



Open Space Bond Issue Vote In September

Ken Konigsmark

King County voters are expected to have placed before them in September an opportunity to vote on a \$215 million dollar initiative for parks, recreation, and open space funding. IATC strongly supports this initiative, viewing it as timely, critically needed, and in many cases, a last chance effort to preserve some of our regional open spaces before they fall to development. IATC members are urged to VOTE YES on this initiative when it reaches the ballot in September.

IATC has been involved in identifying and nominating key acquisition needs within the Issaquah Alps area for consideration under the open space bond funding. In an IATC letter to King County Executive Gary Locke and the County Council, the IATC Board documented the club's top priorities for funding for acquisition. These included the following:

- Sunset Quarry—a 120-acre connector parcel between Cougar and Squak Mountains that would

provide trailhead opportunities for and a broadened corridor between both mountains.

- Cougar Mountain Acquisitions—Several "edge" properties are critical to the integrity of Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, including China Creek Summit, selected areas adjacent to Military Road, residential lots potentially protruding into Klondike Basin, and a trailhead area off of Newport Way.
- Grand Ridge to Mitchell Hill Connector—Preservation of a forested connector linking the Grand Ridge open space across Mitchell Hill to existing DNR lands which connect to Preston, the Highway 18 interchange, and to Tiger Mountain.
- Manke Parcels—A forested parcel on the NW slope of Rattlesnake Mountain, vital to providing a public connection between Tiger and Rattlesnake; and acquisition of the large 1736-acre parcel at the headwaters of Issaquah Creek, connecting Tiger Mountain to the Seattle Watershed.

IATC further went on record as supporting the efforts of the City of Issaquah in creating two riparian greenways, the Issaquah Creek and the Tibbetts Creek Greenway projects. We also supported the Preston communities efforts for acquisition of the Preston Mill site as public park space, and for creation of an active, regional playfield/park on the log yard site in Preston.

Voters may be reluctant to support another tax increase, however this may be the only opportunity for several years to create a pool of funds to preserve some of our remaining open space. Given the pressures of development, if actions are not taken now, many of these sites will be forever lost. Please make the effort in September to get out to vote YES for the open space bond, and to convince your friends, co-workers, and family members to do likewise. ▲

Microsoftie Millionaires On The Marionette March

Harvey Manning

Walk the Wildside Trail from the Red Town trailhead, across Coal Creek, up from the stream to the old logging road-become-footpath along the hillside, into the heart of the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland park. Ah, wilderness!

But look through the trees and understory to the right, on the slope rising to China Summit. What is that metal sign, almost close enough to reach out and touch? The park boundary!

Who, what, owns the wildness beyond?

At the start, the Coal Creek Development Company. What is *that*? In plain language, a division of the Razole Garbage Company, longtime Seattle-area lord high emperor of trash and swill. Farther along the trail, the Newcastle Golf Limited Liability Company. What is *that*? Another of those hobbies of the Microsofties who compensate for childhood nerdiness by building San Simeons ("Rosebud! Rosebud!") and by hiring grown men to play children's games.

Razole's intent is to line his stretch of the Wildside Trail with millionaire mansions whose building lots would be enormously inflated in price by existence of the wildland—a "taking" of a civic treasure for private profit.

The Microsoftie toy-boy, wearing the robes of The Golf Club at Newcastle, proposes two 18-hole public golf courses, driving range, 18-hole putting course/practice area (pitching and sand bunker prac-

tice), a maintenance building, and a clubhouse with a pro shop, banquet facilities, restaurant, locker rooms, meeting space, and a parking lot for 400 automobiles.

Progress of the first of the 18-holers stalled when membership sales lagged in what was initially proclaimed to be a PRIVATE course, and as indignation grew within Newcastle to having a major portion of the new city placed off-limits to residents—except those willing and able to pay membership fees so frightful they could only be afforded by golfers from overseas and Microsoft.

In strategic retreat, The Golf Club announced that this first 18-holer, to lie atop Razole's Mount Trashmore, would be a PUBLIC COURSE. (Note: *temporarily only*. In timely fashion it would become private.)

