

# Newsletter of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club

# THE ALPINE



April ▲ May ▲ June ▲ 2001

Cougar ▲ Squak ▲ Tiger ▲ Grand Ridge

## President's report

Steven Drew

Well, spring is upon us and the Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) is off to another great start. This is the quarter for enjoying those less-traveled trails, catching your first sight of trillium and other early bloomers, and swinging your arms freely without threat of striking any nettles. This is also the best time of year to pitch in on trail maintenance and construction projects. Each spring there is much to do and helping out is a great way to get to know some of your fellow members. During the spring and early summer we will also reinvest some of the dues and donation dollars that we have succeeded in squirreling away into much needed improvements on outdated/over-used trails and for the design and construction of new ones.

This year promises to be a busy one for those willing to invest time aimed at defending the Alps against the many public and private projects that threaten the open spaces we value so highly. If you are interested in helping us work any of these issues or simply have a

concern in a specific area, start by contacting the advocate for that region, Ken Konigsmark, or myself and give us a heads up or help us be more effective. Should new large developments be allowed to go in adjacent to East Village? Should the developer of Issaquah Highlands be allowed to get off without providing any funding for trails that link with the existing Grand Ridge trail system? Should the City of Issaquah allow the massive Park Pointe development to go forward? And how about the infamous SE bypass, shouldn't the city abandon this effort in favor of the "no build alternative"? Wouldn't the entire valley and its residents really be better served if the Issaquah/Hobart Road and the new Sunset Interchange were linked by improvements to existing roadways like Sunset and 2nd Avenue South? Wouldn't this save tens of millions, protect the environment, and minimize impacts on access trails to Tiger Mountain while reducing traffic noise throughout the valley? So maybe you've done some

trailwork or spoken as a member at a public meeting and need a break. Or maybe you're just working yourself too hard. Have you been hiking the same trail for years? Are you in need of a change, but not looking for an uncertain adventure? All you have to do is consult the hikes schedule and you can be assured of an enjoyable hike with one of our well-informed leaders and you might get to know a new Alps treasure and become acquainted with some of your fellow members. And about that trail that you know so well, how about calling Fred Zeitler and offering to lead a hike there in the next quarter. If

*continued on page 10*

---

## In this issue . . .

Cougar Mountain .....	3
That cabin on Squak .....	4
Major land deal .....	5
Hikers' corner .....	5
Hikes Schedule .....	6-7
Park Pointe options .....	10

# The Apparatus

*Whenever possible, please  
use e-mail to contact any  
member listed below.*

## President

Steven Drew · 392-4432 · sdrewassoc@aol.com

## Vice President, Advocacy

Ken Konigsmark · 957-5094 · kenneth.konigsmark@pss.boeing.com

## Vice President, Operations

Barbara Johnson · 746-5573 · grtblue@worldnet.att.net

## Treasurer

Frank Gilliland · 603-0454 · fbg@uswest.net

## Secretary

Kitty Gross · 641-4393 · akgross@aol.com

## Board of Directors

Steven Drew · 392-4432 · sdrewassoc@aol.com

Frank Gilliland · 603-0454 · fbg@uswest.net

Kitty Gross · 641-4393 · akgross@aol.com

Christina Jackson · 888-8385 · christina@tigermtnacupuncture.com

Barbara Johnson · 746-5573 · grtblue@worldnet.att.net

Ken Konigsmark · 957-5094 · kenneth.konigsmark@pss.boeing.com

David Langrock · 313-1971 · david@langrock.net

Bill Longwell · 222-6775 · wk-gi-longwell@email.msn.com

Scott Semans · 369-1725 · ssemans@aol.com

Fred Zeitler · 882-3435 · marianzzz@aol.com

## Club Founder

Harvey Manning · 746-1017 · pmanning@sttl.uswest.net

## Hikes Coordinator

Fred Zeitler · 882-3435 · marianzzz@aol.com

## Membership Records

Frank Gilliland · 603-0454 · fbg@uswest.net

## Book Sales/Distribution

Scott Semans · 369-1725 · ssemans@aol.com

## Webmaster

David Langrock · 313-1971 · david@langrock.net

## The Alpiner

Linda St. John · 235-2736 · jlstjohn@foxinternet.com

## Advocates

Issaquah: Christina Jackson · 888-8385 · christina@tigermtnacupuncture.com

Cougar Mountain: Charles McCrone · 392-3466 · pollopng@juno.com

Squak Mountain:

