

Newsletter of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club

THE ALPINE



April ▲ May ▲ June ▲ 2000

Cougar ▲ Squak ▲ Tiger ▲ Grand Ridge

President's report

Steven Drew

At the February Board Meeting, your Board of Directors elected me to serve as your Club President for the year 2000. I am honored and already hard at work improving our membership/ mailing database, providing clear monthly financial reports, and working to ensure that the three legs of our Club remain vibrant.

I first became active in the Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) when leading the fight to prevent the location of a large water tank and access road in County Park land on the east side of Squak Mountain. This spring I participated with many others in the mountains-to-sound-sponsored reforestation of this park and adjacent areas. I am actively working as part of Charles McCrone's trail construction crew building a new trail linking downtown Issaquah with the Squak Mountain State Park trail system and will also lead at least one hike during each quarter of this year.

Advocacy, trail construction, and hike leadership remain as the three key strategies of the Club aimed at

continued growth of our open spaces and the protection of existing open spaces within the Alps. There is always a need for new energy in every organization and this organization is no exception. So if you think you might want to get involved in advocacy issues, call one of the advocates or come to a Board meeting. If you want to lead hikes anywhere in the Alps, call Hikes Coordinator Fred Zeitler; if you want to work in trail construction or maintenance, contact Charles McCrone.

Just as was the case in 1999, this year the Club will invest thousands of volunteer hours and over \$10,000 for new trail design and construction. While we are in the midst of celebrating our 20-year anniversary, the Mountains To Sound Greenway is organizing the 10-year anniversary Mountains To Sound March, which will showcase many of the trails within the Issaquah Alps. This event, which is co-sponsored by the IATC, will feature a free concert in front of the Issaquah Community Center on July

20. The 200+ hikers will stay overnight in Issaquah on their way from east of Snoqualmie Pass to the Seattle waterfront. This event figures to be a great celebration of what has been accomplished since the visionary days when our founder Harvey Manning first dubbed these mountains the Issaquah Alps and then led the charge that has created what we have today. So mark your calendars and, in the meantime, take a few hours and enjoy your favorite trail or lend us your talents as we work to build upon what those before us have achieved. The Issaquah Alps are ours forever! ▲

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Annual Potluck Saturday, April 15

Preston Community Center

Informal social gathering for
members and friends of IATC.

Social hour: 6:00 p.m.

Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

Program: 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Bring dish to share and own
tableware. Beverages provided.
From I-90, take Preston exit (22).
If traveling eastbound, cross over
freeway, turn right. Go about 1/2
mile. Community center is a stone
and wood structure on left (west)
side of Preston-Fall City Road.

Trailworkers step forward for qualification

Charles McCrone

In 1999, two trail maintenance volunteers—myself and Matt Neville—were qualified as crew leaders under the Volunteer Trailwork Coalition's statewide training standard. Now, an additional six devoted trailworkers (Steven Drew, Frank Gilliland, David Langrock, Sandra Roubal, Scott Semans, and Jeff Warner) have stepped forward to go through the three-stage crew leader training. This coming qualification of six new leaders is a tremendous boon for the Club, and represents the

tangible fruit of a very successful trailwork year in 1999. I hope this cycle—of new folk coming out, getting oriented to the work, and then a few stepping up to leadership roles—will continue in the future, enabling our program to expand and diversify. Crew leaders are critical because the numbers were growing too big for a couple of us to handle toward the end of 1999; now as well, we have the option to run more events without burning leaders out, or to head in two different directions on the same trailwork day. ▲

The Apparatus

President: Steven Drew · 392-4432

VP, Advocacy: Ken Konigsmark · 222-4839

VP, Operations: Barbara Johnson · 746-5573

Acting Treasurer: Steven Drew · 392-4432

Secretary: Kitty Gross · 641-4393

Board of Directors:

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Kitty Gross · 641-4393

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Ken Konigsmark · 222-4839

David Langrock · 313-1971

Bill Longwell · 222-6775

Dan McCrea · 837-0417

Charles McCrone · 392-3466

Malena McCrone · 392-3466

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Volunteer Coordinator: Open

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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 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.

