

Newsletter of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club

THE ALPINE



January ▲ February ▲ March ▲ 2000

Cougar ▲ Squak ▲ Tiger ▲ Grand Ridge

President's report

Barbara Johnson

This is my last report as President of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club. Shortly after you read this issue, the Club will hold its annual meeting including election of new Board members and officers. I hope many of you will attend this important meeting. The slate of new Board members is published on page 11 of this issue.

During the last two years, the Trails Club has accomplished much. I cannot take credit for all, or even most of, the accomplishments. However, I would like to use this space to acknowledge the contributions made by Board members and others over the last two years.

The Board held a retreat last fall that was very successful in focusing us on the issues that we needed to deal with in the coming year. Overall we have addressed most of those issues and are working on the rest.

We have instituted a new accounting/bookkeeping system for the treasurer. Our current treasurer, Steve Drew, has spent hours of his time perfecting the new system. As

a result, the Board has a much better grasp of the Club's finances.

We have also instituted a new membership process that attempts to more quickly respond to new members as they join the Club. It includes sending information about potential volunteers to the appropriate chairperson. Dan McCrea took the lead on this process.

New maps of Tiger Mountain and Cougar Mountain have been made available to us by a generous grant from Green Trails. Several members of the Trails Club provided assistance to Green Trails to ensure accurate information. Charles McCrone also created an updated Cougar Mountain Trails map using GPS and new software.

The trails crews, ably led by Bill Longwell and Charles McCrone, maintained and built miles of trails on Tiger and Cougar mountains, expending lots of labor and hours to keep trails open for all of us to enjoy. Next time you hike in the Issaquah Alps, remember the work others have done so that the rest of

us can be "on the trail."

Future plans for the Trails Club will include several events to celebrate 20 years of existence for the Club. These include our Annual Potluck on Friday, April 14, 2000, at 6:00 p.m. at the Preston Community Center with special activities that evening, a recreation of The Public Officials' Awareness Hikes, and more. We will keep you posted in *The Alpiner*, on the hotline, and in special notices.

Look for a new Cougar Guide sometime this spring or summer. Charles McCrone is working on this project.

Of course, in the future as in the

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past, the Issaquah Alps Trails Club will be working to preserve hiking trails in the area as well as open space and wildlife habitat. We have accomplished much, but our job is never done! To all of you who have helped make these two years full, I thank you for your support.

Yours in green thoughts,

Barbara Johnson ▲



Bill Longwell

During the 60s and 70s, I took scores of young people on scores of hikes throughout the Issaquah Alps. One of my favorite camping sites was Thrush Gap where I developed several tent sites in the flat, mixed-woods terrain.

Once on a Friday in early June, a church young people's group hiked up the Phil's Creek Trail to camp. I led them there and left them with a single adult to spend a night of devotion and sleep. The next morning, just at dawn, my wife and I hiked to the camp to leave two

dozen freshly baked doughnuts at the doors of the several tents and crept back down the trail, unseen. The tent occupants never found out where the doughnuts came from.

Another time, someone convinced me to take a group of high schoolers I didn't know to spend the night at Thrush Gap. I was to act as tour guide, but the leader didn't give proper supervision and I spent the whole night chasing kids all over the woods and summits of Squak. We were lucky to have survived the experience without jail time. ▲

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: www.issaquahalps.org

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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.

East Cougar Village project delayed by Issaquah

Ken Konigsmark

The Issaquah City Council voted to delay until December 6, 1999, the Development Agreement, which would authorize Intracorp the go-ahead for East Cougar Village, an "urban village" including up to 1,800 residential units, 800,000 square feet of office space, and 50,000 square feet of retail on the east face of Cougar Mountain. The agreement was expected to be approved last November 15, but based on concerns expressed by the State Department of Transportation planners over capacity on State Route 900, further analysis was required before approval would be considered.

