

Newsletter of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club

THE ALPINE



July ▲ August ▲ September ▲ 1999

Cougar ▲ Squak ▲ Tiger ▲ Grand Ridge

President's report — some positive happenings

Barbara Johnson

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) received a grant of \$1900 from the King County Watershed Action Grants Program to add to \$500 donated by the Issaquah Kiwanis Club in order to purchase environmental education field packs to be used by Issaquah parks and the club. The packs will be used as an educational tool for hike leaders in the Issaquah Alps.

We also received a slide projector from Larry and Marty Hanson for presentations. Larry is a photographer extraordinaire and has frequently given slide presentations at club events. Marty has been our bookseller/publisher for the last 20 years (give or take).

More good news: The City of Issaquah rejected the proposed development of Pickering Barn. Your president testified against the proposal to the Development Commission. The proposal was a joint one between the city and a group of developers and businesses to build a four-story apartment complex, a daycare center, parking for Costco

employees, and a small outdoor complex for the popular farmers' market. The overwhelming opposition testimony spoke to the overdevelopment of a historic site, which would be hidden by the structures proposed. The city was attempting to find a method to pay for the refurbishing of the barn. The historic barn would have been overwhelmed, however, by the new structures and there was concern about using public park land for commercial development. The Development Commission voted unanimously to deny the application. Sometimes the good guys win!

For those of you interested in the East Lake Sammamish Trail, King County is in the process of creating an interim plan. At present, the trail is not open to public use. If you are interested in more information, the King County web site is: <http://www.metrokc.gov/parks> or call their hotline at 206-205-1282. The IATC board encourages members to get involved in the local planning process. If we don't pay

attention, we may lose opportunities to improve our quality of life.

The board and other committees have been busy planning new and ongoing activities for the membership. WomenWalk Hikes begins a new season this month. Planning for the tenth anniversary of the Mountains to Sound (MTS) March is underway and more information will be forthcoming in future issues of *The Alpiner*. New methods of bookkeeping are underway thanks to yeoman efforts by Steve Drew and Dan McCrea. Thank them for their hard work next time you see them.

Thanks also to Charles McCrone for a new and improved Cougar Mountain map. It took a lot of work on the ground and at the computer for Charles to produce this work of art!

Much more is going on at the board meetings, which we will let you know about in future issues of *The Alpiner*. Of course, you are always welcome to attend board meetings and learn in detail what we are working on! ▲

Hike leader training

Fred Zeitler

During the past year, we have had four hike leader training sessions and signed up a number of new hike leaders. Even though we are not continuing these sessions, we are still looking for more hike leaders. As a wrap-up, let me summarize some of the major aspects of this hike leader training:

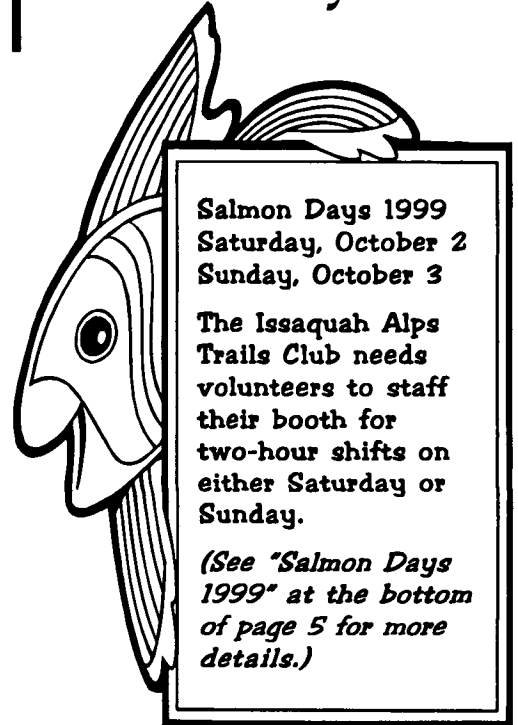
- Hike leader qualification (enthusiasm is the key)
- Hike objectives (safety and fun)
- Hike organization (make sure everyone knows about the day's hike and is prepared for the hike

that is scheduled)

- Leading the hike (pace, togetherness, stops, etc.)
- Hike leader's responsibilities (know the trails, have fun, and get everyone back safely)
- Hiker's responsibilities (come prepared with proper footwear, bring plenty of water, be in good physical condition for the hike scheduled, and have fun)

If you are interested in leading hikes for the Issaquah Alps Trails Club, please give me a call at 425-882-3435. ▲

