

# THE ALPINE



April ♦ May ♦ June 2004

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

## **2003 Trailwork**

by Bill Longwell

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club (25 years old this year) and its sister organization, the Snoqualmie Valley Trails Club, can boast of two trail crews. Two. Name any other trails' club with even one trail crew. You can't. We are unique.

Some members of this trail crew have been together, laboring on trails, keeping them open for the region's legion of hikers, for almost 30 years now. These long-time crew members built the original trail system in the Issaquah Alps. They began in 1971 on Squak Mountain, in 1974 on Tiger Mountain and in 1976 on Cougar, where Harvey Manning and Ralph Owen lived and worked trails.

Most Issaquah Alp trails predated the IATC, the Cougar Mountain Regional Park, DNR interest and influence and trail knowledge of all those hikers who ply Alps trails.

Scott Semans leads one crew. His is a difficult job because he deals with people who come for trail work once or maybe twice. On almost every one of his work parties, he must begin all over again, explaining just what trail work is. Most of his recruits, learning of work parties on the internet, do not return.

Scott worked on *scores* of work parties this past year and performs remarkable work on our Alps trails. Generally he works Cougar and Squak. He

is the master of detailing. He carefully and painstakingly works one to two trails a year, laboring almost inch by inch up the particular trail he works. If he digs out a plant, he carefully replants it near the trail. In 2003, he and his crews spent 661 hours working the Bear Ridge Trail and 326 hours laboring up the Licorice Fern Trail. The latter work has been a several-year effort.

The other crews, having been around for years, led by Bill Longwell and recently by Fred Zeitler, work primarily to keep trails open. In 2003 this crew, really about seven people, worked on **65** different trails.

This crew spends about seven months a year plying Issaquah Alps trails (we brush, cut out logs, clear debris) and then works for the US Forest Service in North Bend the other five months. Among the duties volunteering for the Forest Service, we open and close the Granite Mountain Lookout.

Six to seven people carry the load in the older, more experienced crew. I am continually astounded by this crew.

I'm astounded by people's willingness to work. Covering 65 trails in this region takes much dedication and planning. One person, who always wishes to remain anonymous (he never wants me to report his name), drove over 5000 miles to work 44 different days on seven different trails near

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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: [furyfun2@aol.com](mailto:furyfun2@aol.com)  
Send diskette or hard copy to post office box number above.

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

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1<sup>ST</sup> Quarter 2004

by Doug Simpson

The first six presidents of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club are legendary in their contributions to the club and the regional hiking community. Everyone knows about Harvey Manning and his immense role in the club's founding and growth. But the contributions of David Kappler, Gus Nelson, Ken Konigsmark, Barbara Johnson and Steven Drew are also enormous and can never be forgotten.

Why me as president number seven? Am I just filling a void, making myself a sacrificial lamb at a time when others are tired from giving so much of themselves, or uninterested in a perhaps thankless job? Perhaps at this time when there are fewer worlds to conquer, fewer battles to win in the Issaquah Alps . . . perhaps the president of the club is now more of a figurehead. I hope not. The IATC is a vital group that has so much to offer to so many people in the region. The president's job is to make sure that the club's wonderful hiking program, the critical ongoing trail maintenance work, and the political and land use issues all remain strong elements of the club as it soon embarks on its second quarter century (the club was founded in 1979).

Again, why me? I have lived in Issaquah since 1963 and have always loved the surrounding mountains and forests. But I was not a hiker. After 28 years of teaching at Issaquah High School, I was retired for several years before I even took up hiking in 2001. At first it was all I could do to negotiate even the smallest of hills. When I first went up Tiger's modest Nook Trail, I thought I was going to die. I gradually went higher, farther and faster until my body had adapted itself to the demands of hiking.

I became addicted. Hiking became a vital part of my life. I have always loved nature and could easily relate to the transcendental idea that in

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## Thanks from the Mayor

The December 2003 windstorm and early January ice storm caused widespread damage to the trails located in the "Issaquah Alps," specifically Tiger and Squak Mountains. There were hundreds, if not thousands, of downed trees across the trails, which effectively prohibited people from using the "Alps" trail system.

However, the trail volunteers from the Issaquah Alps Trails Club quickly worked with the various local and state agencies and other trail volunteer groups to identify and prioritize the trail clean-up work for the "Alps."

