

Newsletter of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club

THE ALPINE



July ▲ August ▲ September ▲ 2000

Cougar ▲ Squak ▲ Tiger ▲ Grand Ridge

10th Anniversary Mountains To Sound March

Ken Konigsmark

Sign up now or never for the big "10th Anniversary Mountains To Sound March," July 13–22, 2000!

Looking for a once-in-a-decade chance for a guided, catered, fun, and exciting hiking event? From July 13–22, hundreds of hikers are expected to participate in the 10th Anniversary Mountains To Sound March. The route will cover 120 miles of trails through the Greenway corridor that parallels I–90 from Thorp to Seattle's waterfront. Travel will be by wagon train for the first three days on the John Wayne Trail (with options for hiking, biking, or horses) followed by seven days of hiking from Snoqualmie Pass to Seattle across the Cascade foothills and Issaquah Alps.

Catered dinners and fun entertainment ranging from square dancing to cowboy poets, Shakespeare troupes to country music and concert bands, are planned nightly at each campsite along the way.

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) organized and led the original Mountains To Sound March

in 1990, which spawned the broader Greenway effort that has accomplished much in preserving open spaces, connecting trails, and restoring the environment during the last decade. The IATC is a main supporter of the 10th Anniversary March as well. It has contributed both financially and through much volunteer labor on the creation of new trails that completed previously missing links in a connection of public trails through the Issaquah Alps.

IATC members are encouraged to join in on this fun event! There are many ways to participate!

Participants can do the following:

Full 10-day event, July 13–22

\$250 (\$75 for kids under 14)

Seven-day hike, July 16–22

\$175 (\$60 for kids under 14)

Four-day wagon ride, July 13–16

\$150 (\$60 for kids under 14)

One-day wagon ride, July 16

\$40 (\$25 for kids under 14)

Fees cover bus transportation, food, transport of gear between campsites, entertainment, and other support. You may also hike

for free on any daily segment as long as you arrange for your own transportation and food. Don't miss this once-in-a-decade event and a unique opportunity to celebrate and learn about the Mountains To Sound Greenway project and the Issaquah Alps.

Get full details on the Greenway website at: www.mtsgreenway.org/march2.htm or for more information and to obtain a registration form, call me at 425-957-5094. ▲

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Bring your dog on a hike

Fred Zeitler

Sunday,
August 13



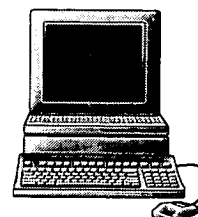
I know that over the years we have often been asked about dogs on hikes. The Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) policy is no pets on hikes. This will continue to be the policy; however, this quarter we want to try a special events hike, specifically a hike where you can bring your dog. For this hike we want to emphasize the ease with which dogs and people can walk together. So bring Fido along with a leash, doggie bags, and water for you and your pooch. We'll try to do about a two-hour hike, which I will

lead. You will be asked to sign some special release forms. See hikes schedule on pages 6-7 for time, etc. See you on Doggie Day. ▲

A new look for the Issaquah Alps website –

www.issaquahalps.org

Check
it out



Check out the "new look" of the Issaquah Alps website at www.issaquahalps.org to find out more about the Mountains To Sound March and the 20th Anniversary Celebration. ▲

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

Christina Jackson · 888-8385

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David Langrock · 313-1971

Bill Longwell · 222-6775

Dan McCrea · 837-0417

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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

Website: www.issaquahalps.org

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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.

President's report

Steven Drew

Summer hiking season is upon us and this year we have many new and upgraded trails to enjoy. Most are shown on the new Green Trails maps and updated Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) maps. But you may need to explore on your own or come on a led hike to find others. Long sought-after pockets of private land have been acquired and the long hours of advocacy continue to pay us dividends.

