

UPDATER 00014552

Newsletter of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club

THE ALPINE



January ▲ February ▲ March ▲ 2002

Cougar ▲ Squak ▲ Tiger ▲ Grand Ridge

Renegade Trail Discovered on Grand Ridge

Kenneth Konigsmark

Based on a tip from an IATC member, an extensive illegal trail was found recently in King County's Grand Ridge Park. County Parks staff, along with IATC and Backcountry Bicycle Trails Club (BBTC) officers visited the site to observe the trail effort and resource damage that has occurred.

In this case, a complicated series of wooden structures, ramps, and similar obstacles was created on a steep slope by "downhill" mountain bikers. Unfortunately, their efforts were never coordinated with, nor approved by King County Parks. To date, the trail has not received heavy use but would likely create severe resource damage if such use were to occur. Parks staff intends to close the trail to prevent such damage.

While this trail is the latest, there have been other illegal trail efforts in the Issaquah Alps as well. IATC's club policy is very clear: IATC will only engage in trail efforts that have been approved by the responsible land management agency. With increased population growth in the region, and a concurrent increase in use of public lands, it is ever more important that ONLY trails approved per an agency's master plan be built and maintained. Illegal trails can cause severe environmental damage, fragment important areas of habitat, lead to trail use conflicts, and cause other problems. With that in mind, IATC encourages all members and readers to never engage in any trail construction efforts without first ensuring that specific approval has been granted by the land manager.



In this issue . . .

Hikers' Corner	2
First Trips Across The TMT	3
Armchair Hikes for Winter	4
Huckleberry Exchange Settled	4
IATC Advocacy in Action.....	5
Hikes Schedule.....	6-7
Three Unexpected Visitors	8
When Backpackers First Came	9
Hike Information/Application.....	10-11

The Apparatus

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

Club Founder

Harvey Manning

President

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

Vice President, Advocacy

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

Vice President, Operations

open

Treasurer

Frank Gilliland · 603-0454 · frankbarb@earthlink.net

Secretary

Beth Moursund · 644-4137 · newbethmo@hotmail.com

Board of Directors

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

Frank Gilliland · 603-0454 · frankbarb@earthlink.net

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

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

Ken Konigsmark · 957-5094 · kenneth.d.koingsmark@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

Hikes Coordinator

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

Women Walks Hikes Coordinator

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

Membership Records

Frank Gilliland · 603-0454 · frankbarb@earthlink.net

Book Sales/Distribution

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

Webmaster

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

The Alpiner

Tracy Marin · 333-6694 · tracyandmarin@hotmail.com

Advocates

Issaquah:

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

Cougar Mountain: Charles McCrone · 392-3466 · cougarmt@wafirst.com

Squak Mountain:

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

Ken Konigsmark · 957-5094 · kenneth.d.koingsmark@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: Ralph Owen · 746-1070

Chief Ranger/Trail Maintenance Crew Chief

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

Volunteer Trail Maintenance Coordinator

Charles McCrone · 392-3466 · cougarmt@wafirst.com

Mountains To Sound Greenway

Ted Thomsen · 454-8643

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

Hikers' Corner

Hikers' Corner Greetings fellow hikers, As always we're looking for new hike leaders to lead hikes in the Issaquah Alps. If you like hiking in our beautiful Alps and enjoy sharing this experience, you may be a candidate to lead hikes for us. To find out more, please join us during our next hike leader training and orientation session scheduled for February 12, 7 - 9 PM at the trail center. During the past year we scheduled 170 hikes and work parties. That's more events than we've had for a long time. Through September we've had 901 hikers on 130 hikes. Thanks to Irene Stanford and David Langrock we started Family Hikes again and have had pretty good turnouts. I hope we can continue this next year and even add some new hike leaders. See you on the trails.

Fred Zeitler

The Alpiner is published in
January, April, July, and October.

Issaquah Alps Trails Club
PO Box 351, Issaquah, WA 9027
Hotline: 206-328-0480
Website: www.issaquahalps.org

Subscriptions: \$15/year.
Articles are welcome, preferably
via e-mail to:
tracyandmarin@hotmail.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.