Fred Zeitler, Hikes Coordinator, was instrumental in organizing these clean-up efforts and acted as "clearing house" for what work had been done and what still needed to be done. The Issaquah Alps Trails Club volunteers quickly cleared the Tiger Mountain Trail, Squak Mountain Access/East Ridge Trail and other trails located throughout the Alps.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, the Issaquah Alps Trails Club, and each volunteer who helped to clear the storm damage and downed trees from the "Issaquah Alps" trail system. We could not have cleared the trails as quickly without your enthusiasm and generous help. With the reduction of state budget funds to our partner agencies, and that there is no longer a WCC Trail Crew based in this area, it is doubtful the trails would have been cleared by spring!

Again, thank you for your volunteer efforts to keep our trails system open and useable for the public!

—Ava Frisinger, Mayor of the City of Issaquah

*2003 Trailwork, continued from page 1*

North Bend. Another dedicated worker drove 4400 miles for 72 work days. A third drove 2000 miles and a fourth drove 1550 miles. Who else does this?

I'm astounded by the number of times people work alone--289 of the 380 work parties were one-person crews. Individual work parties seem the norm, not the exception.

I'm astounded by the amount of training our people have. One person, Ken Hopping, has taught himself how to use a crosscut saw, a "misery whip," as it is sometimes called. Ken began with a two-foot saw, moved to a three-footer and now handles a five-foot crosscut saw as well as anyone I know. He is no doubt the most skilled crosscut sawyer in the whole area. This year alone he sawed out over 300 logs, by himself, several with four-foot diameters. That's right, four foot thick logs.

We also have perhaps the most skilled chain sawyer. Ron Howatson continually amazes us with his skill and high energy. He is tireless and we admire him greatly.

I'm also astounded by the amount of hiking it takes to reach our work. Our crew walked an accumulative 3001 miles this past year, just to go to work.

One ten-year veteran, Debbie Anschell, the den mother of this crew, has kept us focused with her vast energy and drive. This past year, although somewhat hobbled with injured feet, she worked well into September, almost until time for a foot operation. She plans to be back on the job in 2004.

Our crew has added another experienced trail worker this past year. Rich Johnson, newly added to the IATC Board, has worked with WTA for several years and now has joined our crew. He

works a wide range of trails and he too has moved to a larger saw.

Many other people come occasionally.

This past December 4 windstorm added another difficulty to our work. How can we saw out hundreds of logs and open up the trails as soon as possible? This may take until spring. For the very first time, the IATC crews have had help from other groups to clear trails from catastrophic damage.

Our own Fred Zeitler took on the job of coordinating the whole work scenario. He has been the *major domo*, working with Margaret Macleod, Issaquah Trails Coordinator, with the Washington Trails Association, with various individuals who want to contribute. He is the clearing house and regularly puts out an email summary of work to date and work needed. Besides all this, he has consistently, all year long, served on work parties.

WTA has been a major contributor in repairing the Dec. 4 wind damage. It has developed a quick response to emergencies and has diverted work parties from its planned schedule to once-a-week tread repair and chainsaw teams. We thank them.

The 3612 hours of work in 2003 translates to 451 eight-hour days. At \$11.00/hr. (what the Forest Service pays its own crews), the IATC/SVTC crew donated about \$39,000 of volunteer work this past year.

The 21,076 hours accumulated over the past ten years figures out to almost 232,000 volunteer dollars.

Despite all the past work, a future and major problem exists. Except for two energetic 50 year olds, the average age of this group is seventy. *Seventy!*

Joe Toynbee, original trail crew member from the seventies, spoke for all of us as we were tackling recent major wind-storm damage: "I may not be around to clear trails from the next storm."

How much longer can we last? More importantly, who out there will take our place? We are serious and dedicated in our work. Join us!

### **SUMMARY OF WORK LAST TEN YEARS**

YEAR	TRIPS	DAYS	WORKER DAYS	WORKER HOURS
1994	29	34	108	722
1995	63	69	152	941
1996	73	89	180	1277
1997	179	192	370	2047
1998	184	201	461	2272
1999	175	185	457	2405
2000	173	188	520	2606
2001	260	282	491	2977
2002	349	358	488	3368
2003	380	394	655	3612
<b>TOTALS</b>	1864	1991	3913	21076

### *Presidents Report, continued from page 3*

nature we are closer to God. I have found hiking to provide a means to get in touch with myself and my life. I enjoy hiking alone as much as with a group; in some ways going solo has more significance, providing me a deeper sense of purpose and understanding. Beauty, serenity and personal reflection are a truly awe-inspiring combination awaiting the hiker.