If you want to enjoy a one-way hiking experience, join many IATC members as they hike one or more days of the Mountains To Sound March this July. Bring your family and enjoy a gear-shuttled, food-provided, outdoor experience with entertainment every evening. On July 20, join us as we welcome the hikers to Issaquah with an all-city open space celebration concert featuring Dana Lyons and "Cows With Guns" (6:00–9:00 p.m., Community Center lawn).

This year we are trying to offer an even more diverse hike schedule with hikers for all levels of skill and energy: WomenWalk Hikes, Bring Your Dog on a Hike (on a leash of course), and our first annual IATC Clubwide Barbecue Hike and Celebration.

This is truly an amazing Club with so many people willing to give freely of their time for its every aspect.

This includes our hike program, trail building and maintenance, advocacy, publications writing and sales, hotline and website manage-

ment, as well as correspondence and general operation. With a healthy increase in trained trail building leaders, many eager volunteers, and continued donations for tools and materials, we are building more miles of all-weather trails than ever before. We are partnering with other organizations and, through these energies, bringing more State and County resources into the Alps. If you want to be part of a well-oiled machine, come out and join us. There is something for all skill levels to contribute and it really does feel good to see the areas in which you have worked as you hike them over the years. ▲

Sam McGee

Bill Longwell

Steve sat in the back row in my Language Arts class throughout ninth grade and rarely said a word to me or anyone. When I spoke to him he would reply quietly, but go back reading his science fiction books. All he did that year was read science fiction. He came to class every day, rarely did any work, but continually read his books.

He did listen to me when I read in class and talked about hiking. I know he liked the poetry of Robert Service, especially *The Cremation Of Sam McGee*.

Two years later Steve signed in for *continued on page 10*

Help fish and wildlife with personalized license plates

Noelle Nordstrom

Did you know that if you buy personalized license plates you help fish and wildlife? Forty dollars from the initial purchase of personalized plates and the entire \$30 yearly renewal fee supports the protection of our fish and wildlife resources.

Our state's non-hunted or fished species are the targets of this program. Some examples include the sage sparrow, Oregon vesper sparrow, burrowing owl, pygmy rabbit, Columbian white-tailed deer, and the Olympic mudminnow. Though activities funded with personalized license plate dollars focus on species that are in jeopardy, they help keep all our fish and wildlife species in good shape by protecting important habitat and forming vital partnerships between citizen and governmental groups.

Here are a few of the activities funded by personalized license plates: 1) Surveys on rare species such as the western pond turtle, snowy plover, and ferruginous hawk and research on species of concern and their habitats such as bald eagles, marine mammals, western grey squirrels, marbled murrelets, shrub steppe, and oak woodlands; 2) Expert consultation to governments, organizations, and the public to better plan land-use activities, which will provide for the needs of non-game wildlife; and 3) Purchase of habitats for threatened and endangered species such as ponds *continued on page 4*

First annual end of summer barbecue/hike

Steven Drew

In celebration of our 20th year, all Club members and family are invited to join us on one of several hikes on Saturday, September 23, which will lead to a free barbecue and social. Mark your calendars and come get to know your fellow members. Over the years we have accomplished much and now it's time to have some fun, let our hair down, and tell each other some stories while we enjoy views of the Tiger Mountain forest. Look for the special mailing in early September for more details. Until then, enjoy the Alps. ▲



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!



State Parks plan meetings for Squak and Lake Sammamish parks

Steven Drew

Park planning meetings will be held at the Eastside Fire and Rescue headquarters in Issaquah (on Newport Way one block north of Sunset) from 7:00–9:30 p.m. Dates are as follows:

July 18 – focus on

Lake Sammamish State Park

July 19 – focus on

Squak Mountain State Park

Olallie (Twin Falls) State Park

Bridle Trails State Park

As Issaquah Alps Trails Club members, you make up one of the largest user groups. So please take time to attend one or both of these meetings to express your views and learn about the process. ▲

Green Business Directory

Polly Freeman

With the recent Endangered Species listings of bull trout and Chinook salmon, King County citizens will need to support salmon recovery. One way is to support businesses that contribute to a healthy environment. The Green Business Directory is a consumer guide to businesses that protect the environment. For more information, call King County Green Works at 206-296-8800.