Salmon Days 1999



The Apparatus

President: Barbara Johnson · 746-5573

VP, Advocacy: Ken Konigsmark · 222-4839

VP, Operations: Open

Treasurer: Steve Drew · 392-4432

Secretary: Diana Bonner · 255-1256

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 Coordinator: Fred Zeitler · 882-3435

Membership Records: Dan McCrea · 837-0417

Book Sales/Distribution: Marty Hanson · 392-2458

Volunteer Coordinator: Open

The Alpiner: Linda St. John · 235-2736

e-mail: jlstjohn@concentric.net

Issaquah Advocate: Christina Jackson · 837-0417

Cougar Advocate: Charles McCrone · 392-3466

Squak Advocates: Steve Drew · 392-4432 and

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 Ranger/Trail Maintenance Crew Chief:

Bill Longwell · 222-6775

Volunteer Trail Maintenance Coordinator:

Charles McCrone · 392-3466

MTS Greenway: Ted Thomsen · 454-8643

Legal Advice: Tom Lucas · 206-624-2650

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

Hotline: 206-328-0480

Web Site: <http://www.issaquah.org/COMORG/ialps/mialps.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.

Interview with a trailworker

Charles McCrone

Since I began leading trailwork groups a year and a half ago, there has been one person who has attended virtually every event: Matt Neville. Out of the first 60 people I contacted off the club's volunteer list in 1997, Matt was the most enthusiastic respondent. He accompanied me on most of my earliest trail maintenance forays, when often it was just him and me. Since then, he has logged about 200 hours of trail maintenance time for the club, and perhaps the most amazing thing about Matt is that he did this while a junior and senior in high school (he graduated in June). Matt's loyalty and excitement about trails have been a bulwark to me, and his record is unique for someone his age. I recently asked Matt some questions about his involvement with Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) trail maintenance over the past two years:

Q: Why and how did you get started doing trailwork with the club?

A: I hiked a lot on Tiger Mountain with my family starting when I was around 12. I thought about trailwork a lot even then; I wanted to get involved, but was frustrated because I didn't know how. I saw that a lot of the trails were overgrown and wanted to help out and make a difference—to give something back and show my appreciation for all the wonderful trails on Tiger Mountain. My dad and I were club members and had checked the box on the volunteer form, and you called. I came out with you for the Volunteer

for Outdoor Washington training party on Squak on the wettest June day ever (June 1, 1997), but that didn't dissuade me.

Q: What are your favorite memories of your experiences with the club so far?

A: Back when it was just two or three of us, working at Summerhill, on Cougar Mountain in the summer of 1997—and getting ice cream afterward!

Q: How has our program changed since you got involved?

A: There are a lot more people coming out now, and it gets a little nerve-racking sometimes. But we get a lot more accomplished. Now we (Scott Semans, you, and I) spend a larger proportion of our time supervising, and doing less hands-on work ourselves.

Q: What do you think when people say you are so remarkable for doing so much of this at your age?

A: It's cool that they think that, but it's not something I brag to my

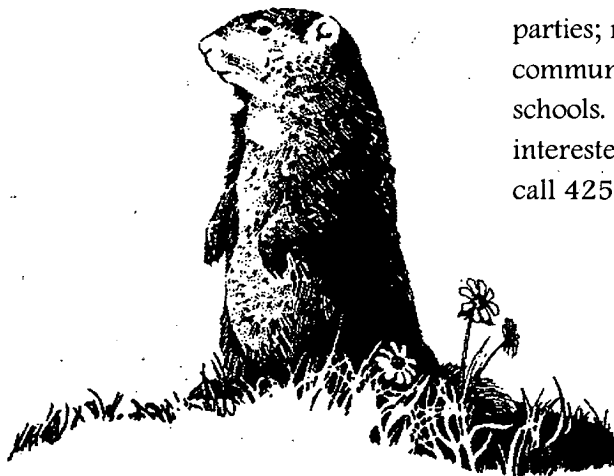
friends about. I am really glad that I made the decision to get involved and that now people (like one of the reporters from *The Issaquah Press*) think I am an "inspiration."

Q: What would you tell others your age about trailwork?

A: I don't like to talk about myself and my involvement, but I do tell them how much fun it is. Volunteering isn't a typical topic with teenagers; some of the kids at school have asked me before if I get paid—that was their first question. But trailwork has helped me a lot; I didn't just do it for a resume; it has been fun and it is my hobby.

Matt has almost completed his crew leader qualification for the Volunteer Trailwork Coalition (see separate article on page 10 in this issue of *The Alpiner* written by Ken Konigsmark about crew leader qualification/Charles McCrone) and is going to work for the forest service in Alaska this summer. He plans to make his career in forestry. We will really miss him this summer!