New green space added to Issaquah Alps

submitted by Ken Konigsmark

Late in 1999, King County achieved a major breakthrough in its efforts to create a new Transfer of Development Credits (TDC) Program when the first pilot project was agreed to for a key parcel in the Issaquah Alps.

Two parcels totaling 433 acres are involved. A 313-acre parcel that abuts the 1700 acres of County Park lands to the west on Grand Ridge links with another 120-acre parcel to the east that connects to over 1000 acres of state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) forestland above Preston. Called the "Mitchell Hill Connector," this linkage would create a 3000-acre block of connected wildlife habitat, which will also serve as a trail

corridor from Grand Ridge to Preston on the north side of I-90.

The 313-acre parcel is being acquired under the new TDC program via a complex transaction in which Port Blakely, developers of Issaquah Highlands, agreed to pay \$2.75 million to purchase the rural "development credits" from the parcel and transfer them for use as additional office space credits within the Highlands development. Removing the development "value" from the 313-acre parcel reduced the remaining value of the land to \$250,000, which will be paid by King County to acquire permanent ownership of the land. The second 120-acre parcel in the "Connector" is being acquired differently with

additional density transferred from the rural parcel. IATC Advocacy Vice President Ken Konigsmark is ecstatic about the transaction and comments, "This was a very complex deal that required cooperation from the County, the city, Port Blakely, and the owners of the properties. My highest commendations go to King County Executive Ron Sims, Mayor Frisinger and the Issaquah City Council, and to Mark Sollitto, the County TDC program manager, for being so visionary and tenacious in making sure this happened. They all acted before it was too late and these lands were lost to development."

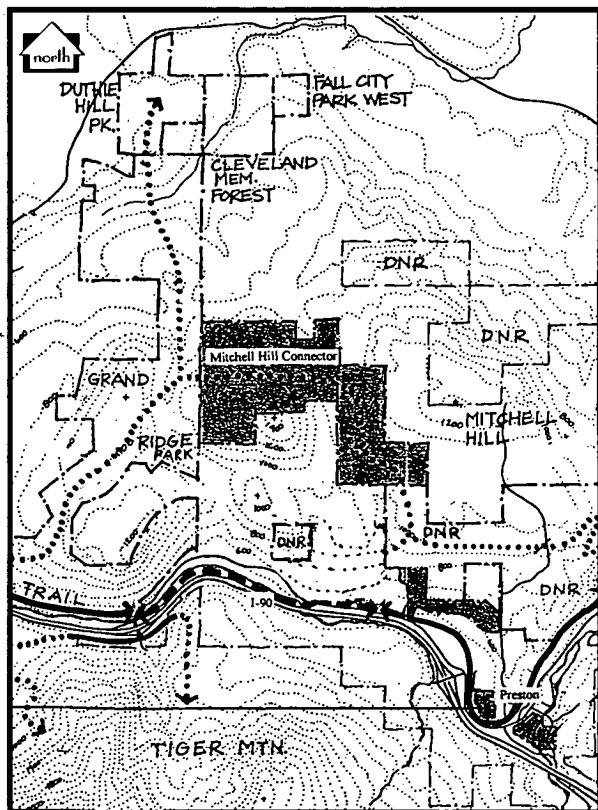
Given development pressures and land costs, there aren't many chances remaining for large additions to public lands in the Issaquah Alps, making this transaction especially important. By demonstrating that the TDC program can work and by bringing private funds to the table that enabled the County to acquire these lands for minimal cost, it can set an example for creative acquisition opportunities that can hopefully be used again. ▲

Women Walk Hikes

Aurela Sequoia

Due to a series of physical problems, I have been unable to recruit hike leaders for April. Thus, WomenWalk Hikes will begin its hike season in May with the first WomenWalk hike on May 27.

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federal Forest Legacy program funds being used to purchase a conservation easement on the land and King County funding the remaining cost. Together, the parcels will provide an ample forested link for trails and wildlife passage across the hillside to the north of I-90 between Issaquah and Preston.

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) had strongly advocated for this project for years with both King County and the City of Issaquah, which had to accept the

And now, a eulogy

Charles McCrone

I read once in an environmental magazine about the struggle to save wild places being fundamentally a struggle between the "gray world" and the "green world." In Puget Sound today, the gray world of housing, roads, and pavement seems to be rapidly swallowing the green and to the Gray Mind, green land is nothing but empty space waiting to be filled with Something Useful, Something Human.