The second course would occupy headwaters wetlands of China Creek, China Summit, and the slope down to the Wildside Trail along Coal Creek. To strip bare the cynical strategy, this second 18-holer was an afterthought, a ruse, added as a PUBLIC course to placate residents' resentment of the PRIVATE course atop Mount Trashmore.

This second golf course and accompanying mansions would destroy the wildness of the most popular single portion of the Wildland Park.

Does Razole care? And the Microsoftie? What's wildness to a garbage man, to a toy-boy?

Who in the world *is* standing up to defend the

Regional Wildland Park?

We do not look to our new neighbor, the City of Newcastle. We do not discern in its government the recognition that the glory of the city is adjacency to AMERICA'S LARGEST IN-URBAN WILDLAND. The civic head seems dazzled by GOLF COURSE, OH BOY!

We do not detect in King County Executive Gary Locke the least flicker of interest in AMERICA'S LARGEST IN-URBAN WILDLAND.

King County Parks has excellent folks who know precisely the value of the treasure. But Parks is under the heavy political thumb of the Executive.

The King County Council? AMERICA'S LARGEST IN-URBAN WILDLAND does have friends and advocates there. Does it have enough? Who is your King County Councilor? Do you have a moment to telephone—fax—E-mail—write him/her? Can you please DO it NOW?

Frankly, in this, the twentieth year since I first had a vision of a Great Big Green and Quiet Place, I'm disheartened.

I keep repeating the mantra of William Blake:

*"I will not cease from Mental Fight
Nor shall my Sword sleep in my hand
Till we have built Jerusalem
In this green and pleasant land."*

But looking about in various governments with dominion here, I remember what else Blake said: "What is Grand is necessarily obscure to Weak men." ▲

President's Report

Well into another summer hiking season by now, and much is happening in the Issaquah Alps area. New trailheads for Squak and Tiger top the list, thanks to much effort by DNR, State Parks, and the City of Issaquah Interagency Coordinator. I'm hoping there is also funding to initiate repairs to the many trails which suffered extensive damage from winter flooding. My observations are that this was the worst damage in many, many years.

Dog owners should be advised that leashes are now required when dogs are brought to the High Point/Tradition Lake Plateau area, and all trails which evolve from there. As a responsible dog owner, I'm sad to see this, however I've had too many bad experiences with irresponsible owners who don't control their dogs to understand fully why this policy is needed within the Natural Resources Conservation Area on Tiger Mountain. IATC members are urged to cooperate with this new policy.

In support of a separate story on the upcoming Open Space Bond initiative, I add my full support to this effort to generate funds for our dwindling open spaces, and urge all IATC members to VOTE YES for this initiative. The reality is that there are very little "other funds" available for acquisitions that are critical in the Issaquah Alps area and throughout the County. If we hope to have added open spaces to enjoy in the future, we need to be willing to pay for it now to preserve what we will enjoy for decades to come. VOTE YES! ▲

The Salmon Are Coming, The Salmon Are Coming!

Marilyn Moon

Issaquah's World Famous Salmon will be returning this fall. The Salmon Day's celebration will be Saturday and Sunday, October 5 and 6.

Once again, IATC will have a booth, Known as the Trailhead City, Issaquah has more than the return of the beloved salmon to celebrate. We have the Issaquah Alps! More and more folks are finding what a treasure we have here in our own backyard—Cougar, Tiger, and Squak Mountains—to explore and revel in! IATC is that main connection for individuals and families to learn of hikes and trails available in the area. Be part of that vital link: VOLUNTEER THIS SALMON DAYS!

We need booth help! And this year, we're asking for your 2-hour volunteer commitment early. Save two hours of that Saturday or Sunday for the Club. If you're saying, "I don't know enough about the trails or the workings of the Club," don't let that stop you. You'll be given a brief orientation by a Club officer or Board member. You can share from your own experience, even if it's that you've simply walked around Lake Tradition a time or two. This is really *your* opportunity to learn about what's available in the Issaquah Alps. You'll get that just from folks stopping by to tell you about some terrific hikes they've been on and how they got there!

