

THE ALPINE

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October ▲ November ▲ December ▲ 1994

Cougar ▲ Squak ▲ Tiger ▲ Grand Ridge

Ring Those Bells! Bang Those Drums! Blow Those Trumpets!

Harvey Manning

Remember the spring of 1976? Until then, there *weren't* any Issaquah Alps.

Remember January 22, 1980? Until that evening, when the Issaquah Alps Trails Club presented its proposal to the King County group charged to develop a Newcastle Communities Plan, there *wasn't* any Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park on the public table for discussion.

You definitely will want to remember September, 1994. That's when the character of the park was formally and officially defined by adoption of the master plan. (NOTE: This is written in late August, before the County Council has taken a vote, but we are bullish. In the very unlikely, virtually impossible event that... Well, you recall what happened in the aftermath of "the shot heard round the world.")

The preparation of the master plan was as careful, civil, and thoughtful a public process as we have ever seen. King County Parks supervised to perfection, The Portico Group (consultants) served brilliantly, and the citizens advisory group spoke sensitively to the needs of every activity proper to a wildland within the urbanizing core of "Puget Sound City." The County Council Committee on Parks listened attentively to presentation of the plan, to criticisms, and came down flat-footed for wildland. The vote of the full Council will mark the triumphant denouement of the vision of 1976, 1980.

Of the several thousand acres of the park, only several will be "civilized"—trailhead facilities, interpretive center, and the like. The rest will be devoted

to travel modes fitting a wildland—human feet, horse hooves, wildlife feet, wings, and (in the case of snakes and fish) bellies and fins. The trail system will provide humans with re-creation. The non-trailed and un-trailed enclaves will be guarded living room for mankind's companions in wildland.

The Committee on Parks forwarded the master plan to the full King County Council with a 'do pass' recommendation. At the last minute two Councilors, Sullivan and Hague, introduced an amendment to allow bikes in the park. At publication date (Sept. 9) the issue remains in doubt.

No, the park is not yet geographically "complete." At several places the boundaries do not yet adequately defend "the wildness within." Tasks that await. But the Constitution, the Magna Carta, the Mosaic Decalogue, the vision of 1976 and 1980 and the years since—all are in place, now. (Or will be when the Council votes and the Executive signs.)

As a famous John Muirism has it, everything in the universe is hitched to everything else. What hath been wrought on Cougar Mountain is hitched to the prospects for all the open spaces in King County that have been or may be acquired for the public by King County, by its municipalities, by the state.

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club does not suffer

from megalomania, has not ambitions to establish a Roman Empire. We are the experts on affairs in our little corner of the world and are content with that role. However, experience has given us vision. What do we see in our crystal ball? In the glass, darkly:

A King County Wilderness Act (or Wildland Ordinance)...

A comprehensive inventory of open space, green space, and a determination of which spaces should be for field sports and other active recreations, and which for passive re-creation amid "the wildness within"...

An alliance, a council of organizations, Friends of King County Wildlands, Friends of the Wildness Within...

Formation of new organizations, such as one devoted to Responsible Enjoyment of the Fat-Tire Bike. To counterbalance the Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board, a Seattle Pedestrians Advisory Board...

Continued public acquisition of lands so that all users of open space, green space, may have a larger pie to cut up...

A master plan, the process soon beginning, for Lake Desire-Spring Lake County Park that will give Echo Mountain, a.k.a. "a little Cougar Mountain," the same guarantees as the big Cougar Mountain...

In order that the timber industry may be freed from a harum-scarum frontier past and readied for a permanent, civil future, and in order that land-planning for our urban-suburban areas may cast off the millstone imposed by Congress a century and a third ago, revest the Northern Pacific Land Grant...

Well, that last item isn't on the agenda of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club, but the others ought to and probably will be. ▲

The Park Pointe Development

George Comstock

The battle over Grand Ridge has now been largely won and lost, and the coming years will show us how much we won and lost, but for the moment the sighs of relief heard from all partisans indicate that a reasonably satisfactory compromise was had by all. Risking the accusation of naive optimism, I think the political system worked, and Grand Ridge stands a good chance of being a development we can all live with. Unfortunately, some of the fundamental environmental issues have not been addressed (e.g., can the Issaquah Aquifer survive this development?), but these issues will have to wait. Right now other developments have entered the political process, and there is no time to count the casualties.

The proposed Park Pointe development, tightly wedged between historic downtown Issaquah and the Tiger Mountain Natural Resource Conservation Area, now occupies the battlefield. One of the unfortunate aspects of this development as proposed is

the construction of high density housing immediately adjacent to the Natural Resource area. This has created opposition from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and the Tiger Mountain Advisory Committee, as well as the IATC. One compensating aspect of this proposed development is the construction of an improved trailhead and a dedicated right of way for the High School Trail, a vital access route to the Lake Tradition Plateau. Acceptable housing densities, improved trailheads, and many other aspects of this development will be pawns in the battle, modified or sacrificed as necessary for an acceptable compromise.