In the pages of this newsletter you have been hearing for several years about a proposed development—East Village—that has devoted a majority of its acreage to the Green World, allowing much of Cougar's east flank to stay a re-growing forest. The Club has been vocally enthusiastic about this development because of the unusual sensitivity of the developer and because of the

land that will be saved. But now that the deal is done, I feel the need to step back from the bargaining table and look at the land that will be lost. If we look too long at maps, we too as environmental advocates can begin to see the land as a commodity, as numbers and quantities, to be divided up by our human will and sovereignty between the green and the gray. Fortunately, I have known this land also with my eyes and my feet, and I cannot forget that my first and last hope, however vain now, would be that it all could be saved—and stay as it was forever. Consequently, however glad I am for the gracious dedication of a majority of the East Village site as permanent open space, the victory is bitter-sweet and can only be tinged with mourning. So I offer this eulogy. To not do so would be to disrespect a place of special memories, to barter away my soul.

To the casual eye, the small square of land between the Westside Reservoir Road, the Goodes Corner powerline, and the Precipice might not have seemed much, accessed by a couple of persistently waterlogged trails. But walking home in twilight one summer, I saw along the trail my first porcupine, high in a tree. After the 1996 ice storm, I walked under a pearly white sky up to Surprise Creek, in a dead silence broken only by the ominous crackle of falling ice-laden branches, and decided to beat it out before one fell

on me. This area was also home to magnificently huge maples and hemlocks and fir, and to a small community of houses around a meadow. I used to look at those homes as my ideal place to live, contiguous to the Park and so private. Certainly we should lament the loss of such places, or the loss of even one old tree. Is any one wood so special, one might argue, aren't 100 acres of forest alike in a similar way as are 100 acres of mass-produced homes? Perhaps, but this wood was alive, and unique to the eyes that knew it, and despite its proximity to Issaquah able to give me a sense of wild nature. May it rest in memory. ▲

Cougar's young explorer

Charles McCrone

I discovered Cougar Mountain when I was 27, usually hiking alone from my rented room near Radio Peak, soon hiking every trail. Five years later, I am retracing my steps with a new companion named Ian. Over the last 10 months, Ian has hiked with me just about every Tuesday morning. When I return home from each jaunt, I highlight where we have been, and looking at my map, it appears in just under a year, Ian has seen just about every

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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: west point of the compass

Charles McCrone

This article is the second in a series about Cougar Mountain as a geographic whole, and the status of the trails and open space on all four of its flanks. I hope this series inspires hikers to check out more of the peripheral trails of the mountain and to get more involved in the significant development and planning issues impacting them.

Looking at the west point of the compass, the most significant trail west of the Wildland Park is of course the Coal Creek Trail (N1), which stretches three miles north-west from the "Red Town" trail-head along the gorge of Coal Creek to Coal Creek Parkway. The trail actually stretches beyond the Parkway to a junction with the Eastside Pipeline, a utility easement that runs north-south across Newport Hills plateau. Soon it will stretch another mile or more to Newcastle Beach west of I-405, comprising the official route of the Mountains To Sound Greenway. The biggest issue facing Coal Creek Park is the proposed development of the adjacent Mutual Materials site into an office park. This development is within the jurisdiction of the City of Newcastle and is something we must watch carefully for visible and aesthetic impacts on Coal Creek Trail.

Along with Coal Creek Park, two other parks—Lake Boren and, farther south, May Creek—form a trio of significant open spaces west of Cougar Mountain. Since preserv-

ing trail connections and open space corridors among this trio and Cougar Mountain is still within our reach, there is a lot of work to be done. The main north-south route is the pipeline, in many places lined with homes, but a permanent connection between the three. More in doubt is Newcastle's splendid Cross Town Trail, currently in several pieces but more or less stretching from smaller Hazelwood Park, on the west, to Lake Boren to Cougar Mountain Park, at Summit Junction, on the east. Several pieces of the current western portion are in possible jeopardy from coming development. Additionally, there is a missing link between Lake Boren and the northwest terminus of the De Leo Wall. However, the hike along the crest of the De Leo Wall from Thomas Rouse Road up to the Wildland Park has the potential of being one of Cougar Mountain's most magnificent and dramatic hikes, with views and gorgeous madronas. The Trails Club is partnering with Newcastle Trails Club in defending the Cross Town Trail and will be doing co-sponsored work parties along its length later in 2000. To contact Newcastle Trails, look them up at <http://members.aa.net/~frogfam/newcastle/trails/> or give them a call at 425-271-2256.