(Polly Freeman is from the King County Water and Land Resources Division in Seattle) ▲

Fish and wildlife

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inhabited by the endangered western pond turtle and peregrine falcon nesting areas.

The first year's cost for passenger vehicles is \$44. Motorcycles, trailers, and campers are \$43.50. In following years, a \$30 renewal fee will be charged (in addition to all other licensing fees) each time you renew your vehicle.

Personalized license plates may be used on most vehicle types currently licensed in Washington. They can have one to seven characters including letters, numbers, hyphens, or spaces. Motorcycle and small trailer plates can have up to six characters.

Log on to the Department of Licensing website at www.wa.gov/dol and click the interactive inquiry plate to see if your personalized statement is available. Or pick up an application at your nearby license plate vendor. Soon applications will be available at your local Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) regional office.

You can also link to the Department of Licensing from WDFW's website at www.wa.gov/wdfw. You can visit this site to see additional information on how personalized license plate funds benefit fish and wildlife. For more information, call the Washington Department of Licensing at 360-902-3770. (Noelle Nordstrom is from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife) ▲

Cougar Mountain: north point of the compass

Charles McCrone

This article is the third 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 that this series will inspire 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.

Just as the west side has largely come under the jurisdiction of the new City of Newcastle, so the north side is City of Bellevue terrain. Two significant trail routes, however, predate Bellevue's involvement and remain key links in the north side trail system: Betty's Trail (now dubbed the Saddleback Trail, though we maintain naming trails for developments is far inferior to naming them for local trail pioneers) and Peggy's Trail, built under the leadership of Betty Culbert and Peggy and Ralph Owen, respectively. Both have been adopted by Bellevue and survive in close to their original routing, but have been joined by an immense network of newer interlocking neighborhood paths and trails, thanks to the impressive industry of the city's Parks Department. There are too many of these newer trails to begin to summarize them here, and many would be of primary interest only to residents; instead our focus is how Bellevue's network extends Cougar Mountain's trail system and con-

nects the Park to other green spaces—and the rest of the world.

On the northwest side, an important connection is the junction of the Coal Creek Trail with a city trail just southeast of Coal Creek Parkway. This junction is unsigned but clear, and enables hikers to climb into the Forest Park Greenbelt on Somerset and access the rest of Bellevue's Cougar trails from Coal Creek Park, the City of Newcastle, and I-405. An important missing link is a trail access on the other side of Somerset back down to the east end of Coal Creek Park at the "Red Town" Trailhead (right now the only option is to take Forest Drive and Lakemont Boulevard from the south end of Betty's Trail), but Cougar aficionados Steve Cobert and Bill French have done some work on this issue, so stay tuned!

Moving eastward, the next big news is Bellevue's purchase of the Peltola pasture for a new Lewis Creek Park off Lakemont. Call the city and tell them what you'd like to see here—new trails, a new trailhead. Just northeast of the Peltola site is the established Lakemont Community Park, a major trailhead for the extant Lewis Creek Trail and paved walkways over to Peggy's Trail.

Before the development furor in the Montreux area, Peggy's Trail was an unbroken route from exit 13 off I-90 up to the A-A Peak Trailhead on top of the mountain, as complete a "ray trail" off the moun-

tain as we could want. Despite Bellevue Parks' magnificent provision of a host of new trails elsewhere, two barriers were unfortunately encountered to the preservation of this key trail in its virgin form. First was the city's undying fascination with the construction of a Lakemont Boulevard extension to exit 13 (now complete), which has forever changed the character of Lewis Creek Gorge and has currently left the lower end of Peggy's Trail, and one-time accompanying trailhead at Newport Way, in limbo. Second was the loss (despite public bond monies earmarked for the acquisition) of a critical parcel of land between A-A Peak and Montreux, resulting in a tiny—but devastating—missing link in the trail just south of SE 60th. There may still be hope in remedying both these situations; I would welcome anyone who wants to take the lead on either to contact me and/or get involved!

