

# Newsletter of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club

# THE ALPINE



January ▲ February ▲ March ▲ 2001

Cougar ▲ Squak ▲ Tiger ▲ Grand Ridge

## President's report

Steven Drew

What a year it has been! The beginning of the new millennium has coincided with the celebration of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club's (IATC) 20th anniversary and the addition or improvement of many important trails, principally on Squak and Cougar mountains, which we advocated for years to achieve. Charles McCrone has completed the major task of updating the Cougar Mountain Guidebook. Our Club has made major strides in working with the public land managers to help them improve hiker access and low-impact user opportunities in each of the Alps' jurisdictions. As before, we continue in our advocacy role, but now we are participating more than ever in design, construction, and in the funding of new trails, which will enhance the hiking experience for our members.

As I look back over the many accomplishments of our Club during the past year it is clear to me that as individuals who have chosen to get involved, we have made a major difference. Though the general

population may still take the forested open space that we have been central in creating for granted, I believe major developments now underway—which will greatly increase traffic—and other signs of general overcrowding surrounding this open space will bring the true value of Harvey Manning's original vision painfully into focus. Twenty years later we remain an organization of individuals whose lives are, for the most part, much fuller than they were even 10 years ago.

Whether we chose to give back out of an individual love of hiking and a desire to preserve great local opportunities or out of respect for what Harvey and our founders started, this is a Club of individuals who continue to make a difference.

Challenges lie ahead. As available land immediately below the Cougar and Squak parkland as well as the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conservation area on Tiger Mountain develops at an amazing rate, we are challenged now more than ever to retain the many park *continued on page 5*

## Annual Meeting

Monday, January 22, 2001

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Eastside Fire and Rescue  
170 Newport Way, Issaquah  
(Refreshments provided)

### Slate of Candidates

- ♦ Frank Gilliland
- ♦ Bill Longwell
- ♦ Fred Zeitler

### Slate of Officers

- ♦ Steven Drew, President
- ♦ Frank Gilliland, Treasurer
- ♦ Kitty Gross, Secretary

### Agenda

- ♦ Approval of the 2001 budget
  - ♦ Report on hike activities
  - ♦ Trail construction/maintenance
  - ♦ Planned activities for 2001
- Call Steven Drew (425-392-4432) for more information.

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# East Lake Sammamish Trail decision near IATC backs interim use

**Ken Konigsmark**

Although the Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) normally focuses on hiking trails, we do still monitor and support actions related to connecting urban or regional trails such as the proposed East Lake Sammamish Trail (ELST). For several years, the IATC has advocated for this important 11.3-mile trail linkage connecting Issaquah to Redmond's Marymoor Park and the Sammamish River/Burke-Gilman Trail.

King County Parks has acquired the former railroad right of way and has proposed an interim-use plan that would allow pedestrians and bicyclists to utilize a gravel-surfaced trail until a formal master plan and installation of a paved surface can be accomplished. The King County Council is expected to vote on this interim-use plan in the near future. The IATC has submitted testimony in favor of opening the trail to such interim use in the

hope that a connecting trail can be provided years earlier than would be expected if master planning and full development are required prior to public use. ▲



## 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:

Steven Drew · 392-4432

Kitty Gross · 641-4393

Christina Jackson · 888-8385

Barbara Johnson · 746-5573

Ken Konigsmark · 222-4839

David Langrock · 313-1971

Bill Longwell · 222-6775

Dan McCrea · 837-0417

Charles McCrone · 392-3466

Malena McCrone · 392-3466

Fred Zeitler · 882-3435

Club Founder: Harvey Manning · 746-1017

Hikes Coordinator: Fred Zeitler · 882-3435

Membership Records: Steven Drew · 392-4432

Book Sales/Distribution: Marty Hanson · 392-2458

Volunteer Coordinator: Open

*The Alpiner*: Linda St. John · 235-2736

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Issaquah Advocate: Christina Jackson · 888-8385

Cougar Advocate: Charles McCrone · 392-3466

Squak Advocates: Steven Drew · 392-4432 and

Ken Konigsmark · 222-4839

Tiger Advocate: Larry Hanson · 392-2458

Grand Ridge Advocate:

Melinda Livingstone · 392-7455

Raging River and Preston Advocate:

Maryanne Tagney Jones · 222-7615

Rattlesnake Mountain and Taylor Mountain Advocates:

Ted Thomsen · 454-8643 and

Ralph Owen · 746-1070

Chief Ranger/Trail Maintenance Crew Chief:

Bill Longwell · 222-6775

Volunteer Trail Maintenance Coordinator:

Charles McCrone · 392-3466

MTS Greenway: Ted Thomsen · 454-8643

Legal Advice: Tom Lucas · 206-624-2650

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

Hotline: 206-328-0480

Website: [www.issaquahalps.org](http://www.issaquahalps.org)

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Articles are welcome, preferably via e-mail to:

[jlstjohn@concentric.net](mailto: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.