The major remaining westside concern is preserving a direct link from Cougar Mountain to May Creek. This link was in existence until 1998, when clearing for the

Highlands at Newcastle development eliminated it in one fell swoop. Though trails connecting the De Leo Wall open space to May Creek were recommended in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the development, the developer has a poor environmental record and keeping these trails on the plans has already required pressure on the City of Newcastle from both the Issaquah Alps and Newcastle Trails Clubs. This is another issue requiring long-term vigilance. With an intact Cougar-May Creek connection in place, there is the potential of taking hikers all the way from the Wildland Park to Renton via the historic Seattle-Walla Walla Railroad corridor. Additionally, the beautiful Honey Creek Trail could be tied in to stretch this link all the way south to the crossroads of Union Avenue and State Route 900.

Additional resources for learning about Cougar and Cougar Mountain advocacy are the 1999 edition IATC Cougar Mountain trails map and the forthcoming 2000 edition of the Cougar Mountain guidebook. Furthermore, any hikers concerned about Cougar Mountain are encouraged to join my advocacy network at pollopng@juno.com. Joining Newcastle Trails Club is a good way to get more involved on the westside and watching the *Newcastle News* and *The Issaquah Press* papers is a great way to keep up with development issues all across the mountain. Let's make our voices heard! ▲

April

Saturday, April 1, 9:00 a.m.

Northeast Cougar Mountain
Circle the future East Village site using the two trailheads closest to Issaquah.
2B, 4 miles, 500-foot gain, easy pace
Scott Semans 425-369-1725

Sunday, April 2, 9:30 a.m. (daylight-saving time!)

Squak Perimeter Loop
Hike new and old trails from north to east to south. Lunch with view of Mount Baker.
3C, 8 miles, 2000-foot gain, moderate pace
Fred Zeitler 425-882-3435

Wednesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m.

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

Friday, April 7, 9:30 a.m.

Echo Mountain Loop
First peek at lilies on peak and new summit trail.
2B, 5 miles, 600-foot gain
Betty Culbert 425-432-7387

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

Rattlesnake Mountain
Three ledges and landing with great views.
2C, 4-5 miles, 1500-foot gain
June Stevens 425-222-5452

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

Trail Maintenance Party
All volunteers welcome.
Charles McCrone 425-392-3466

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

Poo Poo Point
Up and back on the great hang glider route.
2C, 5 miles, 1700-foot gain
Melinda Livingstone 425-392-7455

Saturday, April 15, 10:00 a.m.

Cougar Mountain Lakemont/Summit Loop
Begin at Lakemont Park, then follow Lakemont perimeter and summit trails. Wild Lewis Gorge, million-dollar homes, and great views.
2B, 6 miles, 1100-foot gain
Ralph Owen 425-746-1070

Sunday, April 16, 9:30 a.m.

Cougar Mountain (A-A Peak) Loop
Includes "fantastic erratic" and Clay Pit.
2B, 4 miles, 700-foot gain
Bert Drui 425-746-0709

Monday, April 17, 9:00 a.m.

Little Si and Moss Vista
Nice views of Snoqualmie valleys from Mount Si's smaller neighbor and mossy vistas from lower slopes of Mount Si.
2C, 7 miles, 1600-foot gain
Peggy Owen 425-746-1070

Thursday, April 20, 9:00 a.m.

Tiger Mountain Trail(s) Flower Hike
Identification of flowers, trees, and shrubs.
2A, 3 miles, 500-foot gain, slow pace
Bill Longwell 425-222-6775

Saturday, April 22, 9:00 a.m.

Earth Day Trail Maintenance Party
All volunteers welcome.
Charles McCrone 425-392-3466

Saturday, April 22, 9:00 a.m.

