



January ♦ February ♦ March 2004

Cougar ♦ Squak ♦ Tiger ♦ Grand Ridge ♦ Taylor ♦ Rattlesnake

TRAILWORK - A CALL TO ACTION!

by Scott Semans

The wind storm of December 4 has caused massive damage to trails on Tiger and Squak mountains, and some damage on Cougar as well. We will be fielding emergency work crews every Saturday morning (9 a.m., Trails Center, Issaquah) through the end of January, at least. Please come out if you can. No special skills or tools are needed, and branch-dragging is something even the kids can do.

It was disappointing to have a zero turnout to our regular monthly work party on the 7th following the storm, though I am sure many of our members are still cleaning up their own yards. This past year has been an experiment to see if the club can survive without dues, and financially, we seem to be making it. But have we still got the volunteer spirit that got Harvey Manning and many others out building trails in the 1970s and 80s?

Repairing the damage is not just a matter of sawing fallen trees and dragging limbs off the trail, though there is plenty of that. Many trees rooted next to trails have fallen, leaving large craters, and structures such as retaining curbs and steps have taken hits. These should all be fixed before winter and spring rains cause erosion damage.

When out hiking, tossing windfall sticks and limbs off the trail is a simple way to help. Carrying a folding saw to delimb large branches for easier removal is extra points! Try to scatter fallen wood

at least two yards away from the edge of the trail, behind the first row of vegetation. Kicking or piling sticks and logs at the edge of the trail is little or no help. Trailworkers must later remove this pileup. "Cut and drop" wood looks unnatural, retains water, fouls power equipment used to trim spring growth, and encourages trail-invading plants such as nettles and blackberries to take root.

As for our regular, ongoing work, this past year we've been upgrading two great trails on Cougar Mountain: Licorice Fern, a beautiful creek trail at the south end of the park, and Bear Ridge, the trail closest to Issaquah and the easiest bottom-to-peak hike on Cougar. Both are near completion and in shape for even the novice hiker.

Licorice Fern has been the Club's biggest challenge in recent years. Built by IATC in the 1980s along a creek valley in the slowly developing Licorice Fern neighborhood, it has taken some inventive structure work to stay on the original 1.2 mi. route, which handily avoids house views most of the way and has the feel of a deep woods trail. We did some rescue work on it in 1999, but since February 2001 it has been the focus of our monthly work parties. The county built nice little bridges at either end, and IATC recently oversaw an Eagle Scout project converting a fallen cedar into a third bridge. With

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The Apparatus

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

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

Issaquah Alps Trails Club
PO Box 351, Issaquah, WA 9027
Website: www.issaquahalps.org

IATC subsists on member donations only. Please send your tax-deductible contributions to the address above to help sustain our efforts to preserve, protect, and promote the Issaquah Alps and local environment.

Articles are welcome, preferably via e-mail to:
nancy@cuttothechasemarketing.com
Send diskette or hard copy to post office box number above.

Issue deadlines: November 21 for January; February 21 for April; May 21 for July; August 21 for October.

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

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a formal garden at the lower trailhead and a wealth of large trees I believe it is one of the loveliest, if least known, trails on Cougar. A few more first-Saturdays work parties in 2004 will complete widening the upper end to the park's 3-foot standard.

Bear Ridge, with its trailhead exactly 1 mile south of Newport Way on SR900, is another little-used trail, but easily accessible from Bellevue, Issaquah, and I-90. Starting out on an old road, it is the gentlest climb on the east side of Cougar, and favored by some long-time hikers who don't like to step as high as they used to.

The Fantastic Erratic, a large glacial boulder one mile up from SR900, is a common destination, though with connecting trails AA Peak can be reached and looped back on an entirely different route. Two years ago WTA widened the County portion of the trail. When the lower .85 mi. was ceded to Issaquah from the Talus developer, a reduced county work force could no longer brush and clear windfalls so the club took it on. In just one year of "special event" work parties, various groups of scouts, alumni, and office workers have removed trip roots and windfall litter, and widened what has always been a solid trail. It will now be easy to maintain for a decade or more.

Some new structure work and a series of more than 40 steps have made the hike a bit easier where a future link from Talus will come in (and where the bear actually lives). The focus of our small every weekend "pickup" work parties, we should finish up by February 2004.

What's next? After finishing these two Cougar trails, and having worked on the great Squak Mountain Access Trail in 2000-01, we're setting our sights on the third Alp, Tiger Mountain. The trail that begins with a big red metal flower at the Exit 18 interchange and Sunset Way has never

had a formal name, but we're calling it the Tradition Plateau Access Trail. Now that road work has finished, the construction HQ can become trailhead parking, and we're scouting reroutes to replace utility line hiking with forest walks. The route offers a lovely panoramic view of Issaquah only a short jog up, and connects via the Ruth Keyes Big Tree Trail (24 foot wide doug fir!) and the boardwalked "Swamp Monster" Wetlands trail to popular hikes around Tradition Lake and the Talus Caves.

Creating a high-spec, mud free trail between Issaquah and the watershed trails above will encourage new hikers and provide a pleasant alternative to the overcrowded parking lot at High Point.