I was past 60 when I started hiking, but I am more fit now than I was 25 years ago (oh, a little heavier maybe). When I was a young teacher, I would never have dreamed that I could climb to the top of any of the local peaks. As a more experience hiker, I set goals for myself. I wanted to reach the top of West Tiger 3. Done, many times. I wanted to climb Mount Si. Done, twice now. I wanted to hike the 16-mile Tiger Mountain Trail. Done, and now I want to lead that

hike. Recently, I completed my last of the six Tiger Mountain summits, seven if you count Poo Poo Point.

The point is that the allure of the hiking trail is very great. All it takes to reach your goals is will, effort and training, and just about anyone can accomplish what I have—and more, particularly if you are younger. Hiking is an inexpensive avocation, it is certainly good for you physically (I feel healthier, stronger and more fit than anytime since I was a young man), and it is also a boon to your psychological or spiritual side. Be the best that you can be. Go for it!

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As president, I will do all that I can to keep the IATC a vital organization benefiting the hiking community. As long as the IATC has leaders such as Fred Zeitler, Ken Konigsmark, Steve Drew, Bill Longwell and Scott Semans (to name a few) active in their respective areas of expertise, we can keep the IATC strong. But the club always needs new leaders.

Serving on the board for the first time this year are Jackie Hughes as treasurer, Susan Duffy as secretary, and Rich Johnson. We expect great efforts from each of them. Hopefully, in the next few months more of you will wish to step up and contribute your particular talents to IATC.

Perhaps you would like to lead hikes, or you might wish to commit some time to trail maintenance. Or you may wish to get involved in advocacy issues. We need you, so please help us.

And in the meantime, all of you please remember that we are no longer a dues-paying organization. To survive, we must have annual donations from those of you who benefit from our programs.

Happy hiking!

## **Letter from Commissioner of Public Land**

In December of last year, major windstorms in the Mountains to Sound Greenway/I-90 corridor caused extensive and widespread damage on lands owned by Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Most of this damage occurred on Tiger Mountain State Forest, creating safety hazards near trails and trailheads. Hundreds of downed trees impacted trails, boardwalks, picnic tables, bathrooms, bridges and interpretive signs. In addition to the downed trees, there are many new danger trees located across and above trails and trailhead facilities.

Fred Zeitler, Hikes Coordinator, quickly coordinated with DNR and Washington Trails Association staff to prioritize which trails should be cleared first and then organized volunteer tree removal crews to clear the Tiger Mountain Trail and other trails located within the state forest. I want to extend a huge thank you to each and every person who helped to clear the storm damage, thus helping to provide a safer outdoor experience for the many people that visit and hike the Tiger Mountain State Forest trail system. With dwindling public funds to maintain state lands and respond to emergency situations like this, DNR could not have opened the trail system without your help. Thank you.

—Doug Sutherland, Commissioner of Public Land

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## **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!

## Trailwork Report

by Scott Semans

IATC's trail work during the first quarter of 2004 has focused on repair of windstorm damage on Tiger and Squak Mountains. Chief Ranger Bill Longwell's seasoned crew has spent many hours sawing out windfalls on these mountains, and around North Bend, as have regular crews from WTA (WA Trails Assn.), equestrians, and numerous volunteer stewards of favorite trails. Fred Zeitler served as a clearinghouse to avoid duplicated effort.

Repairing "root ball divots," where uprooted trees took away portions of trails, is still ongoing, and has been the focus of a dozen weekend work parties mainly on the SMAT (Squak Mt. Access Trail) - East Ridge - East Side Trails. Nearly 100 worker hours went into just one short stretch of the SMAT above a cleared area that was particularly hammered by the wind. Publicity in The Issaquah Press and Seattle PI helped bring out local volunteers, and several office and Scout groups participated. Personal accounts of trailworking in the Alps by Bill and myself will be featured in an upcoming issue of Sunset Magazine.

During the second quarter of 2004 we will have work parties on April 3 and May 8, followed by a hiatus until September, when first-Saturdays work parties will resume. There will be smaller pickup work parties in between, so if you want to get involved, just get in touch. Our focus this quarter will be on finishing Cougar Mountain's Licorice Fern Trail, which also suffered windstorm damage, and evaluating several Tiger Mountain trails for future improvements.

