

Newsletter of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club

THE ALPINE



January ▲ February ▲ March ▲ 1999

Cougar ▲ Squak ▲ Tiger ▲ Grand Ridge

Once more into the breach, dear friends

Barbara Johnson

A great deal has been happening lately concerning the Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) and I would like to bring readers up to date on some of these issues.

Bellevue tree cutting

The City of Bellevue is considering a proposal to allow tree topping and/or cutting in city greenbelts to enhance views of adjacent property owners. Several trails club members have written to the city to express their concerns. The concept of cutting trees in a city park to allow nearby home owners to have a view, thereby increasing their property values while paid for with tax monies, is not an appropriate use of tax dollars. I encourage you to let the City of Bellevue know your concerns about this matter. You may write to the mayor and council at: Post Office Box 90012, Bellevue, Washington 98009-9012.

Retreat

The board is planning a retreat to discuss a vision and mission statement for the next 10 to 20 years for

the trails club. Since the club is about to celebrate its 20th anniversary, the board feels this is an appropriate time to review where we have been, what we have accomplished (a lot!), and where we would like to go in the second 20 years. We will meet sometime in January and report back to the membership on our decisions.

Monthly programs

These have been well attended. There are lots of new members in our organization and they are hungry to learn about the club and the Issaquah Alps area. Each program begins with a short orientation to the IATC, followed by a program of general interest to all members. There is time to socialize, ask questions of longtime members, and get to know more about the Issaquah Alps. I encourage you to attend one of these meetings soon.

Other areas of interest

These include: the Washington Environmental Council cooperative project; the 20th anniversary of the IATC including a celebration; a reprinting of the trails club brochure

with a grant of \$400 from Recreational Equipment, Inc.; and updating the web page (more information to follow).

Mountains to Sound Greenway's 10th anniversary

There are plans being made to celebrate the Great March from the summit of Snoqualmie Pass to the shores of Elliot Bay, which occurred in July 1989. Over 1,000 hardy folk marched at least part of the way along the proposed Mountains to Sound Greenway. After 10 years, much of the proposed greenway is a reality. The Big Idea caught on and the banner was picked up by some very influential people who have worked hard to make this concept a success. We have much to celebrate that has been accomplished by so many dedicated volunteers who served the Issaquah Alps Trails Club.

While we have much to celebrate, there is still much left to finish. . . .

"Once more into the breach, dear friends." ▲



Trail routes in East Village

Charles McCrone

The East Village development is planned for about 630 acres on the east slope of Cougar Mountain, and will include about 1800 residential units and 800,000 square feet of office space. Most importantly, the developer, Intracorp, has worked quite well with the Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) to adapt their plans to preserve 450 acres of the 630-acre site as untouched open space, which will be donated to the public. They have also tried to minimize any trail impacts to the best degree possible.

The trails planning process for East Village on Cougar Mountain continued through 1998 and a picture of the future of trails in the site is shaping up. The good news is that the Bear Ridge and West Tibbetts trails will remain intact in their entirety. Thanks to a recent survey of the West Tibbetts Trail coordinated by the trails club, and the willingness of the developer, Intracorp, housing will follow the line of the trail, but stay out of its way. The bigger impact to trails will come in the north end of the site. Shangri La, Surprise Creek,

and Precipice trails all enter the site and, from the point where they enter and onwards, will not be preserved. However, there will still be access to the Shangri La Trail from the west side of a coming development road, and from there one will be able to follow the trail up into the park. Where the Surprise Creek Trail and the Precipice Trail (right after it has crossed the powerline from the Military Road) enter the site, a landscaped corridor will remain to mark the future terminus of each of *continued on page 10*

The Apparatus

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 VP, Advocacy: Ken Konigsmark · 222-4839
 VP, Operations: Open
 Treasurer: Open
 Secretary: Open
 Board of Directors:
 Harvey Manning, Chairman · 746-1017
 Steve Drew · 392-4432
 Christina Jackson · 837-0417
 Bill Longwell · 222-6775
 Dan McCrea · 837-0417
 Charles McCrone · 392-3466
 Malena McCrone · 392-3466
 Linda Rains · 313-5923
 Fred Zeitler · 882-3435
 Hikes Coordinators: Open
 Membership Records: Open
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 Cougar Advocate: Charles McCrone · 392-3466
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 Ken Konigsmark · 222-4839
 Tiger Advocate: Larry Hanson · 392-2458
 Grand Ridge Advocate: Melinda Livingstone · 392-7455

Raging River and Preston Advocate:
 Maryanne Tagney Jones · 222-7615
 Rattlesnake Mountain and Taylor Mountain Advocates:
 Ted Thomsen · 454-8643 and
 Ralph Owen · 746-1070
 Chief Rangers/Trail Maintenance:
 Bill Longwell · 222-6775 and
 Charles McCrone · 392-3466
 MTS Greenway: Ted Thomsen · 454-8643
 Legal Advice: Tom Lucas

NOTE: All telephone numbers are area code 425 unless otherwise noted.