There is one pawn, however, which is too valuable to be sacrificed: approximately 50 acres of forested land just south of Lake Tradition. The Section Line Trail crosses over this land for a short distance, and the boundaries are marked with small signs on the trail just a little east of the gas line clearing. The

Park Pointe developers have acquired an interest in this land and are threatening to log and/or develop it using the High School Trail as the access route. This would turn the High School Trail into a sidewalk at best, and seriously degrade the quality of hiking on the Lake Tradition Plateau. The IATC could never accept the fulfillment of a threat so directly contrary to the public interest. Neither can we accept the use of this threat to exact an unfair price in for the preservation of this property.

Now more than ever we at the IATC hope the political process will work. We know there is a fair and just compromise which would balance the developers' private interests with the public good, and we are relying upon the City of Issaquah and King County to find that compromise. Based on the recent past, we have some faith that the city and county will serve the public well. ▲

President's Report

Ken Konigsmark

As the summer winds down and the snow begins to fly at the higher elevations, those who roam the high alpine meadows and peaks of the Cascades during the summer will soon retreat to the comfy confines of our local "Issaquah Alps." Several important actions involving the Issaquah area are underway.

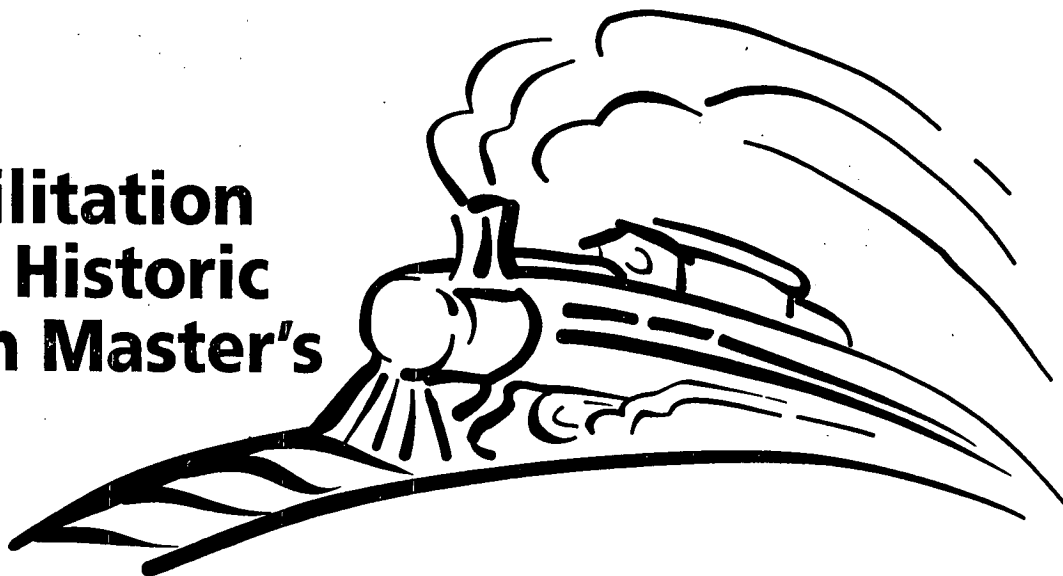
Several public committees are being formed to provide planning inputs for the proposed Grand Ridge development. One committee will focus on planning and/or preserving a trail system. Current plans call for 1,408 acres of open space to be gifted to the County in exchange for urban density development credits on 352 acres at the westerly end, above the gravel pit. This area could foreseeably support up to 2,250 housing units. Public comment and participation is being solicited by the City, County, and Port Blakely. For more information, contact Ruth Windbauer of Port Blakely at 391-4700.

The King County Office of Open Space recently allocated an additional \$500,000 for acquisition of the 69-acre M&H and Santana Construction properties on Squak Mountain. This supplements \$400,000 which was awarded through the 1989 Open Space bond. Negotiations with owners should begin soon, with a goal to establish a trailhead off of SR900 at some point in the future to provide access to Squak Mountain State Park and Cougar Mountain Wildland Park.

The Cougar Mountain Wildland Park Master Plan is still under review by the County Council, however, IATC feels confident that the plan will be implemented essentially as it was written. The plan is a masterful and visionary approach for preserving a 2,800-acre wildland park on Cougar Mountain. Primary goals will be to support passive recreation (hiking, walking, birdwatching, some equestrian), wildlife habitat preservation, and environmental education. It was extremely helpful to have a significant number of IATC members testify in support of this plan at a County-sponsored public hearing. ▲



Rehabilitation Of The Historic Station Master's House



Margaret Macleod, Interagency Trails Coordinator

On June 11th of this year the City of Issaquah received the good news that it had been awarded a grant for the proposed "Rainier Blvd. Non-motorized Transportation Corridor Improvements." The grant of \$335,700 was received through the Intermodal Surface Transportation Enhancement Act (ISTEA) to match the City's commitment of \$185,700 of funds for a total project fund of \$521,400. The proposed project is for the continuation of the Rainier Blvd. urban non-motorized trail from Andrews Street to Second Avenue and for the rehabilitation of the historic station master's house for use as an interpretive center/trailhead clubhouse. The project is also coordinated with the development of the new Issaquah Community Center.