# Salute to the 2000 New Volunteer Trailwork Group

## Charles McCrone

Last year I kicked off 2000 with a salute to all the people who helped the New Volunteer Group achieve 719 hours of volunteer trail maintenance in the Alps in 1999.

The New Volunteer Group is my name for the "new" arm of the Club's trailwork program, which has also had a hardworking "old-timer" crew under the leadership of Bill Longwell. The "new" group has been at it since 1997, under the leadership of Scott Semans and myself. Amazingly, the New Volunteer Group beat 1999's impressive record with 789 hours of work posted between January 1 and November 5, 2000 (I couldn't even include December's event before we went to press). It is wonderful to see that we are still growing, both in terms of hours, and the number of people who have joined our list. We also grew in expertise this year, learning to build structures and "high spec" trails on Squak Mountain, and in the number of qualified crew leaders—now eight.

In 2000, we ran one or two work parties every month for the new volunteers, averaging 10 people an event. Here is where we worked in 2000:

### January – July

Squak Mountain Access Trail:  
over one-half mile of new trail!

### February

Goode's Corner Trail  
(Cougar Mountain)

### July

Telephone Trail  
(Cougar Mountain)

### August

Military Road  
(Cougar Mountain)

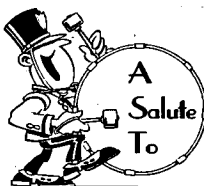
### September

East Ridge Trail  
(Squak Mountain)

### October – December

Precipice Bottom and  
Big Tree Ridge  
(Cougar Mountain)

The Trails Club wants to salute all those who came out with the New Volunteer Group in 2000.



**The Powerbrushers** (came to six or more events): Steven Drew, Frank Gilliland, Bob Gross, David Langrock, Bob Miller, Matt Neville, Steve Ott, Dan Reider, Sandra Roubal, Scott Semans, Wayne Stewart, and Jeff Warner.

**The Berry Bashers** (came to three to five events): Patrick Boland, John Johnson, David Langrock, Mike Lehrter, Zach Oaks, and David Shirk.

**The Nettle Nippers** (came to one or two events): Marguerite Carlson, Deborah Crohn, Will Cummings, Aliyah Daigheaux, Paula De Lucia, Nathan Fudge, Kitty Gross, Basil Havens, Stephen Hawley, Mike

Hilty, Jackie Hughes, Jeff Johnson, David Kappler, Boyd Kneeland, Neil Kollios, Jason Martinelli, Marshall McArthur, Pat McArthur, Buck McCrone, Malena McCrone, Greg Miller, Steve Nagygeller, Martha Neville, Alex Ott, Brian Ott, Connie Ott, Eva Peoples, Heidi Pettit, Karen Phelps, C. J. Pierce, Heather Purser, Eric Schnepf, Joyce Schnepf, Dan Shaffer, Steve Shirk, Pam Smith, Craig Sosey, Vicki Sosey, Allen Stedman, Martha Stedman, Allie Tullis, Sara Ulrich, Karen Van Peer, Bob Whitbeck, Crisha Yantis, Sara Yost, and Zac Zobell.

One of the most exciting things about 2000's list of participants is that, while we had about the same number of Berry Bashers and Nettle Nippers, our roster of Powerbrushers almost doubled. This is great news for our program; when this many workers become regulars, our confidence and skill as a team is tremendously increased and the quality and efficiency of our work is enhanced. Thanks to all of you! We would love to see more of you out in 2001! One of our main plans is to continue work in the Precipice area of Cougar Mountain, but we'll have other things on the agenda as well. To join our trailwork list, please e-mail me at [pollopng@juno.com](mailto:pollopng@juno.com). Or if you don't have e-mail, call me at 425-392-3466. ▲

## Huge Microsoft campus planned for Issaquah Highlands – IATC comments

Ken Konigsmark

Microsoft has unveiled initial plans for a huge new office campus on top of Grand Ridge just north of the new Sunset interchange. The campus is expected to have 3 to 3.5 million square feet of office space and house up to 12,000 employees. This office complex is included in agreements and plans for the Issaquah Highlands development, which also includes another 3,250 residential homes. This represents the tradeoff made for preserving four acres of public open space for every one acre converted to dense urban development.