On behalf of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC), Charles McCrone and myself have been heavily involved for over four years with Intracorp, city planners, and other community representatives in negotiating the concept for the development as well as provisions to maximize preservation of open space, trails, forest connectivity and habitat, and water quality. The proposed agreement calls for 465 acres of the 635-acre site to remain as public open space. Most significantly, the development concept evolved over time so that a dense urban village will be clustered at the north end of the parcel, leaving a solid block of 387 acres of open space (out of the 465 acres total) across the entire southern end of the parcel. This includes all Intracorp ownership south of West

Fork Tibbetts Creek and lands on both Cougar and Squak mountains. This block of open space, which will be donated to the City of Issaquah, will significantly widen the public land connection between Squak Mountain State Park and Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park if the agreement was approved.

The developed area in the north end of the parcel would be dense and comprised primarily of multi-family dwellings. Because of the desire to densely cluster in this area, there will be impacts to the existing trails that pass through this area, but Intracorp has agreed to ensure trail linkages are preserved.

In addition to preserving trail linkages, Intracorp has cooperated with IATC goals to provide a 50-foot buffer from the boundary of Cougar Mountain Park in order to protect the integrity of the park periphery. They also agreed to provide a 100-foot buffer along the State Route 900 frontage to minimize visual impacts along this currently forested, rural-looking corridor. Intracorp will also complete extensive on-site surface water quality facilities as well as off-site mitigation including restoration of the old Bianca Mine site (a significant contributor of sediment to Tibbetts Creek) so that there will be no net degradation to downstream water quality and, hopefully, a net improvement to water quality and salmon habitat. Intracorp will also complete extensive road improve-

ments on State Route 900 between the Interstate 90 interchange and Newport Way.

East Village marks the first time the IATC has had an opportunity to collaborate on a proposed development from its beginnings. Intracorp worked cooperatively throughout this process in order to find workable solutions to the concerns expressed by the IATC and others. This type of cooperative relationship is unprecedented and a welcome relief from the previous confrontational battles the IATC has fought over other developments. In the end, a huge, new development may still result, but on property within the Urban Growth Boundary that would inevitably have been lost. By minimizing its development footprint, maximizing open space preservation, and effectively mitigating environmental issues, we believe the East Village project represents the best development option achievable for this parcel. The IATC wishes to acknowledge and express appreciation for Intracorp's cooperation in this effort and to the City of Issaquah for allowing us, and others, a chance to have a major impact on plans now approved. ▲

Flash!



On December 6, 1999, the City of Issaquah approved the East Village development.

Salute to the 1999 New Volunteer Trailwork Group

Charles McCrone

The year 1999 was another impressive year for Issaquah Alps Trails Club volunteer trail maintenance. There are essentially two groups in our trailwork program: the longtime crew led by Chief Ranger Bill Longwell and the "New Volunteer Group" led by myself as trail maintenance coordinator. Beginning in the fall of 1998, I began using e-mail as my primary form of communicating trailwork schedules and information, and the results have been impressive. I have collected e-mail addresses from a variety of sources (Trailsfest, Salmon Days, the Volunteer Trailwork Coalition website, Sierra Club, and of course the Issaquah Alps Trails Club database) and the list now exceeds 100 people. As a result, we have seen a lot of new faces come out and discovered

several new diehard trailworkers!

In 1999, we ran a work party every month for the new volunteers, averaging 12 people an event. This is in great contrast to 1998, where the new volunteer group was rarely above 6-8 workers. Just the 10 work parties from January to October 1999 totaled 537 hours of trailwork! Here is where we worked in 1999:

January, May

Grand Canyon Trail
(Tiger Mountain)

February, June

Far Country Trail
(Cougar Mountain)

March

The Precipice Trail
(Cougar Mountain)

April, August,

September, December

Squak Mountain Access Trail
(Squak Mountain)

July, November

Summerhill Trail
(Cougar Mountain)

October 1999

Olympus Trail
(Newcastle)

The Trails Club wants to salute all those who came out with the New Volunteer Group in 1999 (this list only runs up to October 1999, the time of the writing of this article).