To get on the volunteer list, phone Marilyn Moon at 392-1732. Approximately two dozen folks are needed and it's a great way to contribute! ▲

Cougar Mountain Walks

King County Parks Offers Free Walks

King County Parks is offering free walks in Cougar Mountain Wildland Park on selected weekends this summer. The walks will begin at 11 am, leaving from Red Town, and will last about one and one-half hours. Topics will vary from Natural History to Cultural History. To preregister, call 296-4171.

The hikes are listed below:

Saturday, July 13

Sunday, July 21

Saturday, August 10

Sunday, August 18

Volunteers Needed in Bellevue Parks

Whether you want to plant trees, lead nature walks, greet visitors, or input data into a computer, we've got a project for you! Have some fun, make new friends, and gain valuable experience while helping the Bellevue Parks Department. Call our Volunteer Coordinator, Geoff Bradley, at 455-6855 for details. ▲



The Apparatus

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Hikes Coordinators: Fred and Ann Weinmann • 392-9230
Membership Records: Connie Hinton • 391-6830
Special Events: Carolyn Graham • 885-0224
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Alpiner: Barbara Johnson •
Issaquah Advocate: George Comstock • 392-8929
Cougar Advocates: Harvey Manning • 746-1017 and Ralph Owen • 746-1070
Squak Advocate: Ken Konigsmark • 222-4839
Tiger Advocates: Larry Hanson • 392-2458 and Ken Konigsmark • 222-4839
Grand Ridge Advocate: Melinda Livingstone • 392-7455
Raging River and Preston Advocate: Maryanne Tagney Jones • 222-7615
Rattlesnake Mtn. and Taylor Mtn. Advocates: Ted Thomsen • 454-8643/Ralph Owen • 746-1070
Chief Ranger: Bill Longwell • 222-6775
MTS Greenway: Ted Thomsen • 454-8643
Legal Advice: Tom Lucas
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Apologies from the Editor

This editor wishes to apologize for the appearance of the last Alpiner. Just at the moment of final editing, her hard drive crashed. She was able to retrieve a very rough draft. So...you got all the info, it just wasn't a pretty sight! BJ ▲

Chester Morse Lake and Its Marvelous Drainage

Bill Longwell

When the Issaquah Alps Trails Club built the 1993 trail to Rattlesnake Ledge, Ralph Naess of the Seattle Water Department kept repeating to trail builders the mysteries of the Cedar River drainage from Chester Morse Lake and the rise and fall of Rattlesnake Lake.

When we parked our cars at the Rattlesnake parking lot that year, we had to wade the lake's outlet waters—waters that ranged from a few inches to a foot deep. It's deeper in 1996.

Most of the year, Rattlesnake (elevation 911 feet) has no outlet, but a 1993 wet spring brought a higher lake and a 50-yard wide outlet. The Seattle Water Department built us a temporary bridge. Ralph said the waters went nowhere, just down the side of the road and into the woods. He was partially correct. He told us that when heavy rains and snow melt fill Chester Morse Lake (elevation 1562 feet), seepage (most of the drainage fills Cedar River, of course) takes about a month to reach Rattle-

snake Lake. When Chester Morse Lake was created, Rattlesnake Lake was never anticipated by Water Department hydrologists. In fact, seepage flooded the "prairie" here and also Moncton, a town whose foundations remain under the lake's waters.

When Rattlesnake fills, it spills out over a service road and into a ditch that parallels the Cedar Falls Road.

But in walking the Snoqualmie Valley Trail from the lake, I discovered not only does it follow the ditch along the road, but also then passes under the Cedar Falls Road through a rectangular culvert at the point where the Chester Morse access road begins. It continues along the east side to the Valley Trail (the old Milwaukee Railroad spur to Monroe) until it drains into Rainbow Lake, 41 feet lower than Rattlesnake. Rainbow lies on private land, with no known outlet, at least until February 1996.

On a walk to Rattlesnake from North Bend in mid-February, I suddenly heard from the woods the sound of a major stream I never knew existed.

Where no stream had flowed—not at least in the five years I had walked here—now roared a torrent, several feet wide and several feet deep! I followed this stream along the two per cent grade, passed around the "S" curve at Mile Post 2 and reached Rainbow Lake, now swollen.