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

First Trips Across The Tiger Mountain Trail

Bill Longwell

When my older daughter Ann was within a few days of her high school graduation, she and some of her friends, also seniors in high school, decided what they would prefer to do in lieu of attending their respective senior parties. They decided they would like to backpack and they wanted me to take them. Where could we go, they asked? In June, 1979, the TMT was as yet incomplete; at least a half mile was unbuilt, that section between Middle Tiger and Fifteen Mile Creek. Since these young people knew I was struggling to complete the TMT, they decided they would like to backpack all of it, the finished as well as the unfinished, a section only flagged. Members of the yet unborn IATC had talked of an October, 1979 TMT grand opening. With my crew of trail builders, I hoped to complete the ten mile trail by that time. Actually, we would work much of the summer and early fall to complete the trail well enough to hold our grand opening. Most of the trail builders were also friends and fellow backpackers with my two daughters and their senior friends, so the choice of invitations would be easy. To prepare for our two day, one night trip, I walked up two miles up from the West Side Road (the trailhead from 1979 to 1990) to a grand viewpoint (virtually gone now since the trees have grown up),

built into the hillside several tent flats and prepared for the senior backpack. Both my daughters, Ann and Gretchen, and their several friends would go. Their version of a senior party would also serve as the first hike across the then ten mile-long TMT. We spent the night on the slopes of Middle Tiger and enjoyed grand views and grand weather. We carried in lightweight lawn chairs, ate steaks, set up our tents and laughed together well into the night. Some of the next morning's hike traversed the route of the unfinished trail. We dragged our backpacks and lawn chairs through mud, salmon berry and devil's club to finally emerge to the northern end of the somewhat completed trail. One particular creek, where now a wide turnpike and culvert allows a hiker easy passage, was painful. One young lady fell into the creek and also into the waiting arms of some devil's club. We now call that location the Susan Langley Memorial Bridge because we built a bridge at that section; it stood there until the DNR reconstructed this section of trail in 1995. We all came out the other end of the TMT somewhat intact. All of us enjoyed the day and a half trip, especially the seniors. It stands as the first trip across the route of the early TMT. After constant revision and tinkering and two major additions, the TMT was ready for a second "first" walk through. 1990 was a pivotal year for the IATC. Final

plans for a Mountains-to-Sound Hike were nearing completion, some sections of the TMT were abandoned and seven new miles were added. Great club effort went into both enterprises. Some of the new TMT would serve as the route for the 85 mile Mountains-to-Sound March, held that year in early July. Finishing the TMT additions was a priority. Work was complete the day before the March crossed over the TMT! How long was the new Trail? None of the trail builders really knew. They were determined to find out, even if it meant walking some unfinished sections. The trail builders decided to run a measuring wheel along the entire TMT. In the process the TMT walkers would also be the first to walk the whole trail, now much longer than the original ten mile route. Six people, Joe Toynbee, Larry Hansen, Tom Palm, Tom Wood, Chip Curtis and Bill Longwell, set out on June 29, 1990 to survey the work. They took turns pushing the measuring wheel, took notes of the terrain, put up new brown and white TMT signs and installed the three-colored (blue, green and white—DNR colors) mileage signs. How many mileage signs would be needed? The sign maker prepared eighteen mileage signs, just in case the trail was that long. After ten hours on the trail on that sunny June day, the six mea-

Continued on Page 5

Armchair Hikes For Winter

Scott Semans

The Club's hike schedule hardly slows down during the wet weather, and while I'm usually a solitary hiker, I find the camaraderie of a group hike a nice antidote for the drizzle and clouded views. But there are times when the rain is just too much for me to go out, and I indulge in a mental hike instead. Sometimes this means getting out the Club's guidebooks to Cougar or Tiger Mountains. The trail descriptions plus my own recollections can add up to a pleasant half hour of mental hiking, enriched by historical detail. Or I will get out the maps to these same mountains and take an all-day hike in fifteen minutes, trying to recall what this or that bend actually looks like on the ground, what sort of trees occur in that region, or appreciating unusual landmarks. It definitely helps to have walked a trail regularly, or even trailworked it, but I find that a simple black line can bring back a vivid memory of a one-time summer exploratory walk on a new trail. When I draw a blank for a particular trail segment, I will be more attentive to that stretch next time I do walk it, helping sharpen my observational skills. And of course, there are trails that live now only in memory, sometimes tinged with sadness at their loss, but still unique possessions.