Hotline: 206-328-0480

Web Site: <http://www.issaquah.org/comorg/ialps/mlalps.htm>

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Articles are welcome, preferably via e-mail to: jlstjohn@concentric.net. Send diskette or hard copy to post office box number above. Issue deadlines: November 15 for January; February 15 for April; May 15 for July; August 15 for October.

12,000 years on the trail

Harvey Manning

The other day, walking in the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, Boadicea waxed philosophical.

"You know," she began, "the likes of you and me have been on the trail together for some 12,000 years.

Across Eurasia from ocean to ocean. Up and down Africa and the Americas. The outback of Australia. Even to the South Pole, though that cannibal Norwegian ended up eating my relatives, not a nice way to treat your best friends. The Englishmen, now, they just sat politely down in the snow and died like gentlemen."

Pausing for effect, she got to the point. "It ain't natural for man to go walking without a dog."

I had to agree with Bo-ad. The same feelings had been expressed by her predecessors, Elean and Myfawnwy and Cailin and Natasha and Tamburlaine, and Buffalo Wallow Woman and Petrouchka.

"However," I responded, "you'll notice that you don't go with me to national parks."

"Specieism!" snarled Bo-ad. "Prejudice! Discrimination! Ought to be a law. Civil liberties!"

"Well, I don't approve of the prejudice but I can understand it. My delivery route for the *Seattle Shopping News* covered 12 miles of country roads, 185 houses. The paper was free and the Depression was on so everybody wanted it, and everybody had a best friend loose in the yard. I became personally acquainted with 185 dogs. Most were hospitable.

But one chewed out of the seat of my pants, and another knocked me off my bike and tried to eat my arm, and I'll tell you, if I hadn't badly needed the 75 cents for each of those 12-mile, 185-dog deliveries, I'd have gotten right out of that business."

"Yeah, but how could anybody fail to see at a glance what a good person I am? I bark to say hello, and the only reason I strain on the leash is I want to do some get-acquainted sniffing, the way friends do."

"I know that, sweetie, and after those years of studying 185 dogs, I could spot right off which ones I'd want in my party for a hike across Eurasia, and which I'd just as soon slice up for a kettle of hoosh. But you have to realize, not everybody has made 183 friends on a paper route. Some people have only met the 2 assassins."

Bo-ad mused on that, and at last nodded in agreement. "It's true. There are assassins in the world, and they aren't all Norwegians. You'll notice that on occasion when we meet strangers I put your legs and walking stick between their jaws and my throat."

"Nothing personal, but that's also why I always put you on leash whenever other walkers are around—as they always are on these trails of Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park."

"I don't mind a leash between friends. Though it does cut into my romping, and you know how I love to romp."

"Indeed I do, and in the City of Seattle just now there's a great fuss over providing ample essential romping room. Fortunately, out here there's no lack of it, and where you are romping loose and other walkers appear, the leash is always in my hand or pocket, ready to snap onto your collar."

Bo-ad and I have no problems with this matter. Some other walkers do. Recently I encountered a woman whose two large dogs were running loose. I smiled a greeting, befriended the dogs, and pointed to my leash on Bo-ad and politely reminded her that it was required in the park.

"Oh no," she corrected me, "leash or voice control, that's the law."

I corrected her, "Wherever that may be the law, it is superseded here by park regulation. Leash."

She strode away before I could deliver my kindly lecture, so here it is for your benefit:

A person encountering unleashed dogs can't know if there actually is "voice control." Traumatized by an attempted assassination in his/her childhood, he/she may never ever feel at ease in the presence of a loose-romping dog.

"At ease. . . ." After all, that's why we go to wildlands, to escape the tensions, threats, fears unavoidable in "civilization." I am made very uncomfortable by seeing wheel tracks on wildland trails. They may have been made days or weeks ago. But they tell me that any minute, around

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Marilyn's legacy continues

Aurela Sequoia

After five years of bringing the pleasure of hiking to countless women, Marilyn Moon is passing on the WomanWalk torch. A group of eight women, in appreciation for what Marilyn has created, volunteered to take on the responsibility. We met in October to brainstorm and decide where to go from here. In response to the increasingly large number of women showing up for hikes coupled with the increasingly small number of women volunteering to lead hikes, we decided to publicize our need for hike leaders to other hiking groups, perhaps write a few articles for local newspapers, and send out a plea on the Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) web site.

How you may help

We are looking for 18 women to volunteer to lead one hike per year on the last Saturday of each month. We would like to offer easy, moderate, and challenging levels and would like a far-in-advance commitment for the specific level and date you are willing to lead the hike. Your name, telephone number, and hike level will be published in *The Alpiner* under the "WomanWalk" heading. We ask that you make a serious commitment and, if you are unable to lead your hike, take the responsibility to find a substitute for the same level and date.