The trail to obtaining and receiving the grant was long and rocky (as are a lot of trails) and required considerable cooperation and work from all quarters. The project was identified in the Issaquah Area Wildlife and Recreational Trails Plan, prepared by Gus Nelson for the city, as appropriate to connect the city center with the surrounding "Issaquah Alps" and as part of the Trailhead City concept. Toward this goal, the city first submitted an ISTEA application for the project in 1993. The project scored very highly in the review process but narrowly missed being funded. In this year's competition, the city modified the project to reduce its overall cost.

The staff of the Puget Sound Regional Council initially reviews and scores all the submitted projects and ranks the projects depending on their tabulated scores. In this year's competition, the Puget Sound Regional Council received 93 applications in the Puget Sound region (four county area) requesting a total of \$35 million. There was only \$7 million avail-

able statewide so it was an extremely competitive process.

The city's success on obtaining and receiving the ISTEA grant was due to the committed involvement and support of community groups and organizations. It is only through such support that we are able to accomplish our trail and acquisition goals.

The ISTEA funds cannot be obligated by the city until October 1st, the beginning of the federal fiscal year. Once the funds are obligated, the city plans to start the planning process and drafting of project plans for the rehabilitation of the station master's house and the Rainier Blvd. urban trail corridor. We hope to complete the planning and drafting process by the end of winter so that we can initiate construction by next spring. We would like to have input from the recreational trail groups and other civic groups like the historical society in order to ensure the best design possible.

NOTE: In other areas of the "Issaquah Alps"/Tiger Mountain, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) also received an ISTEA grant of \$100,000 for acquisition of the Overbeck property (located just east of the High Point - Interstate 90 interchange). DNR received this grant due to the efforts of the Special Projects Manager (Ken Konigsmark) and Executive Director (Nancy Keith) of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust. Although the \$100,000 is not sufficient for the purchase of the property, it is a great step forward toward its acquisition. The grant money can be used as a "match" when DNR applies for acquisition grant funding through other agencies and funding sources. So an additional big "THANK YOU" to Ken. ▲

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News Briefs...

The City of Issaquah—A Much Appreciated IATC Partner

Ken Konigsmark

Our "insider" in the City Council of Issaquah reports that there was concern from some of the council members about how the City has been portrayed in various articles in the *Alpiner*. In reviewing the last seven *Alpiners*, it does show that our club has had quite a bit to say about the City!

But... most of it has been quite positive. There are two areas where IATC and the City have disagreed, the planning for Grand Ridge and the proposed bypass combined with the expansion of the Sunset interchange. With the creative compromise developed by King County Executive Gary Locke on the Grand Ridge issue (leaving 1,400 acres as public open space), there appears to be no disagreement remaining. The issue of the proposed bypass and the Sunset interchange expansion will continue to be a subject which we will need to work on with the City to develop the most reasonable alternative.

Over the years, IATC and the City have had an excellent relationship. While not always agreeing on everything (and who does??), we have substantially agreed on wildlife, trail and land use issues on Cou-

gar, Squak and Tiger Mountains. Adoption of the "Wildlife and Recreational Trails Plan," hiring and establishment of a close partnership with the Trails Coordinator, supportive teaming in the acquisition of critical open space properties, and the designation of Tradition Plateau as a Natural Resources Conservation Area are some of the highlights of just the last two years. In addition, IATC remains grateful to the City for providing the club a clubhouse/meeting space in the soon-to-be-remodeled Station Master's house. We hope to work closely with the City to make this a premier trailhead center for local and regional citizens.

The City would also be pleased by all of the positive comments we make to staff and elected officials of other jurisdictions and the thousands that attend our hikes and special events each year.

So, while not always agreeing on all issues, the IATC continues to view the City of Issaquah as a key partner in making Issaquah and our Issaquah Alps area one which rightly and proudly proclaims itself the "Trailhead City." ▲

Squak Mountain Addition Donated By Bullitt Foundation!

Ken Konigsmark

In another significant gift to those who enjoy the pleasures of the Issaquah Alps, the Bullitt Foundation recently deeded an additional 10.5 acre parcel of land to State Parks to add to its Squak Mountain State Park holdings. This parcel is located just beyond the southwest corner of Section 4, the existing park boundary, and provides public ownership for critical trail linkages for existing and planned trails for the area. This acreage will be maintained in accordance with the existing "wilderness park" rules in effect for the park.