Steven Drew · 392-4432 · sdrewassoc@aol.com

Ken Konigsmark · 957-5094 · kenneth.konigsmark@pss.boeing.com

Tiger Mountain: Larry Hanson · 392-2458 · larmarhan@aol.com

Grand Ridge: Melinda Livingstone · 392-7455 · melindal@blarg.net

Raging River/Preston:

Maryanne Tagney Jones · 222-7615 · branches@halcyon.com

Rattlesnake Mountain/Taylor Mountain:

Ted Thomsen · 454-8643

Ralph Owen · 746-1070

## Chief Ranger/Trail Maintenance Crew Chief

Bill Longwell · 222-6775 · wk-gi-longwell@email.msn.com

## Volunteer Trail Maintenance Coordinator

Scott Semans · 369-1725 · ssemans@aol.com

## Mountains To Sound Greenway

Ted Thomsen · 454-8643

## Job Opening

**No Pay, but great hours  
and lots of fame!**

After three years as *The Alpiner* editor, Linda St. John is ready to step down. Linda has done an awesome job of bringing our newsletter up to date with the latest in graphics and layout. She is moving on to other things and we will miss her bright smile and hard work.

The Board of IATC is looking for someone to take over the quarterly job of editing the newsletter. Members submit all the articles, so most of the work of the editor is layout. Barbara Johnson will continue to assist by proofreading and acting as publisher for content. If you have a computer and/or editing skills and would like to help out the Trails Club, please call Barbara Johnson at 425-746-5573 or Steven Drew at 425-392-4432 for more information. ▲

## Note:

*All telephone numbers are area code  
425 unless otherwise noted.*

Hotline: 206-328-0480

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

*The Alpiner* is published in January, April, July, and October by Issaquah Alps Trails Club, Post Office Box 351, Issaquah, Washington 98027.

Subscriptions: \$15/year.

Distribution: Rodi Ludlum

Articles are welcome, preferably via e-mail to: [jlstjohn@foxinternet.com](mailto:jlstjohn@foxinternet.com).

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.

# Cougar Mountain: south (last point of the compass)

Charles McCrone

This article is the fifth 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.

We left off two quarters ago discussing the east flank of Cougar Mountain and the coming development of East Village. Much of the south end of that development, fortunately, is dedicated as permanent open space, a tremendous contribution to the idea of a wildlife corridor connecting the park to Squak Mountain. South of the East Village project (with one intervening strip of private land) is another wide green swath where the park extends down to State Route 900; this area is best known for the Wilderness Creek Trailhead. Not much is likely to change on this SE flank, save for the development of the former Sunset Quarry into a King County Park and trailhead for both Cougar and Squak. The quarry is on the Squak side of the road just a ways north of Wilderness Creek.

There are two more hot spots to touch on before we complete our tour of Cougar's periphery. First is the Far Country Trail. Though largely outside of the park, the Far Country Trail continues south from

a junction with the Indian Trail (W7) just inside the southern park boundary. This informal trail travels along Far Country Creek almost to May Valley Road on a guaranteed public easement, shadowing the backyards of several homes along the north end of 171st before crossing Licorice Way and descending into the famed Trog Swamp. Public access to this trail is guaranteed at both the north end of 171st, where King County bought out several lots, and at the road crossing, but thanks to the beneficence of a local landowner, the public has also had an unofficial southern trailhead for this trail at "the Gardens" just off May Valley Road. The owner and the Club have been working with King County for several years toward making this an official and permanent exit point for the trail. At the time of this writing, King County continues to be painfully slow in sealing this deal, and if you are interested in this issue, I encourage you to check with me on its current status. Your voice as to the value of having this southernmost trailhead for Cougar Mountain at virtually zero public cost may be helpful! Our overwhelmed thanks to the owners of the Gardens, who have provided this access for years as a gift to the public and who have been very patient with the bureaucratic work required to make it official.

On the southwest flank of the mountain, just west of the Far Country Trail easement, lies the largest tract of still undeveloped land adjacent to the park. Encompassing the northeast quarter of section 2 on the map, this is property owned in common by the heirs of the original homesteading De Leo couple. This wild and historic property protects the viewscape of the Curious Valley between Licorice Fern and Red Town, and would certainly be a tremendous addition to the park, if that could be achieved while properly honoring both its historic identity and the wishes of its owners. As Cougar Mountain advocate, I am continuing to work toward this goal.