A recent development issue that has emerged on the north side is an attempt to develop housing on the geologically unstable bluff (part of the Precipice) southwest of the junction of I-90 and Lakemont at exit 13. This is beautiful green land looking down on the Lewis Creek Gorge; development here would further desecrate the Gorge and set a bad precedent for ludicrous development proposals for other portions of the Precipice greenbelt

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July

Saturday, July 1, 8:30 a.m.

Peak and A Half

Drop from north Cougar Mountain State Park to SR 900 via Wilderness Peak. Cross to climb Squak on the way back to cars in Issaquah via the newly rebuilt East Ridge Trail.

3C, 9.5 miles, 2350-foot gain
Ralph Owen 425-746-1070

Sunday, July 2, 10:00 a.m.

Cougar Mountain (A-A Peak)

Hike up south side, down north side.

2C, 6 miles, 1700-foot gain
Bob Gross 425-427-8449

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

West Tiger Loop

Hike to West Tiger 3 via the quiet route. Lunch at Manning's Reach. Return via Talus Caves.

3C, 8 miles, 2500-foot gain
Fred Zeitler 425-882-3435

Friday, July 7, 9:00 a.m.

Tiger Mountain, 15-Mile Creek

Betty led this hike 20 years ago. This will be her swan song as she retires as hike leader for IATC. Call for directions and carpooling.

2B, 6 miles, 800-foot gain
Betty Culbert 425-432-7387

Saturday, July 8, 8:30 a.m.

Cougar Mountain Loop

Hike to four peaks on Cougar with views from three of them.

3C, 10-11 miles, 2500-foot gain
Fred Zeitler 425-882-3435

Sunday, July 9, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Trail Maintenance Work Party

All volunteers welcome. For more information, contact Charles McCrone at 425-392-3466 or pollopng@juno.com. No RSVP necessary.

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

Twin Falls to Halls Creek

Hike through Twin Falls State Park and over to replacement trestle on the John Wayne Trail.

2B, 7 miles, 1200-foot gain
Peggy Owen 425-746-1070

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

The Golf Club at Newcastle

Hike will provide views from the bottom and top.

2B, 5 miles, 600-foot gain
Bert Drui 425-746-0709

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

Cedar Butte

Short hike, but good workout with nice views from the top.

2C, 4 miles, 1000-foot gain
John Johnson 206-633-3805

Thursday, July 20, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Come join Mountains To Sound hikers in front of the Community Center in Issaquah for a free open-air concert featuring Dana Lyons and "Cows With Guns."

Saturday, July 22, 10:00 a.m.

Tiger Mountain

Nook trail hike.

1-2A, 3 miles, 500-foot gain
Trudy Ecob 206-232-2933

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

Greenway March Follow-up

Hike portion of Mountains To Sound Greenway March route on Cougar or Squak to see how well the trails held up after 200 marchers.

3B, 7-10 miles, 1200-foot gain, slow pace
Scott Semans 425-369-1725

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

Board Meeting

Trails Center, First and Bush streets, Issaquah

Tuesday, July 25, 9:30 a.m.

Cougar Mountain

Loop hike from Red Town to De Leo Wall with return via reroute of Quarry Trail and Coal Creek Falls.

2B, 4-5 miles, 900-foot gain
Barbara Johnson 425-746-5573

Saturday, July 29, 9:15 a.m.

WomenWalk Hikes (2)

Easy: Kitty Gross 425-641-4393 or akgross@aol.com

Moderate: Aurela Sequoia 425-888-2683 or asequoia@earthlink.net

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

Rattlesnake Ledges

Good workout hike to three ledges with good views from all.

2C, 5 miles, 1600-foot gain
Fred Zeitler 425-882-3435

August

Saturday, August 5, 8:00 a.m.