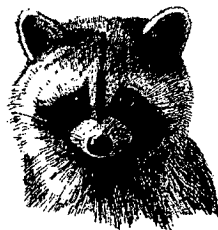
Construction is well underway on Grand Ridge with many new occupants already moved into looming multistory condos.

As a result, those familiar with the trails of Grand Ridge will find the western portion of the "Hour Trail" already gone and many areas of the Telephone Line Trail bisected by roads and clearings.

Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) Grand Ridge Advocate Melinda Livingstone and Board members David Langrock and myself met with Microsoft representatives to discuss issues related to preservation of trail linkages, connections between the office area and the public open space, and how the development might best fit into the overall Issaquah Alps area. These discussions have further included City of Issaquah staff involved in

overseeing this development.

The IATC's goals are to ensure that a viable trail system is maintained and consciously planned for as urban residential and office development proceeds; to ensure urban/regional commuter trail options are connected properly to the Grand Ridge trail system; and to ensure that trail routes within the urban area provide ready connections to the regional open space. IATC members will continue to monitor this issue as development proceeds. ▲



### Checklist:

- ☒ Food
- ☒ Water
- ☒ Daypack
- ☒ Raingear
- ☒ Warm clothes
- ☒ Hiking shoes

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

Don't leave  
the trailhead  
without them!



## Stewardship partnership

Janet O'Connell

Volunteer stewardship opportunities are now available to help care for state-owned natural areas throughout Washington including West Tiger Mountain, Mount Si, and Rattlesnake Mountain Scenic Area. These sites have been established to protect habitat and they have outstanding scenic and ecological value. In a rapidly changing Washington, these are islands of our state's past. They contain a critical piece of Washington's natural heritage—what was common but now is rare.

We are now enlisting the help of stewards to visit some of Washington's most spectacular natural areas as a Volunteer Land Steward. Volunteers will visit and monitor these Department of Natural Resources natural areas once a month from spring through fall. A commitment of at least one year is required. Training and equipment will be provided. Enjoy our natural heritage while contributing to the care of our public lands!

Please call 1-888-895-2460 or e-mail me at [natrcnct@nwlink.com](mailto:natrcnct@nwlink.com) for more information.

(Janet O'Connell is in the Stewardship Partnership Program, Volunteer Site Steward Enhancement.) ▲

## Options for Park Pointe Development under review

Ken Konigsmark

Park Pointe is a possible development being considered for the lower slope of Tiger Mountain between Issaquah High School and the border of the Tiger Mountain Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA), an area of private ownership that nearly borders the Adventure Trail. Currently, 67 acres here are zoned for urban development with existing city plans and developer First Wellington both recommending an "urban village" that would mix residential, office, and retail uses.

However, the Issaquah City Council has asked that the "vision" for the Park Pointe area be updated in light of changes that warrant a new look at what may be desired for this property. Issaquah has already vastly exceeded growth targets required under the State Growth Management Act, has had serious problems related to groundwater supplies, and has severe traffic problems that currently preclude additional development without major traffic upgrades.

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) has had longtime concerns about the Park Pointe property and the negative effects any development could potentially have on the NRCA, wildlife, surface and groundwater flows, visual aesthetics, and trails. Christina Jackson represents the IATC on a citizen team appointed by the city to review

development options. The city's update to the vision for Park Pointe will likely determine what happens, and when, on this property. The IATC believes the preferred use would be to keep this parcel as forested open space if agreement and funding can be arranged. Further updates will be provided as this issue moves forward. ▲

## President's report

*continued from page 1*

access trails and to work with land managers in order to see that these trails are improved so they will tolerate a dramatically increasing local population. When Harvey started this organization, working with a handful of others, our initial trails were located almost entirely on private property, most of which would certainly be covered with houses now if we never existed. Now, major achievements have put much of the land on the higher elevations of Squak and Cougar mountains into public ownership and we are challenged to preserve and improve the access trails impacted by the clearing presently underway in the large InterCorp development on Cougar, as well as in the Issaquah Highlands development on Grand Ridge. On the Issaquah side of Tiger Mountain,

the city's southeast bypass and the proposed residential and commercial Park Pointe Development threaten the High School Trail and other important pedestrian links to the conservation area. The bypass not only will divide Issaquah from our trail system, but also will encroach and consume many acres of DNR conservation area. Ultimately, much of the hillside above the high school and sportsman's club will be cleared and intensively developed unless our Club is successful in working with the city and others toward eliminating or minimizing the impacts of these two unfortunate projects.