Don't let blackberry runners or salmonberry branches crowd you off the trail this Spring! Carrying a folding pruning saw in your back pocket as you hike makes you a roving trail worker. Cut the encroaching plant off at the

## TRAILWORK SCHEDULE

= Open To All =

### MONTHLY FIRST SATURDAYS

April 3, May 8

9AM - 2 PM Meet @ Trails Center

### "PICKUP" GROUPS

Weekly Sat or Sun, weather permitting.  
Sometimes weekdays. Contact Scott.

### 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.

base if you can, and toss it off the trail. These super-aggressive little saws can be found at any garden or hardware store, and can also be used to delimb or even remove trees across the trail. When cutting living tree branches intruding on the trail, remember to start with an undercut just outside the raised ring where the branch joins the main trunk, then finish the cut from above.

## 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.

**Saturday, April 3, 9:00 AM**  
**Cougar Mountain**  
One-way hike with car shuttle. From Licorice Fern Trail to Wilderness Creek Trailhead.  
2C, 6 miles, 1300 ft. gain  
Bob Gross, 425-427-8449

**Sunday, April 4, 8:30 AM**  
**Cougar-Squak Traverse**  
One-way trip over mighty summits of both Cougar and Squak.  
3D, 9 miles, 2500 ft. gain  
Joe Toynbee, 206-723-6716

**Sunday, April 4, 9:00 AM**  
**Squak Mountain**  
One-way hike across east side of mountain back to the trail center.  
3B, 6.5 miles, 1100 ft. gain, 1700 ft. loss  
Frank Gilliland, 425-603-0454

**Saturday, April 10, 9:00 AM**  
**Echo Mountain**  
An easy climb to the mossy bald summit of Echo Mountain with views of Tiger Mt. and Mt. Rainier. Visit two little lakes and a sphagnum moss bog.  
2B, 6 miles, 650 ft. gain  
Peggy Owen, 425-746-1070

**Sunday, April 11, 10:30 AM**  
**Cougar Mountain**  
Nice hike to Coal Creek Falls.  
2B, 3 miles, 600 ft. gain  
Bert Drui, 425-746-0709

**Monday, April 12, 10:00 AM**  
**Lower Mt. Si Loop**  
New trail links two great view sites.  
2C, 3 miles, 900 ft. gain  
Warren Jones, 425-391-7409

**Wednesday, April 14, 9:00 AM**  
**South Tiger**  
Identify trees, shrubs and flowers. Slow pace.  
1A, 3 miles, 500 ft. gain  
**Saturday, April 24, 9:00 AM**  
**West Tiger 3**  
Loop hike to popular destination via the quiet route  
3C, 8-9 miles, 2500 ft. gain  
Scott Pruetter, 425-369-6016

**Sunday, April 25, 9:00 AM**  
**Squak Mountain**  
Perimeter loop ramble on common and seldom used trails.  
3C, 7-8 miles, 2000 ft. gain  
Doug Simpson, 425-392-6660

**Monday, April 26, 7:00 PM**  
**IATC Board Meeting**  
Trail Center, 1st & Bush, Issaquah

**Friday, April 30, 9:30 AM**  
**Echo Mountain**  
Nice hike to mossy summit with views of Mt. Rainier. Might see chocolate lilies.  
2B, 4-5 miles, 600 ft. gain  
Betty Culbert, 425-432-7387

**Friday, April 30, 6:30 PM**  
**Annual Flower Walk**  
Preston Trail. Identify trees shrubs and flowers on a paved trail. Slow pace.  
1A, 3 miles, 100 ft. gain  
Bill Longwell, 425-222-6775

**Saturday, May 1, 9:00 AM**  
**Cougar Mountain**  
“Red Town Sampler. We’ll enjoy a bit of natural history and flowers in bloom, also a bit of coal mining and IATC history.”  
2A, 5 miles, 500 ft. gain  
Barbara Johnson, 425-746-5573

**Saturday, May 1, 9:30 AM**  
**West Tiger 2**  
Hike to great views utilizing multiple trails.  
3C, 8-10 miles, 2500 ft. gain  
Doug Simpson, 425-392-6660