A Salute To

The Powerbrushers (came to six or more events): Bob Gross, Jeff

Johnson, David Langrock, Bob Miller, Matt Neville, Sandra Roubal, and Scott Semans.

The Berry Bashers (came to three-five events): Jesse Clark, Mike Mason, Mark Pederson, and Jeff Warner.

The Nettle Nippers (came to one or two events): Melissa Bard, Winnie Becker, Carl Buse, David Carver, Patrick Clark, Bill Courtemanche, Will Cummings, Eric Dalzell, Karen Dartlow, Greg Denton, Steve Drew, Roger Giesecke, Denise Gould, Mike Graves, Luke Hansen, Nick Hawley, Bob Holman, Larry James, Garry Kampen, Dave Kappler, Sarah Kappler, Neil Kollios, Bob LeDoux, Dustin Leen, Mike Lehrter, Will Leslie, John MacDonald, Malena McCrone, Kim Moorehead, Martha Neville, Brian Ott, Steve Ott, Mike Plahuta, Jim Price, Peggy Price, Dan Reider, Joan Sarlo, Doug Schindler, Allen Schultz, Jeffrey Sherman, Bob Shulkind, Vickie Sosey, Carmi Weingrod, Dave Williams, and Jenny Winter.

We would love to see more of you out in 2000! To join our trailwork list, please e-mail me at: pollopng@juno.com. ▲



Checklist:

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

Each item is required in order to participate in an Issaquah Alps Trails Club hike!

Don't leave
the trailhead
without them!



Cougar Mountain: four points of the compass

Charles McCrone

Last summer, I hiked a lot with a young man from the Somerset neighborhood and while hiking told him about the VIP ("Villages in the Park") plan in the early 80s for putting 50,000 people where Cougar Mountain Park is now and how the Trails Club fought for the preservation of a true wildland park instead. He was very surprised to find that Cougar Mountain Park, as recently as the year of his birth, might not have happened; it was something he had grown up near and taken for granted.

While I am unceasingly grateful for the efforts of those who came before me in preserving the core of the mountain as a park, I think there is still a lot of unprotected greenery on Cougar Mountain that we likewise take for granted. A quick drive up Cougar Mountain Way from Lakemont Boulevard these days shows the eventual fate of much of this land if it does not receive a protected status. With the attempt to develop on The Precipice west of exit 13 in the works, we have to acknowledge that, in the present day of development mania, some of the places we have always proclaimed would be safe by virtue of their topography may not turn out to be.

This article introduces a series of four articles in which I'll take a look at Cougar Mountain as a geographic whole, and in turn discuss what is happening on its north, east, south, and west flanks. The discussion will

look at both the trails on these four points of the compass and the status of the open space around them. My goal is to do the following: 1) give a picture of the work still to be done toward saving as much of the trails, wildland, and green space currently outside the park as we can; and 2) give some hiking suggestions for each of the areas, since getting to know places with our feet is where our advocacy has always started. The fringe of Cougar is a weird patchwork of utility easements and established city trails through protected neighborhood greenbelts and privately owned land with unprotected trails. It's not always immediately clear which is which. I'd like, through these articles, to help you navigate this physical (and legal) terrain. I also hope to build a database of people who would like to help with Cougar Mountain advocacy in the future, so please send me your name and contact information, especially e-mail addresses to: pollopng@juno.com.

The idea of Cougar Mountain as a geographic whole, as more than just the park we've got, was a basic idea behind—and a reason for—my current revision of the Club's Guidebook for the mountain. Consequently, this series ties in with the book (which will be available sometime this year). Though if we were to achieve no more for Cougar Mountain than the park we could feel pretty pleased with our

accomplishments, I don't believe our work is done. The Club was the original sponsor of the Mountains to Sound Greenway idea, but as to Cougar Mountain, I imagine more than that: I imagine Greenways—a multiplicity of ways across and around the mountain linking Squak Mountain, Cougar Mountain, May and Coal Creek neighborhood parks and trails, Bellevue, Renton, and Issaquah. As Harvey Manning told me recently, "Everything we did seemed impossible at the time." ▲



News Flash

On October 10, 1999, the Issaquah Alps Trails Club had its first-ever joint trailwork event with the newly formed Newcastle Trails Club. We worked on transforming a utility corridor just west of Lake Boren into the start of the new Olympus Trail, an urban trail that will connect Lake Boren Park to May Creek Park. Over 20 people came out from the two clubs and the Olympus neighborhood. Look for another co-sponsored event sometime in 2000.