With the De Leo property, we have completed our clockwise tour of the compass, returning again to the vicinity of May Creek and the Highlands at Newcastle. As is the way in a fast developing environment, some of the issues discussed a year ago when I wrote on the west point of the compass have already changed, so this was by no means a static picture of Cougar's periphery. To get a continual update on all the important happenings on Cougar, check the Issaquah Alps website at [www.issaquahalps.org](http://www.issaquahalps.org) and join my e-mail Cougar Advocacy network at [pollopng@juno.com](mailto:pollopng@juno.com). ▲

# That cabin on Squak

**Bill Longwell**

Tucked away from sight and hidden beside a musical stream in a grove of Squak Mountain's tallest evergreen trees, a cabin has stood now for 24 years. During the 10 years it warmed and fed and slept its builders and their various visitors, this eight-by-12-foot cabin provided a secret and peaceful shelter from the noisy school day and a place to spend a darkening afternoon before the climb to the summit and the walk home.

This cabin, built over a period of four years, was a culmination of much dreaming and planning. In the late 1960s and during the 1970s, few walked on Squak Mountain. It wasn't until late 1971 that anyone found an entrance into the Phil's Creek Valley, where this cabin stands. It was late November 1971 that Thrush Gap saw its first visitors and for years they walked alone in this quiet and seldom-visited corner of Squak.

They walked here for two years before discovering the cabin site.

In the first years of its existence, cabin visitors looked from its wide front windows downslope to see the lights of small-town Issaquah. They heard outside its protective walls large animals rummaging in the nearby forest and the howls of coyotes baying just outside the door. They shared space with wall-climbing mice, with deer curious about the noises inside the walls,

and with dogs, occasionally sniffing their way along nearby hidden paths.

This cabin stood about 100 concealed yards above a decaying stringer bridge that once carried ancient logging trucks to May Valley. From that bridge, if one looked from just the correct angle, one could see buried in that dense stand of trees the cabin's large windows.

This cabin warmed its visitors during the coldest nights of winter, during several foot-deep snowfalls, and cooled them during an evening so warm its sleepers lay outside their sleeping bags. The cabin builders kept the nights in mind when they planned its construction. And, it is the memory of the nights in the Squak cabin that lingers in the musings of those who were fortunate enough to sleep there.

The builders assembled this cabin piece by piece. Every nail, every part of the frame, every piece of its plywood shell came two and a half miles up the Phil's Creek Trail on the backs of Phil Hall and myself. It took four years and 56 five-mile roundtrips to carry up enough materials to complete this cabin.

Most of the building came up on my back. I often carried heavy loads up that trail. I parked at Phil's house, loaded my pack frame with building materials stored in his garage, climbed the steep road to

the trail, and trudged along Phil's Creek and Thrush Gap to the hidden cabin site. Only once did I drive to the summit with a supply of materials. I took the chance that no one would find me driving the road or see me unloading. I drove back to Phil's and raced up the trail to retrieve my load and cart it downhill to the cabin site. That drive saved me four or five pack trips.

I carried 80-pound loads of plywood, dunnage my dad had saved for me from his work. I found it easy to carry that much weight 25 years ago. My only difficulty was crossing the two-foot-wide stringer logs on the old bridge below the rising cabin. I always picked my way carefully across that old bridge when carrying such heavy loads.

But on one occasion on my passage across that 20-foot log, I tripped on a protruding knot and fell headfirst from the bridge into the creek, about six feet below. I dove into that creek, expecting the worst, but somehow my heavy load slipped over my head and broke my fall. I was pinned upside down until I unbuckled my pack frame. I didn't know it at the time, but I broke my collarbone in that fall. I never told anyone, never went to the doctor, but was sore for some time. Today my collarbone sports a good-sized knot, a souvenir from that fall.

In July 1975, Phil Hall and I

*(continued on page 10)*

## Major land deal to preserve forestland and trail links

Ken Konigsmark

A complex land transaction involving King County, the City of Snoqualmie, Weyerhaeuser Real Estate, Puget Western, and the Cascade Land Conservancy was announced on February 14 that will significantly benefit the Issaquah Alps area and local trail connections. Most importantly, this deal will protect the Raging River basin from development, ensuring a continued forest linkage between Rattlesnake Mountain to the east, Tiger Mountain to the west, and the Cedar River Watershed and Taylor Mountain Forest to the south.

The deal will accomplish the following as a specific set of actions related to additional development approvals for Snoqualmie Ridge occurs:

- ▶ 145 acres above and across from Snoqualmie Falls, which had been slated for intense development, will instead be permanently protected.
- ▶ 2900 acres of Weyerhaeuser ownership along the east edge of SR-18 between Tiger and Rattlesnake mountains will be protected from any development while allowing forestry operations to continue.
- ▶ An additional 7000 acres in the Raging River basin owned by Sunkist Fruit Growers is also expected to be protected from any future development.
- ▶ A permanent trail connection is

to be built between public lands on Tiger and Rattlesnake mountains and additional trails established, which may be rerouted as future harvests occur.