The IATC wishes to express its continued appreciation to the Bullitt Foundation for its original donation of Squak Mountain State Park, and for its most recent gift.

We are also happy to report that there appears to be an increased management presence by State Parks personnel in the park. This presence is much appreciated, and needed, and club members urge it to continue. ▲

September Fund Raiser for Issaquah Community Center

Teri Morris-Hansen

As we go to print on this issue of the *Alpiner*, we have been told of the plans for a City-sponsored fund-raiser on September 10 for the new community center in Issaquah. "We will also be acknowledging the ISTEIA grant we received," said Margaret Macleod, Interagency Trails Coordinator for the Issaquah Alps. "We still need monies to complete the community center and rehabilitation of the Station Master House which will be used as an interpre-

tive center, trailhead and a place for recreational trails clubs to hold their meetings," Macleod said. There will be live music and dance performances, barbeque and lemonade, and more! Donations will be gladly accepted and to have your name on the donor wall will be a minimum \$50 donation. As a sign of support for the city's efforts, the IATC will have a table with volunteers and literature along with a real sign (made by Ken Konigsmark) of congratulations. ▲

Grand Ridge Update

Ken Konigsmark

You'll recall that in a creative "4 for 1 (acre)" compromise last May, King County Executive Gary Locke brokered a plan that would allow the developer, Port Blakely, to build a commercial and urban housing area on 352 acres, while donating 1408 acres to the county as open space. To make this deal a reality, all involved parties must develop a mutually acceptable Interlocal Development Agreement to present to the Issaquah and King County councils by December 10, 1994. If an agreement is not reached, Port Blakely could proceed with a rural, one home per five acres development that would leave no public open space.

The critical interlocal agreement will define and govern the projected 20-year build out of the development and set a precedent for processing and implementing future developments under the Growth Management Act, Countywide Planning Policies, and Issaquah and County Comprehensive Plans.

Port Blakely, Issaquah, and the County are joint-

ly working to develop this plan and are seeking the participation of interested citizens. The first public meeting was held in Issaquah on August 9th with more scheduled in the future. The types of issues to be addressed with citizen committee input include: ground water quantity and quality, environmental planning, open space and trails, parks and recreation, surface water, transit, affordable housing, infrastructure planning, urban design, and public art.

Lisa Verner, has been hired to head this effort and is available at 391-2414. Your questions, concerns, or interests in how the Grand Ridge area develops and the open space is used should be referred to Lisa and, if interested, you should participate on one of the citizen committees. These provide a real opportunity to have a say in how this sensitive area is used. Also, Lisa will have maps and conceptual plans available for public viewing as they are developed. For those interested in Grand Ridge, now is the time to step forward and participate in the process of defining its future. ▲

Salmon Days Anniversary

Teri Morris-Hansen

As the 1994 Salmon Days Festival celebrates its 25th year, the IATC will be right in the thick of things selling books, T-shirts and passing out club literature as one of the 65 non-profit groups included in the October 1-2 event. According to Robin Kelley, Project Manager for the Issaquah Chamber of Commerce-sponsored event, over 230,000 people attended last year. We will need lots of volunteers to provide coverage at the booth, so please give a call to our new special events person, Carolyn Graham, at 885-0224. Hope to see you there! ▲



Trail Notes on the Cougar Mountain Precipice

Harvey Manning

The Precipice Trail from its western end in Lewis Creek Canyon (the grandest wildland in the City of Bellevue, which the bureaucracy hopes to desecrate because, as Councilor Georgia Zumdieck has said in an op-ed column in the *Journal American*, it's the last challenge for Bellevue street engineers, life after that will be nothing but patching potholes, and which residents of the trophy homes of the Northern "Village" yearn for because Lakemont Boulevard would get them to the I-90 gridlock six minutes faster than Village Drive) needs TLC. Peggy's Trail is a menace to life and limb and leads not as it once did to Anti-Aircraft Peak but only a maze of trophy homes. Make a note of that, Ralph.

Kline Gorge—well, Ralph keeps promising to do something about it. East of the Kline Hill Road, Ralph's Hi-Line has been jungled up by view loggers, and Harvey's Lo-Line alternate has been—

beats Harvey, he hasn't been able to find it since he got back on his feet.

From Summerhill Ridge Trail (by the way, though it has a private-yard look about it, it is an official City of Issaquah trail and the abutting owners smile kindly on hikers passing by) to the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park the Precipice Trail is splendid as ever, if you accept the adventurous dip into and out of Anti Aircraft Gorge, which Ralph also has promised to do something about and hasn't. The Big Tree Ridge trail, leader to the Military Road which leads to old logging roads-become-trails which lead to the Shangri La Trail.