Huckleberry Exchange Settled; 28,000 Acres of New USFS Lands

Ken Konigsmark

Although slightly outside the range of the "Issaquah Alps", IATC members should know of the huge amount of nearby and important lands that are now permanently added to Forest Service ownership. Following years of careful planning, in March 1998, an exchange was approved between Weyerhaeuser and the Forest Service that traded 4,362 acres of Forest Service land near Greenwater for 30,254 acres of Weyerhaeuser

land primarily in the South and North Fork Snoqualmie drainages. In addition, Weyerhaeuser donated 1,977 acres to the Forest Service, of which 962 acres was added to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area. The exchange was subsequently appealed and had been tied up in court since that time. The resolution, now upheld by the courts, will allow the Forest Service to purchase back approximately 1,200 acres of the 4,400 acres traded to Weyerhaeuser for \$6 million. The other 30,000+ acres are permanently added to Forest Service ownership. Specifically, these lands include thousands of acres along the south side of I-90 from North Bend to Snoqualmie Pass and several important parcels adjacent to the Mt. Si Natural Resource Conservation Area. Instead of interspersed, alternating ownership between Weyerhaeuser and the Forest Service, this exchange "blocks up" Forest Service holdings into very large blocks that can be far more efficiently and appropriately managed for public benefits including recreation, wildlife habitat, and overall forest conservation and ecosystem management.

Armchair Hikes For Winter

I took a class in basic care for the elderly and disabled, and learned that a leading cause of death and injury after 65 is a simple in-home fall. When I take my 81 year old Mom for an unsteady walk around the nursing home grounds I wish she had been more of a walker, or at least had been willing to do the leg exercises a physical therapist had taught us. I'm sure that most of us will have good use of our legs all our lives, but it is not something we can count on. Developing the skills of observation and imagination used in mental hiking could serve us well in our later years and keep us "out there" forever, if only in spirit.

IATC Advocacy in Action: Important Survey Underway

Ken Konigsmark

For several years, IATC has participated in coalition efforts by the Fair Trails Coalition (FTC) to reform the State's NOVA grant program. The NOVA program receives 1% of State gas taxes to fund grants for recreational projects such as trailheads, trail construction, maintenance crews, and other trail-related projects.

However, 80% of NOVA grant funds are currently required by law to go towards motorized, off-road vehicle (ORV) projects even though the population of ORV users is miniscule compared to the number of people participating in non-motorized activities. IATC and FTC have been seeking to change this policy for four years so that the huge majority of non-motorized recreationists receive their fair proportion of NOVA funding.

As a result, the State Legislature passed a bill requiring that a "fuel use survey" be completed in order to collect statistical data on recreational usage and how much fuel each type of activity (hiking, equestrian, bicycling, off-road motorcycling, and others) typically consumes in pursuing these activities as they drive to trailheads and other recreational areas. Since fuel taxes fund the

NOVA program, IATC believes that grant funding should be proportionate to the amount of fuel used by various recreational interests as they enjoy their outdoor activities. And, we believe that hikers clearly represent the largest outdoor recreational interest in the state.

Hebert Research has been selected to manage this important survey over the next 12 months. Thousands of surveys will be sent randomly to citizens each month, requesting that they track their fuel use as they participate in outdoor recreational activities. Should you receive a survey in the mail, it will be critically important for you and for all hikers to complete and submit the form! It will have a direct bearing on the amount of NOVA funding allocated to hiking trail projects for years to come. Again, this survey will continue for the next 12 months; should you receive one, don't toss it, but rather spend the time to complete and submit this important document.

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!



First Trips Across The TMT

Continued From Page 3

sured out the trail at sixteen miles. All was almost ready for the Mountains-to-Sound trek. For ten years now the sixteen mile trail has served as a challenge to hundreds of hikers. The trail has seen continual improvement and probably receives the lion's share of trail work on Tiger. The Department of Natural Resources has refurbished much of the trail. Also, the Washington Trail's Association has sent numerous work parties to the TMT. And, the IATC crews also have spent hundreds of hours on the TMT. It is our premier trail.