This should be a real community project, and we may get started as early as this quarter, so come to one of the first Saturday events and pitch in!

December 4 Windstorm Causes Extensive Trail Damage and a Call For Your Help

by Steve Drew

As you know, the morning of December 4th brought winds here in the Alps with gusts reaching 70 mph coming from the east and southeast.

Old timers agree that the damage on Tiger and Squak is as bad as we have seen. So far it looks as though Cougar trails sustained much less damage. It will be months before most of the trails are back to an easily hikeable condition and new trail projects have been suspended as all our resources are being focused on trail restoration.

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Our guided hike program will continue with actual hike location changes announced at the pre-hike meetings based on the latest trail conditions.

Also the ratings printed in our trail guides and maps may underestimate a trails present difficulty as a result of large downed trees, debris and related trail damage.

Restoring these trails will take an immense amount of work and club resources. Our trail crew coordinator, Scott Semans and I put in over 20 hours Dec. 6 & 7 on the lower Squak loop between Sunrise Place and the Sycamore access trail just to get it to a passable condition. This short section alone will require well over 100 hours to restore.

So, if you ever thought about joining us on one of our Saturday trail work parties, please take the first step and contact Scott to get on his email list, or just show up at the events shown in the hike calendar.

We seriously need more help and can use people with all skill levels.

Hiker's Corner

Greetings Fellow Hikers,

Last year was certainly a great year for hiking. With our rain-free summer and great weather we had a record number of hikers. We'll probably finish the year with around 1500 hikers on 160 scheduled hikes and work parties.



These hikes and work parties were led by a core group of 18 hike leaders. We certainly would like to see some new faces volunteer to lead hikes.

We need new leaders for any class of hikes from easy to strenuous. If you ever thought about leading your favorite hikes, please join us at our next hike leaders meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 2004, 7 PM at the trail center.

See you on the trails,

Fred Z

A reminder about our ongoing need for member donations...

As you know, we are an all volunteer organization with administrative work divvied up by your board of directors. Publication of the *Alpiner*, trail supplies, tools and website expenses are all funded by donations and modest profit from publication sales. New trails often would not be built without nonprofit funding for design and structure materials. In 2003 we broke just about even in regard to administrative costs, but donations did not keep pace with tool and material expenses. It is becoming the norm that when State, County and City parks spend their limited trail dollars, they focus first on multi-use trails.

So, if you like the quality hiker trail system we enjoy today, please consider making a tax deductible donation today. With all of the storm damage, this need is now greater than ever!

Marvin Pistrang Passes

Marvin Pistrang, a long-time member of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club, passed away on May 8. Pistrang spent countless hours hiking and biking in the area.

A geologist by profession but a naturalist at heart, according to wife Temma, Pistrang wrote the book "Bedrock and Bootsoles" for the club so the geology of the area would be better understood by the lay hiker.

He was also a member of the Sierra Club, Audubon Society, Native Plant Society and the Mountaineers.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Marvin Pistrang lived all over the US and Canada. In the Seattle area for 27 years, he did volunteer work for the Pacific Science Center, the Seattle Aquarium and the Hancock Field Station in Oregon.

He and his family joined the Peace Corps in 1972; he spent two years working as a naturalist at Lake Nakuru National Park in Kenya. He led safaris for National Audubon, even a children's safari in Kenya. Marvin Pistrang led hikes all over the West, including the Grand Canyon, a favorite haunt. He shared his love of the desert and all its creatures with his wife Temma and their three children.

Temma will be taking his ashes to Kenya in January. She will also be leading a safari at the time in his memory. She welcomes friends to join her.

Looking for hiking guides and maps to the Issaquah Alps ?

Check out our back cover for a complete list of detailed hiking guides, trail maps and hikes for the entire family covering the Issaquah Alps.

Mud, Fun and Fresh Air for the Whole Family

Mountains to Sound Greenway volunteers are at it again. After planting 15,000 native trees and shrubs along Issaquah and Tibbetts Creeks last fall, volunteers will be preparing for future tree planting projects by planting 12,000 seedlings into pots at the Mountains to Sound Nursery.

The nursery, located at Lake Sammamish State Park, is the result of a collaboration between Washington State Parks and the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust. It opened on a small scale in 1998 but by 2001 the increasing demand for native plants in local restoration projects prompted a major renovation including a covered shed and potting tables. This new facility can hold 20,000 plants.

Starting Thursday, January 8th and running almost every Saturday through March, volunteers will pot up tiny trees and shrubs so that someday they can be planted in natural areas to provide shade for salmon, berries for birds, and clean the air and water.

Volunteers of all ages and levels of experience are welcome, and hundreds of volunteers are needed. If you'd like to get your hands dirty and work outdoors on a fun, low-impact project, please sign up.

Registration is open now; for more info, visit www.mtsgreenway.org. Or, volunteers may contact kelly.kirkland@mtsgreenway.org or 206-812-0122 for more information.