Tiger Tops

From Highway 18 we'll visit the tops of Tiger's six highest peaks. Route will follow both well-known and little-used trails as well as short segments of gated roads. Views from five peaks.

4D, 15-17 miles, 4000-foot gain (+)
Ralph Owen 425-746-1070

Sunday, August 6, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Trail Maintenance Work Party

All volunteers welcome. For more information, contact Charles McCrone at 425-392-3466 or pollopng@juno.com. No RSVP necessary.

Saturday, August 12, 9:00 a.m.

Tiger Mountain

Loop hike on old TMT, northeast trails, and RR grade.

2C, 5-6 miles, 1500-foot gain
Bert Drui 425-746-0709

Sunday, August 13, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Dog Walk!

Special hike for dog lovers. For this hike only, you may bring your dog along with leash, doggie bags, etc. (see article on page 2 for more details).

2B-2C, 4-5 miles, 1200- to 1700-foot gain
Fred Zeitler 425-882-3435

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

Tiger Mountain

Nook loop.

2B, 4 miles, 600-foot gain
Trudy Ecob 206-232-2933

Sunday, August 20, 9:30 a.m.

Tiger Mountain

North TMT loop.

2B, 5-6 miles, 1000-foot gain
Jamie McKenzie 425-746-6683

Saturday, August 26, 9:15 a.m.

WomenWalk Hikes (1)

Moderate: Aurela Sequoia 425-888-2683 or asequoia@earthlink.net

Sunday, August 27, 10:00 a.m.

Cougar Mountain

Hike to two peaks (Clay Pit and Wilderness) using some lesser-known trails.

3B, 5-8 miles, 1000-foot gain, slow pace
Scott Semans 425-369-1725

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

Board Meeting

Trails Center, First and Bush streets, Issaquah

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

Hike Leaders' Meeting

Finalize hikes schedule for next quarter.

Trails Center, First and Bush streets, Issaquah

September

Saturday, September 2, 9:00 a.m.

Cougar Mountain

Hike on northeast Cougar, West Tibbetts Creek, the Fantastic Erratic, and Clay Pit viewpoint.

2B, 4-5 miles, 900-foot gain
Bert Drui 425-746-0709

Monday, September 4, 8:30 a.m. (Labor Day)

East Tiger Mountain

Hike up to highest Tiger peak.

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

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

Poo Poo Point

2C, 7 miles, 1700-foot gain.

Bob Gross 425-427-8449

Sunday, September 10, 9:00 a.m.

Squak Mountain

Celebratory hike along the Squak Mountain Access and East Ridge trails. Come join—hikers and trailworkers alike—on an ascent of Squak Mountain from Issaquah celebrating volunteers' yearlong sweat and effort building this exciting new Squak Mountain trail. We'll recount a history of the work and do a small amount of seasonal maintenance as we go.

3C, 8 miles, 1800-foot gain
Charles McCrone 425-392-3466 or pollopng@juno.com

Wednesday, September 13, 10:00 a.m.

Northwest Cougar Loop

A woody walk with views at lunch.

2B, 5-6 miles, 900-foot gain
Warren Jones 425-888-0262

Saturday, September 16, 8:00 a.m.

West Tiger 1, 2, and 3

Greet fall by taming the tigers.

4D, 9 miles, 2700-foot gain
Joe Toynbee 206-723-6716

Sunday, September 17, 9:30 a.m.

South Tiger Loop

Tiger Mountain Trail (TMT) to Otter Lake. Return via bypass road/trail to great view for lunch.

2C, 7-8 miles, 1500-foot gain
Jamie McKenzie 425-746-6683

Saturday, September 23

Barbecue Hikes

Special event for members and family. Several one-way hikes ending in time to join free barbecue at Steven Drew's house in Issaquah (see article on page 4). Special mailing will describe details as will hotline posting (206-328-0480). Hiking not required to attend!