**Sunday, May 2, 9:00 AM**  
**Poo Poo Point**  
Up Chirico Trail to great views of Mt. Rainier and Mt. Baker. Return via High School Trail to Issaquah. Car shuttle.  
2C, 7 miles, 2000 ft. gain  
Tom Palm, 206-783-6005

**Wednesday, May 5, 9:00 AM**  
**Twin Falls**  
Hike to always-popular destination.

2B, 3-4 miles, 600 ft. gain  
Jackie Hughes, 425-641-3815

**Saturday, May 8, 9:00 AM**  
**Lake Sammamish Ramble**  
Loop hike using East Lake Sammamish Trail, Pickering Trail and trails in state park.  
2A, 4-5 miles, 0 ft. gain  
Dave Kappler, 425-392-3571

**Sunday, May 9, 9:00 AM**  
**Cougar Mountain**  
One way downhill hike from Newcastle to Licorice Fern.  
2A, 4 miles, 400 ft. gain  
Scott Semans, 425-369-1725

**Sunday, May 9, 1:00 PM**  
**Poo Poo Point**  
Hike up to great views of Mt. Rainier and Mt. Baker. With luck, we’ll see the hanggliders soar.  
2C, 4.5 miles, 1700 ft. gain  
Fred Zeitler, 425-882-3435

**Saturday, May 15, 9:00 AM**  
**Cougar Mountain**  
Perimeter Loop hike from Red town.  
3C, 10 miles, 2000 ft. gain  
Richard Mann, 425-391-0410

**Saturday, May 15, 10:00 AM**  
**Cougar Mountain**  
AA peak down to Nike launch site  
2B, 4 miles, 550 ft. gain  
Bert Drui, 425-746-0709

**Sunday, May 16, 9:00 AM**  
**Rattlesnake Ledges (3)**  
Hike new trail to popular ledges with great views.  
2C, 5 miles, 1400 ft. gain  
Mary Nolan, 425-746-0118

**Wednesday, May 19, 9:00 AM**  
**Dirty Harry’s Balcony**  
Out of region hike to popular destination with views of Bandera Mtn., McClellan Butte, Mt. Washington and more.  
2B, 5 miles, 1300 ft. gain  
Jackie Hughes, 425-641-3815

**Saturday, May 22, 9:00 AM**  
**Squak Mountain**  
Loop hike to great views of Rainier. West Peak optional  
2C, 5-6 miles, 1300-1600 ft. gain  
Scott Pruetter, 425-369-6016

**Sunday, May 23, 8:00 AM**  
**Tiger Mountain**  
Annual hike of the complete Tiger Mountain Trail (TMT), this time south to north. Seasoned hikers only for this very strenuous hike.  
4D, 16 miles, 3000 ft. gain  
Ron Howatson, 425-392-8344

**Wednesday, May 26, 7:00 PM**  
**Hike Leaders’ Meeting**  
Trail Center, 1st & Bush, Issaquah  
Fred Zeitler, 425-882-3435

**Saturday, May 29, 9:00 AM**  
**South Tiger**  
Hike TMT to Otter Lake, return via S. Tiger traverse. Lunch with 360-degree views.  
2C, 7 miles, 1600 ft. gain  
Karen van Pelt, 425-747-9381

**Sunday, May 30, 9:00 AM**  
**Squak Mountain.**  
One-way hike across east side of mountain back to the trail center. Car shuttle.  
3C, 6.5 miles, 1100 ft. gain, 1700 ft. loss  
David Langrock, 425-313-1971

**Monday, May 31, 9:00 AM**  
**Cedar Butte**  
“Easy hike to nice views. More discussion about geology, history and possible land transfer.”  
2B, 4-5 miles, 1000 ft. gain  
Bob Gross, 425-427-8449

**Saturday, June 5, 9:00 AM**  
**Annette Lake**  
Another out of region hike to a beautiful Alpine Lake.  
2C, 7 miles, 1700 ft. gain  
Richard Mann, 425-391-0410

**Saturday, June 5, 9:00 AM**  
**Lake Sammamish Ramble**  
Loop hike using East Lake Sammamish Trail, Pickering Trail and trails in state park.  
2A, 4-5 miles, 0 ft. gain  
Dave Kappler, 425-392-3571

**Sunday, June 6, 9:00 AM**  
**Little Si**  
New parking lot, new trail, same great views.  
2C, 5 miles, 1300 ft. gain  
Mary Nolan, 425-746-0118