Interested? Willing to lead a hike? If not, can you help us find other women to lead hikes? Want to be part of the planning? Contact me at 425-888-2683. ▲

Wanted—volunteer for hikes hotline

Marilyn Moon

The position of Hotline Volunteer is truly the "lifeblood" of our organization. From the convenience of your home, you will retrieve voicemail messages from our hotline number and respond. The majority of messages are inquiries about how to become a member, questions about what is happening on one of our mountains or trails, etc. We provide a simple orientation, plenty of Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) brochures and current issues of *The Alpiner*, along with a roll of stamps.

If you are interested, call me at 425-392-1732. ▲

Free monthly programs

Marilyn Moon

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) will offer free monthly programs to its members—new and old. On the first Tuesday of each month at the IATC clubhouse at First and Bush streets in Issaquah, the club will offer a half-hour orientation to club hikes and activities, followed by an hour-long presentation by a seasoned club member/hiker. January's program will be on Tuesday, January 5, from 7:00–8:30 p.m., and will feature Fred and Ann Weinmann. They will make a slide presentation on "The Greening of the Issaquah Alps," which will introduce topographic and geographic settings. For information on future monthly programs, look in the *Issaquah Press* or call me at 425-392-1732. ▲



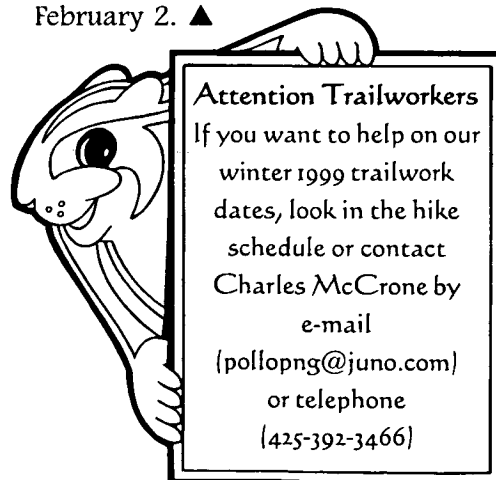
Hikers' corner

Fred Zeitler

Hello fellow hikers:

In order to provide more and greater variety of hikes to our hiking audience, we are recruiting more hike leaders. If you have led hikes for the Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) before, we would like to see you back on the schedule. If you have thought about leading hikes, we will have presentations and discussions about hike leadership as part of the monthly orientation meetings.

Our next session will be on February 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the Trails Center at First and Bush streets. At this meeting, we will talk about qualifications for being a hike leader (enthusiasm for hiking is the key element), responsibilities of the hike leader (like getting everybody back safely), and how to organize a hike. We will also provide tips on leading hikes and share stories about good and bad hikes. If you want to get more involved in our hiking program, or have ideas about new or different kinds of hikes, please come to the hike leadership meeting on February 2. ▲



Attention Trailworkers

If you want to help on our winter 1999 trailwork dates, look in the hike schedule or contact Charles McCrone by e-mail (pollopng@juno.com) or telephone (425-392-3466)

Close state parks? It is no joke!

Act now to help prevent this from happening

Ken Konigsmark

As absurd as it sounds, 1999 may well see the closure of up to 42 of the 125 state parks in Washington including Squak Mountain State Park and trailhead, Twin Falls/Olallie State Park, Bridle Trails in Bellevue, and such "icons" as Palouse Falls, Peace Arch (at the Canadian border), and Peshastin Pinnacles.

Washington State Parks has an existing \$2 million budget shortfall from its current operations. This shortage may combine with a potential \$3 million additional shortfall due to funds being taken from the parks budget to fund road improvements per recently approved Referendum 49. As a result, parks has drawn up plans for how to cut back operations to fit within the budget typically allocated to them by the state Legislature.

Over the past 20 years, our political leaders have cut funding to parks while public use has increased 300 percent since 1965. Our Washington State Parks system ranks in the nation's top 10 in both acres managed (250,000) and visitation (51 million), yet ranks 48th in the nation in terms of funding per visitor (63 cents per visitor versus an average of \$1.82). Because of such penny-pinching, our parks now have a \$35 million backlog of needed maintenance on top of funds needed to sustain ongoing operations. Clearly, our elected officials have neglected to adequately fund and preserve the

incredible system of parks that Washington citizens enjoy so much.

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) will *not* quietly watch Squak Mountain, Twin Falls, and other priceless "jewels" be closed to public use and inevitable deterioration. The board will consider joining a newly formed coalition named "Friends of Washington State Parks," to add our voice to what should be a tidal wave of public opposition to closing any park (see their website at: www.saveourparks.org). We will speak and write letters in support of our parks. We need your voice too. It is essential that, as our state legislators and governor go through the budget-planning process starting in January, they hear loud and long from citizens who want our parks system funded fully; to keep them all open now, to sustain them for the future, and to begin fixing the problems of the maintenance backlog. E-mail or write your local legislators and the governor now so they know that you and many others care (*see address information upper right corner*). They must hear from the citizenry or it will be business as usual, with parks falling below the priority line for funding and local parks gated shut.