January

**Sunday, January 2, 9:30 a.m.**

Tiger Mountain
Issaquah to High Point loop starting at the meeting place. Relaxed pace.
2B, 7 miles, 550-foot gain
Ralph Owen 425-746-1070

Saturday, January 8, 9:30 a.m.

Tiger Mountain
Botany hike on Tradition Plateau, wetlands, and woodlands. Joint hike with Washington Native Plant Society.
2A, 5 miles, 100-foot gain
Fred Weinmann 425-392-9230

Saturday, January 8, 1:00 p.m.

Twin Falls
2B, 3 miles, 500-foot gain
Bob Gross 425-427-8449

Sunday, January 9, 9:00 a.m.

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

Sunday, January 9, 9:00 a.m.

West Tiger 3
Short route to great views.
2C, 5 miles, 2000-foot gain
Mark Pederson 425-396-5059

Monday, January 10, 8:00 a.m.

Bird watching near Stillwater/Duvall.
Return via bus.
3A, 4-5 miles, no gain
Bill Longwell 425-222-6775

Wednesday, January 12, 9:30 a.m.

Cougar Mountain
Wilderness Peak loop.
2B, 4-5 miles, 1200-foot gain
Melinda Livingstone 425-392-7455

Saturday, January 15, 9:00 a.m.

Tradition Lake Plateau
Family hike.
2A, 3-4 miles, 200-foot gain
Irene Stanford 425-255-5558

Saturday, January 15, 9:30 a.m.

Preston to Issaquah across lower slopes of Tiger Mountain.
2B, 7 miles, 500-foot gain
Joe Toynbee 206-723-6716

Sunday, January 16, 10:00 a.m.

Tiger Mountain Caves, Lakes, and Swamps
2B, 5 miles, 600-foot gain
Bert Drui 425-746-0709

Saturday, January 22, 9:30 a.m.

Tiger Mountain
TMT to RR grade (4 new bridges).
2C, 7 miles, 1500-foot gain
Jamie McKenzie 425-746-6683

Sunday, January 23, 10:00 a.m.

Cougar Mountain
Wildside Trail to Far Country Lookout.
Return via native plant meadow.
2B, 4 miles, 500-foot gain
Barbara Johnson 425-746-5573

Monday, January 24, 7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting
Trails Center, First and Bush streets, Issaquah

Sunday, January 30, 9:00 a.m.

West Tiger Loop
TMT to RR grade. Return via Talus Caves.
2C, 8 miles, 1800-foot gain
Fred Zeitler 425-882-3435

February

**Saturday, February 5, 9:00 a.m.**

Echo Mountain
Family hike. May scout some new trails.
2B, 4-5 miles, 600-foot gain
Irene Stanford 425-255-5558

Sunday, February 6, 9:00 a.m.

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

Sunday, February 6, 9:30 a.m.

Squak Mountain Sampler
2C, 7 miles, 1700-foot gain
Fred Zeitler 425-882-3435

Sunday, February 13, 9:30 a.m.

South Tiger
TMT to Otter Lake. Surprise views on return loop.
2C, 7-8 miles, 1400-foot gain
Jamie McKenzie 425-746-6683

Monday, February 14, 8:00 a.m.

Lake Marie and Ponds
Obscure trails and roads above Snoqualmie Valley Trail. Some wading possible.
3B, 6 miles, 700-foot gain
Bill Longwell 425-222-6775

Wednesday, February 16, 9:30 a.m.