Pioneer Days

by Joe Toynbee

During the Fall of 1979, my wife and I began hearing rumors about a new hiking club being formed with the interesting name of "Issaquah Alps Trails Club." In November I obtained a copy of a 14 page publication called the Issaquah Alpiner. This club was of interest to us because the hiking club we belong to, The Mountaineers, did not offer much in the way of close-in Winter hikes. From this Alpiner, I learned that the first board of directors meeting of the new club had been held on October 18, 1979, and Harvey Manning elected first president. Annual dues were to be \$3 for individuals and \$5 for families.

The Alpiner had the hike schedule for Nov/Dec of 1979 and January of 1980. In the hikes preamble was the following good advice: **THE FIRST LAW OF HIKING AROUND PUGET SOUND: IF YOU WAIT FOR THE SUN TO COME OUT, YOU WILL NEVER LEAVE THE HOUSE.**

Some 42 hikes were listed, and we picked one on December 31, 1979 led by Harvey Manning. The hike was titled "Great Big Cougar Mountain Adventure Loop." The hike description was "a loop through open and public lands with views of the proposed New City of 90,000 people. Further details would simply be inflammatory." This intrigued us, to say the least.

December 31st was a cold day, with some snow on the ground. About 50 people showed up at our meeting place, the Issaquah Park and Ride.

Our leader appeared, a large bearded man dressed in ragged wool clothing. He carried a large hiking stick. One could not help but think of Moses leading the Israelites to the Promised Land.

We marched across Highway 900 and up onto Cougar. Harvey kept up a running commentary about

the opportunity to put a large, wild area on Cougar into public ownership, and asked for our support. At one point we came across a large NO TRESPASSING sign, which Harvey said had been put up for his benefit since he had been exploring the area. We were very impressed both by Harvey and his message.

Since that December day in 1979, I have gone on about 350 club hikes and several hundred private ones in the Alps. On every hike, I think about the people that worked so hard to preserve these precious tracts of private land. A famous phrase certainly applies here: never did so many owe so much to so few.

TRAILWORK SCHEDULE

= Open To All =

MONTHLY FIRST SATURDAYS

January 3, February 7, March 6

9AM - 1 PM Meet @ Trails Center

EVERY SATURDAY MORNING

Repairing damage from the Dec. 4 storm.

January, maybe February +

SPECIAL EVENTS

Office groups, students, scouts, social club, etc. Groups of 4-25.

Most weekdays & weekends available

WHAT TO WEAR AND BRING

Dress as for hiking, but plan to get dirty.

Sturdy shoes; consider rain gear, long sleeves, double-stitched knees. Water and snack. We provide tools.

QUESTIONS? Contact Scott:

SSemans@aol.com 425-369-1725.

No RSVP needed for monthly group. Call first to confirm if serious rain.

NONAME

by Bill Longwell

We always called it Phil's Creek. It seemed natural.

We called it Phil's Creek first of all in the proprietary sense, *Phil's creek*. After all, Phil Hall's horse ranch straddled this creek on Squak Mountain's lower flanks.

After several winters of the creek's high waters, the creek threatened to cut into its bank as it careened toward its confluence with the Issaquah Creek's South Fork. Phil spent summer days, when the water was low or non-existent, plastering large rocks into the creek's bank and filling the crevices with concrete. Phil was always alert to the creek's penchant for tearing into his lawn and reaching for the foundation of his house.

About this time the King Country DOT replaced the creek's inadequate culvert under the SE May Valley Road with one much larger, just to handle larger flows.

Phil also built sturdy bridges across the creek to transfer his riding lawnmower and other machinery from one part of his property to another.

In the 1960s, I began to track the creek's rise and fall. I noted when the creek's waters disappeared into the deep gravels of May Valley. For several months it remained dry at Phil's house. Also, I noted when fall rains caused the water table to rise enough for the stream to begin flowing again. I still have these notes.

So, in the proprietary sense, this was *Phil's creek*. He spent enough time trying to tame it, at least in his front yard.

In November, 1971, when Phil and I found our way into the creek's then undetected and

seemingly concealed valley below Thrush Gap (it doesn't seem that way now), we began, for the first time, to view the creek as a whole. In that valley the creek ran the year around.

When we discovered that this creek was the *same* creek that threaded its way through Phil's property, it was natural to begin calling this creek now by a geographical, proper name sense, *Phil's Creek*.

In the spring of 1973, Phil and I and several of our students built a three mile trail from Phil's house up the south slopes of Squak. We worked into the valley we had discovered (*rediscovered*, actually) and connected this trail to the East Side Road.

Phil and I always wanted to bring beavers into the upper Phil's Creek valley and watch them go to work. About this time a Washington State agency was trapping beavers on Tiger Mountain and near Highway 18 and we always wondered if the game Department would give us a pair of beavers for *Phil's Creek*. Somehow, we never got around to ask.

When we began taking our children and students to Squak on early December weekends to camp before the large Bullitt House fireplace (the roof stood then, protecting us from the frosts and snowfalls), we always climbed there via *Phil's Creek*.

For ten plus years every May, Phil and I took scores of our students on a circuitous route up

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January

Thursday, Jan. 1, 9 am
Little Si

Work off some holiday calories to this popular destination.

2C, 5 miles, 1300 ft. gain
Fred Zeitler, 425-882-3435

Saturday, Jan. 3, 9 am
Tiger Mountain

Hike up to Talus Rocks and return via Section Line. Children welcome.