Over the past several years, we have seen a decline in the number of members able and/or willing to share in the many volunteer opportunities that in the end enable us to be effective. The honest truth is that our Board and the other critical volunteers that make this Club function effectively are becoming increasingly overtaxed. We need your help and your skills to remain effective in addressing the challenges that lie ahead. Every volunteer from hike leaders and trail workers to hotline volunteers, Board members, and the editor of *The Alpiner* enables our advocates to have a greater voice for the preservation and enhancement of the Alps. In the spring, Marty Hanson who

*continued on page 10*

# January

## Monday, January 1, 10:15 a.m.

Tradition Lake Plateau Botanizing  
Hike Swamp, Big Tree, Wetlands, and other trails.  
Joint hike with Native Plant Society. Pace from slow to no depending on weather/interest in botanizing.  
1A, 3-4 miles, 100-foot gain  
Fred Weinmann 425-392-9230

## Wednesday, January 3, 9:00 a.m.

Poo Poo Point  
Hike begins at the Trails Center, walking the bike path past Issaquah High School, and onward to the view and back.  
3C, 8 miles, 1900-foot gain  
Frank Gilliland 425-603-0454

## Saturday, January 6, 9:00 a.m.

Cougar Loop  
Nice loop from Red Town to Far Country Viewpoint. Return via Coal Creek Falls.  
2B, 4-5 miles, 700-foot gain  
Barbara Johnson 425-746-5573

## Sunday, January 7, 9:00 a.m.

Squak Mountain  
Hike new trails from Trails Center to East Ridge and top of Squak Mountain.  
3C, 8 miles, 2000-foot gain  
David Langrock 425-313-1971

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

Bird Watching Hike  
Stillwater-Duvall bird watching along Snoqualmie River.  
2A, 6 miles, no gain  
Bill Longwell 425-222-6775

## Wednesday, January 10, 9:30 a.m.

Little Si  
Nice hike to an old favorite. Good views.  
2C, 5 miles, 1250-foot gain  
Jackie Hughes 425-641-3815

## Saturday, January 13, 10:00 a.m.

Cougar Lakemont/Summit Loop  
From Bellevue's Lakemont Community Park, follow Lakemont perimeter and Summit trails. A combination of old Lewis Creek Gorge and million dollar homes. Views of Lake Sammamish, Mount Baker, and Mount Rainier.  
2B, 6 miles, 1100-foot gain  
Ralph Owen 425-746-1070

## Sunday, January 14, 9:00 a.m.

Poo Poo Point and West Tiger Mountain  
Car shuttle. Hike from Issaquah High School to Poo Poo Point, then return via West Tiger RR Grade to High Point.  
3C, 9 miles, 2000-foot gain  
Tom Palm 206-783-6005

## Sunday, January 14, 10:00 a.m.

Cougar Ramble  
Red Town to Clay Pit level.  
2B, 4 miles, 500-foot gain  
Bert Drui 425-746-0709

## Monday, January 15, 9:00 a.m.

Cougar Mountain  
Walk the Coal Creek Trail down to Coal Creek Park.  
3B, 8-9 miles, 600-foot gain  
Frank Gilliland 425-603-0454

## Saturday, January 20, 9:30 a.m.

Cougar Mountain  
Loop from A-A Peak downhill along the beautiful Shangri La Trail, Surprise Creek Trail to edge of the new development. Return via Tibbetts Creek, Bear Ridge, and the "Fantastic Erratic."  
2C, 5-6 miles, 1300-foot gain  
Jamie McKenzie 425-746-6683

## Sunday, January 21, 9:00 a.m.

South Tiger Loop  
Hike the Tiger Mountain Trail (TMT) to Otter Lake. Return via bypass road/trail to great view for lunch.  
2C, 7-8 miles, 1500-foot gain  
Kay Tarapolsi 425-867-5355