Tiger Mountain Flower Walk
Species identification on Tradition Lake Plateau.
2A, 3-4 miles, 200-foot gain
Joe Toynbee 206-723-6716

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

Board Meeting
Trails Center, First and Bush streets, Issaquah

Friday, April 28, 6:30 p.m.

Annual Preston Trail Flower Walk
Trees, flowers, and shrubs on a paved trail.
1A, 3 miles, 100-foot gain, slow pace
Bill Longwell 425-222-6775

Saturday, April 29, 9:00 a.m.

West Tiger Loop
Seldom-used trails on West Tiger 3, 2, and 1.
3C, 8 miles, 2500-foot gain, strenuous
Wayne Balcom 206-361-2961

Sunday, April 30, 10:00 a.m.

Rattlesnake Mountain
Workout to three ledges and views.
2C, 4-5 miles, 1500-foot gain
Mark Pederson 425-396-5059

May

Tuesday, May 2, 9:30 a.m.

Northwest Rattlesnake Mountain
More trails and less roads in this variation.
Some rough trails and cross-country walking.
2C, 6 miles, 1200-foot gain
Warren Jones 425-888-0262

Friday, May 5, 9:30 a.m.

Echo Mountain Loop
Experience the new summit trail.
2B, 5 miles, 600-foot gain
Betty Culbert 425-432-7387

Saturday, May 6, 9:00 a.m.

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

Sunday, May 7, 9:00 a.m.

Trail Maintenance Party
All volunteers welcome.
Charles McCrone 425-392-3466

Sunday, May 7, 10:00 a.m.

Little Si
2B, 5 miles, 1100-foot gain
Bob Gross 425-427-8449

Wednesday, May 10, 9:00 a.m.

Cougar or Squak
Hikers' Choice!
2B, 3-5 miles, 600- to 1200-foot gain
Scott Semans 425-369-1725

Saturday, May 13, 10:00 a.m.

Tiger Mountain
Caves, round lake, big tree, and swamp.
2B, 5 miles, 800-foot gain
Bert Drui 425-746-0709

Sunday, May 14, 8:30 a.m.

East Tiger Loop
Climb from Highway 18 to views. Seasonal multiple-use trails and seldom-visited routes.
3C, 10 miles, 2000-foot gain
Ralph Owen 425-746-1070

Tuesday, May 16, 7:00 p.m.

Hike Leader Orientation/Training
For new and old hike leaders.
Trails Center, First and Bush streets, Issaquah

Saturday, May 20, 9:00 a.m.

Cougar-Squak Traverse
One-way trip involving high points of each area.
3C, 10 miles, 2000-foot gain (+)
Joe Toynbee 206-723-6716

Sunday, May 21, 9:30 a.m.

South Tiger Loop
Tiger Mountain Trail (TMT) to Otter Lake.
Surprise views on return loop.
2C, 7-8 miles, 1500-foot gain
Jamie McKenzie 425-746-6683

Sunday, May 21, 1:00 p.m.

Tradition Lake Plateau
See 300-year-old trees, two lakes, and swamps.
2A, 4 miles, 200-foot gain
Bob Gross 425-427-8449

Monday, May 22, 7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting
Trails Center, First and Bush streets, Issaquah

Friday, May 26, 9:30 a.m.

Taylor Mountain
Some roads, some trails.
2B, 6 miles, 600-foot gain
Betty Culbert 425-432-7387

Saturday, May 27, 9:15 a.m.

WomenWalk Hikes
Melinda Livingstone 425-392-7455

Monday, May 29, 8:00 a.m.

Tiger Mountain Trail (TMT)
One-way hike covering the entire 16 miles.
4D, 16 miles, 3000-foot gain (+), strenuous, moderate pace
Fred Zeitler 425-882-3435

Tuesday, May 30, 7:00 p.m.

Hike Leaders' Meeting
Finalize hikes schedule for third quarter, 2000
Trails Center, First and Bush streets, Issaquah

June

Saturday, June 3, 9:30 a.m.

Poo Poo Point
Hang glider trail to beautiful views of Mount Rainier and Mount Baker.
2C, 5 miles, 1700-foot gain
Fred Zeitler 425-882-3435

Sunday, June 4, 9:00 a.m.