For longtime IATC members, it will soon be 10 years since the club sponsored the original Mountains to Sound March in July 1990! This

event, an 88-mile trek from Snoqualmie Pass to Seattle's waterfront led to the formation of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust organization and to many incredible successes in preserving a green, forested corridor along I-90 from Seattle across the Cascades.

Efforts are underway to begin planning for a July 2000, 10-year anniversary march to commemorate and relive the "magic" of the original march. The IATC leadership that successfully planned and led the original march is being enlisted as advisors for plans being formulated by the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust. Look for more information as this planning effort proceeds. ▲

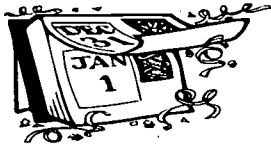
Governor Gary Locke
Post Office Box 40002
Olympia 98504-0002
Governor.Locke@Governor.wa.gov

State Legislature website:
www.leg.wa.gov

**Issaquah Alps
Trails Club
Annual Potluck
Friday, March 5
Preston Community Center
Social hour 6:00 p.m.
Dinner 6:30 p.m.
Program 7:30-8:30 p.m.**

An informal social affair for members and friends of the IATC. Bring a dish to share and your own tableware and utensils. We will provide beverages. From I-90, take the Preston exit (if traveling eastbound, cross over freeway, turn right). Go about 1/2 mile. The community center is a stone and wood structure on the left (west) side of Preston-Fall City Road.

January

**Friday January 1, 10:00 a.m.**

Antecedent to football
Tradition Plateau botany hike
1-2A, slow pace
Fred Weinmann 425-392-9230

Saturday January 2, 10:00 a.m.

Lake Tradition Plateau family hike
Travel Busline trail to Round Lake
2A, 4 miles
Irene Stanford 425-255-5558

Sunday January 3, 9:00 a.m.

West Tiger Loop: hike TMT to RR
Grade on West Tiger 3 and return via
Talus Caves and Nook Trail; joint with SVTC
2C, 7 miles, 2000-foot gain
Fred Zeitler 425-882-3435

Tuesday January 5, 7:00 p.m.

Monthly hike leader orientation meeting
followed by a slide presentation on "The Greening
of the Issaquah Alps" by Fred and Ann Weinmann

Saturday January 9, 1:00 p.m.

Cougar Mountain: Coal Creek Falls
2B, 4 miles, 500-foot gain
Bob Gross 425-427-8449

Sunday January 10, 9:00 a.m.

"Path College" trail maintenance party,
all volunteers welcome. E-mail if interested
at pollopng@juno.com
Charles McCrone 425-392-3466

Sunday January 10, 10:00 a.m.

South Tiger: TMT; Holder Creek; and Otter Lake
2C, 8 miles, 1500-foot gain
Jamie McKenzie 425-746-6683

Monday January 11, 8:00 a.m.

Bird watching near Stillwater/Duvall,
return via bus; joint hike with SVTC
3A, no gain
Bill Longwell 425-222-6775

Sunday January 17, 10:00 a.m.

The Fantastic Erratic from A-A Peak
2B, 5 miles, 700 feet
Bert Drui 425-746-0709

Saturday January 23, 8:30 a.m.

Issaquah history walk/drive: rails;
logs; and mines; joint hike with SVTC
2B, 5-6 miles, 1500 feet
Bill Longwell 425-222-6775

Sunday January 24, 1:00 p.m.

Cougar Mountain Wildland Park
Ford slope, steam hoist, ol' swimming
hole, mines to Redtown ballpark meadow
1-2A, "turtle pace"
Harvey Manning 425-746-1017

Monday January 25, 7:00 p.m.

BOARD MEETING
Trails Center, First and Bush streets, Issaquah

Saturday January 30, 9:30 a.m.

Cougar Mountain: Lewis Creek and Lakemont
Boulevard perimeter trails: a loop walk
with views of Lake Sammamish and streams
2B, 4 miles, 1000 feet
Ralph Owen 425-746-1070

Sunday January 31, 9:00 a.m.

Tiger Mountain Poo Poo Point
3C, 7 miles
Irene Stanford 425-255-5558

February

Tuesday February 2, 7:00 p.m.

Monthly orientation and hike
leadership discussion
Trails Center, First and Bush streets, Issaquah

Saturday February 6, 8:30 a.m.

West Tiger 1, Hiker's Hut
3C
Joe Toynbee 206-723-6716

Sunday February 7, 1:00 p.m.

Cougar Mountain Wildland Park
Ford slope, steam hoist, ol' swimming
hole, mines to Redtown ballpark meadow
1-2A, "turtle pace"
Harvey Manning 425-746-1017

Saturday February 13, 10:00 a.m.

Cougar Loop, A-A Peak: views,
a falls, and a surprise
2B, 5 miles, 1000-foot gain
Bert Drui 425-746-0709

Sunday February 14, 9:00 a.m.