- ▶ 600 acres more of Weyerhaeuser forestland straddling both the Preston-Snoqualmie Trail and the Snoqualmie Valley Trail will be permanently protected from development and Weyerhaeuser will contribute \$1 million toward a trail bridge crossing of the Snoqualmie River.

These positive actions will occur in phases as plans and approvals for additional development on 700 acres adjacent to the existing Phase 1 of Snoqualmie Ridge occur. The overall deal encompasses a comprehensive solution to balancing future, focused urban growth in Snoqualmie with preservation of thousands of acres of surrounding forestland.

For Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) interests, this transaction represents a major accomplishment. It will ensure permanent forest and trail connections in the last missing block of private land that connects all the Issaquah Alps. Now there will exist an unbroken linkage of large blocks of forestlands stretching from the shore of Lake Washington through Coal Creek Park to Cougar Mountain Wildland Park to Squak Mountain State Park to Tiger Mountain State Forest, and now across the Raging River basin

to the Rattlesnake Mountain Scenic Management Area. Cascade Land Conservancy deserves great credit for successfully negotiating such a complex, multiparty agreement. ▲

## Hikers' corner

Fred Zeitler



The year 2000 proved to be a record for Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) hiker turnout. We had 149 scheduled events (hikes, work parties, etc.) attended by 1393 hikers. We had only six rainouts, thus our average attendance per event was 10 people. The most frequented hikes were 2B (56 hikes), 2C (33 hikes), and 3C (27 hikes). On a typical hike, we had 80 percent members and 20 percent non-members.

During the year we welcomed 10 new hike leaders: Hans Fischer, Frank Gilliland, Kitty Gross, Jackie Hughes, Lauren and Paul Hutchinson, David Langrock, Tom Palm, Kay Tarapolsi, and Karen Van Pelt. I'd like to extend my thanks to the old guard of hike leaders and welcome the new ones to the ranks of IATC leaders.

See you on the trails. ▲

# April

Daylight-saving  
time begins April 1

## Sunday, April 1, 9:00 a.m.

Trail Maintenance Work Party  
All volunteers welcome. For more information,  
contact Scott Semans 425-369-1725.

## Sunday, April 1, 12:30 p.m.

Poo Poo Point  
Short hike up with the hang gliders with views to  
Mount Rainier and Mount Baker.  
2C, 5 miles, 1700-foot gain  
Fred Zeitler 425-882-3435

## Monday, April 2, 10:30 a.m.

Preston Trail and Snoqualmie Ridge  
Hard trails, soft trails, sidewalks, and views. Slow/  
moderate pace.  
2B, 6 miles, 550-foot gain  
Warren Jones 425-888-0262

## Wednesday, April 4, 9:00 a.m.

Rattlesnake Ledges (3)  
Short workout hike, great views.  
2C, 4 miles, 1400-foot gain  
Frank Gilliland 425-603-0454

## Saturday, April 7, 8:30 a.m.

Squak Mountain  
Hike new trails from Trails Center to East Ridge and  
Central Peak.  
3C, 8-10 miles, 2500-foot gain  
David Langrock 425-313-1971

## Saturday, April 7, 12:30 p.m.

Cougar Mountain  
Walk the Coal Creek Trail to Coal Creek Park. Small  
loop on return.  
3C, 8-9 miles, 1300-foot gain  
Frank Gilliland 425-603-0454

## Sunday, April 8, 9:00 a.m.

West Tiger 3, 2, 1  
Good workout and views to West Tiger peaks.  
3D, 8-10 miles, 2700-foot gain  
Lynn Lively 206-789-0550

## Sunday, April 8, 9:30 a.m.

Lake Sammamish State Park  
Leisurely ramble through the park.  
2A, 4-5 miles, zero elevation gain  
Jamie McKenzie 425-746-6683

## Monday, April 9, 10:00 a.m.

Grouse Ridge #2 and #3  
This is a road walk, but the upper ends are car free.  
Some scenic views.  
2C, 6 miles, 1300-foot gain  
Warren Jones 425-888-0262

## Wednesday, April 11, 9:00 a.m.

Mount Si  
Favorite with great views; stop short of snow/ice.  
3D, 6-8 miles, 3200 to 3400-foot gain  
Frank Gilliland 425-603-0454

