are now our companion throughout the moist, dense, low elevation forests of the Issaquah Alps.

Their adaptability is not surprising as they are our own "living fossil" dating back to the Paleocene 60 million or so years ago—none of their close relatives have survived. Some mammalogists theorize they are the earliest ancestor of all the rodents of today. We lay special claim to them because of their limited geographic range which includes only SW British Columbia, W Washington and W Oregon.

Boomers resemble tailless muskrats about a foot long. They have small ears, small eyes and are poorly sighted. Technical details describe *Aplodontia rufa* as 12-14 inches long with an inconspicuous vestigial tail, dark brown above, paler beneath with variable amounts of white spots, round head, blunt snout, long whiskers, and long front claws.

Why don't we often see them? They are nocturnal, representing a fine example of coexistence—we use the trails during the day; they use the trails, woods and plants during the night. Burrows, with mounded entrances, honeycomb the hillsides of the Alps—and our back yards. We encounter neatly stacked piles of sword fern, bracken, vine maple or other greens (they are strict vegetarians as far as we know) waiting to be stowed in underground pantries. Like Alps hikers, they're active year 'round. Boomer burrowing is helpful in ways other than providing a place to live and rear their young. Their toil provides soil drainage and helps maintain its friability. Equally advantaged are some beneficial fungi whose spores are dispersed by mountain beaver activity, and as for habit trivia, they are host to a 3/8" flea, the world's largest known species.

Some have questioned their IQ even for a rodent. But I wonder. One does not encounter many road-flattened specimens and they have survived for 60 million years. Their one mistake is zeroing in on our newly planted rhodies and backyard trees which they prune mercilessly to the ground. We have adopted the philosophy that sharing the Alps with the mountain beaver is an exemplary relationship and sharing our landscaping plants is an acceptable one. In the meantime, mountain beaver habits and Alps hiking can sustainably coexist. ▲

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ New ☐ Renewal

- ☐ Annual Regular Dues ..... \$12  
☐ Annual Contributing Dues ..... \$22  
☐ Lifetime Membership ..... \$120  
☐ Limited Income ..... \$6

▲ All memberships cover the entire family.

▲ A regular annual family membership is \$12. This covers the cost of printing and mailing the Alpiner and a part of the club's overhead expenses.

▲ Contributing memberships at \$22 or more cover the rest of the club's overhead expenses and allow us some financial leeway in planning special events, publishing trail guides and keeping our trail maintenance tool supply fit and ample.

▲ Lifetime memberships at \$120 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!* \$10.00 (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. \$10.00 (includes map, 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. \$12.00 (includes tax and shipping)

▲ *Tiger Mt. map* \$2.00 (includes tax and shipping)

▲ *Cougar Mt. map* \$2.00 (includes tax and shipping)

▲ *Tradition Lake map* Free with self-addressed stamped 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: \$15.00.

▲ *T-Shirt: "Mountains to Sound March"* Specify size (S, M, L, XL). \$11.00. All shirts are blue and short-sleeved.

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