We welcome teenagers on our work parties; many have come out to do community service hours for their schools. Please contact me if you are interested at pollopng@juno.com or call 425-392-3466. ▲



Hikers' corner

Fred Zeitler



Greetings fellow hikers:

As you will have noticed from last quarter's hike schedule, we have increased the number as well as the variety of hikes. During winter quarter (January, February, March), we had 28 scheduled hikes and 231 hikers. During spring quarter (April, May, June), we had 44 scheduled hikes and so far [at press date] have averaged seven persons per hike even with two rainouts. Almost half the hikes have been on Tiger Mountain, 25 percent on Cougar Mountain, and the rest scattered over Squak, Taylor, and Rattlesnake mountains (and others).

During our last hike leaders' meeting in May, the Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) recognized the contributions of hike leaders and awarded REI Hiker First Aid Kits to those hike leaders who have led hikes in four consecutive quarters. Our most active hike leader turned out to be Bob Gross who leads between three and four hikes per quarter, and also

participates on some work parties. Our thanks go to all the hike leaders for their efforts of planning and leading these hikes for us all year.

In the first half of this year, we also welcomed a large number of new hikers. While we have published guidelines for appropriate hiking attire, we have had occasions where new hikers were unsure about hiking boots, need for water, food, raingear, etc. While some hikes are just short walks in the park where no special footwear is required, other hikes require proper boots or hiking shoes, water, food, and clothing as appropriate (especially the strenuous ones of 2C or greater). Since the hike leader's objective is to get everyone safely back to the trailhead, we as hikers must come prepared with appropriate attire to help accomplish that objective.

Let's hope the weather stays nice so we can enjoy more of these hikes this summer.

See you on the trails. ▲

HRA needs your help

Sidonia St. Germaine

Most probably you are aware that King County recently purchased 1200 acres in the Hobart area adjacent to Tiger Mountain State Forest, Highway 18, and the Cedar River Watershed. It is now called Taylor Mountain Forest Park and will be a great benefit to the community for many reasons. Among these are environmental protection of the headwaters of Issaquah Creek, preservation of significant wildlife and salmon habitat, and as a recreational open space for birders and others.

But, are you aware that one man and his family are still paying legal fees that were necessary in fighting the developers who wanted to turn this property into a housing development and a gravel pit? This fact recently came to our attention and we were shocked.

The Hobart Rural Association (HRA), which this man helped to organize, worked in conjunction with many other groups such as Save Lake Sammamish, the Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC), and South County Trail Coalition as well as interested individuals to prevent this development. When the HRA exhausted its limited funds, this man quietly began making payments in 1996 and is still making payments out of his own pocket. He not only spent hundreds of hours spearheading the five-year struggle against the development, but he has spent thousands of his own dollars. Since this is a park that

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Hikers! Help needed with Cougar Mountain sign inventory

The trails club is working on a needed revision of the Cougar Mountain Guidebook. Any regular hikers who want to help compile an inventory of the location of and mileage information posted on county park signs on Cougar Mountain, please contact:

Charles McCrone
pollopng@juno.com
 or call 425-392-3466



New plans for Squak Mountain trail access

Charles McCrone

Up to now, getting up the north-east side of Squak has been a difficult climb. The hiker could take the Squak Mountain Access Trail from Sunrise Place up to a gorge crossing of Waterfall Creek, and from there over to the bench above the Sycamore neighborhood, where it changed its name to the East Ridge Trail. The ridge trail crosses Crystal Creek and ascends straight up to the top of Squak, with switchbacks at a premium! Much of this original route was steep and unimproved, and where land was cleared for the Foothills development south of Sunrise Place, the trail was virtually eliminated. Recently, however, through coordinated efforts between State Parks, County Parks, the Washington Trails Association (WTA) and the Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC), plans have been laid for a completely refurbished Squak Mountain Access Trail/East Ridge route. In many places, the trail will be completely rerouted to provide better creek crossings and to provide much needed switchbacks. Momentum for the planning has been provided by both next year's Mountains to Sound Greenway anniversary march and by the development of Kelkari, an apartment project through which the urban portion of the route will run, extending it all the way down to Issaquah Creek. The WTA is already hard at work on the uppermost portion and the trails club has been working on the lower portion through developer-dedicated open