Squak Mountain sampler: hike to Central Peak
via Old Grizz Trail; Bullitt Fireplace; West Peak
and Rainier views; return via Chybinski Trail;
joint hike with SVTC
2C, 7 miles, 1700-foot gain
Fred Zeitler 425-882-3435

Monday February 15, 9:00 a.m.

"Path College" trail maintenance party
all volunteers welcome. E-mail if interested
at pollopng@juno.com
Charles McCrone 425-392-3466

Saturday February 20, 10:00 a.m.

Tiger Nook Loop
2B, 700-foot gain
Trudy Ecob 206-232-2933

Sunday February 21, 8:00 a.m.

Circle the perimeter of Cougar Mountain
Wildland Park via a combination of
often- and seldom-traveled trails
4C, 10+ miles, 2500-foot gain
Ralph Owen 425-746-1070

Monday February 22, 7:00 p.m.

BOARD MEETING
Trails Center, First and Bush streets, Issaquah

Saturday February 27, 9:30 a.m.

North Tiger: Old TMT; Dwight's Way;
and two bridges over High Point Creek
2C, 9 miles, 1900-foot gain
Jamie McKenzie 425-746-6683

Sunday February 28, 1:00 p.m.

Tradition Lake Plateau
2A, 5 miles, 400-foot gain
Bob Gross 425-427-8449



March

Tuesday March 2, 7:00 p.m.

Monthly orientation for hike leaders,
potential hike leaders, and others
interested in the Issaquah Alps
Trails Center, First and Bush streets, Issaquah

Friday March 5, 6:00 p.m.

ANNUAL POTLUCK
Preston Community Center
(see notice on page 5 of this issue)

Saturday March 6, 10:00 a.m.

Twin Falls family hike
2B, 3 miles, 400-foot gain
Irene Stanford 425-255-5558

Sunday March 7, 9:00 a.m.

Cougar Mountain NW to SE traverse
via precipice. Spectacular gorges and
views on Cougar Mountain's most
spectacular trail. Some light trail
maintenance on the way
3C
Charles McCrone 425-392-3466

Saturday March 13, 9:30 a.m.

Tiger Mountain's abandoned TMT
2A, 4 miles, 600 feet
Bert Drui 425-746-0709

Sunday, March 14, 9:00 a.m.

West Tiger 2 and 3
Hike the quiet way; joint hike with SVTC
3C, 10 miles, 2000-foot gain
Denis Harney 206-545-2829

Saturday March 20, 9:00 a.m.

Tiger Nook Loop
2B, 700-foot gain
Trudy Ecob 206-232-2933

Sunday March 21, 1:00 p.m.

Cougar Mountain Wildland Park
Ford slope, steam hoist, ol' swimming
hole, mines to Redtown ballpark meadow
1-2A, "turtle pace"
Harvey Manning 425-746-1017

Monday March 22, 7:00 p.m.

BOARD MEETING
Trails Center, First and Bush streets, Issaquah

Saturday March 27, 1:00 p.m.

Cougar Mountain: Licorice Fern Trail
2C, 6 miles, 500 feet
Bob Gross 425-427-8449

Sunday March 28, 9:00 a.m.

South Tiger Loop: TMT on South Tiger
to Middle Trail via Artifacts Trail;
lunch at spot of 1925 train crash; return via
traverse trail; joint hike with SVTC
2C, 8 miles, 1500-foot gain
Fred Zeitler 425-882-3435

Wednesday March 31, 10:00 a.m.

South Squak Loop: High Valley;
Rainier View; West Peak; and Bullitt Gorge
from May Valley trailhead
2C, 5 miles, 1500-foot gain
Warren Jones 425-888-0262

Hike Information

24-hour hikes hotline: 206-328-0480

Hike Leaders

Hike leaders are volunteers who donate 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 three, 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—or all 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 a hiker's comfort, transportation, property, safety, or general well-being while traveling to and from the trailhead or while hiking or working on 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 the hike leaders and others who want to hike these trails. Children under 13 should be accompanied by an adult. Please, no pets on 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. They do not include travel time to and

from the trailhead (20 to 70 minutes depending on the location of the hike) or meal times (lunch will add another 20 to 70 minutes depending on the mood of the group). Times are based on an assumption of a two-mile-per-hour pace with one-half hour added for each 1000 feet elevation gain. Trail conditions, weather, and unexpected hazards could 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 does not automatically mean easy; long does not 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,

and tiptoe through wildflowers and/or mud while having a good time hiking where others seldom tread.

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

NOTE:

Group hikes do not lend themselves to pets. Please leave your pets at home when coming on a trails club hike.