## Saturday, April 14, 8:30 a.m.

Tiger Mountain Medley  
Hike a 9-mile loop using 8 trails.  
4D, 9 miles, 3000-foot gain  
Ron Howatson 425-392-8344

## Saturday, April 14, 10:00 a.m.

Cougar Mountain  
History hike to Old Newcastle.  
2A, 5 miles, 250-foot gain  
Bert Drui 425-746-0709

## Sunday, April 15, 9:30 a.m.

Cedar Butte  
Loop hike to Cedar Butte with views of Snoqualmie  
valleys. Return to Rattlesnake Lake the long way.  
Easy pace.  
2B, 5 miles, 800-foot gain  
Peggy Owen 425-746-1070

## Thursday, April 19, 9:00 a.m.

TMT Flower Hike  
Identify trees, shrubs, and flowers. Slow pace.  
2A, 3 miles, 500-foot gain.  
Bill Longwell 425-222-6775

## Saturday, April 21, 9:00 a.m.

Tradition Lake Ramble  
Explore favorite trails on the Tradition Lake Plateau.  
2A/2B, 4-5 miles, 500-foot (±) gain  
Barbara Johnson 425-746-5573

## Sunday, April 22, 9:00 a.m.

Squak 3 Peak Loop  
Begin and end at Trails Center. Visit southeast,  
central, and west peaks of Squak Mountain. Route  
will include East Ridge Trail, Chybinski, and other  
trails. Return via historic cemetery. Hike includes a  
short, easy off-trail segment.  
3C/3D, 8 miles, 2500-foot (±) gain  
Ralph Owen 425-746-1070

## Monday, April 23, 7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting  
Trails Center, First and Bush streets, Issaquah

## Thursday, April 26, 9:00 a.m.

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

## Saturday, April 28, 9:00 a.m.

Tiger Mountain  
Loop hike on popular and seldom-used trails  
including Nook and Adventure trails.  
2C, 6 miles, 1400-foot gain  
Lauren Hutchinson 425-837-1701

## Saturday, April 28, 9:15 a.m.

WomenWalk Hikes (2)  
2A, John Wayne Trail to Rattlesnake Lake  
Aurela Sequoia 425-888-2683  
2B, Wilderness Peak  
Melinda Livingstone 425-392-7455

## Sunday, April 29, 8:00 a.m.

West Tiger RR Grade  
Hike the entire West Tiger RR Grade from Poo Poo  
Point to Preston. Car shuttle.  
3C, 11 miles, 2000-foot (+) gain  
Tom Palm 206-783-6005

## Sunday, April 29, 10:00 a.m.

Middle Tiger  
Hike to Middle Tiger from Tiger Pass.  
3C, 8 miles, 1300-foot gain  
Bob Gross 425-427-8449

# May

## Friday, May 4, 6:30 p.m.

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

## Saturday, May 5, 9:00 a.m.

Cougar Mountain Loop  
Hike to 4 peaks on Cougar with views from 3 of them.  
3C, 10 miles, 2500-foot gain  
Fred Zeitler 425-882-3435

## Sunday, May 6, 9:00 a.m.

Trail Maintenance Work Party  
All volunteers welcome. For more information,  
contact Scott Semans 425-369-1725.

## Sunday, May 6, 9:30 a.m.

Squak Mountain  
From Mountainside Trailhead to Central Peak and  
Bullitt Fireplace. Rainier views.  
2C, 6 miles, 1600-foot gain  
Paul Hutchinson 425-837-1701

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

Poo Poo Point  
Popular hike with great views of Mount Rainier and  
Mount Baker. Car shuttle.  
3C, 8 miles, 2000-foot gain  
Melinda Livingstone 425-392-7455

## Saturday, May 12, 10:00 a.m.

Tiger Mountain  
East to west traverse to Tiger Caves.  
2B, 5 miles, 800-foot gain  
Bert Drui 425-746-0709

## Sunday, May 13, 9:00 a.m.

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

## Saturday, May 19, 10:00 a.m.

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

## Sunday, May 20, 9:00 a.m.

Rattlesnake Ledges (3)  
Popular hike to great views.  
2C, 4 miles, 1400-foot gain  
David Langrock 425-313-1971

## Monday, May 21, 7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting  
Trails Center, First and Bush streets, Issaquah

## Tuesday, May 22, 9:00 a.m.

Tiger Mountain  
Hike TMT to Manning's Reach. Great views.  
3C, 10 miles, 2300-foot gain  
Karen Van Pelt 425-747-9381

## Wednesday, May 23, 9:00 a.m.

Cedar Butte  
Good workout, nice views.  
2B, 4 miles, 900-foot gain  
Jackie Hughes 425-641-3815