JANUARY

Tuesday, January 1, 10:00am Poo Poo Point

Hangover hike to clear the head
2c, 5 miles, 1700 ft. gain
Frank Gilliland (425) 603-0454

Saturday, January 5, 9:00am South Tiger Mountain

Hike TMT to Otter Lake Return
via South Tiger Traverse
Nice views for lunch.
2c, 7 miles, 1500 ft. gain
Fred Zeitler (425) 882-3435

Sunday, January 6, 9:00am Trail Maintenance Work Party

All volunteers welcome
Fore more information contact:
Scott Semans (425) 369-1725

Monday, January 7, 8:00am Birdwatching...Stillwater to Duvall

Along the Snoqualmie River
2a, 6 miles, no elevation gain
Bill Longwell (425) 222-6775

Tuesday, January 8, 8:00am Snoqualmie Ridge, The Whole Circuit

New trails and highly scenic hike
3b, 10 miles, 800 ± ft. gain
Bill Longwell (425) 222-6775

Saturday, January 12, 9:30am Twin Falls

Popular winter destination with
possible extension to RR grade
2b, 3-5 miles, 500-700 ft. gain
June Stevens (425) 222-5452

Saturday, January 12, 10:00am Cougar Mountain

AA peak the easy way
Loop up from Nike Launch site,
back via Clay Pit
2a, 4 miles, 300 ft. gain
Bert (425) 746-0709

Sunday, January 13, 9:30am Lower West Rattlesnake Loop

We'll have two viewpoints on the West End of
Rattlesnake, The Powerline Prospekt and the
Card Table Lookout. Our loop, beginning and
ending at Snoqualmie Pointe will cover por-
tions of the Rattlesnake Mountain Trail and
the Mountains to Sound off-trail route.
2b, 6 miles, 1200 ft. gain
Ralph Owen (425) 746-1070

Tuesday, January 15, 9:00am Cougar Mountain

A short hike, but a good workout to
Cougar Mt.'s highpoint
2c, 4 miles, 1300 ft. gain
Peggy Owen (425) 746-1070

Saturday, January 19, 9:00am Cougar Mountain

Hike to the country lookout with possible
side trip to Coal Creek Falls.
2b, 4-5 miles, 600-900 ft. gain
Barbara Johnson (425) 746-5573

Sunday, January 20, 9:00am Middle Tiger Mountain

From South TMT trailhead with sections
seldom seen on TMT
3c, 12 miles, 2100 ft. gain
Tom Plam (206) 783-6005

Wednesday, January 23, 9:00am Little Si

Another popular hike with nice views
2c, 5 miles, 1300 ft. gain
Frank Gilliland (425) 603-0454

Saturday, January 26, 8:30am West Tiger 1,2,3 Loop

Hike 11 different trails and a mile of road
3c, 8 miles, 2500 ft. gain
Ron Howatson (425) 392-8344

Sunday, January 27, 9:00am Squak Mountain

From May Valley TH up to Central Peak
including Rainier views and more
2c/3c, 7-8 miles, 2500 ft. gain
Paul Hutchinson (425) 837-1701

Monday, January 28, 7:00pm Board Meeting

Trails Center, 1st & Bush St., Issaquah

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 2, 9:00am Cougar Mountain

Loop hike to some popular sites
including waterfalls
2c, 6-7 miles, 1400 ft. gain
Fred Zeitler (425) 882-3435

Sunday, February 3, 9:00am Trail Maintenance Work Party

All volunteers welcome
For more information contact:
Scott Semans (425) 369-1725

Sunday, Feb 3, 9:30am Lakemont Summit Loop

Beginning at Bellevue's Lakemont Park we will
follow the Perimeter Trail, Peggy's Trail, and
Summit Trail. A combination of wild Lewis
Creek Gorge, million dollar homes, and views.
Easy/Moderate pace.
2b, 4-6 miles, 1000± ft. gain
Peggy Owen (425) 746-1070

Wednesday, February 6, 9:00am Rattlesnake Ledges (3)

Popular hike to great views
2c, 4 miles, 1400 ft. gain
Frank Gilliland (425) 603-0454

Saturday, February 9, Twin Falls Popular winter destination

2b, 3 miles, 600 ft. gain
Bob Gross (425) 427-8449

Sunday, February 10, 9:00am Squak Mountain

One way hike from Mountainside TH
to Issaquah. Car shuttle
2b, 6 miles, 1000 ft. gain, 1500 ft. loss
Frank Gilliland (425) 603-0454