The new news is the advent of The Stranger. His name has been misplaced but his work is beautiful. Where the Precipice Bottom Trail (the trailhead is on Newport Way just east of Summerhill Trail, in that slot we keep slashed open through the hellber-

ries) turns sharp right, the new Stranger Trail turns sharp left, crosses Military Creek and Extra Creek, and parallels Stagecoach Creek up Stagecoach Ridge. Crosses the Precipice Bottom Trail and continues up to the Military Road. For as splendid a two hours as Cougar Mountain has to offer, combine it in a loop with Big Tree Ridge.

The newest of the new is that The Stranger has begun pioneering a trail connecting Big Tree Ridge to Summerhill Ridge, reaching the latter just uphill from the last house in Summerhill, at a much lower elevation than Ralph's Precipice Trail crossing of the gorge. The descent into Anti Aircraft Gorge is sort of mean, though not dangerous if you take it on the seat of your britches. A loop walk linking Precipice Bottom, Big Tree Ridge, and Summerhill Ridge makes a charming one-hour loop from Newport Way, counting a good long rest by the waterfalls of Anti Aircraft Creek. ▲

What's Happening on Cougar Mountain

Cougar Mountain Park Staff

Ranger Walks: Starting this October, King County Park staff will begin offering a regular three hour walk every Thursday afternoon. This is your chance to meet the folks who take care of the park and hear their particular stores and experiences. The walks will begin at noon at the Red Town Gate. They will be low-speed, informative, and responsive to questions from you. On any particular Thursday the focus might be geology, mining history, trees and shrubs, resident animals, or the Nike missile bases. We will always try to have an enjoyable hike while also sharing some of the park's special secrets with you. Come and join us on Thursdays at noon!

Visitors' Center: As of mid-August, the King County Council had not acted on the Parks Master Plan and the Cougar Mtn Master Plan in particular. We hope good news will be forthcoming. A key question has been "Why do we need a visitor's center at a park meant to be kept wild and undeveloped?"

The answers are many. A visitor's center will provide the public with an understanding of the wildland prior to their intrusion into it, thus protecting the park and minimizing potential adverse impacts of human use. The center will teach our largely urban population about wildlife and the environment and ecosystems and what our relationships to them should be. And the visitor's center will allow us to focus development, services and human impacts at a site that has been impacted and developed by people: the Nike Missile Launch Site, thus limiting new intrusions into the forest and pressure on local wildlife.

Visualize a warm cozy center to return to after your mid-winter hike looking at animal tracks in the snow; a small but informative book store to figure out that bird you saw today; a "Nature Detectives" class where your children can learn about bugs you can meet in the park; or a living history hour where you can talk with the company doctor from the coal mining days. A visitor's center can make all these things possible. And a center will provide the missing human link: a friendly naturalist to greet visitors, answer personal questions, direct people to the parts of the park that most interest them, meter hiker traffic to different portions of the park, and explain the workings of the fragile ecosystem we are trying

to save at Cougar Mountain.

A visitor's center will allow us to care for and display items that until now could only be seen at "Return to Newcastle" or not at all. Featured will be elements of Cougar Mountain's Native American, mining, logging and military history, including artifacts, photos, maps, objects from storage and family collections, as well as a 3-D model of the underground coal seams and mine workings. Also featured will be "hands-on" and educational exhibits of local plants and animals. Children will be able to encounter a skunk and a porcupine nose to nose, something we don't recommend doing out on the trail. Audio/visual tapes could show us parts of the park we might never see, such as the inside of a bear den, or the view from the top of the radio tower, or the life-cycle of a salamander. An interactive computer terminal could answer questions at all hours, demonstrate long-term ecological processes, or even link to national and international data-banks, conferences, and on-going studies.

The relatively flat land near the Nike site will make it possible for us to develop an interpretive trail accessible to wheelchairs and persons of all ages and physical abilities. The site already has cleared areas large enough to handle horse trailers and expanded parking, while the Red Town location does not even meet present sight-line and turn-out requirements. And the location also eliminates most of the snow and ice problems associated with the road to the upper Nike "Radar Park" site which has dangerous "S" turns, and can be closed for up to two months each winter. The goal here is not huge quantities of visitors daily, but rather a quality education and environmental experience for those who do come. The visitor's center will help to modulate the flow of people and to provide for that experience.

Some models for the visitor's center are the Discovery Park Visitor's Center in Seattle; the Padilla Bay Interpretive Center near Mount Vernon; the Mount St. Helen's visitor's center near I-5; the Lake Hills Ranger Station in Bellevue (too small); the High Desert Museum in Bend, Oregon (too large); or the Snake Lake Nature Center in Tacoma (just right?).

Please visit some of these places, consider the potential for Cougar Mountain and then let your council person know what you think. A visitor center could make the all-important connection between an expanding urban population and a fragile and historic wildland park.