## Saturday, May 26, 9:00 a.m.

Cougar Mountain  
Hike seldom-used trails past "Fantastic Erratic" to  
Anti-Aircraft Peak.  
2C, 6 miles, 1300-foot gain  
Fred Zeitler 425-882-3435

## Saturday, May 26, 9:15 a.m.

WomenWalk Hikes (2)  
1B, Twin Falls  
Aurela Sequoia 425-888-2683  
2B, Lost Beagle Trail  
Barbara Johnson 425-746-5573

## Sunday, May 27, 8:00 a.m.

Middle Tiger Mountain  
Preston Trail and Northside RR Grade to Middle  
Tiger (or as close as we can get).  
3C, 12 (±) miles, 2000-foot (±) gain  
Tom Palm 206-783-6005

## Tuesday, May 29, 7:00 p.m.

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

## Wednesday, May 30, 9:00 a.m.

Squak Mountain  
Hike from Mountainside Trailhead to Central Peak  
and other favorites.  
2C, 5-6 miles, 1600-foot gain  
Melinda Livingstone 425-392-7455

# June

## Saturday, June 2, 9:00 a.m.

Trail Maintenance Work Party  
All volunteers welcome. For more information,  
contact Scott Semans 425-369-1725.

## Sunday, June 3, 9:00 a.m.

Cougar Mountain Loop  
Wilderness Cliffs to Peak, then Shy Bear and Deceiver  
trails to Long View Peak. Return via Wilderness  
Creek Trail.  
2C, 6-7 miles, 1500-foot gain  
David Langrock 425-313-1971

## Saturday, June 9, 8:30 a.m.

West Rattlesnake  
Climb from Snoqualmie Point (old winery site) via  
old roads and a very steep trail to smashing views of  
3 Snoqualmie River valleys. Return via the Rattle-  
snake Mountain Trail.  
3D, 10 miles, 2600-foot gain  
Ralph Owen 425-746-1070

## Sunday, June 10, 8:00 a.m.

Cougar-Squak Traverse  
Follow Mountains To Sound route from Newcastle  
Beach Park to downtown Issaquah.  
4D, 16 miles, 3000-foot gain  
Joe Toynbee 206-723-6716

## Saturday, June 16, 9:00 a.m.

East Rattlesnake  
Hike past Rattlesnake ledges to logjam and up to the  
East tower. Smashing views.  
3C, 8 miles, 2500-foot gain  
Hans Fischer 425-391-6612

## Saturday, June 16, 10:00 a.m.

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

## Sunday, June 17, 9:00 a.m.

Tiger Mountain  
Northeast TMT and High Point trails.  
2B, 5 miles, 700-foot gain  
Bert Drui 425-746-0709

## Saturday, June 23, 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

*Barbecue Hikes and Celebration*  
Come join us for our annual barbecue and social  
event at Gibson Park at 3:00 p.m. We will have 2  
hikes that will end at Gibson Hall or you can just join  
us for the social event at 3:00 p.m. for free food and  
soft drinks for members and family.  
11:00 a.m. Squak hike, 2C, 6-7 miles, 1600-foot gain  
1:00 p.m. Squak ramble, 1A, 3-4 miles, 500-foot gain  
3:00 p.m. Gibson Hall (near fish hatchery), barbecue  
and social  
Steven Drew 425-392-4432  
Fred Zeitler 425-882-3435

## Sunday, June 24, 8:00 a.m.

Tiger Mountain  
Hike the Tiger Mountain Trail from south to north.  
Car shuttle from Trails Center.  
4D, 16 miles, 3000-foot gain  
Tom Palm 206-783-6005

## Monday, June 25, 7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting  
Trails Center, First and Bush streets, Issaquah

## Thursday, June 28, 9:30 a.m.

Cougar Mountain  
Wilderness Peak loop; some views of Mount Rainier.  
2B, 4 miles, 1200-foot gain  
Jackie Hughes 425-641-3815

## Saturday, June 30, 9:15 a.m.

WomenWalk Hikes (2)  
1A, Tradition Lake mother-and-daughter hike.  
Rachel and Irene Stanford 425-255-5558  
2C, Bullitt Fireplace and Rainier viewpoint  
Lauren Hutchinson 425-837-1701

### 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*

# Major land deal to preserve forestland and trail links

## Ken Konigsmark

A complex land transaction involving King County, the City of Snoqualmie, Weyerhaeuser Real Estate, Puget Western, and the Cascade Land Conservancy was announced on February 14 that will significantly benefit the Issaquah Alps area and local trail connections. Most importantly, this deal will protect the Raging River basin from development, ensuring a continued forest linkage between Rattlesnake Mountain to the east, Tiger Mountain to the west, and the Cedar River Watershed and Taylor Mountain Forest to the south.