Trail Maintenance Party
All volunteers welcome.
Charles McCrone 425-392-3466

Sunday, June 4, 10:00 a.m.

West Tiger 3 via Tiger Mountain Trail (TMT)
Popular destination via the quiet route.
3C, 8 miles, 2300-foot gain
Mark Pederson 425-396-5059

Monday, June 5, 9:00 a.m.

Cougar Mountain Lakemont/Summit Loop
Start with Starbucks Coffee, then follow Lakemont perimeter and summit trails. Wild Lewis Gorge, million-dollar homes, and great views.
2B, 6 miles, 1100-foot gain
Peggy Owen 425-746-1070

Saturday, June 10, 10:00 a.m.

Tiger Mountain
Tradition Lake Plateau loop.
2A, 4 miles, 200-foot gain
Barbara Johnson 425-746-5573

Sunday, June 11, 8:30 a.m.

West Rattlesnake Mountain Loop
Climb from ex-Snoqualmie Winery via old roads and a very steep trail to smashing views of three Snoqualmie valleys. Return via Mountains to Sound trail.
3D, 10 miles, 2600-foot gain, strenuous
Ralph Owen 425-746-1070

Tuesday, June 13, 10:30 a.m.

Lake Marie Loop
Horse trails and logging roads in Weyerhaeuser's tree farm.
2C, 7 miles, 600-foot gain
Warren Jones 425-888-0262

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

Squak Mountain
One-way trip on new trails built by WTA and IATC.
2B, 6 miles, 500-foot gain, 1300-foot loss
Steven Drew 425-392-4432

Saturday, June 17, 10:00 a.m.

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

Sunday, June 18, 10:00 a.m.

Lower Cougar Mountain
Nike Launch, Clay Pit, and Coal Creek Falls.
2B, 5 miles, 600-foot gain
Bert Drui 425-746-0709

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

North Cougar Mountain
Summerhill to Issaquah Reservoir on seldom-used trails.
2B, 5 miles, 500-foot gain
Scott Semans 425-369-1725

Saturday, June 24, 9:15 a.m.

WomenWalk Hikes (4)
Easy: Kitty Gross 425-641-4393
Easy: Sarah Pommer 425-392-2493
Moderate: Irene Stanford 425-255-5558
Strenuous: Eileen Griffin 206-248-7975

Sunday, June 25, 1:00 p.m.

Poo Poo Point
3C, 7 miles, 1700-foot gain
Bob Gross 425-427-8449

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

Board Meeting
Trails Center, First and Bush streets, Issaquah

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 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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Cougar Mountain: west point of the compass

Charles McCrone

This article is the second in a series about Cougar Mountain as a geographic whole, and the status of the trails and open space on all four of its flanks. I hope this series inspires hikers to check out more of the peripheral trails of the mountain and to get more involved in the significant development and planning issues impacting them.

Looking at the west point of the compass, the most significant trail west of the Wildland Park is of course the Coal Creek Trail (N1), which stretches three miles northwest from the "Red Town" trailhead along the gorge of Coal Creek to Coal Creek Parkway. The trail actually stretches beyond the Parkway to a junction with the Eastside Pipeline, a utility easement that runs north-south across Newport Hills plateau. Soon it will stretch another mile or more to Newcastle Beach west of I-405, comprising the official route of the Mountains To Sound Greenway. The biggest issue facing Coal Creek Park is the proposed development of the adjacent Mutual Materials site into an office park. This development is within the jurisdiction of the City of Newcastle and is something we must watch carefully for visible and aesthetic impacts on Coal Creek Trail.

Along with Coal Creek Park, two other parks—Lake Boren and, farther south, May Creek—form a trio of significant open spaces west of Cougar Mountain. Since preserv-

ing trail connections and open space corridors among this trio and Cougar Mountain is still within our reach, there is a lot of work to be done. The main north-south route is the pipeline, in many places lined with homes, but a permanent connection between the three. More in doubt is Newcastle's splendid Cross Town Trail, currently in several pieces but more or less stretching from smaller Hazelwood Park, on the west, to Lake Boren to Cougar Mountain Park, at Summit Junction, on the east. Several pieces of the current western portion are in possible jeopardy from coming development. Additionally, there is a missing link between Lake Boren and the northwest terminus of the De Leo Wall. However, the hike along the crest of the De Leo Wall from Thomas Rouse Road up to the Wildland Park has the potential of being one of Cougar Mountain's most magnificent and dramatic hikes, with views and gorgeous madronas. The Trails Club is partnering with Newcastle Trails Club in defending the Cross Town Trail and will be doing co-sponsored work parties along its length later in 2000. To contact Newcastle Trails, look them up at <http://members.aa.net/~frogfam/newcastle/trails/> or give them a call at 425-271-2256.