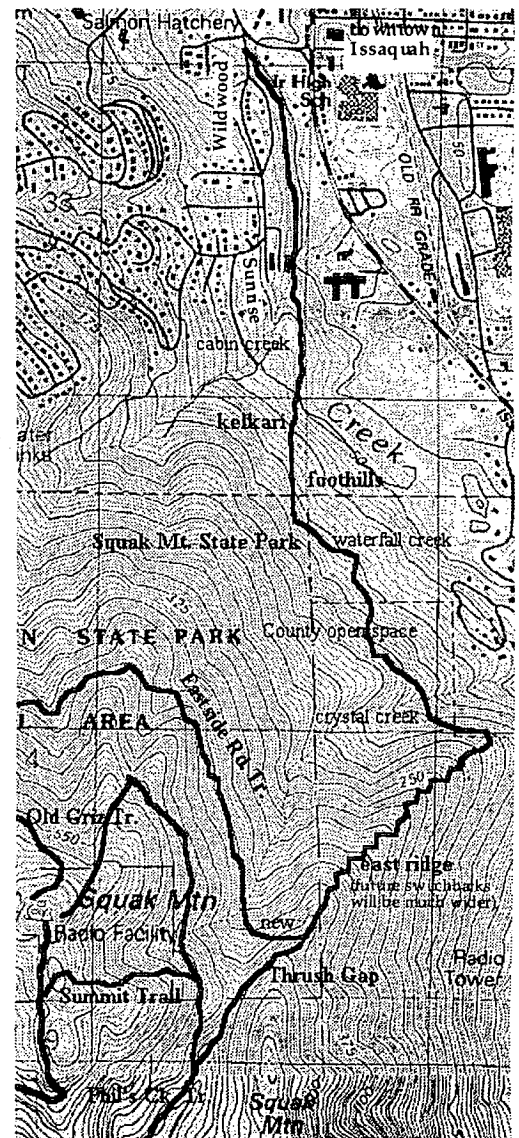
space.

In addition to its role in building the route, the IATC was instrumental in successfully negotiating conditions adopted by the city, which require that the Kelkari developer build or fund the portion of the route from Issaquah Creek up to Squak Mountain State Park. The IATC also successfully defeated a recent effort to locate a huge water tank and road in the King County open space adjacent to this trail just last year. Both these efforts will provide a more complete and aesthetic trail route.

The final touches may not be in place for a couple of years, but look for the majority of the new route in the next year. When complete, the new Squak Mountain Access/East Ridge Trail stands to be the most used route up onto Squak and a great and beloved trail reaching almost to downtown Issaquah (at right, see map of approximate new trail location).



Approximate Future Location of Trail

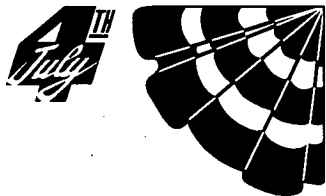


Excerpt from forthcoming Squak map by Charles McCrone, copyright 1999

Salmon Days 1999 — October 2 and 3

Issaquah celebrates the return of the salmon with a traditional parade on Saturday morning, October 2, followed by a street fair through Sunday afternoon, October 3. The Issaquah Alps Trails Club needs volunteers to staff their booth for two-hour shifts either Saturday or Sunday. If you would like to help and share your knowledge of the Greater Issaquah Alps, please call Linda Rains at 425-313-5923 or e-mail her at lrains2000@aol.com. It is always fun to "brag" about our great organization! ▲

July

**Saturday, July 3, 9:30 a.m.**

Cougar Mountain
Lakemont Perimeter Loop down through Lewis Creek Gorge and up Peggy's Trail to great views of Lake Sammamish.
2B, 4 miles, 1000-foot gain, moderate pace
Ralph Owen 425-746-1070

Sunday, July 4, 8:30 a.m.

Poo Poo Point
Launching site for parasails and hang gliders.
2C, 7 miles, 1700-foot gain
Fred Zeitler 425-882-3435

Monday, July 5, 10:00 a.m.

Cougar Mountain Wildland Park
Learn history of old (real) Newcastle and the only native plant meadow in King County.
1-2A, "turtle pace"
Harvey Manning 425-746-1017

Wednesday, July 7, 10:00 a.m.

Cougar Mountain (NE)
Newport Way to A-A Peak and return.
2C, 6 miles, 1400-foot gain
Bob Gross 425-427-8449

Saturday, July 10, 9:00 a.m.

Squak Mountain
South trailhead to Central Peak.
2C, 6 miles, 1600-foot gain
Kay Tarapolsi 425-861-4021

Sunday, July 11, 9:00 a.m.

"Path College" trail maintenance party
All volunteers welcome. For more information, e-mail: pollopng@juno.com.
Charles McCrone 425-392-3466

Sunday, July 11, 9:00 a.m.