The water level in the lake had risen about 20 feet above normal. A large, floating swimming dock had drifted from one end of the lake to the other in this flood. The lake's new outlet spanned at least 50 feet as it poured through a gap of vine maple and salmonberry, dry until this time of flooding.

Winter rains had filled Chester Morse Lake and had taken the normal month to seep into Rattlesnake. Rattlesnake had quickly filled and its overflow had moved downhill to swell Rainbow Lake, only to race out along a seldom-filled channel to drop to Boxley Creek and the Snoqualmie South Fork.

And you were sitting at home and missed the sound effects. ▲



The Tiger Mountain Lookout: 1945-1967

Bill Longwell

My first visit to Tiger Mountain me on February 22, 1967, on a climb to Main Tiger. The attraction that day was the 22-year old lookout on the 3004-foot summit. Six of us had walked up from Preston via the *then* only accepted route—the Carpenter Road, a route now completely abandoned and grown over. We exited via the *then newly* constructed access road, built to the Main Tiger summit from Tiger Pass on Highway 18.

I remember climbing up the lookout's six levels of steep stairs, only to be turned back by a locked trap door that led to a catwalk around a wooden live-in tower, 83 feet above Main Tiger's summit and eight miles west of North Bend. That hike provided my only visit to that lookout.

Lookouts have always intrigued and lured me to their summits. I aim to reach as many as I can; each summer I visit several old lookout sites.

I've often wondered about the 23 people who manned Tiger's lookout during the summers of its existence and wondered what time of the year they arrived and when they left. Did they ever discover

any fires?

These fire watchers had it relatively easy.

They obtained water from a spring only a half mile below the summit on the service road. They certainly were not as remote from civilization as others who manned lookout towers on faraway summits in the Cascades and Olympics. They could see nearby houses and roads. They could see Seattle. Tiger had road access. They could drive in an hour to any of several small towns that ringed the mountain.

The Washington Division of Forestry (DNR since 1955) built this lookout in 1945 and maintained it until DNR destroyed it in 1967. Ironically, almost all lookouts were burned down.

Airplane spotters rendered summit lookouts obsolete and few lookouts still stand.

If you climb today to Main Tiger, look on the summit's high point for the lookout's old concrete supports, all that remains from a brief, but romantic human activity on Tiger. ▲

Memoirs

Harvey Manning

Chapter One: Wilderness On The Metro 210

The manager and checkers stood in the supermarket doorway, discussing how come the parking lot was full and the store empty, wondering if this mob milling about the bus stop at the corner of Front And Sunset had anything to do with it. They called the police, and the entire force, (the fire department too, most everybody in Issaquah still asleep; nothing burning), sauntered across Sunset from headquarters, coffee cups in hand, smiling at friends and neighbors in the mob, allaying the manager's fears of armed rebellion or rock-and-roll riot. The hour wasn't right for that, dawn of a bleary Saturday. The garb was wrong, boots and stocking caps and rucksacks. Little children and gimpy grandparents rarely unite to threaten the established government. The *Issaquah Press*, having received the news release, filled in the police. Perhaps we ought to have gotten a parade permit, but the only problem Chief Dag saw was keeping the streets clear for traffic, unlikely so early in the day.

The TV crews were en route to Snoqualmie Pass, where an early snowfall promised the season's first kids on sleds and inner tubes, bunnies squealing as they were snowballed by swains, and fanny-wagglers seeking camera to waggle for. The assignment editors had told the crews to stop off in Issaquah in case some fun was to be had from our press release:

MOUNTAIN CLIMBING IN THE ISSAQUAH ALPS

WILDERNESS ON THE METRO 210

The 210 arrived on schedule and disgorged a spate of boots and stocking caps and rucksacks. Last off was our major domo, Buz Moore, who had boarded at Seattle Center and picked up recruits (the newspapers having been amused by our presumption) through the city, over Mercer Island, and across Bellevue. Buz gave me the high sign and I led out east along Sunset, the mob jamming the sidewalk in a column three blocks long, careful not to spill over too far into the street and respectful of lawns and shrubbery. The noise was no louder than was to be expected from a hundred-odd mouths chatting and laughing at being party to an Event, only mildly disorderly. Still, the Pied Piper in mem-

ory, mothers called their own kids in the house. The more prudent dogs and cats followed.