The deal will accomplish the following as a specific set of actions related to additional development approvals for Snoqualmie Ridge occurs:

- ▶ 145 acres above and across from Snoqualmie Falls, which had been slated for intense development, will instead be permanently protected.
- ▶ 2900 acres of Weyerhaeuser ownership along the east edge of SR-18 between Tiger and Rattlesnake mountains will be protected from any development while allowing forestry operations to continue.
- ▶ An additional 7000 acres in the Raging River basin owned by Sunkist Fruit Growers is also expected to be protected from any future development.
- ▶ A permanent trail connection is

to be built between public lands on Tiger and Rattlesnake mountains and additional trails established, which may be rerouted as future harvests occur.

- ▶ 600 acres more of Weyerhaeuser forestland straddling both the Preston-Snoqualmie Trail and the Snoqualmie Valley Trail will be permanently protected from development and Weyerhaeuser will contribute \$1 million toward a trail bridge crossing of the Snoqualmie River.

These positive actions will occur in phases as plans and approvals for additional development on 700 acres adjacent to the existing Phase 1 of Snoqualmie Ridge occur. The overall deal encompasses a comprehensive solution to balancing future, focused urban growth in Snoqualmie with preservation of thousands of acres of surrounding forestland.

For Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) interests, this transaction represents a major accomplishment. It will ensure permanent forest and trail connections in the last missing block of private land that connects all the Issaquah Alps. Now there will exist an unbroken linkage of large blocks of forestlands stretching from the shore of Lake Washington through Coal Creek Park to Cougar Mountain Wildland Park to Squak Mountain State Park to Tiger Mountain State Forest, and now across the Raging River basin

to the Rattlesnake Mountain Scenic Management Area. Cascade Land Conservancy deserves great credit for successfully negotiating such a complex, multiparty agreement. ▲

## Hikers' corner

Fred Zeitler



The year 2000 proved to be a record for Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) hiker turnout. We had 149 scheduled events (hikes, work parties, etc.) attended by 1393 hikers. We had only six rainouts, thus our average attendance per event was 10 people. The most frequented hikes were 2B (56 hikes), 2C (33 hikes), and 3C (27 hikes). On a typical hike, we had 80 percent members and 20 percent non-members.

During the year we welcomed 10 new hike leaders: Hans Fischer, Frank Gilliland, Kitty Gross, Jackie Hughes, Lauren and Paul Hutchinson, David Langrock, Tom Palm, Kay Tarapolsi, and Karen Van Pelt. I'd like to extend my thanks to the old guard of hike leaders and welcome the new ones to the ranks of IATC leaders.

See you on the trails. ▲



# 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*



*continued from page 8*

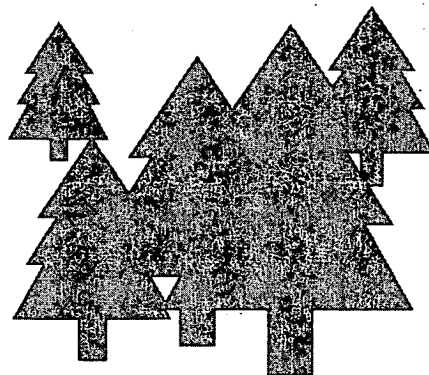
### Trail Maintenance

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

## Park Pointe options under study by City of Issaquah

Ken Konigsmark

**P**ark Pointe is a 102-acre area directly behind and above Issaquah High School on the western slope of Tiger Mountain, which includes the High School Trail route up to Tradition Lake and which also borders the area nearest the Adventure Trail.

Most people presume that this forested, sensitive hillside is part of the Conservation Area without realizing that it is, in fact, privately owned and zoned for urban development. First Wellington, the owners of the property, are preparing plans for an "urban village" that would create up to 660 residential units and 160,000 square feet of office space on this property. The City of Issaquah is currently reviewing City Comprehensive Plans for this property to determine if the "vision" for an urban village on this property remains valid.

Christina Jackson has represented the Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) on a citizen review panel working with the City Planning Department and First Wellington to identify issues and concerns related to the proposed development. IATC's position to date has been that this parcel is more appropriate for conservation as public open space than for any urban development. If, due to cost, the entire parcel cannot be preserved, then a clustered development at the base, nearest the high school, is all that

should be allowed (i.e., no development on the upper-forested slopes nearest the Natural Resources Conservation Area and the Adventure Trail).