## Monday, January 22, 7:00 p.m.

*Board Meeting*  
Trails Center, First and Bush streets, Issaquah

## Thursday, January 25, 9:00 a.m.

Squak Mountain  
From south trailhead, hike on new trail connecting to May Valley Trail, then on to Mount Rainier view spot. Continue to West Peak and Central Peak, and then return via Phil's Creek and equestrian trails.  
3C, 7 miles, 2000-foot gain  
Fred Zeitler 425-882-3435

## Saturday, January 27, 9:00 a.m.

Cougar Mountain  
Hike to Wilderness Peak and Long View Peak. With luck, some views of Mount Rainier.  
2C, 5 miles, 1250-foot gain  
Lauren Hutchinson 425-837-1701

## Sunday, January 28, 9:00 a.m.

Rattlesnake Ledges (3)  
Popular hike to great views of Snoqualmie Valley.  
2C, 4 miles, 1400-foot gain  
Hans Fischer 425-391-6612

# February

## Saturday, February 3, 9:00 a.m.

Tiger Mountain  
Loop hike on popular and seldom-used trails including Adventure Trail and lower portion of Section Line Trail.  
2C, 6 miles, 1400-foot gain  
Lauren Hutchinson 425-837-1701

## Sunday, February 4, 9:00 a.m.

Squak Mountain  
From Mountainside Drive trailhead up to Central Peak and Bullitt Fireplace. Return via Chybinski Trail and Mount Rainier viewpoint.  
2C, 6 miles, 1600-foot gain  
Paul Hutchinson 425-837-1701

## Wednesday, February 7, 9:00 a.m.

Poo Poo Point  
From the Trails Center past Issaquah High School up to views of the top.  
3C, 8 miles, 1900-foot gain  
Frank Gilliland 425-603-0454

## Saturday, February 10, 9:00 a.m.

Little Si  
Old favorite with nice views.  
2C, 5 miles, 1250-foot gain  
Kay Tarapolsi 425-867-5355

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

Tiger Plateau Ramble  
Swamp Trail and two lakes.  
1A/2A, 3-4 miles, 300-foot gain  
Bert Drui 425-746-0709

## Sunday, February 11, 9:00 a.m.

West Tiger 1  
Strenuous hike from Preston.  
3C, 9 miles, 2500-foot gain  
Tom Palm 206-783-6005

## Wednesday, February 14, 9:00 a.m.

Rattlesnake Ledges (3)  
Popular hike to views from ledges. No "lovers' leap" this year.  
2C, 4 miles, 1400-foot gain  
Frank Gilliland 425-603-0454

## Saturday, February 17, 10:00 a.m.

Tiger Mountain  
Nook loop to the caves. Slow pace.  
2B, 4 miles, 700-foot gain  
Trudy Ecob 206-232-2933

## Sunday, February 18, 8:30 a.m.

Squak Mountain Traverse  
From south trailhead, one-way hike to downtown Issaquah. Car shuttle.  
3C, 8 miles, 2000-foot gain  
Joe Toynbee 206-723-6716

## Monday, February 19, 9:00 a.m.

Twin Falls to Halls Creek  
Hike up through Twin Falls State Park and over to new trestle on John Wayne Trail.  
2B, 7 miles, 1200-foot gain  
Fred Zeitler 425-882-3435

## Saturday, February 24, 8:30 a.m.

West Tiger 1 and 2  
Climb to Tiger Mountain's second and fourth highest peaks via Chirico, One View, Poo top, West Tiger RR Grade trails, and others.  
3D, 8-10 miles, 3400-foot gain  
Ralph Owen 425-746-1070

## Sunday, February 25, 9:00 a.m.

Cougar Mountain Loop  
Hike to Wilderness Peak from Wilderness Creek Trailhead. Mount Rainier views.  
2B, 4 miles, 1200-foot gain  
Kay Tarapolsi 425-867-5355

## Monday, February 26, 7:00 p.m.

*Board Meeting*  
Trails Center, First and Bush streets, Issaquah

## Wednesday, February 28, 7:00 p.m.

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

# March

## Saturday, March 3, 9:00 a.m.

Squak Mountain  
Hike from south trailhead on new trail to May Valley Trail and on to Bullitt Fireplace and Central Peak. Return via Phil's Creek Trail.  
2C, 6 miles, 1800-foot gain  
Kay Tarapolsi 425-867-5355

## Sunday, March 4, 9:00 a.m.

Poo Poo Point and West Tiger 3  
From Issaquah High School to hang glider takeoff, then to High Point via One View and TMT to West Tiger 3.  
3C, 9 miles, 2500-foot gain  
Tom Palm 206-783-6005