Tuesday, February 12, 7:00pm Hike Leaders Orientation and Training

Update for current hike leaders and training
for new hike leaders.
Will include several case studies
Trails Center, 1st & Bush St., Issaquah

Saturday, February 16, 8:30am South Tiger

Loop hike with 2 short side trips including
true South Tiger Summit
3c, 9 miles, 1700 ft. gain
Ron Howatson (425) 392-8344

Sunday, February 17, 10:00am Cougar Mountain

Downstream from Redtown
to old farms and mines
2b, 4-5 miles, 300 ft. gain
Bert Drui (425) 746-0709

Saturday, February 23, 10:00am Cougar Mountain

Licorice Fern Trail on South side
2b, 6 miles, 900 ft. gain
Bob Gross (425) 427-8449

Sunday, February 24, 9:00am Tiger Mountain

Lower Tiger Traverse from Preston
to Issaquah. One Way
2b, 6 miles, 1000± ft. gain
Joe Toynbee (206) 723-6716

Monday, February 25, 7:00pm Board Meeting

Trails Center, 1st & Bush St., Issaquah

Wednesday, February 27, 7:00pm Hike Leaders' Meeting

Finalize hike schedule for next quarter
Trail Center, 1st & Bush St., Issaquah

MARCH

Saturday, March 2, 9:00am West Tiger 3

Hike the quiet route via TMT to views
and lunch at Manning's Reach
3c, 8 miles, 2500± ft. gain
Karen VanPelt (425) 747-9381

Sunday, March 3, 9:00am Trail Maintenance Work Party

All volunteers welcome
Fore more information contact
Scott Semans (425) 369-1725

Sunday, March 3, 9:00am Cougar Mountain

Work out hike to Wilderness Peak,
then via Shy Bear and Deceiver Trails
to Long View Peak
2c, 6 - 7 miles, 1500 ft. gain
David Langrock (425) 313-1971

Wednesday, March 6, 9:00am Cougar Mountain

Walk the Coal Creek Trail to CC parkway.
Small loop on return
3c, 8 miles, 1300 ft. gain
Frank Gilliland (425) 603-0454

Saturday, March 9, 9:00am Squak Mountain

From Sunset TH hike new trails and
old favorites
3c, 8-10 miles, 2400± ft. gain
Paul Hutchinson (425) 837-1701

Sunday, March 10, 9:00am Poo Poo Pointe Loop

Starting at highpoint, up West Tiger 3 trail then
RR grade across. Return via Highschool trail
3c, 8-9 miles, 1800 ft. gain
Denis Harney (206) 545-2829

Saturday, March 16, 10:00am Tiger Mountain

Up the NE TMT, down High Point Trail
2b, 3-4 miles, 800 ft. gain
Bert Drui (425) 746-0709

Sunday, March 17, 8:00am West Tiger 3,2,1

From Preston we'll follow a cherry stem loop to the 3
peaks of West Tiger using combinations of Preston
Trail, TMT, West Side RR grade and the Bootleg trails
3d, 10-11 miles, 3000 ft. gain
Ralph Owen (425) 746-1070

Thursday, March 21, 10:00am SW Cougar Ramble

Little known trails lead to well known
viewpoint. Slow to moderate pace
2b, 5 miles, 600 ft. gain
Warren Jones (425) 391-7409

Saturday, March 23, 9:30am Tiger Mountain

Nook trail to caves and big loop at Tradition Lake
Plateau
2b, 4-6 miles, 700 ft. gain
Kitty Gross (425) 641-4393

Sunday, March 24, 9:00am Cougar Mountain Loop

Wilderness cliffs to Peak, then Shy Bear
and Deceiver trails to Longview Peak
2c, 6-7 miles, 1500 ft. gain
Karen Van Pelt (425) 747-9381

Monday, March 25, 7:00pm Board Meeting

Trail Center, 1st & Bush St., Issaquah

Saturday, March 30, 9:00am Squak Mountain Loop

hike from North end to Central Peak via Eastside &
Eastridge trails. Views for lunch. Return via
Chybinski and Coal Mine trails.
3c, 7 - 8 miles, 2000± ft. gain
David Langrock (425) 313-1971