Sunday, September 24, 10:00 a.m.

Twin Falls Family Hike

2B, 3 miles, 500-foot gain

Irene Stanford 425-255-5558

Monday, September 25, 7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting

Trails Center, First and Bush streets, Issaquah

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

WomenWalk Hikes (3)

Easy: Mary Cadigan 425-641-4046

Moderate: Karen Van Pelt 425-747-9381

Strenuous: Martha and Matt Neville
425-392-7435

Saturday, September 30, 3:00 p.m.

Cougar Mountain

Tibbetts Creek and Bear Ridge Loop.

2B, 4 miles, 900-foot gain, slow pace
Scott Semans 425-369-1725



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: north point of the compass

Charles McCrone

This article is the third 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 that this series will inspire 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.

Just as the west side has largely come under the jurisdiction of the new City of Newcastle, so the north side is City of Bellevue terrain. Two significant trail routes, however, predate Bellevue's involvement and remain key links in the north side trail system: Betty's Trail (now dubbed the Saddleback Trail, though we maintain naming trails for developments is far inferior to naming them for local trail pioneers) and Peggy's Trail, built under the leadership of Betty Culbert and Peggy and Ralph Owen, respectively. Both have been adopted by Bellevue and survive in close to their original routing, but have been joined by an immense network of newer interlocking neighborhood paths and trails, thanks to the impressive industry of the city's Parks Department. There are too many of these newer trails to begin to summarize them here, and many would be of primary interest only to residents; instead our focus is how Bellevue's network extends Cougar Mountain's trail system and con-

nects the Park to other green spaces—and the rest of the world.

On the northwest side, an important connection is the junction of the Coal Creek Trail with a city trail just southeast of Coal Creek Parkway. This junction is unsigned but clear, and enables hikers to climb into the Forest Park Greenbelt on Somerset and access the rest of Bellevue's Cougar trails from Coal Creek Park, the City of Newcastle, and I-405. An important missing link is a trail access on the other side of Somerset back down to the east end of Coal Creek Park at the "Red Town" Trailhead (right now the only option is to take Forest Drive and Lakemont Boulevard from the south end of Betty's Trail), but Cougar aficionados Steve Cobert and Bill French have done some work on this issue, so stay tuned!

Moving eastward, the next big news is Bellevue's purchase of the Peltola pasture for a new Lewis Creek Park off Lakemont. Call the city and tell them what you'd like to see here—new trails, a new trailhead. Just northeast of the Peltola site is the established Lakemont Community Park, a major trailhead for the extant Lewis Creek Trail and paved walkways over to Peggy's Trail.

Before the development furor in the Montreux area, Peggy's Trail was an unbroken route from exit 13 off I-90 up to the A-A Peak Trailhead on top of the mountain, as complete a "ray trail" off the moun-

tain as we could want. Despite Bellevue Parks' magnificent provision of a host of new trails elsewhere, two barriers were unfortunately encountered to the preservation of this key trail in its virgin form. First was the city's undying fascination with the construction of a Lakemont Boulevard extension to exit 13 (now complete), which has forever changed the character of Lewis Creek Gorge and has currently left the lower end of Peggy's Trail, and one-time accompanying trailhead at Newport Way, in limbo. Second was the loss (despite public bond monies earmarked for the acquisition) of a critical parcel of land between A-A Peak and Montreux, resulting in a tiny—but devastating—missing link in the trail just south of SE 60th. There may still be hope in remedying both these situations; I would welcome anyone who wants to take the lead on either to contact me and/or get involved!