IATC members concerned about the potential for development on this property are encouraged to express these concerns to Issaquah City Council members immediately since they will soon be finalizing the official "vision" for the future of this property. ▲

## President's report

(continued from page 1)

you are looking for an opportunity to break in the summer, then don't miss our first Barbecue Hike of the year. Bring the entire family and enjoy this great club-sponsored event.

I hope to see you out there. Have a great spring. ▲



## That cabin on Squak

(continued from page 4)

finished the roof frame. We split several one-gallon cans into flat pieces of metal, nailed them on the roof boards to prevent the heavy roof tar paper from cracking, and filled the seams with hot tar.

When the cabin was almost complete, I hiked up Phil's Creek in a warm August shower to build the door. I was so wet when I arrived I stripped to my briefs and hung up the rest of my clothes to dry. As I laid out the door, I heard the heavy breathing of some animal just outside the wide-open doorway. Standing there almost naked, I grabbed my hammer, expecting an attack, but the surrounding forest suddenly turned silent. I never found out what animal had tracked

(continued on page 11)

## 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!



# That cabin on Squak

(continued from page 10)

me to the cabin.

In the fall of 1976, Phil and I finished the exterior of the cabin, then built two double bunks, plus a portable bunk that could be installed when needed.

Phil taught shop at McKnight Middle School and there built a stove from a 35-gallon oil drum. We carried it to the cabin along with the chimney pipes.

Phil also made several candle lanterns, which we nailed to various locations around the cabin walls. We brought some metal containers and carried in a supply of food we might use when camping there. During Christmas vacation 1976, we prepared the cabin for its first overnight visitors.

On the first weekend of January 1977, Phil and I hiked up to the cabin to spend our first night, a night four years in the planning. We ate a warm dinner next to the warm stove; we had carried up several presto logs to burn in that stove.

The next weekend I brought my daughters Ann and Gretchen to sleep there. They had watched its building for four years. After a steak dinner and several cups of hot tea, both girls picked out their bunks and quickly fell asleep. I stayed up. I had brought several sets of school papers. I read and graded those papers in that snug cabin, papers carried by backpack and graded by candlelight.

That night, long after I snuffed out the candles, the girls and I awakened during the night to hear the howls of coyotes, seemingly just outside the door.

Later I carried up a 55-gallon drum, buried it in a hole, and added a seat to provide a toilet for the cabin visitors. We had everything we needed.

Over the years we slept 19 times in that cabin. My daughters often invited their friends. Once we slept 10 there and another time seven, crowded but warm.

Various people came up to sleep in that cabin: my two daughters, my brother, two nephews, and numerous young people. But mostly Phil and I camped there. Even after Phil retired from school teaching and moved to Sequim, he came back to spend several nights in the Squak cabin we built together.

One early afternoon four of us backpacked to the cabin and a young dog followed us, ready for an adventure. We fed it from our food; it never had such a fine time. The dog tried to sleep in the confines of that cabin, but woke me up several times during the night to let it out. And I got up just as many times again to let the dog back in. The next morning we delivered the dog back to its house and apologized to its owner for its absence.

Often I would hike to the cabin after school, build a fire, drink a cup of cocoa, and watch darkness fall. Then, I'd snuff out the candles and walk over the summit and on to my car down in May Valley.

We entertained famous people in that cabin. Phil and I once invited Harvey Manning and Bob Woods,

fellow Mountaineers and longtime authors, to spend a night with us up on Squak. Harvey had long been curious about the cabin. We cooked steaks over an outside charcoal fire and ran through a catalogue of hiking memories. Between the four of us, at least 150 years of collective hiking provided the basis for that discussion.

We didn't know it, but that night in May 1985 was the last night we would ever sleep in that cabin.

Late in November 1987, I hiked up to the cabin to prepare it for another night visit and found it trashed. Inside lay 63 beer cans. The bunks were ripped out and burned in the stove and the cabin was a wreck. I never went back to camp there.

After that, only occasionally did I return and then only to show others hiking with me where I had spent so many wonderful afternoons and evenings.

One day in the mid-1990s, I received an ominous telephone call from Steve Williams of King County Parks. He wanted to discuss the cabin. I was hesitant to call him back. He told me he had heard via the grapevine that I "was associated" with that cabin in some way. Was it all right for him to burn the cabin down; it had become an eyesore. I reluctantly told him yes.

But I think it's still standing there among the tall trees and beside that musical stream, waiting patiently for its familiar sleepers. ▲



## Printed on Recycled Paper