Sunday, March 31, 9:00am Tiger Mountain Plateau

Hike from Trail Center to Tradition Lake Plateau
via Adventure Trail, Big Tree Trail
2b, 6 miles, 700 ft. gain
Frank Gilliland (425) 603-0454

Checklist:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Raingear |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Warm clothes |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daypack | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hiking shoes |



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

Three Unexpected Visitors

Bill Longwell

During the Spring of 1990 the Tiger Mountain Trail expanded from an eleven-mile long trail to a sixteen-mile long trail. The result of all this was a trail that took considerable effort to walk in one day, a goal I'd been trying to reach ever since we lifted the first dirt to make a tread. My ideal for a trail was something akin to the Chelan Lakeshore Trail, about 17 miles long. I always wanted to build the TMT into a similar length. Too bad we didn't have a 55 mile long lake to build next to. In 1989 I received permission from Doug McClelland to expand the TMT on both the north and south ends. The Weedwackers and others expanded the south end in December and January, 1989 and 1990. In one month, after building a mile-and-a-half of new tread, and using an old railroad grade and 1976 logging road, we added almost four miles to the south end. The north end was more complicated; the terrain was far more rugged. The slopes were steeper and some creek crossings were wide. This section took more time to build than the south section. We worked on this stretch from March to June. I spent 29-days working on the new tread, with help on two of those days. 27 of those days I worked alone, laying out the route, building new tread, adding to bridges and connecting

the new tread to the old TMT. Purposely, I left the ends of the trail unconnected to the finished, older section. I did not want general hikers to show up, perhaps take the tools I had hidden nearby and take away time from building. Really, no connection existed between the old and new; the deadends of the old trail looked as if they were deadends. However, three hikers did walk through brush to make the connection. I could understand how one person might stumble onto the new trail. But three? On May 27 I was working in the very upper end of the West Fork of High Point Creek, figuring out where to place bridges. The day was rainy. Suddenly there appeared Karen Van Pelt. How did she find the connection? She just stumbled onto it, she said. And off she went along the unworked route of the new TMT. She must walk at least another half mile through trackless forest to find High Point Creek Trail. Apparently, she did. Then on June 2, I was working beyond West High Point Creek on an old logging grade I was using for the tread. Hacking away at some large sword ferns, I suddenly noticed another hiker walking toward me on the newly completed TMT. It was Jean the Barber from downtown Issaquah. I guess I had told him about my activities on Tiger (he cut my hair for

awhile) and he liked to hike. How he found the trail, still unconnected, I have forgotten or never found out. But, there he was and on he went. He, too, must walk a half mile through trailless forest to reach High Point Creek. Then on June 23, also on a rainy, foggy day, I was extending the bridge across the main stem of High Point Creek, where now is built a magnificent high bridge. Suddenly at my shoulder appeared a white clad, female hiker. She certainly startled me. It was Sally Pfeiffer, who seemed always to walk alone and whom I had known for years through the Seattle Mountaineers. Somehow she had learned about the new TMT route and determined to find it and walk it. Three adventuresome hikers, bound and determined to find the new, unconnected TMT and be the first to walk it, even though it was as yet unconnected to the rest of the trail, still amaze me after ten years. I still wonder how they found the new tread and am amazed at their persistence. Three wraiths, appearing as if by magic through the fog, and then disappearing back into it, all tied together by the curiosity and determination to find a trail they had heard about through a hiker's network of rumor.

IATC Advocacy in Action: Important Survey Underway

Ken Konigsmark

For several years, IATC has participated in coalition efforts by the Fair Trails Coalition (FTC) to reform the State's NOVA grant program. The NOVA program receives 1% of State gas taxes to fund grants for recreational projects such as trailheads, trail construction, maintenance crews, and other trail-related projects.

However, 80% of NOVA grant funds are currently required by law to go towards motorized, off-road vehicle (ORV) projects even though the population of ORV users is miniscule compared to the number of people participating in non-motorized activities. IATC and FTC have been seeking to change this policy for four years so that the huge majority of non-motorized recreationists receive their fair proportion of NOVA funding.