Twin Falls to Halls Creek
Hike through Twin Falls State Park to replacement trestle section on the John Wayne Trail.
2B, 6 miles, 700-foot gain
Peggy Owen 425-746-1070

Saturday, July 17, 8:00 a.m.

West Rattlesnake Mountain Loop
Climb old roads and very steep trail to smashing views of the three Snoqualmie valleys. Return via Rattlesnake Mountain Trail.
4D, 10 miles, 3000-foot gain
Ralph Owen 425-746-1070

Saturday, July 17, 9:00 a.m.

South Tiger
Slow-paced hike with some surprise views.
2B, 4-6 miles, 1000-foot gain
Scott Semans 206-322-4180

Sunday, July 18, 9:00 a.m.

Cougar Mountain Loop
Redtown to Far Country then to Nike Launch Site.
2B, 6 miles, 800-foot gain
Bert Drui 425-746-0709

Saturday, July 24, 9:00 a.m.

Squak Mountain
Squak for the connoisseur. Some familiar and some less-known trails.
2C, 7 miles, 1600-foot gain
Joe Toynbee 206-723-6716

Sunday, July 25, 9:00 a.m.

South Tiger Loop
TMT to Otter Lake and a surprise view on return.
2C, 8 miles, 1400-foot gain
Kay Tarapolsi 425-861-4021

Monday, July 26, 7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting
Trails center, First and Bush streets, Issaquah

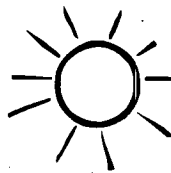
Saturday, July 31, 9:00 a.m.

West Tiger 3
2C, 6 miles, 2100-foot gain
Mark Pederson 425-427-1305

Saturday, July 31, 9:15 a.m.

WomenWalk Hikes (4)
Easy: Kitty Gross 425-641-4393/
Sarah Pommo 425-392-2493
Moderate: Barbara Johnson 425-746-5573
Moderate: Sarah Young 425-271-9932
Strenuous: Irene Stanford 425-255-5558

August

**Sunday, August 1, 12:00 noon**

Tradition Lake Plateau
Family hike.
2A, 4 miles, 300-foot gain
Irene Stanford 425-255-5558

Wednesday, August 4, 8:30 a.m.

West Tiger 1, 2, and 3
One trip with three chances for great views.
3D, 9 miles, 3000-foot gain
Fred Zeitler 425-882-3435

Saturday, August 7, 9:00 a.m.

Tiger caves and lakes
2B, 5 miles, 600-foot gain
Bert Drui 425-746-0709

Sunday, August 8, 10:00 a.m.

Cougar Mountain (NE region)
Narrow trails, some outside the park. Slow pace with rest stops.
2B, 4 miles, 1000-foot gain
Scott Semans 206-322-4180

Saturday, August 14, 9:00 a.m.

West Tiger
North TMT to RR grade, Ruth's Cove, and two great bridges.
2C, 8 miles, 1600-foot gain, easy pace
Jamie McKenzie 425-746-6683

Sunday, August 15, 9:00 a.m.

Trail maintenance party
All volunteers welcome. For more information, e-mail: pollopng@juno.com.
Charles McCrone 425-392-3466

Sunday, August 15, 9:30 a.m.

Cougar Mountain
Wilderness Peak Loop.
2B, 4 miles, 1200-foot gain
Mark Pederson 425-427-1305

Saturday, August 21, 10:00 a.m.

Tradition Lake Plateau (2 lakes)
1-2A, 3-4 miles, 200-foot gain
Trudy Ecob 206-232-2933

Sunday, August 22, 8:00 a.m.

Tiger Mountain Trail
Hike the entire 16 miles!
4D, 16 miles, 3000-foot gain
Joe Toynbee 206-723-6716

Tuesday, August 24, 7:00 p.m.

Hike leaders' meeting
Finalize hikes schedule.
Trails center, First and Bush streets, Issaquah

Saturday, August 28, 8:00 a.m.

Peak and a half
Drop from upper Cougar Mountain Park to SR 900 via Wilderness Peak. Climb to cross Squak Peak on return to cars in Issaquah.
4C, 10 miles, 2350-foot gain
Ralph Owen 425-746-1070

Saturday, August 28, 9:15 a.m.

WomenWalk Hikes (3)
Easy: Sarah Pommo 425-392-2493/
Kitty Gross 425-641-4393
Moderate: Norma Crawford 425-885-7956
Strenuous: Eileen Griffin 206-248-7975

Sunday, August 29, 9:00 a.m.