**Friday, June 11, 6:30 PM**  
**Poo Poo Point**  
Start of Greenway Discovery Days. Up and back on Chirico Trail.  
2C, 4.5 miles, 1700 ft. gain  
Frank Gilliland, 425-603-0454

**Saturday, June 12, 8:00 AM**  
**Rattlesnake Mountain**  
Greenway Discovery Days. Challenging 11.5 mile hike across Rattlesnake Mountain with new trails and good views. For fittest hikers only!  
4D, 11.5 miles, 3000 ft. gain  
Ken Konigsmark, 425-957-5094

**Saturday, June 12, 9:00 AM**  
**Cougar Squak Traverse**  
Greenway Discovery Days. Hike over Cougar summit and across Squak.  
3C, 10 miles, 2300 ft. gain  
Doug Simpson, 425-392-6660

**Sunday, June 13, 9:00 AM**  
**Squak Mountain**  
Greenway Discovery Days. Loop hike to good views of Mt. Rainier.  
2C, 5-6 miles, 1300-1600 ft. gain  
David Langrock, 425-313-1971

**Sunday, June 13, 10:00 AM**  
**Cougar Mountain Loop**  
“Greenway Discovery Days. Our walk in the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park visits the Ford Slope, the Old Swimming Hole, the Hoist House, Coal Creek Falls, and Red Town Creek Dam. We’ll spend a short time discussing the history of Coal Creek”  
2B, 5 miles, 1000 ft. gain  
Ralph Owen, 425-746-1070

**Saturday, June 19, 9:00 AM**  
**Tiger Mountain**  
Loop hike from trail center to plateau and to Tolus

Caves via Section Line Trail. Visit two prehistoric sites on return.  
2C, 6 miles, 1300 ft. gain  
Scott Pruetter, 425-369-6016

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!*

**Sunday, June 20, 9:00 AM**  
**Squak Mountain**  
From Sunrise Trailhead to Central Peak. Small loop on return.  
3D, 8.5 miles, 2500 ft. gain  
Richard Mann, 425-391-0410

**Sunday, June 20, 10:30 AM**  
**Tiger Mountain**  
Exploring to find the original northern terminus of the TMT.  
2B, 3-4 miles, 600 ft. gain  
Bert Drui, 425-746-0709

**Saturday, June 26, 9:00 AM**  
**Squak Mountain**  
One-way hike across eastside of mountain back to trail center  
3B, 6.5 miles, 1100 ft. gain, 1700 ft. loss  
Scott Semans, 425-369-1725

**Sunday, June 27, 9:00 AM**  
**Mt. Washington**  
Hike up on steep trail to Sallal Point or Climber’s View.  
2C, 4-5 miles, 1600 ft. gain  
Doug Simpson, 425-392-6660

**Sunday, June 27, 9:30 AM**  
**Cedar Butte**  
We’ll hike to a small peak and review geology, history and possible land transfer of some of these trails.  
2B, 4-5 miles, 1000 ft. gain  
John Johnson, 206-633-3805



## Cougar/King County Report

by Steve Williams

As manager of the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park and other King County properties, I want to say "Thank You" to all of the Issaquah Alps volunteers who have been out there helping pick up after the storms. In particular, Scott Semans and his Saturday work parties are doing a great job of patching up the "bomb craters" on Squak Mountain's East Ridge Trail. (When those 100' plus fir trees toppled, big holes were left in the trail; these are now being filled one by one.)

How can an individual hiker help? Basic trail work is simply clearing the down limbs and branches, and then getting the water off the trail. However, good trail work is far more complicated and thoughtful than that. The best thing a hiker can do is join one of the IATC or WTA work parties and learn about "drainage" and "trail creep" and proper pruning and "brushing."

The next best thing you can do is to take a leaf rake on your next hike and simply rake and lift those twigs, leaves and broken branches well off the trail and out of sight. (Please don't make piles on the trail or block up our drainage ditches.) Where there are drain ditches, scrape those out with your rake or the heel of your boot. If water is ponding in the trail, see if you can scrape off the muck and make a way for the water to get out. Some trailheads even have piles of crushed rock and containers that you can carry along on your hike. We know of several large mudholes that were eliminated by just one dedicated hiker packing 20 pounds of rock every time he did his regular weekly "exercise" hike. (Thank you, Jim Cadigan, for years and years of help!)