2B, 3-5 miles, 800 ft. gain
Aaron Shaw, 425-391-1600

Sunday, Jan. 4, 9 am
West Tiger 2

Hike up on TMT to great views. Return via RR grade and more.

3D, 8 miles, 2600 ft. gain
Tom Palm, 206-783-6005

Monday, Jan. 5, 8 am

Bird watching

Stilwater to Duvall along Snoqualmie River

2A, 6 miles, no elevation gain
Bill Longwell, 425-222-6775

Saturday Jan. 10, 9 am

Squak Mountain

Loop hike to great views of Mt. Rainier. West Peak option.

2C, 5-6 miles, 1300-1600 ft. gain.
Scott Prueter, 425-369-6016

Sunday, Jan. 11, 9 am
South Tiger

Hike TMT to Otter Lake, return via S. Tiger traverse and side trip to S. Tiger peak.

2C, 7-8 miles, 1700 ft. gain
Fred Zeitler, 425-882-3435

Sunday, Jan. 11, 10 am

Tradition Lake Plateau

Loop hike from Trail Center to Plateau, then around 2 lakes.

2B, 5 miles, 600 ft. gain
Dave Kappler, 425-392-3571

Saturday, Jan. 17, 9 am

Squak Mountain Perimeter

Loop hike around Squak, some new, some familiar trails. Views of Mt. Rainier.

3C, 7-8 miles, 1900 ft. gain
Fred Zeitler, 425-882-3435

Saturday, Jan. 17, 10 am

Cougar Mountain

Hike Lewis Creek Gorge where fern drape mossy maples and steep valley walls. Bring walking sticks for stream crossing.

2B, 4 miles, 600 ft. gain
Bert Drui, 425-746-0709

Sunday, Jan. 18, 9:30 am

Cougar Mountain

Hike Licorice Fern trail to Coal Creek Falls, back via Far Country Trail.

2C, 7-8 miles, 1500 ft. gain
Doug Simpson, 425-392-6660

Monday, Jan. 19, 8:30 am

Preston-Snoqualmie Trail

Railroad history, trail history, old-time photos and a hike. Car shuttle.

3A, 9 miles, 300 ft. gain
Bill Longwell, 425-222-6775

Saturday, Jan. 24, 9:30 am

Newcastle Beach

Hike to Mercer Slough Park and return.

3A, 8 miles, 100 ft. gain
Ralph Owen, 425-746-1070

Sunday, Jan. 25, 9 am

Rattlesnake Ledges (3)

Hike new trail to popular ledges with great views.

2C, 5 miles, 1400 ft. gain
Frank Gilliland, 425-603-0454

Monday, Jan. 26, 7 pm

IATC Annual Meeting

Please join us at the annual meeting.

Trail Center, 1st & Bush, Issaquah

Saturday, Jan. 31, 10 am

Cougar Mountain

Hike little used Bear Ridge trail to AA peak. Small loops on return.

2C, 5-6 miles, 1300 ft. gain
Kitty Gross, 425-641-4393

February

Sunday, Feb. 1, 9 am

Squak Mountain

One way hike across eastside of Mountain back to trail center.

2B, 6.5 miles, 1100 ft. gain, 1700 ft. loss
Frank Gilliland, 425-603-0454

Saturday, Feb. 7, 9 am

West Tiger 1, 2, 3

Big loop, TMT to Fred's corner, then over to W. Tiger 1. Return via Poo Top trail to TMT, then on to peaks of WT 2 and 3.

4D, 10-11 miles, 3000+ ft. gain
Aaron Shaw, 425-391-1600

Saturday, Feb. 7, 10 am

Lake Sammamish

Explore the wilder side of this state park

2A, 4 miles, No gain
Dave Kappler, 425-392-3571

Sunday, Feb. 8, 8:30 am

Middle Tiger

We start from south end of TMT and will try to do a figure 8.

4C, 12 miles, 2400 ft. gain
Ron Howatson, 425-392-8344

Saturday, Feb. 14, 8:30 am

Cougar Ring

Circle the perimeter of Cougar Mountain via a combination of often and seldom used trails. The exact route depends on the whims of the leader.

4C, 10-12 miles, 2500 ft. gain
Ralph Owen, 425-746-1070

Saturday, Feb. 14, 10 am

Tiger Mountain

Nook loop to Talus Caves

2B, 4-5 miles, 700 ft. gain
Trudy Ecob, 206-232-2933

Sunday, Feb. 15, 10 am

Tradition Lake Plateau

Loop hike to caves and lakes.

2B, 5 miles, 700 ft. gain
Bert Drui, 425-746-0709

Saturday, Feb. 21, 9 am

West Tiger 3

Loop hike to popular destination via the quiet route.

3D, 9 miles, 2500 ft. gain
Scott Prueter, 425-369-6016

Saturday, Feb. 21, 10 am

Twin Falls

Nice stroll to great waterfalls

2B, 3 miles, 600 ft. gain
Kitty Gross, 425-641-4393

Sunday, Feb. 22, 9 am

Poo Poo Point

Up the Chirico trail, down the high school trail to Issaquah. Car shuttle.