Where Sunset came to the edge of the Issaquah Creek flood plain and bumped against Tiger Mountain, we slowed pace to climb the scarp. Atop the Tradition Plateau the hundred-odd spread out in a wide straggle along the east-west Puget Power swath. At Fort Puget (the substation ringed by a fence-stockade, around and around which the mind's eye saw wild Indians galloping and war-crying until shot off horses by U.S. Army boys in blue manning the walls) our party split. The younger-older-slower group detached to follow the woodland trail circling Tradition Lake (the tradition apparently being that this was the ritual mating site of the area's snakes, whence came the original name of Snake Lake). The main body turned south on the intersecting Bonneville Power swath to the High School Trail (so called because that's where it comes from) and ascended forest to the West Tiger Railroad Grade-Trail.

A path from the terminus of the 1920s logging railroad grade led to Poo Poo Point, whose ancient forest had been unhandy for the lokie loggers of old but set the 1970s corporate mount of Weyerhaeuser gushing saliva. The clear-cut the winter of 1976-77 (the "poo poo" of the Yellow-Shafted Talkie Tooter hauntingly audible in the streets of downtown Issaquah) had opened airplane-wing views out to Lake Sammamish and across the deep slot of Issaquah Creek to Squak Mountain and Cougar Mountain and Seattle.

Returning from this side trip, we horse-shoe-curved around the wide basin of Many Creek Valley to West Tiger 3. The super-energetic of the party climbed from the rail grade to the big sky of the 2500-foot summit, half a vertical mile above the supermarket and Metro 210 bus stop. Reassembled, we looped down from the grade on the Tradition Trail to the lake and thus home.

To press and public, this November 13 of 1977 was the beginning. For we Peter(s) the

Hermit(s) preaching up the crusade, the stirring was earlier. How much? The mass march of "Wilderness of the Metro 210" took place a year to the day after Susan's op-ed spread in the *Times*. Months before that, the Cougar Mountain Residents Association had caught the Lakemont Boulevard promoters in the glower of spotlights, smoking them out of the back rooms where they did their mating dance to the jingle of the cash registers.

The beginning, for me, personally? That last cigarette forever, February 24 of 1976? Betty's and my flight from the University District to the 200-meter hut, final outpost of civilization before the Pole, in January 1952? My dawn reveries atop Par-rington Hall, marveling at the emergence of the sun from unsuspected mountains so close to campus, the spring of 1944? The hundreds of after-school and weekend walks from our family home in Judge Ronald's old orchard, through virgin forest of Hidden Creek to Puget Sound, 1944-11943? The Boy Scout hike from Camp Parsons when I stood at Marmot Pass and looked west into wilderness and for the first in my life *knew* wilderness, the summer of 1938? The tremulous expeditions across Boylston Street, in Lowell, Massachusetts, to the fearsome jungles and snake-infested swamps of Shedd Park, the summer of 1932?

Everything in the universe is hitched to everything else, said John Muir. Every nano-second since the Big Bang is linked to every nano-second up the blowing of horns that will call us home to the Sky Country.s

Editor's Note: This is an advanced (but not final) draft of a chapter from a work in progress telling in some detail how King County/Puget Sound City obtained the largest urban wildland park in the nation. The technique is that of a "memoir" rather than an official history, meaning the author tells it the way he remembers it. In certain later chapters, some names will be changed to prevent the guilty from suing us for libel.