Little Si
Good workout with views of the valley and mountains.
2C, 5 miles, 1300-foot gain
Kay Tarapolsi 425-861-4021

Monday, August 30, 7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting
Trails center, First and Bush streets, Issaquah

September

**Saturday, September 4, 9:00 a.m.**

Cougar Mountain
A-A Peak, Coal Creek Falls, and a surprise.
2B, 6 miles, 700-foot gain
Bert Drui 425-746-0709

Sunday, September 5, 1:00 p.m.

Cedar Butte Loop
2B, 4 miles, 1000-foot gain
Warren Jones 425-888-0262

Monday, September 6, 10:00 a.m.

Cougar Mountain Wildland Park
Learn history of old (real) Newcastle and the only native plant meadow in King County.
1-2A, "turtle pace"
Harvey Manning 425-746-1017

Wednesday, September 8, 10:00 a.m.

East Cougar Loop
More trails less traveled. Lug-soled boots required.
2C, 6 miles, 1300-foot gain
Warren Jones 425-888-0262

Saturday, September 11, 9:00 a.m.

Squak Mountain
Leader's choice. Slow/moderate pace.
2C, 5-6 miles, 1200-1500-foot gain
Irene Stanford 425-255-5558

Sunday, September 12, 9:00 a.m.

Trail maintenance party
All volunteers welcome. For more information, e-mail: pollopng@juno.com.
Charles McCrone 425-392-3466

Saturday, September 18, 9:00 a.m.

Poo Poo Point
Steep uphill via hang glider trail.
2C, 5 miles, 1900-foot gain
Kay Tarapolsi 425-861-4021

Saturday, September 18, 10:00 a.m.

Tradition Lake Plateau (2 lakes)
1-2A, 3-4 miles, 200-foot gain
Trudy Ecob 206-232-2933

Sunday, September 19, 9:30 a.m.

South Tiger
South TMT, Holder Creek, and Otter Lake. Great view on return loop.
2C, 8 miles, 1400-foot gain
Jamie McKenzie 425-746-6683

Saturday, September 25, 9:15 a.m.

WomenWalk Hikes (5)
Easy: Maryanne Tagney Jones 425-222-7615
Easy: Mary Cadigan 425-641-4046
Moderate: Marilyn Moon 425-392-1732
Strenuous: Irene Stanford 425-255-5558
Strenuous: Margaret McLeod 425-392-8507

Saturday, September 25, 1:00 p.m.

Cougar Mountain
Trog Swamp via Licorice Fern Trail.
2B, 6 miles, 600-foot gain
Bob Gross 425-427-8449

Sunday, September 26, 9:00 a.m.

Hike leaders' potluck
Fred Zeitler 425-882-3435

Monday, September 27, 7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting
Trails center, First and Bush streets, Issaquah



Thanks to all our hike leaders!
See you in October.

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 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 hiking time and letters indicate 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 of 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 of 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, 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 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. Work parties meet (see *Meeting Place* above)

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New plans for Squak Mountain trail access

Charles McCrone

Up to now, getting up the northeast side of Squak has been a difficult climb. The hiker could take the Squak Mountain Access Trail from Sunrise Place up to a gorge crossing of Waterfall Creek, and from there over to the bench above the Sycamore neighborhood, where it changed its name to the East Ridge Trail. The ridge trail crosses Crystal Creek and ascends straight up to the top of Squak, with switchbacks at a premium! Much of this original route was steep and unimproved, and where land was cleared for the Foothills development south of Sunrise Place, the trail was virtually eliminated. Recently, however, through coordinated efforts between State Parks, County Parks, the Washington Trails Association (WTA) and the Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC), plans have been laid for a completely refurbished Squak Mountain Access Trail/East Ridge route. In many places, the trail will be completely rerouted to provide better creek crossings and to provide much needed switchbacks. Momentum for the planning has been provided by both next year's Mountains to Sound Greenway anniversary march and by the development of Kelkari, an apartment project through which the urban portion of the route will run, extending it all the way down to Issaquah Creek. The WTA is already hard at work on the uppermost portion and the trails club has been working on the lower portion through developer-dedicated open