2C, 6-7 miles, 2000 ft. gain
Tom Palm, 206-783-6005

Monday, Feb. 24, 7 pm

Hike Leaders' Meeting

Trail Center, 1st and Bush, Issaquah
Fred Zeitler, 425-882-3435

Saturday, Feb. 28, 9 am

Taylor Mountain

Explore trails and roads on Taylor Mountain in search of Shawn Falls and Carey Creek Cascades.

3C, 6-8 miles, 1500 ft. gain
Harry Morgan, 425-432-3249

Sunday, Feb. 29, 9 am

Middle Tiger

This hike starts at Hwy 18 and will do two small loops on this hike.

3C, 8-9 miles, 1800 ft. gain
Doug Simpson, 425-392-6660

March

Saturday, March 6, 9 am

Cougar Mountain

Double loop to Wilderness Peak, then Shy Bear and Deceiver trail to Longview Peak.

2C, 7 miles, 1900 ft. gain
Aaron Shaw, 425-391-1600

Sunday, March 7, 9 am

West Tiger 2

Hike to great views from Preston.

3C, 8 miles, 2500 ft. gain
Tom Palm, 206-783-6005

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SSemans@aol.com 425-369-1725.

No RSVP needed for monthly group. Call first to confirm if serious rain.

Saturday, March 13, 9 am

Cougar Mountain

A loop hike out of Redtown to popular spots.

2B, 6 miles, 800 ft. gain
Joe Toynbee, 206-723-6716

Saturday, March 13, 10 am

Cougar Mountain

History Hike. Old town to Coal Creek. View artifacts and discuss 100 years of hidden history.

2A, 3 miles, 100 ft. gain
Bert Drui, 425-746-0709

Sunday, March 14, 9 am

Cedar Butte

Half day hike to nice views

2B, 4-5 miles, 1000 ft. gain
Jackie Hughes, 425-641-3815

Sunday, March 14, 10 am

Tradition Lake Plateau

Loop hike from trail center. Some discussion of plants, history and geology.

2B, 5 miles, 600 ft. gain
Dave Kappler, 425-392-3571

Sunday, March 20, 9 am

Tiger Mountain

Loop hike from trail center to Plateau to Talus caves via section line. Return via Nook trail and two lakes.

2C, 6-7 miles, 1300 ft. gain
Scott Prueter, 425-369-6016

Sunday, March 21, 9:30 am

Cougar Mountain

One way hike from Wilderness Creek to peak, then to Clay Pit and down Bear Ridge trail. Car shuttle.

2C, 6-7 miles, 1500 ft. gain
Doug Simpson, 425-392-6660

Tuesday, March 23, 9 am

South Tiger

Loop hike. TMT to S. Tiger traverse. Lunch at new site with good views.

2C, 6-7 miles, 1600 ft. gain
Karen van Pelt, 425-747-9381

Saturday, March 27, 8:30 am

Tiger Mountain

We'll climb to Tiger's 2nd and 4th highest peaks via Chirico, One View, Poo Top, W. Tiger RR trails and others. Loop may be modified if too much snow.

4D, 10 miles, 3700 ft. gain
Ralph Owen, 425-746-1070

Sunday, March 28, 8:30 am

Rattlesnake Mountain Traverse

One way hike up past the ledges to East Peak, then on to West Peak. We'll hike the new Rattlesnake Mountain Trail.

4D, 11-12 miles, 3300 ft. gain
Pete Girard (Fred Zeitler), 425-882-3435

Sunday, March 28, 12:30 pm

Poo Poo Point

Hike up from hang glider landing field to great views.

2C, 4.5 miles, 1700 ft. gain
Frank Gilliland, 425-603-0454

Tuesday, March 30, 10 am

Snoqualmie Ridge Loop

A full circle of the hilltop. Slow pace.

2B, 6.5 miles, 600 ft. gain
Warren Jones, 425-391-7409

**Hikers must be
equipped for
each hike.
Please review
the Hiking
Checklist on
page 10.**

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Squak's northern slopes and always concluded by walking down *Phil's Creek*. Our students learned the name.

When word of the trail into Squak's largest valley began to spread, Phil's neighbors, most of whom owned horses, began building access trails from their property to the Phil's Creek Trail.

With all the work we put into the trail along this creek, it was easy and natural to call it *Phil's Creek*.

In December, 1981, the Washington Department of Natural Resources, which owned 200 acres above local property owners on Squak's south flanks and along *Phil's Creek*, announced plans for its development. DNR's plans called for either clear-cutting the property or turning it into real estate.

Since DNR associated me with the building of this *Phil's Creek* Trail, two officials from the local DNR office invited me to take them on a walk-through. This was my first opportunity to politic.

The result of DNR's plans, now much publicized, was a public meeting in Issaquah. The topic? What to do with the property along *Phil's Creek*.

Needless to say, virtually no one in the audience supported DNR's plans for development. The trail and Squak's timbered south flanks were treasured by neighbor, by hiking visitor, by everyone, it seemed.

Almost everybody.

One person, Phil Hall's old neighbor, stood up in the meeting and LOUDLY proclaimed that he was all for the clear-cutting or the development. The state should get a proper return for this property, he said.