Finally, just a reminder: power work in county parks must be done by full-time staff. Even a well-intentioned volunteer can get hurt or make a real mess with a weed-eater or chainsaw. That "step over" log was most likely left there on purpose to deter motorcycles and mountain bikes. The "duck

under" tree was probably also left to deter horses or bikers. On the other hand, cut limbs and brush should never be left behind you on the trail. (Even pruned fern fronds can make a trail look like a stream full of dead belly-up fish.)

If you have a question or want to report a problem, please call us at (206) 296-4145. After a storm, it is very helpful just to call and tell us that you have a hiked a trail and it is "OK." We have 62 miles to check, and it often take 3-5 weeks to get to it all.

Thanks again.

### Greenway Discovery Days

IATC will participate in the three-day Greenway Discovery Days this June 11-13.

The club will sponsor six hikes (see center section for hike details).

Frank Gilliland will lead a Friday night hike to Poo Poo Point, and Dave Kappler will lead a hike along the new Lake Sammamish Trail (late addition, not listed on hikes chart).

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## Trailwork Report

by Scott Semans

IATC's trail work during the first quarter of 2004 has focused on repair of windstorm damage on Tiger and Squak Mountains. Chief Ranger Bill Longwell's seasoned crew has spent many hours sawing out windfalls on these mountains, and around North Bend, as have regular crews from WTA (WA Trails Assn.), equestrians, and numerous volunteer stewards of favorite trails. Fred Zeitler served as a clearinghouse to avoid duplicated effort.

Repairing "root ball divots," where uprooted trees took away portions of trails, is still ongoing, and has been the focus of a dozen weekend work parties mainly on the SMAT (Squak Mt. Access Trail) - East Ridge - East Side Trails. Nearly 100 worker hours went into just one short stretch of the SMAT above a cleared area that was particularly hammered by the wind. Publicity in The Issaquah Press and Seattle PI helped bring out local volunteers, and several office and Scout groups participated. Personal accounts of trailworking in the Alps by Bill and myself will be featured in an upcoming issue of Sunset Magazine.

During the second quarter of 2004 we will have work parties on April 3 and May 8, followed by a hiatus until September, when first-Saturdays work parties will resume. There will be smaller pickup work parties in between, so if you want to get involved, just get in touch. Our focus this quarter will be on finishing Cougar Mountain's Licorice Fern Trail, which also suffered windstorm damage, and evaluating several Tiger Mountain trails for future improvements.

Don't let blackberry runners or salmonberry branches crowd you off the trail this Spring! Carrying a folding pruning saw in your back pocket as you hike makes you a roving trail worker. Cut the encroaching plant off at the

## TRAILWORK SCHEDULE

= Open To All =

### MONTHLY FIRST SATURDAYS

April 3, May 8

9AM - 2 PM Meet @ Trails Center

### "PICKUP" GROUPS

Weekly Sat or Sun, weather permitting.

Sometimes weekdays. Contact Scott.

### 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.

base if you can, and toss it off the trail. These super-aggressive little saws can be found at any garden or hardware store, and can also be used to delimb or even remove trees across the trail. When cutting living tree branches intruding on the trail, remember to start with an undercut just outside the raised ring where the branch joins the main trunk, then finish the cut from above.

### 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.

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Bellevue will conduct twelve-person kayak races, and Mercer Island will have a tour of the outdoor sculpture area. A square dance and barbecue will be held at Preston.

Activities in the Snoqualmie/North Bend area include historical tours, a concert at Meadowbrook Farm and vintage railroad rides.

Additional activities will be held at Snoqualmie Pass, the Mountain Star Resort near Roslyn, the grand opening of the historical railroad depot and a concert in the park at Cle Elum, the historical grist mill in Thorp, and an unspecified Cascade Orienteering event somewhere along the Greenway.

Times and details of these events will be announced later.

### **New IATC Board**

In its quest for new blood to enliven the club's leadership, three new board members were elected at IATC's annual meeting January 29. Jackie Hughes became the new treasurer, Susan Duffy the secretary, and Rich Johnson filled a seat on the board.

Doug Simpson was elected president, with outgoing president Stephen Drew becoming a second vice-president. Former treasurer Frank Gilliland remains on the board.