Trail Register: Hikers who have made it to the top of Cougar Mountain at the end of the Wilderness Peak trail, elev. 1,595', have traditionally signed the register there. Originally, Harvey Manning simply verified the location with an altimeter and tied a plastic bag of 3x5" index cards to a tree. In recent years a gentleman known as Shy Bear has maintained a steady flow of small notebooks in a metal pipe rain-protector there. Shy Bear, now 76, has collected more than seven years worth of these notebooks with fascinating results:

- Visitors have come from 17 countries, 23 states, and 24+ localities. The park is serving regional recreation needs and is already of national and international interest.
 - Ages range from 6 weeks to 81 years. One-third appear to be youth aged 12-25. Approximately half are with family or friendship groups. The park is definitely utilized by more children and families than any of us realized.
 - A nearly universal comment is that people like the peace, tranquillity and solitude that they find in the park.
 - Many wrote "Thank you for saving this," or "Please leave this place just as it is," or "I'm so glad to have something like this near home."
- These simple, straightforward comments have been extraordinarily useful in helping the County Council evaluate the importance of the park and the direction that its Master Plan should take. On your next visit, please sign in, leave a note about how you feel about the park, and enjoy reading the comments of others who have come before you.

Note: The Park staff needs volunteers to "adopt a trail" and perform light maintenance tasks. They welcome donated photographs and "road kill" specimens in good condition and are eager to record your wildlife sightings in the park. Please call the park staff at 296-4145. ▲

Issaquah Alps Trails Club Hikes and Events

October Hikes

Tuesday October 4

Squak Mt. Loop
Hiking Boots Required
3C 9:00 AM
Mary Cadigan 641-4046

Thursday October 6

Little Si
2B 9:30 AM
Al Blalock 746-4155

Saturday October 8

Cougar Precipice: Big Tree Ridge, AA Gorge and Harvey's Lo-Line Gulches
2.5C 9:00 AM
Harvey Manning 746-1017

Sunday October 9

West Tiger Peaks 1,2 and 3!
(10 miles, 2900 ft. gain)
4D 8:00 AM
Bert Drui 746-0709

Wednesday October 12

Twin Falls/Railroad Grade to Missing Trestle
3B 9:00 AM
Peggy Owen 746-1070

Saturday October 15

Cougar views
2B 9:30 AM
Ann Leber

Cedar Butte Work Party
3B 8:30 AM
John Johnson 633-3805

Sunday October 16

Lewis Canyon: Lakemont Swindle Loop
3B 9:00 AM
Harvey Manning 746-1017

Tuesday October 18

Poo Poo Point, Boots Required
3C 9:00 AM
Warren Jones 888-0262

Friday October 21

Preston-Lake Alice Rd.
2A 9:30 AM
Paul and Pat Kaald 746-8741

Saturday October 22

TMT to Railroad Grade and Return
2B 8:30 AM
Trudy Ecob 232-2933

Cougar Mt: China Summit and Marshalls Hill Loop
2A 1:00 PM
Penny Manning 746-1017

Sunday October 23

Tradition Plateau
Human and Natural History
2A 10:00 AM
Dave Kappler 392-3571

Cougar Mt. Wilderness Peak

2B 9:30 AM
Tom Walsh 453-8319

Monday October 24

BOARD MEETING AT CLUBHOUSE
1st & Bush
7:00 PM

Tuesday October 25

Lake Tradition Plateau
2A 9:30 AM
Al Blalock 746-4155

Friday October 28

Lake Tradition Family Hike
1A 1:30 PM
Peggy Barchi 432-5446

Saturday October 29

Little Si (1100 ft. gain, 5 miles)
2B 1:00 PM
Bob Gross 392-0539

Sunday October 30

Red Town and Coal Creek Falls
2C 12:00 Noon
Steve Cavit 271-7780

Monday October 31

Little Si
2B 9:00 AM
Peggy Owen 746-1070

November Hikes

Thursday November 3

Cougar Mt. Wilderness
2C 10:00 AM
Mary Cadigan 641-4046

Saturday November 5

Tradition Plateau
Human and Natural History
2A 9:00 AM
Dave Kappler 392-3571

West Tiger Railroad Grade (Longest

Level Trail on Tiger)

3C 8:30 AM
Joe Toynbee 723-6716

Sunday November 6

Cougar Mt: Bear Ridge, West Fork Tibbetts Creek, Fantastic Erratic
2.5B 1:00 PM
Penny Manning 746-1017

Friday November 11

Soos Creek Trail
Meet at Trailhead—Call Leader
1A 1:30 PM
Peggy Barchi 432-5446

Saturday November 12

Cedar Butte Historical
2B 10:00 AM (1000 ft. gain)
John Johnson 633-3805

Sunday November 13

Newcastle Hills Traverse
(1500 ft. gain, 7 miles)
3C 9:00 AM
Bert Drui 746-0709

Tuesday November 15

Lewis Creek Endangered Canyon
2A 9:00 AM
Harvey Manning 746-1017

Friday November 18

Big Tree Trail
2B 9:30 AM
Paul and Pat Kaald 746-8741

Saturday November 19

Marshall Hill and DeLeo Wall
2B 9:30 AM
Ann Leber

Rattlesnake North Ridge to Winery
(9 mi. 2800 ft.)