No one supported him.

When he realized his comments were unpopular, he tried one more tactic. He said, "By the way, why is this creek called *Phil's Creek*? I've lived here as long as Phil Hall. The creek should be named for me." He sat down.

DNR did not develop the property. Eventually, most of Squak became public property.

Not long after this meeting, I was driving from Issaquah along the SE May Valley Road. Just as I was passing over Phil's Creek, from the corner of my eye I saw a new road sign I'd never seen before. I backed up to look again.

The sign read "NONAME CREEK."

Right away, I knew its origin. Certainly, Phil Hall's unhappy neighbor had installed that rogue sign.

In the 1980s I began taking long hikes after school, I suppose, to relieve the stress from school teaching. One of my routes was to leave my Renton Highlands home and walk down and through the Green River Valley. I often walked fifteen miles and almost to Auburn before my wife retrieved me after she got off work.

Another favorite, long-distance hike was to walk around Squak Mountain. Thirteen miles.

I drove a few minutes from Hazen High School, where I taught, to the I-90 Exit 15 Park and Ride. There I changed my clothes.

Leaving the car, I walked through Issaquah along Newport Way to the Hobart Road. I took the Hobart Road to the SE May Valley Road, then walked to the Sunset Highway (Highway 900) and continued back to my car at Exit 15. I timed my

NONAME

by Bill Longwell

We always called it Phil's Creek. It seemed natural.

We called it Phil's Creek first of all in the proprietary sense, *Phil's creek*. After all, Phil Hall's horse ranch straddled this creek on Squak Mountain's lower flanks.

After several winters of the creek's high waters, the creek threatened to cut into its bank as it careened toward its confluence with the Issaquah Creek's South Fork. Phil spent summer days, when the water was low or non-existent, plastering large rocks into the creek's bank and filling the crevices with concrete. Phil was always alert to the creek's penchant for tearing into his lawn and reaching for the foundation of his house.

About this time the King Country DOT replaced the creek's inadequate culvert under the SE May Valley Road with one much larger, just to handle larger flows.

Phil also built sturdy bridges across the creek to transfer his riding lawnmower and other machinery from one part of his property to another.

In the 1960s, I began to track the creek's rise and fall. I noted when the creek's waters disappeared into the deep gravels of May Valley. For several months it remained dry at Phil's house. Also, I noted when fall rains caused the water table to rise enough for the stream to begin flowing again. I still have these notes.

So, in the proprietary sense, this was *Phil's creek*. He spent enough time trying to tame it, at least in his front yard.

In November, 1971, when Phil and I found our way into the creek's then undetected and

seemingly concealed valley below Thrush Gap (it doesn't seem that way now), we began, for the first time, to view the creek as a whole. In that valley the creek ran the year around.

When we discovered that this creek was the *same* creek that threaded its way through Phil's property, it was natural to begin calling this creek now by a geographical, proper name sense, *Phil's Creek*.

In the spring of 1973, Phil and I and several of our students built a three mile trail from Phil's house up the south slopes of Squak. We worked into the valley we had discovered (*rediscovered*, actually) and connected this trail to the East Side Road.

Phil and I always wanted to bring beavers into the upper Phil's Creek valley and watch them go to work. About this time a Washington State agency was trapping beavers on Tiger Mountain and near Highway 18 and we always wondered if the game Department would give us a pair of beavers for *Phil's Creek*. Somehow, we never got around to ask.

When we began taking our children and students to Squak on early December weekends to camp before the large Bullitt House fireplace (the roof stood then, protecting us from the frosts and snowfalls), we always climbed there via *Phil's Creek*.

For ten plus years every May, Phil and I took scores of our students on a circuitous route up

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Squak's northern slopes and always concluded by walking down *Phil's Creek*. Our students learned the name.

When word of the trail into Squak's largest valley began to spread, Phil's neighbors, most of whom owned horses, began building access trails from their property to the Phil's Creek Trail.

With all the work we put into the trail along this creek, it was easy and natural to call it *Phil's Creek*.

In December, 1981, the Washington Department of Natural Resources, which owned 200 acres above local property owners on Squak's south flanks and along *Phil's Creek*, announced plans for its development. DNR's plans called for either clear-cutting the property or turning it into real estate.

Since DNR associated me with the building of this *Phil's Creek* Trail, two officials from the local DNR office invited me to take them on a walk-through. This was my first opportunity to politic.

The result of DNR's plans, now much publicized, was a public meeting in Issaquah. The topic? What to do with the property along *Phil's Creek*.

Needless to say, virtually no one in the audience supported DNR's plans for development. The trail and Squak's timbered south flanks were treasured by neighbor, by hiking visitor, by everyone, it seemed.

Almost everybody.

One person, Phil Hall's old neighbor, stood up in the meeting and LOUDLY proclaimed that he was all for the clear-cutting or the development. The state should get a proper return for this property, he said.

No one supported him.

When he realized his comments were unpopular, he tried one more tactic. He said, "By the way, why is this creek called *Phil's Creek*? I've lived here as long as Phil Hall. The creek should be named for me." He sat down.