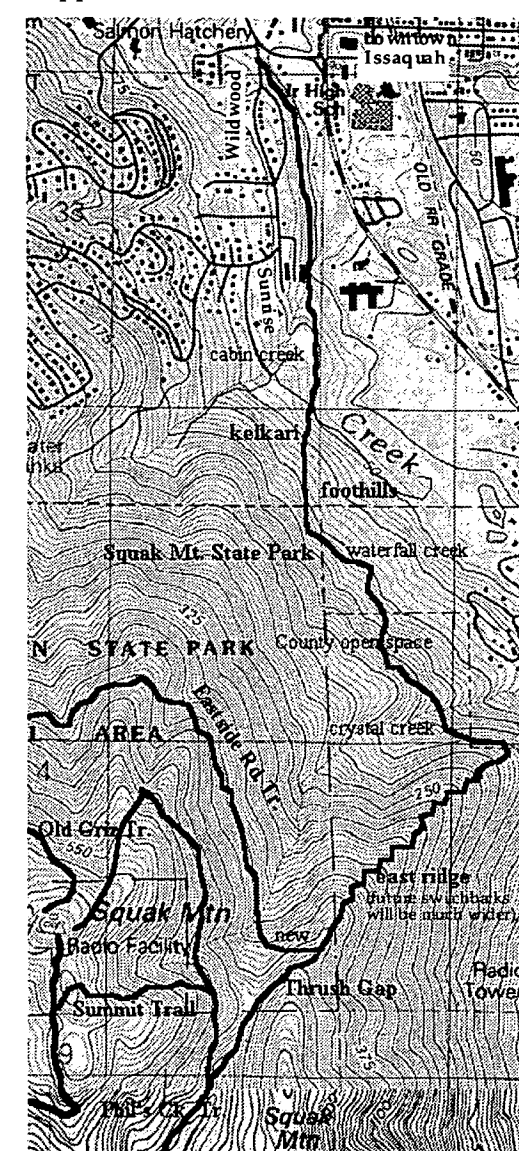
space.

In addition to its role in building the route, the IATC was instrumental in successfully negotiating conditions adopted by the city, which require that the Kelkari developer build or fund the portion of the route from Issaquah Creek up to Squak Mountain State Park. The IATC also successfully defeated a recent effort to locate a huge water tank and road in the King County open space adjacent to this trail just last year. Both these efforts will provide a more complete and aesthetic trail route.

The final touches may not be in place for a couple of years, but look for the majority of the new route in the next year. When complete, the new Squak Mountain Access/East Ridge Trail stands to be the most used route up onto Squak and a great and beloved trail reaching almost to downtown Issaquah (at right, see map of approximate new trail location).

▲

Approximate Future Location of Trail



Excerpt from forthcoming Squak map by Charles McCrone, copyright 1999

Salmon Days 1999 — October 2 and 3

Issaquah celebrates the return of the salmon with a traditional parade on Saturday morning, October 2, followed by a street fair through Sunday afternoon, October 3. The Issaquah Alps Trails Club needs volunteers to staff their booth for two-hour shifts either Saturday or Sunday. If you would like to help and share your knowledge of the Greater Issaquah Alps, please call Linda Rains at 425-313-5923 or e-mail her at lrains2000@aol.com. It is always fun to "brag" about our great organization! ▲

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 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 hiking time and letters indicate 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 of 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 of 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, 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 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. Work parties meet (see *Meeting Place* above)

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at the same place as regular 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. Construction 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: _____

E-mail: _____

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



I would like to volunteer with the club in the area(s) of:

- ☐ Hike leadership
- ☐ Trail maintenance
- ☐ Hotline
- ☐ WomenWalk Hikes
- ☐ Trails center staffing
- ☐ Administrative support
- ☐ Event coordination

▲ 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.

Charles McCrone qualified as trail maintenance leader

Ken Konigsmark

On his own initiative and personal time, Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) board member Charles McCrone has completed training to become a "qualified" trail maintenance crew leader. The Volunteer Trailwork Coalition (VTC), of which IATC is a member, was set up to coordinate trailwork efforts, establish a joint trailwork web site, and also (sometimes overlooked) to set up a training system and universal standard for leaders supervising crews of volunteers in the field.

As trail maintenance coordinator for the IATC, Charles now joins the ranks of 300 people statewide who are qualified crew leaders under this program. The IATC is excited to be participating in the idea of universal standards for crew leader training. Matt Neville, who has helped Charles lead the new recruits over the past year and a half (and also featured in a separate article on page 3 in this issue of *The Alpinist*) is about to finish his crew leader training.

As IATC work party sizes continue

to grow, we need other trail workers to step forward and help lead; and now Charles is fully qualified to train them under the VTC system.

Great job Charles! ▲



Planting seeds

Deborah Gurney

Go to High Point any day of the week and you'll see them. No, not dogs off leash, but children. Children ready to run, gather, and explore. With stick in hand and parent not far behind, hundreds of children travel along the trails of Tiger Mountain each year.