Meeting Place

Trails club hikes meet in the parking lot at the corner of First and Bush streets next to the IATC clubhouse (the little yellow 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, then go two blocks past the light at East Sunset Way, and then turn left on Bush Street. Go two blocks to Rainier and turn into the lot on the left. Park beside the clubhouse or on the east side of the concrete bumpers opposite the Issaquah Food Bank. Do not park on the side of the bumpers closest to the Issaquah Food Bank.

Clothing

Dress for the Pacific Northwest outdoors—expect rain, snow, sunshine, fog, and everything in between. Bring extra clothing, raingear, 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 (see "Meeting Place" above) at the same place as the regular *continued on page 9*

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Over the past 20 years, our political leaders have cut funding to parks while public use has increased 300 percent since 1965. Our Washington State Parks system ranks in the nation's top 10 in both acres managed (250,000) and visitation (51 million), yet ranks 48th in the nation in terms of funding per visitor (63 cents per visitor versus an average of \$1.82). Because of such penny-pinching, our parks now have a \$35 million backlog of needed maintenance on top of funds needed to sustain ongoing operations. Clearly, our elected officials have neglected to adequately fund and preserve the

incredible system of parks that Washington citizens enjoy so much.

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) will *not* quietly watch Squak Mountain, Twin Falls, and other priceless "jewels" be closed to public use and inevitable deterioration. The board will consider joining a newly formed coalition named "Friends of Washington State Parks," to add our voice to what should be a tidal wave of public opposition to closing any park (see their website at: www.saveourparks.org). We will speak and write letters in support of our parks. We need your voice too. It is essential that, as our state legislators and governor go through the budget-planning process starting in January, they hear loud and long from citizens who want our parks system funded fully; to keep them all open now, to sustain them for the future, and to begin fixing the problems of the maintenance backlog. E-mail or write your local legislators and the governor now so they know that you and many others care (*see address information upper right corner*). They must hear from the citizenry or it will be business as usual, with parks falling below the priority line for funding and local parks gated shut.

For longtime IATC members, it will soon be 10 years since the club sponsored the original Mountains to Sound March in July 1990! This

Governor Gary Locke
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Olympia 98504-0002
Governor.Locke@Governor.wa.gov

State Legislature website:
www.leg.wa.gov

event, an 88-mile trek from Snoqualmie Pass to Seattle's waterfront led to the formation of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust organization and to many incredible successes in preserving a green, forested corridor along I-90 from Seattle across the Cascades.

Efforts are underway to begin planning for a July 2000, 10-year anniversary march to commemorate and relive the "magic" of the original march. The IATC leadership that successfully planned and led the original march is being enlisted as advisors for plans being formulated by the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust. Look for more information as this planning effort proceeds. ▲

**Issaquah Alps
Trails Club
Annual Potluck
Friday, March 5
Preston Community Center
Social hour 6:00 p.m.
Dinner 6:30 p.m.
Program 7:30-8:30 p.m.**

An informal social affair for members and friends of the IATC. Bring a dish to share and your own tableware and utensils. We will provide beverages. From I-90, take the Preston exit (if traveling eastbound, cross over freeway, turn right). Go about 1/2 mile. The community center is a stone and wood structure on the left (west) side of Preston-Fall City Road.

Hike Information

24-hour hikes hotline: 206-328-0480

Hike Leaders

Hike leaders are volunteers who donate 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 three, 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—or all 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 a hiker's comfort, transportation, property, safety, or general well-being while traveling to and from the trailhead or while hiking or working on 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 the hike leaders and others who want to hike these trails. Children under 13 should be accompanied by an adult. Please, no pets on 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. They do not include travel time to and

from the trailhead (20 to 70 minutes depending on the location of the hike) or meal times (lunch will add another 20 to 70 minutes depending on the mood of the group). Times are based on an assumption of a two-mile-per-hour pace with one-half hour added for each 1000 feet elevation gain. Trail conditions, weather, and unexpected hazards could 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 does not automatically mean easy; long does not 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,

and tiptoe through wildflowers and/or mud while having a good time hiking where others seldom tread.

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

NOTE:

Group hikes do not lend themselves to pets. Please leave your pets at home when coming on a trails club hike.

Meeting Place

Trails club hikes meet in the parking lot at the corner of First and Bush streets next to the IATC clubhouse (the little yellow 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, then go two blocks past the light at East Sunset Way, and then turn left on Bush Street. Go two blocks to Rainier and turn into the lot on the left. Park beside the clubhouse or on the east side of the concrete bumpers opposite the Issaquah Food Bank. Do not park on the side of the bumpers closest to the Issaquah Food Bank.

Clothing

Dress for the Pacific Northwest outdoors—expect rain, snow, sunshine, fog, and everything in between. Bring extra clothing, raingear, 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 (see "Meeting Place" above) at the same place as the regular

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hikes. 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 is an integral part of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) management plan for Tiger Mountain. Work parties must limit their activity to trails listed by DNR as scheduled for maintenance. Construc-

tion of new trails is not allowed. Work parties are a great way to meet people! Individuals and groups are encouraged to adopt a trail—or section of trail—and take the responsibility to maintain it. ▲



DON'T LEAVE THE TRAILHEAD WITHOUT

- Food
- Water
- Daypack
- Raingear
- Warm clothes
- Appropriate footwear

The above six items are required of everyone who participates in Issaquah Alps Trails Club hikes!