DNR did not develop the property. Eventually, most of Squak became public property.

Not long after this meeting, I was driving from Issaquah along the SE May Valley Road. Just as I was passing over Phil's Creek, from the corner of my eye I saw a new road sign I'd never seen before. I backed up to look again.

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self at every junction. I could walk those thirteen miles around Squak in three hours and ten minutes.

In the 1980s I walked around Squak twenty-four times until traffic became so heavy that to continue would have been suicidal. In those ten years, the walk went from reasonably quiet to loud. Even the SE May Valley Road became a speedway. At the end of the 1980s, I spent much of my walk on the defensive, dodging traffic. I stopped hiking there in 1989.

However, on one particular hike, late in 1981, I walked around Squak Mountain for one purpose only.

I reached *Phil's Creek* on the SE May Valley Road at dark, as I planned. The "NONAME" sign still stood. I didn't hesitate. I pulled that from the ground, climbed down into the creek and stuffed it far down into that large culvert that carried the creek toward its eventual meeting with Issaquah Creek.

The eroding waters of Phil's Creek have been filing away at that sign now for twenty-two years.

**Annual General Membership
Meeting - Monday Jan. 26th
2004, 7:00 to 9:00 pm**

This year's annual meeting will be held at the Issaquah Trail Center. A map can be found on our web site. We will be electing four board members and new officers. Hear year end reports regarding club finances, volunteer trail work, the hike program and updates on our new trail guide and map projects. Find out how to get involved or talk to our experts about your favorite trail. We look forward to seeing you there.

**"You Could Die From That"
Or . . .Lost in the Woods**

by Doug Simpson

Getting lost in the woods is a very serious matter. As a local Issaquah teacher would say, "You could die from that." Fortunately, I have never really been lost. But as a novice hiker I had some disconcerting experiences, mostly because trails have been unmarked or poorly marked and hard to find.

Once on my first trek up the original trail to Poo Poo Point, I had worked my tail off angling up the steep mountainside. When I came to a three-pronged crossroads, I was at a loss for what to do. The trail to the left didn't seem logical, so I passed on that. Should I continue up to the east, or head off right to the south? Inadequate signage was no help. I headed right for about a quarter of a mile until the trail started down. This couldn't be right, so I headed back for option number three.

Bad move. I didn't realize that the trail had actually gone above Poo Poo. So I plunged on into what seemed like no man's land. If it weren't for the trail, I'd have felt like an explorer in virgin territory. I was on the One View Trail (I later discovered) for its mile-long existence to 15-Mile Gap, which was signed. At this point I knew I was nowhere near Poo Poo. So I retraced by original route, disappointed but wiser for future outings. Had I been lost? Misguided, at least.

On my second misadventure, I did depart from the trail. Heading up Cougar Mountain's Bear Ridge Trail, which I had hiked before, I couldn't find a fork to head up the trail to the Fantastic Erratic and beyond. I went back and forth several times, but just couldn't find it. I knew where it had to go, so I committed the inexcusable: I left the trail and headed uphill to catch the trail farther up. I could easily have gotten lost if I had gone very far; fortunately, I came to my senses and

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headed back the way I had come. Shortly thereafter, of course, I found the fork upward that I had been looking for.

My third screw-up is almost comical in retrospect, but it wasn't very funny at the time. I was at Cougar's DeLeo Wall, wanting to make a loop trip and return via a different route. Rather than returning to the Red Town Trailhead on the Marshall Hill Trail, which seemed kind of round about, I followed a sign toward the China Creek Trail, which on the county map seemed more direct. After working my way downhill a quarter mile or so, I was confronted by an inhospitable sign declaring, "Trail Closed."

"The hell you say," I mumbled to myself. "We'll see about that." So I proceeded to scramble past the sign over a leaning fence and find the trail farther on, past this construction project. Well, what the sign didn't say was that the trail had been obliterated, totally out of existence. Stubbornly, I plodded on, sloshing through the mud of a housing project, then stumbling onto the edge of a golf course (being eyed suspiciously by distant duffers), and finally scaling a fence and slogging through a swamp—until I finally staggered back onto the Wildside Trail to Red Town. I learned my lesson that day: if a sign says a trail is closed, there is probably a pretty good reason.

I was relatively blameless in my fourth fiasco. I was searching for the Cedar Butte Trail near Rattlesnake Lake above North Bend. I spent about thirty minutes cruising back and forth on the Cedar Falls Road and consulting a map. All I could find was the Iron Horse Trail, which skirts the edge of the Cedar Hills watershed. I found find nothing resembling a hiking trail—and no signs pointing to Cedar Butte. Eventually I found a trail heading off in the right general direction. At an unmarked fork, I opted left (the wrong choice, of course) because it was angling upward. About a mile down the trail, rifle fire began to ring out close by, perhaps a quarter mile ahead.

"Holy s—," I muttered. Had I stumbled on some mountain man hunting out of season? Had the Hatfields and McCoys moved into the area? Were DEA agents at war with some drug runners? That kind of stuff could get me killed, I thought, listening to the staccato of machine gun fire. So I reversed my route a half mile or so until I found a trail heading more south where Cedar Butte ought to be. Eventually, I stumbled back onto the Iron Horse Trail and Boxley Creek, near the desired trail. In retrospect, I may have been approaching a shooting range, but it is scary to be alone in the woods when gunfire breaks out nearby.