## Wednesday, March 7, 9:00 a.m.

South Tiger Loop  
Hike TMT to Otter Lake. Return via bypass road/trail to great view.  
2C, 7-8 miles, 1500-foot gain  
Frank Gilliland 425-603-0454

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

Tiger Mountain  
Nook loop to the caves. Slow pace.  
2B, 4 miles, 700-foot gain  
Trudy Ecob 206-232-2933

## Sunday, March 11, 9:00 a.m.

Cougar Mountain  
Wilderness Peak and Long View Peak loop. With luck, some views of Mount Rainier.  
2C, 5 miles, 1250-foot gain  
Karen Van Pelt 425-747-9381

## Monday, March 12, 9:00 a.m.

Little Si and Moss Vistas (2)  
Climb Little Si for views of the Snoqualmie Valley and then continue to two mossy viewpoints along the lower edges of Mount Si.  
3C, 9 miles, 2000-foot gain  
Peggy Owen 425-746-1070

## Saturday, March 17, 9:00 a.m.

East Tiger Mountain  
Hike through the woods from Preston to Tiger Mountain's highest peak. *Strenuous*. Note: This is a joint hike with SVTC. Meeting place is Preston Park and Ride (exit 22-off I-90).  
4D, 10-11 miles, 2800-foot gain  
Ralph Owen 425-746-1070

## Saturday, March 17, 10:00 a.m.

Cougar Mountain  
Ramble from Clay Pit Road trailhead.  
2A, 4 miles, 300-foot gain  
Bert Drui 425-746-0709

## Sunday, March 18, 10:00 a.m.

Cougar Mountain  
Starting at Licorice Fern Trail to Far Country and beyond.  
2C, 5 miles, 1300-foot gain  
Bob Gross 425-427-8449

## Saturday, March 24, 9:00 a.m.

Squak Mountain  
From Mountainside Drive trailhead to Bullitt Fireplace and then Mount Rainier view. Return via Chybinski Trail.  
2C, 6 miles, 1500-foot gain  
Lauren Hutchinson 425-837-1701

## Sunday, March 25, 9:00 a.m.

West Tiger 2  
From High Point via the TMT to the third highest Tiger Mountain peak.  
3C, 8 miles, 2400-foot gain  
David Langrock 425-313-1971

## Monday, March 26, 9:00 a.m.

Twin Falls to Mount Washington  
Hike through Twin Falls State Park, then up the Mount Washington Trail to the Climber's viewpoint.  
3C, 8 miles, 2500-foot gain  
Peggy Owen 425-746-1070

## Monday, March 26, 7:00 p.m.

*Board Meeting*  
Trails Center, First and Bush streets, Issaquah

## Saturday, March 31, 9:00 a.m.

Tiger Mountain  
Loop on lower slopes of West Tiger. Hike TMT to Lingering Loop. Return via High Point Trail and road.  
2C, 6 miles, 1400-foot gain  
Hans Fischer 425-391-6612

### Required on all hikes

- ☒ Food
- ☒ Water
- ☒ Daypack
- ☒ Raingear
- ☒ Warm clothes
- ☒ Hiking shoes



# 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.

*continued on page 9*

# Options for Park Pointe Development under review

Ken Konigsmark

Park Pointe is a possible development being considered for the lower slope of Tiger Mountain between Issaquah High School and the border of the Tiger Mountain Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA), an area of private ownership that nearly borders the Adventure Trail. Currently, 67 acres here are zoned for urban development with existing city plans and developer First Wellington both recommending an "urban village" that would mix residential, office, and retail uses.

However, the Issaquah City Council has asked that the "vision" for the Park Pointe area be updated in light of changes that warrant a new look at what may be desired for this property. Issaquah has already vastly exceeded growth targets required under the State Growth Management Act, has had serious problems related to groundwater supplies, and has severe traffic problems that currently preclude additional development without major traffic upgrades.