Issaquah Alps Trails Club Hikes and Events

July

Thursday July 4

Cougar - "The Boulder"
2A 10:00 am

Harvey Manning 746-1017

Saturday July 6

Monthly Womanwalk Hike
3B 9:30 am
Marilyn Moon 392-1733

Sunday July 7

Rattlesnake W. Peak loop
3C 8:30 am 10mi 2500 ft
Ralph Owen 746-1070

Saturday July 13

West Tiger III
2B 1:00 pm 6 mi 2100 ft
Bob Gross 529-2139

Wednesday July 17

Trails of Bellevue
2A 8:30 am
Mary Cadigan 641-4046

Saturday July 20

TMT to the Railroad Grade
2B 9:00 am
Trudy Ecob 232-2933

Sunday July 21

Squak Mt Sampler
3C 9:00 am 7mi 1500 ft
Joe Toynbee 723-6716

Thursday July 22

BOARD MEETING
7:00 pm
Location to be announced

Sunday July 28

Tiger Summit via the
"Back Door"
4D 9:00 am
Bill McFerren 641-1853

August

Saturday August 3

Monthly Womanwalk Hike
3B 9:30 am
Marilyn Moon 392-1733

Sunday August 4

South Tiger Sampler
2B 9:30 am
Jamie McKenzie 746-6683

Saturday August 10

Tiger III via the TMT
3C 8:00 am
Janis Stiewing 868-7188

Sunday August 11

Cougar W. Tibbetts to Clay
Pit
3B 10:00 am
Dave Kappler 392-3571

Wednesday August 14

Rattlesnake Ledge &
Little Si
3C 8:30 am
Mary Cadigan 641-4046

Saturday August 17

Lake Tradition Plateau
2B 9:00 am
Dave Kappler 392-3571

Sunday August 18

Poo Poo Pt - Hang Glider
Haven
3D 9:00 am
Bill McFerren 641-1853

Saturday August 24

Nook Loop on Tiger
2B 9:00 am
Trudy Ecob 232-2933

Monday August 26

BOARD MEETING
7:00 pm
Location to be announced

Sunday August 25

Lost Beagle, Cougar Pass,
Coyote trail to AA Peak
2B 9:30 am Ann Leber

Saturday August 31

Cougar - "The Fantastic Erratic"
2A 10:00 am
Harvey Manning 746-1017

September

Monday September 2

Cougar - "The Boulder"
2A 10:00 am
Harvey Manning 746-1017

Saturday September 7

Monthly Womanwalk Hike
3B 9:30 am
Marilyn Moon 392-1733

Sunday September 15

Lk Tradition Plateau
2A 1:00 pm 5mi 400 ft
Bob Gross 529-2139

Saturday September 21

Lake Tradition Plateau
2B 9:00 am
Dave Kappler 392-3571

Sunday September 22

Squak Mansion/Rainier View
4C 9:00 am
Bill McFerren 641-1853

Monday September 23

BOARD MEETING
7:00 pm
Location to be announced

Saturday September 28

Tiger Mt Work Party
"bring loppers"
3C 8:30 am
Joe Toynbee 723-6716

Sunday September 29

Cougar Views
3A 9:30 am Ann Leber



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 well-being 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. ▲

Bellevue Parks Department Information

Mercer Slough Nature Park

The Mercer Slough Nature Park, with over 320 acres of wetlands in the heart of Bellevue, offers a variety of experiences. Enjoy the beauty of nature while viewing the largest remaining wetland on Lake Washington. The park offers over five miles of trails which are hikeable year round. Marshes, meadows, and forest provide critical habitat for wildlife and ample opportunities for discovering nature. The historic Winters House at 2102 Bellevue Way SE serves as the visitor's center for the park. Call 462-2752 for questions or registration. Winters House hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 am-4 pm and Sunday, Noon-4 pm.

Lake Hills Greenbelt

The Lake Hills Greenbelt is a wetland corridor joining Larsen and Phantom Lakes. The greenbelt encompasses over 150 acres of woods, wetlands and farmlands and provides ample wildlife viewing along its trails. The Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station, located at 15416 SE 16th Street, contains interpretive displays and trail maps. For information, call 451-7225. Hours are Saturday and Sunday Noon-4 pm.