To a parent, a hike on Tiger Mountain may seem like an opportunity to burn up a child's excess energy. To an environmental educator, that hike is an opportunity to plant a seed in future conservationists. But how do we create those experiences that inspired us to see more than a forest off I-90? I know I don't have the complete answer, but I think I'll get partial credit. Actually, I don't even get the credit.

About three years ago, a group of

middle school students came to me from Snoqualmie's Mountain View School with interest in doing a stewardship project. I proposed they write a story that would take place on signs along the Swamp Trail. The sixth- to eighth-grade students and I worked together over several months to create Zoe and *swamp monster*. Zoe is a raccoon and through her adventures children are introduced to local wildlife and underlying conservation messages.

On April 23, 1999, the final stage of the stewardship project was complete. Several students gathered for a small ceremony to install the signs. They tried to jog their adolescent memories to recall writing and illustrating the amusing tale; after all it was over three years ago that it all

began. Overall though they're pleased, knowing that their work will continue to have a positive impact for the environment. And maybe that is a large enough seed to plant a future conservationist?

Children will always come to Tiger Mountain with their parents. But, along with running and collecting along the trails, they'll stop at the story and read it. More importantly, they will have a new place to stop and look around and maybe even discover new reasons why Tiger Mountain State Forest is important and special to them. After all, it is the accumulative effect of affections for the environment that inspires conservation. ▲

Far Country Trail: an appreciation

Harvey Manning

Recently I revisited the trail to the south side of the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park pioneered by John Johnson & Company.

I must start by praising the beneficence of the Lankows (club members) across whose property the trail starts. To find it, drive 0.4 mile from May Valley Road to the sweeping switchback around the end of Licorice Fern Wall. Note on the right a sign with the address "1118," and the name, "Lankow." (The Lankows are agreeable to our emplacing a trailhead sign on their property, and by the time you read this, Charles McCrone may already have done so.)

After passing through the Lankow Gardens, the way turns sharp left at the ravine of Far Country Creek, which is crossed on a handsome new footbridge.

The ravine of Far Country Creek did not see a human presence from the 1890s, when the May Valley Logging Company (my guess) left with the big sticks, until John Johnson and the trails club arrived in the 1980s. The forest of the Far Country Trail is, I do believe, unique for Cougar Mountain: IT IS A 100-YEAR-OLD FOREST. The mountain has many 70-year-old forests (dating from such concerns as Washington Timber & Spar), and 50-year-olds from gypo operations and 20-year-olds from the pulpers, and 15-year-olds from the firewood cutting by Red Rounds and Dirty Bill up to dedication of the park. Yes, and Wilderness Peak and Marshall's Hill

and Deceiver Ridge and Owen's Chasm and Big Tree Ridge have forests of indeterminate age—certainly absolutely virgin, in spots verging on old-growth.

Based on the state of rot and mossing of the huge stumps cut by the "lokie" loggers, and the size of the trees grown since then to just this side of hugeness, and the mix of species (relatively little alder, the pioneer which has a comparatively short life span and thus is no longer dominant), great big noble maples, deciduous fir and cedar and hemlock nearing dominance, and the lush jungle of understory, I calculate the age of this forest (forest age as distinguished from ages of individual trees) as just about exactly one century.

Here, then, we see into the future of other forests of America's largest urban wildland.

To finish the description of the trail, after an hour (or so) it passes Trog

Swamp and climbs the bouldered embankment to the paved road. Cross the road and on the ravine wall to your left find the extension of the trail along and then across Far Country Creek, to the park boundary. ▲



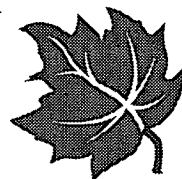
HRA needs your help

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so many of us can enjoy now and in the years to come, we think it unfair that one person should shoulder this monetary responsibility.

We are asking for your help. To make a donation, please make your check payable to Hobart Rural Association and mail it to Hobart Rural Association, Post Office Box 124, Hobart, Washington 98025. Any help you can give will be greatly appreciated.

[Editor's note: The IATC board, after learning of this situation, voted to approve contributing \$500 from an estate gift left to IATC by Sidney Sato. Acquisition of this parcel was a top IATC priority and Mr. Morgan's efforts (also an IATC member) truly made this acquisition possible.] ▲



Issaquah Alps Trails Club Mail Order Service

Mail your request with your check payable to:

Issaquah Alps Trails Club

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 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! \$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).

▲ *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 stroller use and picnicking) on the Eastside. \$3 (includes tax and shipping).

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

▲ *Cougar Mountain map*. 1999 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.

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