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) has had longtime concerns about the Park Pointe property and the negative effects any development could potentially have on the NRCA, wildlife, surface and groundwater flows, visual aesthetics, and trails. Christina Jackson represents the IATC on a citizen team appointed by the city to review

development options. The city's update to the vision for Park Pointe will likely determine what happens, and when, on this property. The IATC believes the preferred use would be to keep this parcel as forested open space if agreement and funding can be arranged. Further updates will be provided as this issue moves forward. ▲

## President's report

*continued from page 1*

access trails and to work with land managers in order to see that these trails are improved so they will tolerate a dramatically increasing local population. When Harvey started this organization, working with a handful of others, our initial trails were located almost entirely on private property, most of which would certainly be covered with houses now if we never existed. Now, major achievements have put much of the land on the higher elevations of Squak and Cougar mountains into public ownership and we are challenged to preserve and improve the access trails impacted by the clearing presently underway in the large InterCorp development on Cougar, as well as in the Issaquah Highlands development on Grand Ridge. On the Issaquah side of Tiger Mountain,

the city's southeast bypass and the proposed residential and commercial Park Pointe Development threaten the High School Trail and other important pedestrian links to the conservation area. The bypass not only will divide Issaquah from our trail system, but also will encroach and consume many acres of DNR conservation area. Ultimately, much of the hillside above the high school and sportsman's club will be cleared and intensively developed unless our Club is successful in working with the city and others toward eliminating or minimizing the impacts of these two unfortunate projects.

Over the past several years, we have seen a decline in the number of members able and/or willing to share in the many volunteer opportunities that in the end enable us to be effective. The honest truth is that our Board and the other critical volunteers that make this Club function effectively are becoming increasingly overtaxed. We need your help and your skills to remain effective in addressing the challenges that lie ahead. Every volunteer from hike leaders and trail workers to hotline volunteers, Board members, and the editor of *The Alpiner* enables our advocates to have a greater voice for the preservation and enhancement of the Alps. In the spring, Marty Hanson who *continued on page 10*

# 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.

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*continued on page 9*



*continued from page 8*

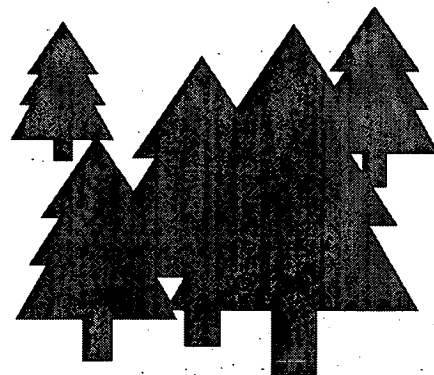
### **Trail Maintenance**

Volunteers periodically organize and schedule trail maintenance parties as listed in the hikes schedule. Work parties meet (see *Meeting Place* on previous page) at the same place as regular hikes. The Club is well supplied with heavy trail maintenance tools, but workers may also bring their own loppers, weed whackers, and other tools.

Trail work parties last at least four

hours. Trail maintenance is vital to the Club's work and is an integral part of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) management plan for Tiger Mountain. Work parties must limit their activity to trails listed by the DNR as scheduled for maintenance. Construction of new trails is not allowed. Work parties are a great way to meet people! Individuals and groups are encouraged to adopt a

trail—or section of trail—and take the responsibility of maintaining it. ▲



## **Issaquah Alps Trails Club Membership Application**

Post Office Box 351, Issaquah, Washington 98027

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

▲ All memberships cover the entire family.

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

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

▲ Lifetime memberships at \$200 give us room to be creative and visionary and to venture forth on projects otherwise beyond our means and dreams.



### **I would like to volunteer with the Club in the area(s) of:**

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

## President's report

*continued from page 5*

has served as our book sales/distribution manager for well over a decade will retire. Marty deserves immense gratitude from our entire membership for her management of this important and time-consuming task. Though we have found her replacement in Scott Semans (who is already active in trail design, construction, and maintenance), this change of responsibility brings to the surface our increasing need for additional members to become active in the various Club activities and leadership roles. So come to our annual meeting or pick up the telephone and call me or any Board member and explore ways to help with operations, advocacy, or with specific projects! Our numbers listed at the bottom of page 2 are intended for your use.

I don't know about you, but for me early spring (between rainstorms) is my favorite time to explore the Alps and to enjoy the regional views that can best be seen at this time of year. I hope to see you out there! ▲



The conclusion to Charles McCrone's series on "Cougar Mountain: four points of the compass" will appear in the next edition of *The Alpiner*.