Park Programs

Free Nature Walks

Take a walk on the wild side as a Park Ranger leads a 45-minute walk through the Mercer Slough Nature Park or Lake Hills Greenbelt. Topics vary from wetlands to wildlife to history and more. Walks leave the Winters House at 2102 Bellevue Way SE every Sunday at 11 am. Walks leave the Greenbelt Ranger Station at 15416 SE 16th ST every Saturday at 11am. ▲

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. To join, send \$10 (check or money order) to Snoqualmie Valley Trails Club, P. O. Box 1741, 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. ▲

Tony Scarbeck- An Issaquah Alps Legend

Bill Longwell

Last October 29, I saw Tony Scarbeck, a man I'd know for 25 years but hadn't seen since 1985.

On an end-of-season hike to Mt. Defiance, I was nearing the last major creek below the Pratt Divide—about a half mile from that fork in the trail—when I approached an older gentleman. I really didn't recognize Tony Scarbeck then, but remembered his name by the time I reached the Divide. There I took the trail's left fork to Mt. Defiance.

Tony Scarbeck is a 30-year hiker in the Issaquah Alps. I first met him along the service road just under the summit of Squak Mountain back in January 1970. I saw him another time on the summit of West Tiger 2 on a warm, sunny January morning in the 1980s.

He often worked on various Issaquah Alps Trails. In 1984, he personally rebuilt the section of the TMT between the Fifteen Mile Creek Railroad Grade and the Charles Custer bridge at Fifteen Mile Creek.

His magnificent name, his neatly trimmed mustache, his thick Eastern European accent and his polished, old world manners stood in my mind as I reluctantly turned around near Defiance and began my trek back to the car and the oncoming winter.

Two miles from the trailhead, I again spotted Tony ahead of me, this time descending. We reintroduced ourselves and recalled shared memories. He had walked to Island Lake on that cold, sunny day, a 12 mile round trip with 3000 feet of elevation gain.

As we parted, Tony Scarbeck finished our conversation with the most inspiring words I'd hear in years.

"Bill, I'm 90!" ▲

Hang Gliders On Tiger Mt.

Bill Longwell

Ever since road builders constructed the West Side Road from Tiger Pass to Poo Poo Point in 1976 (the beginning of Tiger's second phase of logging), hand gliders and para gliders have traversed that road to reach Poo Poo to jump off its summit and sail in all cardinal directions.

Before gates on Tiger, they either drove the entire West Side Road (a 40 mile round trip from Issaquah), built a controversial short cutoff road to the West Side Road from Mirrormont (neighbors vigorously protested or came up from the Fraternity Snoqualmie Road. The latest route of para gliders climbs to Poo Poo via a steep, boot-built trail fro the current landing area, a meadow about two and one half miles from Issaquah on the Hobart Road.

Most hand glider pilots seem content to jump out from Poo Poo, avoid the trees (some do not but land in them), soar a few minutes and drop to their landing meadow. In high winds friends hold down some pilots until a draft of wind lifts the fliers straight up from the launch site and into the air space above Poo Poo. I've heard some of them scream to others, begging them *not* to let them go. A certain amount of fear lurks here on launch days.

Others have stood for an hour or more, finally losing nerve while their human tethers hold them down and the wings/chutes fill with air. Then they give in to their fears and fold up their equipment and drive back down the road.

Others, more highly skilled and perhaps luckier, wait for the perfect conditions, lift off and head for far away places. Some have departed Tiger's Poo Poo Point and traveled 70 miles south all the way to Centralia. Others have lifted off, soared east over its summits, followed the peaks along the I-90 corridor, gazed down onto Snoqualmie Pass and dropped onto the unsuspecting residents of Cle Elum, also about 70 miles away.

Are you ready for this sport? ▲



Cougar Ballfield Meadow Update

Ann Weinmann

It has been a good spring for the meadow, rain and all. Shooting stars, fawn lilies, both common and death camas, pussytoes, chocolate lilies, and iris all bloomed in the meadow this spring. The lupine and asters are still to come. It is lush with native grasses as well. Several thousand baby plants are at the greenhouse at the University Horticulture Center waiting to be planted, some this spring and also later in the fall.

Work parties for weeding and planting will be scheduled as needed throughout the summer and fall. We need volunteers. So please call Penny Manning at 865-8619 or Ann Weinmann at 392-9230, if you are interested in helping.▲