The other holdover board members are vice-president Ken Konigsmark, Kitty Gross, David Langrock, Scott Semans, Fred Zeitler, and Harry Morgan. Beth Moursund stepped down after two years as secretary.

The next board meeting is Monday, April 26 at 7 p.m. at the Trail Center. Anyone is welcome to attend.

### **The December 4, 2003 Windstorm**

by Bill Longwell

If one were reading the frenetic, back-and-forth e-mails concerning the December 4, 2003 windstorm, one would have thought that a once-in-a-lifetime storm had hit our region. All the feverish and agitated hand wringing certainly caused much consternation.

One person even wrote to me that whole sections of the Tiger Mountain Trail must be rerouted because so many downed trees covered the tread and he could no longer find the trail. Well, we soon found the tread and followed the old route once we had sawn out the logs. The TMT and most other trails are rapidly emerging the effects of that storm.

For a trail crew with thirty years of experience, we have learned that clearing trails from wind-storm damage is almost a yearly expectation, although not to the extent of this season's damage. This past storm is another storm (albeit severe) in a long line of storms.

Here's a partial list of storms that have wreaked havoc over the years.

The 1962 Columbus Day storm caused such extensive damage to Northwest trails that the US Forest Service is still recovering. Because of that storm, the Forest Service seemed to begin a program of cutting back on trail maintenance and perhaps even closing some trails that it had maintained for decades. I can still walk some National Forest trails and identify downed trees that fell in that dramatic, 1962 windstorm.

In February, 1978, a windstorm hit Squak Mountain, dropping trees onto the upper Phil's Creek Trail and destroying part of the old tie mill complex. It took crews a long time to cut through that mess.

## Robert L. Wood, 1925-2003

I remember walking the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Road and the Dingford Creek Trail #1005 in 1991. The road had been washed out (it never since has seen adequate repair) and we counted 190 downed trees in the six-mile long Dingford Creek Trail. It took dynamite to clear out some of those trees.

Most long-time Issaquah Alp hikers remember the ice storm of December 28, 1996. Loaded with ice, the tops of thousands of trees fell all over our trail system, especially on Squak and Tiger. It took us five months to clear that mess.

On a routine two-day work party on the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Trail #1003 in June, 2002, our trail crew sawed out 86 logs over a two-mile segment of trail—on a year when no windstorms of note were reported.

Perhaps none of these storms were as bad as the heavy rainfall of last fall on October 21, 2003. The one-day eight inches of rainfall caused so much damage that whole road systems failed (many concrete bridges washed out and many streams changed courses) and whole sections of the Pacific Crest Trail disappeared. The millions of dollars of damage will take years to repair, (if money is found) and will cause miles and miles of at least temporary relocation of the PCT.

While we clear trails every year from the previous winter's damaging storms, of course we do not face work as we do this year. We are certainly most grateful for the wonderful help we have received from King County Parks, from small groups and individuals and especially from the Washington Trails Association who have cleared miles and miles of trail these past months.

This is the first time that the brunt of clean-up has not rested solely on the shoulders of IATC trails crews.

The hiking community lost a good friend when Robert L. Wood, 78, passed away on December 1, 2003. Mr. Wood was best known for his series of six guide and history books on the Olympics, but he had also been active in exploring trail routes on Squak Mountain in the early days of the IATC.

Mr. Wood decided that a more direct route was needed from Squak's Central Peak down to the Eastside Road, so he scouted out what is now known as the Old Griz Trail, and an IATC crew built this half-mile long connector down to the Phil's Creek Trail and named it in his honor.

Sometimes called "Old Griz," Mr. Wood was an active member of the Mountaineers. He was a prolific writer, photographer, hiker and mountaineer. Mr. Wood retired from his position as a court reporter for the King County courts in 1980.

Mr. Wood moved to Washington from his Missouri home after his service in the army during World War II. He immediately fell in love with the mountains. He loved to explore the mountains and old growth forests of the Olympics, and reached the summit of Mt. Olympus, the highest peak, 18 times.

Mr. Wood's *Olympic Mountains Trails Guide* remains the definitive hiking guide to the Olympic range. In 1968, he won the Governor's Writers Award for two of his books.

"The Old Griz" will be missed.

—Joe Toyne/Doug Simpson

# 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

*continued on page 14*

### *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

See page 15 for the publications order form.

- ❑ **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.

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