On a hot August day, I was exploring some different, seldom used trails on Tiger Mountain. At an unmarked "T" on the return trail, I went right instead of left. Before long I knew it was the wrong way. For the sake of exploration, I decided to continue on, thinking that it would eventually come to a cross trail, Dwight's Trail, that I had passed earlier on the way up. It never did. I knew that sooner or later I would come to the power lines, and I could hear I-90 traffic in the distance, so I was heading in the right direction. However, I had to do some unwanted climbing, then a steep descent, which brought me down to . . . the power lines.

Assuming I had to go up just a short distance to my original High Point Trail, in the hot sun (no shady woods at this point) I headed up. And up and up again and again. Every time I reached a new level, I had another one or two more to go before—a mile or so up the sultry, unpleasant terrain—I finally reached the High Point Trail. I may not have been truly lost, but I didn't know where the hell I was or how far I had gotten away from my original trail.

Henceforth, my inclination has been to avoid seeking out trails that are not properly signed. After all, you could die from getting lost in the woods. Or at least be highly embarrassed by making bad choices.

Hiking 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 unless severe conditions pose a safety hazard. 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 18 should be accompanied by an adult. Please, no dogs 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 40 minutes depending on the location of the hike) or meal times (lunch will add another 20 to 40 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.

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

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Hike Information, continued

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 dogs. Please leave your dogs 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.

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.

Trail Maintenance

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

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!

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 Publications Order Form

Return this completed form along with your check to:

Issaquah Alps Trails Club Publications, P.O. Box 466, Issaquah, WA 98027

Name: _____ Address: _____

ITEM	PRICE*	QTY.	TOTAL
Book: The Flowering of the Issaquah Alps--Revised!	\$ 9.00		
Book: The Authoritative Guide to the Trails of Cougar Mountain Wildland Park and Surrounds	15.00**		
Book: Guide to Trails of Tiger Mountain	15.00***		
Book: The Coals of Newcastle: A Hundred Years of Hidden History	15.00		
Book: Eastside Family Hikes	3.00		
Map: Issaquah Alps Tiger Mountain, 1998 revision	2.00		
Map: Issaquah Alps Cougar Mountain, 2001 revision	2.00		
Green Trails Map: Tiger & Taylor Mountains, Map 204S	7.00		
Green Trails Map: Cougar & Squak Mountains, Map 203S	7.00		
Green Trails Map: Rattlesnake Mountain & Upper Snoqualmie Valley Map 205S	7.00		
Green Trails Map: Mount Si NRCA & Snoqualmie Corridor, Map 206S	7.00		

*All prices include shipping and handling.

**One (1) IATC Cougar Mountain Map included.

***One (1) IATC Tiger Mountain Map included.

Total: _____

Issaquah Alps Trails Club Foundation and Membership Request Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____



All donations are tax deductible. Your donations fund The Alpiner publication costs and the club's minimal operating costs first, with 100% of remaining funds being directed where they can best address the trail design, construction, maintenance and advocacy needs throughout the Issaquah Alps. **Note:** Membership does not require a donation; however, donations help us preserve and enhance your Issaquah Alps.

Annual donation levels:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The basic hiker.....\$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> The project supporter.....\$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The IATC sponsor.....\$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> The visionary.....\$100 and above |

IMPORTANT: This form and your donation and/or membership request form should be mailed to:
IATC Foundation, P.O. Box 351, Issaquah, WA 98027

Issaquah Alps Trails Club Publications

See page 15 for the publications order form.

Note: All of the following prices include shipping & handling.

- ☐ Flowering of the Issaquah Alps—Revised! By Fred and Ann Weinmann and Harvey Manning. 1996 updated edition. This new edition lists trees, shrubs, ferns, and flowers found in the Issaquah Alps. Flowers are listed by color, season when flowering, and where many of the plants can be found. \$9.
- ☐ 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).
- ☐ Guide to Trails of Tiger Mountain—By Bill Longwell. 2003 revised edition. Updated trail information, two new trails and numerous photographs. \$15 (includes map listed in next column).

- ☐ 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. 100+ photographs, 4 maps, and Tim O'Brian's account of the incredible Seattle and Walla Walla Railroad. \$15.
- ☐ Eastside Family Hikes—By Peggy Barchi. 2001 revised and updated edition. Descriptions of family hikes (annotated for stroller use and picnicking) on the Eastside. \$3.
- ☐ Green Trails Tiger & Taylor Mountain. Map 204S. \$7.
- ☐ Green Trails Cougar & Squak Mountains. Map 203S. \$7.
- ☐ Green Trails Rattlesnake Mountain & Upper Snoqualmie Valley, Map 205S. \$7.
- ☐ *Green Trails Mount Si NRCA & Snoqualmie Corridor*, Map 206S. \$7.
- ☐ IATC Tiger Mountain map. 1998 revised. \$2.
- ☐ IATC Cougar Mountain map. 2001 revised. \$2.

Issaquah Alps Trail Club
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