Issaquah Alps Trails Club Membership Application

Post Office Box 351, Issaquah, Washington 98027



Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ ☐ New ☐ Renewal

- ☐ Annual regular dues \$15
- ☐ Annual contributing dues \$25
- ☐ Lifetime membership \$200
- ☐ Limited income \$6

▲ All memberships cover the entire family.

▲ A regular annual family membership is \$15. This covers the cost of printing and mailing *The Alpiner* and a part of the club's overhead expenses.

▲ Contributing memberships at \$25 or more cover the rest of the club's overhead expenses and allow us some financial leeway to plan special events, publish trail guides, and keep our trail maintenance tool supply fit and ample.

▲ Lifetime memberships at \$200 give us room to be creative and visionary and 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.

Snoqualmie Point in jeopardy

Dan McCrea

The site of the former Snoqualmie Winery, onsite of the 130 acres of Snoqualmie Point owned by the City of Snoqualmie, may be developed into a private access office park in the near future. Sixty of these acres are under a 99-year lease agreement through 2082. After the winery went bankrupt, the lease became held by City Management Corporation and further leased to Powell Development Company, which proposed the office building complex on the site.

The city retains authority to approve proposed uses for the site, but cannot "unreasonably" withhold approval for proposals that fit within the zoning. With the large development of Snoqualmie Ridge, however, the city apparently regrets the past zoning actions it has taken, preferring that Snoqualmie Point serve as a tourist, viewpoint, and special events attraction. A trailhead for 2900 acres of public lands on Rattlesnake Mountain already exists on the site. An amphitheater also exists for concerts and public events. Numerous special events (e.g., weddings and fund-raisers) are now held at the old winery. The site is widely considered to be the most scenic and dramatic overlook to Snoqualmie Pass as well as most road-accessible.

A citizens' group is being formed to preserve Snoqualmie Point for public use. To find out more, please contact Christina Jackson at 425-837-0417. ▲

Notice of elections and annual meeting

The annual meeting of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) will be held on January 25 from 7:00–9:00 p.m. at the Trails Center, 110 Bush Street (across the street from the Community Center and indoor pool) in Issaquah. The meeting will include a review of 1998 goals and accomplishments, proposal and adoption of 1998 club goals, review of finances, trail maintenance work, guided hike program, and election of new board members and officers.

Each candidate will be asked to give a short summary of their background and interest in the position so attendees will have a chance to learn about the candidates prior to voting. Candidates for the board are: Steve Drew and Malena McCrone. Candidates for officers are: President, Barbara Johnson; Vice President, Advocacy, Ken Konigsmark; Vice President, Operations, Open; Secretary, Open; and Treasurer, Open.

If you are interested in serving, call Barbara Johnson at 425-746-5573 or Ken Konigsmark at 425-222-4839. ▲

Water tank update

Ken Konigsmark

A technical study contracted by the City of Issaquah confirmed that King County park lands on the east slope of Squak Mountain are not suitable for a 1.25-million-gallon water tank. Slope stability and environmental and cost problems *should* preclude any further consideration for this major intrusion. More details to follow in next issue. ▲

12,000 years on the trail

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that next bend in the trail, may come a "silent menace," lickety-spit, and my bones may become entangled with his spokes and helmet and Lycra panties. Even if not, my wildland mood has been shattered. I feel unsafe.

The popularity of the WomanWalks we sponsor is another case. The world is prowled by human predators lying in ambush. On our WomanWalks (and for that matter on all club hikes) a woman can feel safe, can experience the wildland peace that surpasseth understanding.

So, these are elements of a program for managing urban wildland: keep bicycles off foot trails, on bikeways. Exterminate human predators. Whenever and wherever other people are or may be near, leash the dog. Yes, Bo-ad my darling, this means you. ▲

Trail routes in East Village

continued from page 2

these trails and provide access to them from within the development. The Westside (Issaquah) Reservoir road will still pass through the site from State Route 900, to lead hikers up from the vicinity of the Park and Ride and Tibbetts Manor to the powerline and telephone trails. Hikers could also conceivably pass through the development to access Surprise Creek and the Precipice from the reservoir road. IATC hikers can help over the next few years by watching the development process and making sure all these connections are preserved! ▲