## The miracle of Precipice Bottom

**Charles McCrone**

When a large tract of land below the Precipice, on the northeast flank of Cougar Mountain, was clearcut about five years ago, the trail through Big Tree Swale was destroyed. When volunteer trailworkers punched a replacement trail through the clearcut in the spring of 1998, there wasn't much thought beyond just keeping the trail connection on the map—an act of stubborn defiance, and an act that seemed at the time to be of dubious value. And when I wrote in my recent Cougar Mountain Guidebook that the new trail through the clearcut offered "hikers a rare opportunity to witness the changes in a gradually regenerating nature," I guessed that I was being overly optimistic but what the heck.

Precipice Bottom Trail, however, had a surprise for me when I hiked it last November. We dropped into the Swale and all of a sudden I had the feeling that I was in a forest, with the new alder now tall enough to frame the trail. What had still felt like a naked and exposed hillside the last time I'd been there all of a sudden had gained that sense of within-ness, of an enclosed space, that marks the typical walk through the woods. My experience along this new trail is novel for me in that every other trail I've walked and cared has been a part of the wood around it from the moment I first discovered it, the two elements

integrated and inseparable. But here, the wood is literally growing up around the trail as I watch. And this clearcut has regenerated far faster than I expected or hoped. I came out of the Swale with a wonderful sense of vindication, that my optimism was far truer than I even knew.

*(To walk Precipice Bottom Trail, walk up Westside Reservoir Road [one road south of Goodes Place off SR 900] to the Issaquah Reservoir. On the far side of the reservoir, look for the start of the Telephone Trail and hike up this trail to the first signed junction on the right; this is Precipice Bottom Trail and the clearcut is a few gorges ahead.) ▲*

### Conversation with a Coal Miner

**January 25, 2001**

**7:00–8:30 p.m.**

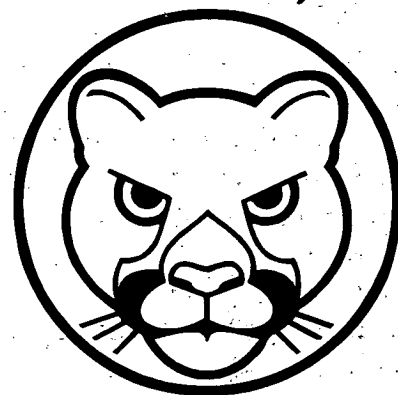
The King County Park System and Newcastle Historical Society will have retired coal miner Milt Swanson share stories, mining memorabilia, and photographs about the history of coal mining in the Newcastle area. Swanson worked from 1948–1962 in the mines located in what is now Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park. Call to register at 206-296-4171. Meet at the Issaquah Library. ▲

# Rediscover Cougar Mountain

*(or experience it for the first time)...*

...WITH THE BRAND NEW, COMPLETELY  
REVISED AND UPDATED

2000 EDITION



GUIDE TO TRAILS OF COUGAR MOUNTAIN  
HOT OFF THE PRESSES AND AVAILABLE NOW!

Author Charles McCrone, the IATC's Cougar Mountain Advocate, spent two years revising and adding new text to Harvey Manning and Ralph Owen's classic 1991 edition. New features include:

- ◆ An informative new foreword by Harvey Manning, How We Got the Park
- ◆ A complete roster of Bellevue Parks, City of Newcastle, and Precipice area trails
- ◆ Expanded list of 21 trailheads complete with driving directions
- ◆ Photos of trail features
- ◆ Easier to read format with:
  - ◆ separate background and description sections for each trail
  - ◆ special features noted for each trail
  - ◆ hikes for kids markers
  - ◆ trails keyed to King County Parks numbering system and signs
- ◆ A new Superloops section and Afterword
- ◆ All trail descriptions completely updated to reflect a decade of change on Cougar Mountain: new acquisitions, the Park Master Plan, new City Parks trails, trail reroutes and changes, East Village trail planning, and more!

Each book comes with the 1999 IATC Cougar Mountain Map enclosed.

A preview of the Guidebook (with two sample trail descriptions and a complete list of featured trails) is available on the web at: [www.issaquahalps.org/cougar.htm](http://www.issaquahalps.org/cougar.htm).

To order your copy of the Guidebook, see the mail order information on page 12 or it will be available at REI soon—maybe as soon as you read this!

## 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 flower-

where many of the plants can be found. \$9

(includes shipping and handling).

### ▲ *Guide to the Trails of Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park and Surrounds*

By Charles McCrone. 2000 edition. Completely up-

dated version gives historical background and descrip-

tions for every park trail, plus 30 other trails in the

surrounding area including Bellevue, Newcastle,

Renton, and the Precipice. \$15 (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

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).

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