The major remaining westside concern is preserving a direct link from Cougar Mountain to May Creek. This link was in existence until 1998, when clearing for the

Highlands at Newcastle development eliminated it in one fell swoop. Though trails connecting the De Leo Wall open space to May Creek were recommended in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the development, the developer has a poor environmental record and keeping these trails on the plans has already required pressure on the City of Newcastle from both the Issaquah Alps and Newcastle Trails Clubs. This is another issue requiring long-term vigilance. With an intact Cougar-May Creek connection in place, there is the potential of taking hikers all the way from the Wildland Park to Renton via the historic Seattle-Walla Walla Railroad corridor. Additionally, the beautiful Honey Creek Trail could be tied in to stretch this link all the way south to the crossroads of Union Avenue and State Route 900.

Additional resources for learning about Cougar and Cougar Mountain advocacy are the 1999 edition IATC Cougar Mountain trails map and the forthcoming 2000 edition of the Cougar Mountain guidebook. Furthermore, any hikers concerned about Cougar Mountain are encouraged to join my advocacy network at pollopng@juno.com. Joining Newcastle Trails Club is a good way to get more involved on the westside and watching the *Newcastle News* and *The Issaquah Press* papers is a great way to keep up with development issues all across the mountain. Let's make our voices heard! ▲

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 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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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.

Hikers' corner



Fred Zeitler

Greetings fellow hikers:

As I write this in February I am surprised at the nice weather we have had so far in the year 2000 and at the great turnouts. For four weeks in a row we have had as many as 20 hikers on the scheduled hikes. For all of 1999 we had 160 scheduled hikes, but had 11 rainouts (most in the fourth quarter). The total number of hikers was around 1300, giving us an average of almost nine hikers per outing.

As we prepared the schedule of spring hikes, I noticed the same group of names for hike leaders. We could use some new blood, so if you are interested in leading future hikes, please let me know. The main requirement for being a hike leader is enthusiasm for hiking. Training material for new hike leaders is available. See the hikes schedule on pages 6-7 for special hike leaders' meeting scheduled for May 16.

See you on the trails. ▲

Membership Notice

At the April Board meeting, the Board will consider the appointment of Club members to fill at least one vacancy on the Board. Members interested in applying should contact Club President Steven Drew by April 20. Call 425-557-0097 or e-mail sdrewassoc@aol.com.

10th anniversary Mountains To Sound March getting ready to roll

“It was magic. . . It made me feel part of something bigger than myself. . . It launched an incredible initiative that has exceeded everyone's dreams. . .” These are comments from a few of the history makers who in 1990 hiked from Snoqualmie Pass to the Seattle waterfront on the original “Mountains To Sound March.” Organized and led by the Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC), they were trying to call public attention to the scenic mountains and forests, which provided such close-in beauty and recreation for Seattle's growing population. Organizer Ted Thomsen said, “Back then, we wanted to mobilize people to protect these great qualities, but we had no idea how the dream of a connected Greenway corridor would look in 10 years.”

Well, the dream has come a long way. Since 1990, over 80,000 acres of land have been acquired by the public to protect forests. Thousands of trees have been planted, new trails constructed and planned, and miles of logging roads restored. And, the Greenway segment of I-90 has been designated a National Scenic Byway, the only interstate to receive this designation. To celebrate these accomplishments, plans are firming up, enthusiasm is building, and a 10th anniversary Mountains To Sound March will hit the trail from July 13-22, 2000!