Poo Poo Point
2C, 5 miles, 1700-foot gain
Melinda Livingstone 425-392-7455

Saturday, February 19, 10:00 a.m.

Cougar Mountain loop to Far Country Lookout and Nike Launch Site.
2B, 5 miles, 600-foot gain
Bert Drui 425-746-0709

Sunday, February 20, 10:00 a.m.

Cougar Mountain
Wilderness Peak loop plus side trip to Longview Peak.
2B, 5 miles, 1200-foot gain
Mark Pederson 425-396-5059

Monday, February 21, 10:00 a.m.

Cougar Mountain (A-A Peak)
One-way hike up the south side and down the north side.
2C, 6 miles, 1400-foot gain
Bob Gross 425-427-8449

Saturday, February 26, 8:30 a.m.

Squak Mountain
Leader's choice. Visit some lesser-known spots on Squak following well-known trails and little-used routes; possibly some exploratory sections.
4C, 8-10 miles, more than 2000-foot gain
Ralph Owen 425-746-1070

Monday, February 28, 7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting
Trails Center, First and Bush streets, Issaquah

Tuesday, February 29, 7:00 p.m.

Hike Leaders' Meeting
Finalize hikes schedule.
Trails Center, First and Bush streets, Issaquah

March



The first day
of spring
is March 20.

Thursday, March 2, 9:30 a.m.

Cougar Mountain
Licorice Fern Trail to Far Country Lookout.
2B, 6-7 miles, 600-foot gain
June Stevens 425-222-5452

Saturday, March 4, 9:00 a.m.

Twin Falls
Family hike.
2B, 3 miles, 500-foot gain
Irene Stanford 425-255-5558

Sunday, March 5, 9:00 a.m.

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

Saturday, March 11, 10:00 a.m.

Cougar Mountain
Coal Creek Falls, De Leo Wall, Marshall's Hill loop.
2B, 5 miles, 800-foot gain
Bert Drui 425-746-0709

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

West Tiger Loop
3C, 8-10 miles, 2100-foot gain
Denis Harney 206-545-2829

Sunday, March 19, 10:00 a.m.

West Tiger 3
2C, 5 miles, 2000-foot gain
Mark Pederson 425-396-5059

Saturday, March 25, 8:30 a.m.

Taylor Mountain (true summit)
Hike from Highway 18 on Weyco Tree Farm roads to the clearcut high point on Taylor Mountain. Good views.
3C, 10 miles, 2200-foot gain
Ralph Owen 425-746-1070

Sunday, March 26, 10:00 a.m.

West Tiger 3
2C, 5 miles, 2000-foot gain
Bob Gross 425-427-8449

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

Board Meeting
Trails Center, First and Bush streets, Issaquah

Wednesday, March 29, 9:30 a.m.

Hikers' Choice!
Four- to six-mile hike considering the state of the weather, mind, and old bones.
2B, 4-6 miles, 500-foot gain (±)
Bert Drui 425-746-0709

Thursday, March 30, 10:00 a.m.

Cougar Mountain Loop
South Cougar trails accessed from May Valley.
Unhurried pace.
3C, 7 miles, 1500-foot gain
Warren Jones 425-888-0262

A special thanks to all
our hike leaders!



Hike Information

24-hour hikes hotline: 206-328-0480

Cougar Mountain: four points of the compass

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 hike leaders, the Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC), 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 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 3: 6 hours
Class 2: 4 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 hikes 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 going 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.

continued on page 9

Charles McCrone

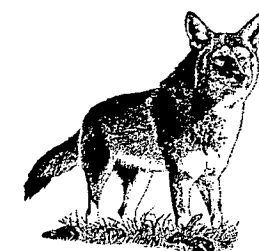
Last summer, I hiked a lot with a young man from the Somerset neighborhood and while hiking told him about the VIP ("Villages in the Park") plan in the early 80s for putting 50,000 people where Cougar Mountain Park is now and how the Trails Club fought for the preservation of a true wildland park instead. He was very surprised to find that Cougar Mountain Park, as recently as the year of his birth, might not have happened; it was something he had grown up near and taken for granted.