More discovery along the precipice

Charles McCrone

Last quarter, I wrote about tracing the route of Cougar Mountain's Precipice Trail from Summerhill (just above Newport Way) east to the vicinity of the park. The Precipice Trail also heads west from Summerhill toward Kline Hill Road (the same road, signed SE 54th at the bottom, that hosts the Cougar Mountain Zoological Park). There are two ways to go: you can take the trail along A-A gorge described in the last issue and head right at the first junction (where currently a small flag reads "isn't it great to be here?") or make the much earlier right just above the parking area at the end of Oakcrest Drive. Both ways join atop Summerhill ridge and head northwest as the Precipice Trail. Almost immediately you reach another Y signed "Ralph's Hi Line" and "Harvey's Lo Line," the latter of which Harvey Manning confessed to have lost a few years back, and I can't find it either. So take Ralph's way, cutting across a steep open slope with views out to neighborhoods and Lake Sammamish, and passing through one dark and unnamed gulch one soon reaches the jutting cliff that makes a good turnaround point for the faint-hearted. This airy promontory is probably the craziest point on any trail on Cougar Mountain, with a wonderful view in all directions and a truly precipitous drop below. If Harvey's Mudslide, as I contested last issue, has character, this steep descent may have too much charac-

ter. Fortunately, last time I was there, there was a rope to help in the way down to bright and open Straw Gulch.

There are some marvelous and gigantic trees here, more impressive for the paucity of wood surrounding. With this gulch, the trail begins a series of radical ups and downs that takes one through five successive gorges, some signed and some not, named east to west, Straw, Nurse Log, Schneider, Stormwater, and the unfortunate Garbage Gulch (this last just below Kline Hill Road). From Straw, one makes a rude ascent onto the "view logged" ridge—as the guidebook terms it—where trees were cast down to open up views for homes above (and for us hikers by default) and now brambles reign. Then there is another mudslide to lead one down into Devil's Club-enshrouded Nurse Log Gulch, and from here it is two more forested gorges before one hails the road and, climbing up from Garbage Gulch, reaches the end of this section of trail. Kline Hill Road is here making its most hairpin turn, and if one wanted to explore further, one could climb the road just a few hundred feet and look for where a sign below the guardrail points to the Precipice Trail's further progress down into the depths of Kline Gorge (perhaps the most impressive of them all). I have taken that descent several times, but gone no farther. The way once crossed Kline Creek and headed into what is now the Montreaux develop-

ment. To guess where it is now, I would say it must head somewhere below Champéry Place and, striking Village Park Drive, must soon be lost to houses. However, several winters ago, there was still a sign on Peggy's Trail, once the Precipice Trail's western terminus and now managed by Bellevue Parks and running north-south through the development, that read "Precipice Trail" and pointed east. I haven't seen it since. If you would like to experience the Precipice Trail for yourself, join us on our traverse of the whole length on March 7 (see the hike schedule). ▲

King County parks

Steve Williams

When hiking, toss away branches that the wind has blown onto the trail; or take a moment to scrape leaves and mud out of a drainage ditch. Even if the trail is in good shape, call 206-296-4145 to let us know. Your message can save us hours of hiking with heavy gear and let us use that saved time on problems requiring power equipment and professional crews.

If you have a favorite trail, please "adopt" it. You must commit to hiking it once a month and do whatever light maintenance you can. Call 206-296-2990 to sign up.

Please remember that only park department crews are allowed to use power equipment or do new trail construction in the park. ▲

Issaquah Alps Trails Club Mail Order Service

Post Office Box 351

Issaquah, Washington 98027

▲ *Flowering of the Issaquah Alps*—Revised!

By Fred and Ann Weinmann and Harvey Manning. 1996 updated edition. This new edition lists trees, shrubs, ferns, and flowers found in the Issaquah Alps. Flowers are listed by color, season when flowering, and where many of the plants can be found. \$9 (includes shipping and handling).

▲ *Guide to Trails of Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, Coal Creek Park, May Creek Park*

By Bill Longwell 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! \$12 (includes map listed in next column, tax, and shipping).

▲ *Guide to Trails of Tiger Mountain*

By Bill Longwell. 1998 revised edition. Updated trail information plus the new East Tiger Trail and new DNR trails. Plus encounters with animals. \$12 (includes map listed in next column, tax, and shipping).



Cougar Map Update

The release of the new map was advertised for fall 1998. We hit a delay with the software, but—knock on wood—it will arrive the first quarter of 1999.

Be on the lookout!

▲ *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 of Cougar Mountain, now hidden from all but hikers. More than one hundred photographs, four maps, and Tim O'Brian's account of the incredible Seattle and Walla Walla Railroad. \$12 (includes map and shipping).

▲ *Eastside Family Hikes*

By Peggy Barchi. 1995 revised and updated edition. Descriptions of family hikes (annotated for strolling and picnicking) on the Eastside. \$3 (includes tax and shipping).

▲ *Tiger Mountain map*. 1998 revised. \$2 (includes tax and shipping).

▲ *Cougar Mountain map*. 1998 revised. \$2 (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, XXL); color (blue or white); and sleeve length (short sleeve \$13, long sleeve \$17).

▲ T-Shirt: "*Mountains to Sound March*." Specify size (S, M, L, XL). \$11. All shirts are blue and short-sleeved.

Issaquah Alps Trails Club
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