A recent development issue that has emerged on the north side is an attempt to develop housing on the geologically unstable bluff (part of the Precipice) southwest of the junction of I-90 and Lakemont at exit 13. This is beautiful green land looking down on the Lewis Creek Gorge; development here would further desecrate the Gorge and set a bad precedent for ludicrous development proposals for other portions of the Precipice greenbelt

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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:

In May, we had a hike leader orientation and training meeting. During the meeting, we covered skills needed to be a hike leader, objectives of a hike, how to organize and conduct a hike, as well as hiker and hike leader responsibilities. We had a fair turnout and signed up two to three new hike leaders. If you missed the meeting and would like to get a copy of the material we covered, give me a call at 425-882-3435 or e-mail me at marianzzz@aol.com. Give me your address and I'll send the material to you. ▲



In memoriam

Betty Manning

Gail Palm, a lifetime member of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC), died on May 4, 2000. Gail was influential as hikes coordinator, volunteer service coordinator, organizer of the Trails Club's first organizational retreat and several annual potlucks, contributor to "Return to Newcastle IX," and an unforgettable personality on the hikes she led and shared. The IATC is fuller and richer for Gail's energetic and enterprising contributions to the evolution of this Club in its first decade. ▲

Sam McGee

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another class. Again, all he did was sit in the back row and read his books. One day in the spring, he came up to me after class and said, "I want to go on a hike with you." I had talked much about hiking.

That 1972 spring, Phil Hall and I began to build Phil's Creek Trail. We had reached the Tie Mill and were exploring routes down to East Side Road. For the first Friday and Saturday in May we planned a campout on upper Phil's Creek Trail. I took my family and several students. Steve came. We built some rudimentary bridges and on Saturday began to build switchbacks down to East Side Road. I remember how hard Steve worked.

After Steve graduated, he didn't disappear. In the next six to seven years he would suddenly appear in my classroom after school and talk. Or he sent me postcards from various places around the world!

After high school, Steve hitched freight trains to Miami, worked as a longshoreman, took a boat to Europe, rode the Orient Express to Turkey, and caught more trains to southern India. He swam in the Indian Ocean near Ceylon [Sri Lanka] and traveled back to the United States via China and Russia. The last postcard from Steve came from Casablanca, where he said he was in the import-export business.