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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 hike leaders, the Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC), 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 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 3: 6 hours
Class 2: 4 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 hikes 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 going 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.

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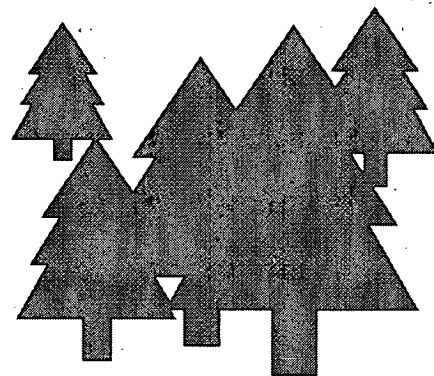
*continued from page 8***Trail Maintenance**

Volunteers periodically organize and schedule trail maintenance parties as listed in the hikes schedule. Work parties meet (see *Meeting Place* on previous page) 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 the 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 of maintaining it. ▲



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.

The old crew

Bill Longwell

While Charles McCrone's much needed, much appreciated and unique Internet-driven trail crew has served the Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) these four years, the other trail crew, under the direction of Bill Longwell, has been in business almost 30 years.

Some members of this crew helped build virtually all the trails in the Issaquah Alps. Harvey Manning and Ralph Owen, sometime trail crew members, routed and constructed in the 1970s most of the Cougar Mountain trails long before King County Parks arrived on the scene. Phil Hall, Bill Longwell, and their students built several Squak Mountain trails in the early 70s. Hall, Longwell, and students, along with Joe Toynbee, moved to Tiger Mountain in the mid-70s and 80s to build the Tiger Mountain Trail (TMT) and many other assorted Tiger trails.

However, once these trails were complete, this crew shifted gears and began the task of keeping them open. This has been a 10-year focus.

Our crew's ages range mostly in the 60s and 70s, with a couple of 40 year olds—youngsters really—to give the rest of us energy. Members of our crew and their years of service include Debbie Anschell (8), Dick Clark (4), Chip Curtis (6), Larry Hanson (6), Marty Hanson (4), Ken Hopping (8), Ron Howatson (4), Bill Longwell (30), Joe Toynbee (26), Bob Zeigler (5), and Fred

Zeitler (5). Most of us are retired persons.

This older crew divides its attention into two local geographical areas:

(1) The Issaquah Alps

From November to May these workers toil in the Issaquah Alps, attending major and minor trails.

Some of us have learned to make every hike a work party. On each hike we clear debris from the tread, often carrying walking sticks or ski poles to sweep branches and litter from the trail. We kick away rocks, drain water-filled low places, and snap off overhanging branches with our fingers. If every hiker performed these duties, the overall work for concentrated work parties would be minimal.

More often than not we carry small pruning saws or folding saws. Some people are skilled enough to cut six- to 12-inch trees with folding saws.

On serious work parties we always carry two-foot saws and sometimes carry crosscut saws up to five feet in length, especially if we know downed trees lie in the trail right-of-way. Someone or several people carry heavy-duty loppers.

In the Issaquah Alps we can carry motorized equipment—chain saws and power brushers. These machines were purchased from the \$5000 grant that both the IATC and Snoqualmie Valley Trails Club (SVTC) received from Washington state (Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation). Power equip-

ment has rendered us a revolutionary boon. These tools reduce effort and greatly expand our daily work achievement by quantum numbers. Since the Issaquah Alps' low elevations generate rapid plant growth, most trails need yearly brushing.

Sorry to say, we own no power equipment for frequent tread repairs; that we perform the old-fashioned way—with "armstrong power."