3C 8:30 AM
Ralph Owen 746-1070

Sunday November 20

Lake Tradition Plateau
(400 ft. gain, 5 miles)
2A 1:00 PM
Bob Gross 392-0539

Cougar Mt. Wilderness Peak

2B 9:30 AM
Tom Walsh 453-8319

Sunday November 27

Lewis Creek Endangered Canyon
2A 1:00 PM
Harvey Manning 746-1017

Monday November 28

BOARD MEETING AT CLUBHOUSE
1st & Bush
7:00 PM

Tuesday November 29

Twin Falls
2B 9:30 AM
Al Blalock 746-4155

December Hikes

Friday December 2

Tradition Lake Plateau
2A 10:00 AM
Mary Cadigan 641-4046

Saturday December 3

Squak Mt. West Side Road Loop
2B 9:30 AM
Joe Toynbee 723-6716

Sunday December 4

Cougar Mt: Bear Ridge, Tibbetts Creek and Fantastic Erratic
2.5B 1:00 PM
Penny Manning 746-1017

Wednesday December 7

Cougar Precipice: Stranger Trail Military Rd, Big Tree Ridge
2A 9:00 AM
Harvey Manning 746-1017

Saturday December 10

Lake Tradition Adventure Trail & More
2A 9:30 AM
Ann Leber

Sunday December 11

Coal Creek History
Mining and Fossils
2A 9:00 AM
Bert Drui 746-0709

Tuesday December 13

Little Si
2B 9:30 AM
Al Blalock 746-4155

Friday December 16

Timber Lake Park Family Hike
1A 1:30 PM
Peggy Barchi 432-5446

Saturday December 17

Cougar Precipice: Stranger Trail, Military Rd, Big Tree Ridge
2A 9:00 AM
Harvey Manning 746-1017

Sunday December 18

Squak Mt: Perimeter and Other Trails
3B 9:00 AM
Ralph Owen 746-1070

Monday December 19

BOARD MEETING/CHRISTMAS PARTY? AT CLUBHOUSE
1st & Bush
7:00 PM

Saturday December 31

Coal Creek Falls (500 ft. gain, 4 miles)
2A 1:00 PM
Bob Gross 392-0539

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. ▲

Ever Wanted to Plant Trees?

King County Surface Water Management has asked IATC for volunteer help on October 15th to plant 6,000 trees at three sites along the Sammamish River trail near Redmond.

Called the "Mammoth Sammamish Tree Planting Project," it is estimated that 750 volunteers will be needed. If you, your family, work group, scout troop, or other collection of volunteers would like to help with this big event, please call Ken Konigsmark at 957-5094. You'll enjoy a true feeling of accomplishment as you watch the trees you plant grow in the years ahead. ▲

Trail Workers Needed!

Ken Konigsmark

IATC members are urged to support trail maintenance efforts along the I-90 corridor being sponsored by the USFS North Bend District and the Washington Trails Association. Scheduled work dates include:

9/17 - Talapus Lake Trail

10/15 - Annette Lake Trail

10/29 - Gold Creek Trail

Call 517-7032 for more information or to sign up. ▲



"Hey Buddy, Have Ya' Got An Extra Alpiners?"

From time to time club members are in need of extra Alpiners, so here is how you go about getting one. After publication of the Alpiners, approximately 100 or so copies are made available to the persons who answer the club hotline. They mail these while the supply lasts. To request an issue, call the hotline at 328-0480 and leave a clear message including address and zip code. ▲

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. ▲

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.

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

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Learning To Live With Wildlife

Harvey Manning

Bears. The papers reported, couple years back, that a chap came a-running out of the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland (Wildlife) Park and hollered for the cops: "There's a bear in there!" The chap declared to the press, "I'm not going back without my gun!" A King County Parks official commented quietly, "If the chap does so and we catch him, he's going to get hauled off to the pokey."

A local resident who has lived right next to what is now the Park for better than half a century never had seen a bear until a few weeks back, when a sow and cub began regularly taking a path through his property to water. Relations between park neighbor and bear mama and kid were perfectly amicable. But the bear route involved crossing a county road. Two yuppy girls on bikes came down the road, saw mama bear crossing the road, saw mama go back for the kid, who was balking because it was timid about the bikes, saw the mama conduct the kid across the road. At which point the girls abandoned their bikes and ran to the nearest house and asked to use the phone. Called home to have parents come get them. Parents came and rescued the girls. Made second trip to retrieve the bikes. The girls declared, "We're never gonna go there no more!"