As a result, the State Legislature passed a bill requiring that a "fuel use survey" be completed in order to collect statistical data on recreational usage and how much fuel each type of activity (hiking, equestrian, bicycling, off-road motorcycling, and others) typically consumes in pursuing these activities as they drive to trailheads and other recreational areas. Since fuel taxes fund the

NOVA program, IATC believes that grant funding should be proportionate to the amount of fuel used by various recreational interests as they enjoy their outdoor activities. And, we believe that hikers clearly represent the largest outdoor recreational interest in the state.

Hebert Research has been selected to manage this important survey over the next 12 months. Thousands of surveys will be sent randomly to citizens each month, requesting that they track their fuel use as they participate in outdoor recreational activities. Should you receive a survey in the mail, it will be critically important for you and for all hikers to complete and submit the form! It will have a direct bearing on the amount of NOVA funding allocated to hiking trail projects for years to come. Again, this survey will continue for the next 12 months; should you receive one, don't toss it, but rather spend the time to complete and submit this important document.

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!



First Trips Across The TMT

Continued From Page 3

sured out the trail at sixteen miles. All was almost ready for the Mountains-to-Sound trek. For ten years now the sixteen mile trail has served as a challenge to hundreds of hikers. The trail has seen continual improvement and probably receives the lion's share of trail work on Tiger. The Department of Natural Resources has refurbished much of the trail. Also, the Washington Trail's Association has sent numerous work parties to the TMT. And, the IATC crews also have spent hundreds of hours on the TMT. It is our premier trail.

Three Unexpected Visitors

Bill Longwell

During the Spring of 1990 the Tiger Mountain Trail expanded from an eleven-mile long trail to a sixteen-mile long trail. The result of all this was a trail that took considerable effort to walk in one day, a goal I'd been trying to reach ever since we lifted the first dirt to make a tread. My ideal for a trail was something akin to the Chelan Lakeshore Trail, about 17 miles long. I always wanted to build the TMT into a similar length. Too bad we didn't have a 55 mile long lake to build next to. In 1989 I received permission from Doug McClelland to expand the TMT on both the north and south ends. The Weedwackers and others expanded the south end in December and January, 1989 and 1990. In one month, after building a mile-and-a-half of new tread, and using an old railroad grade and 1976 logging road, we added almost four miles to the south end. The north end was more complicated; the terrain was far more rugged. The slopes were steeper and some creek crossings were wide. This section took more time to build than the south section. We worked on this stretch from March to June. I spent 29-days working on the new tread, with help on two of those days. 27 of those days I worked alone, laying out the route, building new tread, adding to bridges and connecting

the new tread to the old TMT. Purposely, I left the ends of the trail unconnected to the finished, older section. I did not want general hikers to show up, perhaps take the tools I had hidden nearby and take away time from building. Really, no connection existed between the old and new; the deadends of the old trail looked as if they were deadends. However, three hikers did walk through brush to make the connection. I could understand how one person might stumble onto the new trail. But three? On May 27 I was working in the very upper end of the West Fork of High Point Creek, figuring out where to place bridges. The day was rainy. Suddenly there appeared Karen Van Pelt. How did she find the connection? She just stumbled onto it, she said. And off she went along the unworked route of the new TMT. She must walk at least another half mile through trackless forest to find High Point Creek Trail. Apparently, she did. Then on June 2, I was working beyond West High Point Creek on an old logging grade I was using for the tread. Hacking away at some large sword ferns, I suddenly noticed another hiker walking toward me on the newly completed TMT. It was Jean the Barber from downtown Issaquah. I guess I had told him about my activities on Tiger (he cut my hair for

awhile) and he liked to hike. How he found the trail, still unconnected, I have forgotten or never found out. But, there he was and on he went. He, too, must walk a half mile through trailless forest to reach High Point Creek. Then on June 23, also on a rainy, foggy day, I was extending the bridge across the main stem of High Point Creek, where now is built a magnificent high bridge. Suddenly at my shoulder appeared a white clad, female hiker. She certainly startled me. It was Sally Pfeiffer, who seemed always to walk alone and whom I had known for years through the Seattle Mountaineers. Somehow she had learned about the new TMT route and determined to find it and walk it. Three adventuresome hikers, bound and determined to find the new, unconnected TMT and be the first to walk it, even though it was as yet unconnected to the rest of the trail, still amaze me after ten years. I still wonder how they found the new tread and am amazed at their persistence. Three wraiths, appearing as if by magic through the fog, and then disappearing back into it, all tied together by the curiosity and determination to find a trail they had heard about through a hiker's network of rumor.