Summary of Work in the
Issaquah Alps - 1998*

Mountain	Trips	Worker Days	Total Hours
Cougar	41	86	433.5
Squak	16	31	115.5
Rattlesnake	2	5	14.0
Tiger	57	159	684.0
Totals	116	281	1247.0

Summary of Work Last Five Years*

Year	Trips	Days	Worker Days	Worker Hours
1994	29	34	108	722.0
1995	63	69	152	940.5
1996	73	89	180	1277.0
1997	179	192	370	2047.0
1998	184	201	461	2271.5
Totals	528	585	1271	7258.0

*1999 statistics not complete at time of writing (11/05/99). Tune in.

Total results of both trail crews.

Sometimes windstorms leave fallen trees across trails that take hundreds of hours to repair.

On the evening of December 28, 1996, winter dropped an exceedingly rare Pacific Northwest ice storm. Thousands of trees, mostly

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The old crew

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large ice-laden alders, crashed to the ground on all mountains of the Issaquah Alps. We worked four months—from January through April—to repair the damage, especially on Tiger and Squak. This effort took 28 separate trips and 470 person hours to cut the hundreds of logs from Issaquah Alps' trails.

One individual worker, John Carkin, by himself cut out more than 150 logs from the TMT on South Tiger.

(2) The Alpine Lakes

From May to November this same crew, now under the auspices of the SVTC, volunteers for the North Bend Ranger District, U.S. Forest Service. Here, we rarely employ power tools since most of our work lies inside the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area.

This work is intensive. It often includes 14-mile, one-day walks or overnight stays. It often includes carrying heavy backpacks and lugging tools over long distances. We have walked in over 16 miles to reach our work. In 1998, our crew donated 925 hours to North Bend (about 116 eight-hour days) and in 1999, 825 hours (103 eight-hour days).

During the months when North Bend's Alpine Lakes trails open, this crew maintains (cuts out scores of logs, cuts back brush, and clears trail debris—all by hand) six popular trails: Asahel Curtis Nature Trail, Denny Creek, Melakwa Lake,

Pratt Lake, Mount Defiance, and Granite Mountain—25 miles of trail. For the past three years we have opened (in April or May) and closed (in late October) the Granite Mountain lookout cabin, a fun task.

We also take on one-time projects for the Forest Service. In years past we have reopened several virtually abandoned trails: Taylor River–Snoqualmie Lake, the full Mount Defiance Trail, Upper Dingford Creek Trail, and the High Mountain Lakes Trail from Gem Lake to Wildcat Lake. Some of these projects took whole seasons, multiple years, and hundreds of hours to complete. In 1999, we spent 21 person days (with four backpacks) opening the abandoned 80-year-old, 10-mile-long Pratt River Trail from Pratt Lake to the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River. We waded these two rivers numerous times to work this trail.

When walking Issaquah Alps' trails or those of the North Bend Ranger District, remember that these trails stay clean by no accident. Our old crew sweeps through them several times each season. For the trail crews who plug away regularly for the IATC (and SVTC), this work sometimes seems like a full-time job.

Join us if you like long walks and hard work. ▲



Annual Meeting

Monday, January 24, 2000

7:00 p.m.

Trails Center

First and Bush streets

Downtown Issaquah

There will be an election of Board members and various reports. After the Board election, the general membership meeting will adjourn and the Board of Directors will meet to elect the following officers:

- ▶ **President**
- ▶ **Vice President of Advocacy and Issues**
- ▶ **Vice President of Operations**
- ▶ **Secretary**
- ▶ **Treasurer**

All members of the Trails Club are invited to attend the general membership meeting to cast their vote for the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors' meeting is open to members, although only the Board may vote on officers. Nominations for the Board of Directors are:

Barbara Johnson
Kitty Gross
David Langrock

The slate of officers includes:

- ▶ **Vice President of Advocacy and Issues: Ken Konigsmark**
- ▶ **Vice President of Operations: Barbara Johnson**
- ▶ **Secretary: Kitty Gross**
- ▶ **Treasurer: Steve Drew**

There will be a vote on the proposed bylaws amendment to limit director liability and indemnify the directors.

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 ones—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 100 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.

Issaquah Alps Trails Club
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Issaquah, Washington 98027

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