He always signed his postcards "Sam McGee." ▲

Cougar Mountain: north point of the compass

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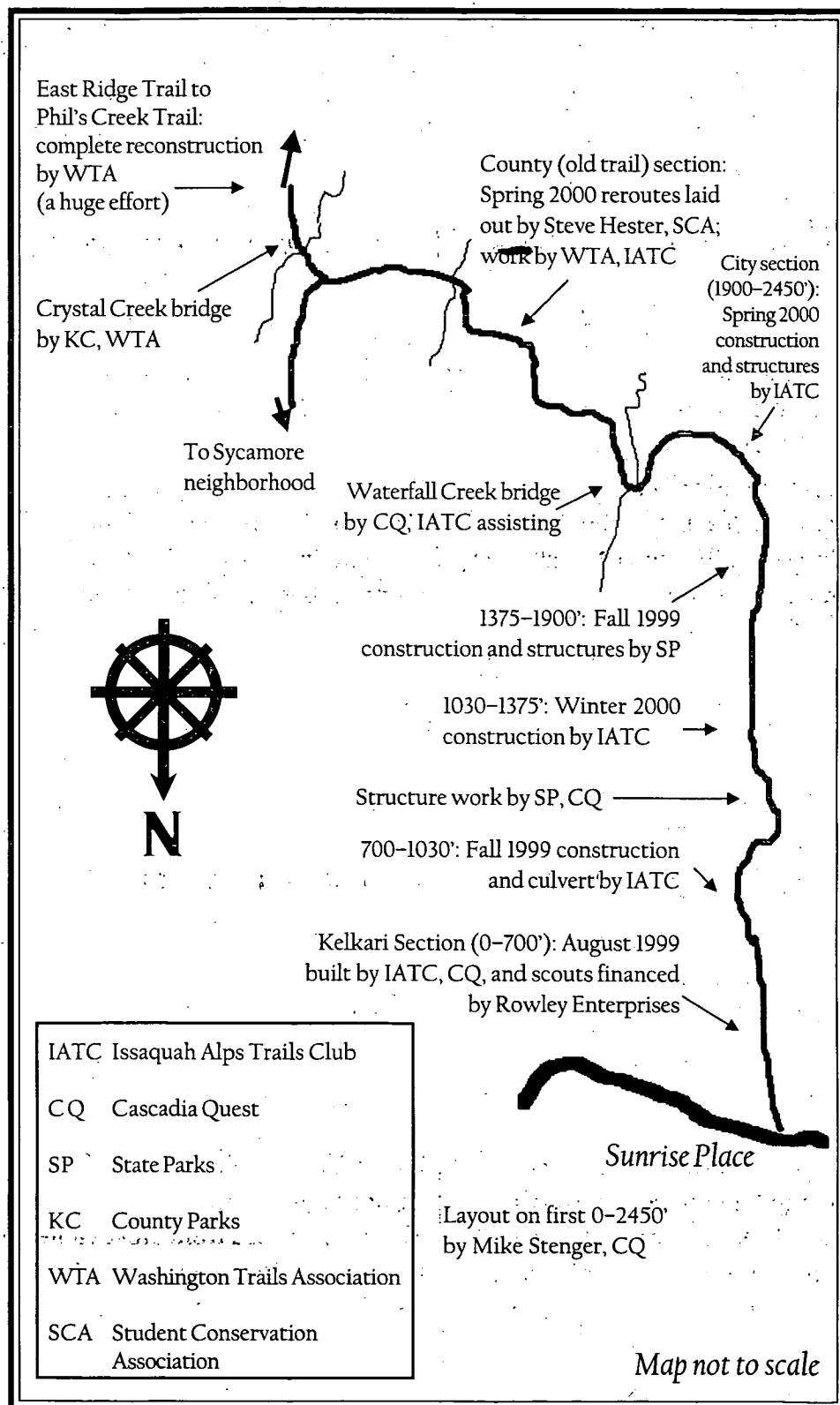
between exits 13 and 15. Call the Bellevue City Council and other city officials and tell them to reject this proposal and keep this part of I-90's south flank green.

Next quarter, we'll look at the northeast and east sides of Cougar Mountain. It is worth mentioning now that another significant connection that was lost with the development of Montreux was the extension of the informal Precipice Trail from Kline Hill Road ("the zoo road") to Peggy's Trail. Hope was held out in the platting of Montreux for a replacement easement for this route, so that's another issue to pursue (any takers?). If you want to get more involved in Cougar Mountain advocacy please contact me, the Club's Cougar Mountain Advocate, at 425-392-3466 or pollopng@juno.com. I can't even begin to do all the work that needs to be done without your help! At least consider becoming part of my e-mail network to stay abreast of current issues. A last note: Keep your eyes out for the new Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) Cougar Mountain Trail Guidebook, due out soon, which discusses the periphery at greater depth! Accompanying the release of the book, I hope to launch a Cougar Mountain website that will feature current issues for the mountain. ▲

An amazing partnership: the Squak Mountain Access/East Ridge Trail

Charles McCrone

It is the trail we thought might never get built, but long hoped for: a trail descending down the northeast side of Squak Mountain all the way to Issaquah. A very rough version had been in place for years, difficult to find. The Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) began its push for a renewed version of the route early in 1998, but two things spurred the realization of the dream: the development of the adjacent Kelkari site and the coming Mountains To Sound Greenway March. One of the difficulties of the route had always been the number of ownerships the trail passed through including private, State Parks, County Parks, and City of Issaquah jurisdictions. As you can see from the map at right, however, a partnership evolved between the four landowners and multiple volunteer groups and over the past year we have seen miles of new tread cut to give us a new and improved Squak Mountain Access/East Ridge Trail from the bottom to the very top. Coordinating the multiple groups involved was not always easy, but ultimately the cooperative project succeeded famously. It's time to celebrate an amazing partnership! ▲



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. 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. Descriptions of family hikes (annotated for hiker 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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