When Backpackers First Came to TMT

Bill Longwell

From 1974, when we first began routing the TMT across Tiger, until early 1981, I never saw any group hiking that trail, except for the people who walked with me. I really began to think that hiking the TMT would never catch on. Hiking Tiger Mountain, and especially the TMT, was a lonely act, at least for me. I rarely saw anyone on Tiger trails. Tiger Mountain was basically MY private hiking preserve and I was surprised to find anyone else there. The TMT opened for hikers along its entire ten mile route on October 13, 1979, when the IATC sponsored a grand opening hike. Numerous church groups, some city officials, local newspaper reporters and IATC members helped christen the TMT. But, after all the initial hoopla, for a year and a half, the TMT saw few visitors. Every time I worked the trail alone or went with a group to rework part of the trail, we saw no one, that is until May, 1981. During April, 1981, I had cut up an old cedar telephone pole into 30 inch lengths and split each section into puncheon slabs, (rough, hand-split planks, usually cedar). I planned to use the puncheon for a bridge decking, a bridge across the first swampy section of the new TMT. My brother had loaned me his chainsaw to cut stringer

logs for this bridge; this was the first time I had ever used a chainsaw. Ironically, just two days later, someone broke into my house and stole the chainsaw. My younger daughter Gretchen just freshly home from her first year in college, helped me carry the puncheon boards from the TMT trailhead—then situated on the West Side Road—to the bridge site, about a quarter of a mile carry. We made several trips to carry all the boards and spikes to the site. Then on May 2, 1981, I was working alone, nailing the boards to the stringers when I heard a commotion. I looked up to see a group of backpackers, the first other hikers I had ever seen on the TMT. They were Seattle Mountaineers carrying heavy backpacks and were in the first minutes of a two-day trip across Tiger. Included in the group was Larry Penberthy, famed Seattle Mountaineer and founder of MSR, maker of stoves and climbing equipment. How had they heard of the TMT? Why, they had read about the fledgling trail in Harvey Manning's first Footsore book. In fact, they were carrying that book in hand; they showed me the page describing the TMT. I stood there incredulously,

watching them disappear up the trail, then went back to work nailing boards on that first TMT bridge. The Tiger Mountain hiking revolution had begun. The days of my private hiking preserve were over for good. Ever since Tiger has never been the same quiet mountain.



Hike Information

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

24-hour hikes hotline: 206-328-0480

or hiking shoes.

Trail Maintenance

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

whackers, and other tools.

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

to meet people! Individuals and groups are encouraged to adopt a trail—or section of trail—and take the responsibility of maintaining it. ▲



Issaquah Alps Trails Club Membership Application



Post Office Box 351, Issaquah, Washington 98027

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

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

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

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

- ▲ All memberships cover the entire family. (within the same household)
- ▲ 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.

Issaquah Alps Trails Club Mail Order Service

Mail your request with your check payable to:

Issaquah Alps Trails Club

Post Office Box 351

Issaquah, Washington 98027

▲ *Flowering of the Issaquah Alps*—Revised!

By Fred and Ann Weinmann and Harvey Manning. 1996 updated edition. This new edition lists trees, shrubs, ferns, and flowers found in the Issaquah Alps. Flowers are listed by color, season when flowering, and where 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 updated version gives historical background and descriptions 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. \$15 (includes shipping).

▲ *Eastside Family Hikes*

By Peggy Barchi. **2001 revised** and updated. Descriptions of family hikes (annotated for hiking and picnicking) on the Eastside. \$3 (includes tax and shipping).

▲ *Tiger Mountain map*. 1998 revised. \$2 (includes tax and shipping).

▲ *Cougar Mountain map*. 2001 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).

**Issaquah Alps Trails Club
Post Office Box 351
Issaquah, Washington 98027**

Address Service Requested

**Non Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Issaquah, WA
Permit #70**

♻️ Printed on Recycled Paper

*****AUTO**3-DIGIT 980
SUBSCRIPTION EXPIRES
8/31/02
CHARLES & MALENA MCCRONE
16222 ISSAQUAH HOBART RD SE
ISSAQUAH WA 98027-6964