The “10th anniversary Mountains To Sound March” is rapidly materi-

alizing under the leadership of Ken Konigsmark, Greenway Special Projects Director and IATC vice president. “We're going to celebrate the amazing success of the Greenway idea and re-energize and re-inspire this effort for another 10 years,” he said. The March will start at the eastern end of the Greenway in Thorp and cover over 120 miles in 10 days, ending with a celebration on Seattle's waterfront on Saturday, July 22. The first three days of travel from Thorp to Snoqualmie Pass will be by wagon train on the Greenway's “backbone trail,” the John Wayne Trail/Iron Horse State Park.

At the pass, travel will shift to foot with hikers heading west down the John Wayne Trail to Rattlesnake Lake, then crossing Rattlesnake, Tiger, Squak, and Cougar mountains, and across the floating bridge into Seattle. Marchers will camp out each night along the way at South Cle Elum, Easton, Hyak, Tinkham Campground, Rattlesnake Lake, Snoqualmie Point, Preston, Issaquah, and Newcastle Beach Park in Bellevue. As mentioned above, a final ending celebration will be held Saturday afternoon, July 22, on Seattle's waterfront.

“We're working on some pretty big logistical requirements,” Konigsmark said, “so the number of participants involved in the full, 10-day March will need to be capped at 200, but others can join in for free

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10th anniversary MTS March

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on any daily segment of the March as long as they arrange their own transportation and food."

Konigsmark is heading up a fund-raising campaign to help with overall March expenses and subsidies for young hikers. "If we can get some contributions and donations, we're planning a cost of \$250 for the full 10-day event (\$75 for children under 14 accompanied by adult). The fee will cover the wagon train ride and all food for 10 days. People wanting to do only the wagon ride on the first four days of the March will pay \$150 to go to Ollalie State Park. The seven-day hike from the pass to Seattle will cost \$175. People might also like to do a one-day wagon ride from Snoqualmie Pass to Ollalie State Park (exit 38 on I-90) on Sunday, July 16," he said, "and they can do that for \$40 (\$25 for children). Everybody is encouraged to join in for the final day's triumphant march into Seattle and the celebration being planned at the waterfront."

Greenway supporters, including IATC's trail volunteers, are working on March planning and logistics, including building trails and planning campsites and festivities at each night's stop. "We need volunteers to drive support trucks, help with campsite setup, help with food delivery and serving, and other support," Konigsmark said. "We'd love contributions or use of a large truck(s), use of a walk-in cooler facility, large tents, food donations,

and entertainment. Anyone who could help should call me."

With a cap of 200, if you're interested in participating you should submit your registration early to reserve a spot on the March, with priority going to those doing the full 10-day event. If interested, or if you would like to help support the March, please give Ken a call or send an e-mail (425-957-5094 or kenneth.konigsmark@pss.boeing.com).

The March promises to be a fun, but challenging event...and an event that will make you feel "bigger than yourself!" ▲

WomenWalk Hikes

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Thank you for your enthusiastic support of WomenWalk Hikes. Last year we had an excellent turnout to make a very successful season with hikes at easy, moderate, and strenuous levels. We need leaders at all levels for the last Saturday of the month between July and October. Please contact me at 425-888-2683 if you would like to lead or co-lead a hike. Last year we had one hike co-led by Kitty Gross and Sarah Pommer. This is an excellent way to gain experience. You might also check out the very good hike leader training offered by Fred Zeitler if the idea of leading hikes intrigues you. Again, your support of WomenWalk Hikes has been much appreciated. Watch *The Alpinist* for further information. ▲

Young explorer

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trail on the mountain. What is special about Ian is that, despite his veteran hiker status, he is even now just turning 16 months old.



Ian (McCrone) on the trail.

When Ian was born, I wasn't sure how much time I'd be spending on the trail, but it wasn't long before he was making his first Alps appearance. When he was seven days old, we carried him sans backpack to Tradition Lake. Five months later, we initiated our weekly ritual with a hike up Betty's Trail. Hiking with a baby has always been pleasurable; he doesn't say much yet, and often falls asleep, but he always feels like good company. Sometimes he uses the time to practice his sounds and words, and I believe he enjoys the greenery because he always has a big smile on his face when I swing him down off my back.

I can only look forward to that third stage of my hikes on Cougar Mountain, when Ian begins to walk beside me, and to talk about everything we see. ▲



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
Post Office Box 351
Issaquah, Washington 98027**

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