It is very evident that folks newly moving to wildlife habitat are going to have to get educated. Please note: The bears on Cougar Mountain never have bothered the longtime local resident referred to above, or any other longtime resident of Cougar. And they weren't bothering the girls on the bikes, either. Also note: Though a federal case is made of every encounter between wildlife and humans, every day of every week humans are menaced or attacked by dogs and only when bloodshed ensues does anybody notice. Ask your local postman.

Lynx. To quote from Nature Has No Borders, newsletter for the Cascades International Alliance, published quarterly by the National Parks and Conservation Association, working to establish an international park and special management area in the North Cascades ecosystem:

"If there is a single species that encompasses the ideals of the Cascades International Park, it is the North American Lynx... Presently in Washington State, the North Cascades is one of six zones of lynx range... While the lynx and its cousin, the bobcat, are often referred to as 'wildcats,' the lynx is distinctly distinguished from other feline carnivores..."

Bobcats are, as is well known, common in the Issaquah Alps. A matter of some surprise and considerable pride is that the lynx, too, is here. We know it is because of residents familiar with the creature's distinctive appearance. Several years ago, a worker on a county road crew saw one in broad daylight in the Mirrormont area of Tiger Mountain. That didn't make the papers but the Preston Lynx had its moment of fame. The townsfolk had been losing pussycats at a saddening rate. Well, cougar and coyotes (and the neighbors' dogs) often develop a taste for munchies. However, shortly a number of daylight sightings established that a lynx had moved into town for the easy pickings. To the everlasting credit of Preston, the folks did not run for a gun but called the State Wildlife Department. They sure weren't going to molest such a wildland treasure as a lynx, but they also loved their kitties. The SWD advised illegal firecrackers (visit your local reservation) and that

seems to have done it. No further sad stories from Preston reached the press, anyhow.

Cedar River Watershed. Happily, such wildlife encounters will continue in the Issaquah Alps because the closed-to-public-entry Seattle Cedar River Watershed provides the largest reservoir of wildlife so close to any major city of the planet. Be proud, Puget Sound City! Enjoy!

But also, take steps to preserve the status quo. Keep the public out of the Cedar River (except on guided tours, by arrangement). Further, nag the highwaymen to make sure that when the inevitable reconstructions occur of Highway 900, Issaquah-Hobart Road, and Highway 18, provision is made for wildlife underpasses to keep the travel lines open from the Cascade Crest through the Cedar to Taylor-Tiger-Squak-Cougar. ▲



Why Hike The Issaquah Alps In The Summer?

Fred Weinmann

We were scheduled to lead a hike on Squak Mountain (the forgotten alp) in August. Having not hiked on Squak for nearly a year, we decided to undertake a reconnaissance on Sunday, July 17. Armed with Gus Nelson's draft map (which we quickly learned has different trail names than the signs on the mountain), we set out at 1:00 p.m. from the Mountainside Drive trailhead.

It was a hot day—in the 80's; but cool as can be in the Squak woods. Four hours later we had circum-ambulated the mountain with visits to Central Peak, the Bullitt fireplace, the blockhouse and much more. As for company, we had lots—both plants and animals thriving in the cool air and moist soils.

The regular list of birds were there—rufous-sided towhees rustling in the underbrush, chestnut-backed and black-capped chickadees, dark-eyed juncos flashing their white tail feathers, robins everywhere, the occasional warbler, swainsons thrush calling continuously and all keeping the chickarees and mountain beavers company. Big trees of western hemlock and Douglas fir on both sides of the trail mixed with fine specimens of moss-covered

bigleaf maple, red alder and occasional black cottonwood; and over a hundred other plant species common to our lowland western Washington forests. These were commonplace. There were also hi-lights.

**It was a hot day—in the 80's;
but cool as can be in
the Squak woods.**

Orangish-red berries big as grapes dangling from the twisted stalk. Splotches of red in the forest created by ripe elderberries. At the fireplace we disturbed an encampment of a hundred Northwest Toads scurrying from under their moss-cooled hideaway. Also at this spot we added the plant called lovage (Ligusticum alpinum) to the list of plants for the Issaquah Alps. I had seen this plant in the Issaquah area but never deep in the alps until this

day. And someday we will find time to study the insects of the air and the soil and the bark and the rotting logs.

Near the end of the hike we were rewarded thrice more. Not one, two or three hairy woodpeckers but a family of four feeding voraciously on elderberries just ten feet off the trail. Probably juveniles; they hadn't learned that woodpeckers don't eat elderberries. Secondly, a family of dark brown fox sparrows. Two apparent juveniles and one adult; and finally a feast of blackberries. Not the big ones but the small luscious ones—called dewberries, pacific blackberries, blood sweat and tears or Rubus ursinus and always the best tasting of our native berries.

As for other Squak hikers that day—none that we saw except a single soul leaving the woods as we entered. The trailhead is in Issaquah just 6 miles from our house. We were more than satisfied. ▲