July ♦ August ♦ September 2004

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

Our Alps are Number One!

by Harvey Manning, Club Founder

The May 27, 2004 Seattle Post-Intelligencer ran an article that said:

> Just minutes from downtown Portland is the city's massive signature greenbelt, 5124-acre Forest Park. Much has been made of the Issaquah Alps outside of Seattle as one of the country's largest wild forest areas near a major metropolitan area. Well, Forest Park is inside a major metropolitan area, billed by Friends of Forest Park as "the largest forested municipal park within a city limits in the United States."

A similar accolade in a recent issue of the *National* Geographic went to a nationalinternational audience. (Our Alps were not mentioned.)

Never, ever, would I belittle Forest Park. Hurrah for the Friends of Forest Park. The P-I article was by Greg Johnston in the "Getaways" weekly section he edits. Greg and "Getaways" have been outstanding "much-makers" of our Alps, bless them. Yet in friendship aknd thanks and humility, I must offer several emendations.

No. 1. Forest Park is "inside" a "major metropolitan area." So are the Issaquah Alps. When Betty and I moved to Cougar Mountain in 1952, we thought we were in distant countryside, safely beyond the reach of civitas. But in 2004 there are more houses within a dog's bark of our 200-meter hut than were on the entirety of the mountain in the fifties. Street lights glare in my bedroom window, for golly sake! In 1952 our drive to beautiful downtown Issaquah was slowed by a single blinker. There now are something like a dozen stoplights-or were yesterday. And "downtown" is all over the Squak Plain and extends up onto Squak Mountain and Grand Ridge.

Forest Park is a "municipal park within a city limits." Yeah, sure, you betcha. But had not the Canadian glacier left Lake Washington in the way, Seattle's city limits would long since have swallowed up our 200-meter hut. (Bellevue's empire-building civil servants are poised on our property line, gazing into our woods, inventorying the plunder they will raven come the next annexation.)

I do not reejoice at residing "inside" a "major metropolitan area." That's where Betty and I were in 1952, and that was why we fled our cozy apartment in the University District. We thought we were escaping civitas for good. But civitas came after us. We are residents of "Puget Sound

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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
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 Message - 2nd Quarter 2004

by Doug Simpson

We all know that age is a relative thing. Many people under 40 are sedentary, inactive and out of condition. They couldn't hike to Poo Poo Point, say, if their lives depended on it. But I've seen my granddaughter at 3 do it. On the other hand, I have seen numerous people over 70 hike any of the Issaquah Alps trails. These folks are active, well-conditioned and full of vitality. They could leave in the dust countless people young enough to be their grandchildren.

Hiking makes me feel younger and more fit, and I certainly recommend it to anyone trying to become better conditioned. Those of you who hike with our club certainly enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie of other hikers. You may have noticed, though, as have I, that IATC hikers for the most part are not young, most being between 40-75. We seem to have a dearth of participants under 40 on our hikes. Why is this?

Joe Toynbee, one of our young septuagenarians, has suggested that most of the younger outdoors types prefer more rigorous sports, such as bikeriding, hang-gliding, running and skiing. This is no doubt true. But I have seen many younger hikers on our trails, especially the most popular ones such as Poo Poo, West Tiger 3 and Mount Si. Many of them may hike a faster pace than our club hikes. Others, though, I have passed going up the trails. Why haven't they joined us?

We need to get younger. Our founder, Harvey Manning, is retired. Many of the leaders of the club—Bill Longwell, Fred Zeitler, Ralph Owen, Toynbee and I—are in our sixties. Longwell has noted that the average age of his "weed-whackers" trail maintenance crew is 70! What happens to the club and its trail workers in another five or ten years?

The club cannot afford to get too old. The older our board members and hike and trail maintenance leaders are, the less inclined younger hikers will be to join us. So what can we do to bring those hikers under 40 into the fold? One thing I do is talk with people on the trails—asking them if they know about our hikes and suggesting they check out our website. I hope others of you are doing the same.

Something we can all do is invite our children, grandchildren, nephews and nieces, neighbors and friends to join us. Let's make a point of trying to bring someone with us on our hikes, making an effort to try to include some younger hiking prospects. Perhaps we could make contacts with local school hiking clubs if they exist—or help them get started if they don't. We have a great thing, a wonderful gift for area hikers. We ought to be able to sell it to future club hikers.

At the Wilderness Conference in Seattle in April, I heard Audrey Peterman of Earthwise Productions based in Atlanta tell of how few blacks she saw on a tour of national parks, and how few were pictured in a spread on national parks in a magazine feature. That got me thinking of how seldom I have seen persons of color on any of our hiking trails, let alone on our own hikes. Why is this? Many of our trails are accessible even by bus from Seattle and other metropolitan places. We can be reached by those looking for us.

We need an outreach program to make high schoolers (and older family members and friends?) aware of what we have to offer. As you read this, I have spoken with teachers and officials of the three Issaquah high schools. I am trying to set up group hikes with interested students in the fall, with the hope that some will wish to join us on regular group hikes. Some also may remember us as they get older. And I am in the process of corresponding with Seattle and Bellevue high schools as well. And I am certainly open to any other ideas any of you might have. Who knows, we might be able to get a new, younger generation of hikers interested in the IATC.

Our Alps are Number One!, cont'd. from p.1

City." The Issaquah Alps are not "near" a "major metropolitan area," but smackdag "inside."

Let us not forget, nor let it be forgotten, that we Alpinists commenced our campaign in 1977 with a mass agitation, "Wilderness on the Metro 210." The enthusiasts drawn by our manifesto so thronged the streets of Issaquah that Chief Dag turned out his entire police force to calm the terrors of householders who awoke one Saturday morning to hundreds of feet march-marching by their barking dogs.

That was the <u>whole point</u> of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club—that the wildwoods we sought to keep wild were not east of Mount Si, but are willy nilly <u>in</u> Puget Sound City.

No 2. The <u>5124</u> acres of Forest Park are a glory of a "greenbelt." Land units protected as wildwoods by King County Parks, the state Department of Natural Resources, State Parks, and Issaquah Parks total some <u>12,000</u> acres: Cougar Mountain Wildland Park, Coal Creek Park, May Creek Park, Squak Mountain State Park, West Tiger Mountain Natural Resources Conservation Area (DNR), Rattlesnake Mountain Scenic Area (DNR and county), and Issaquah parks on Cougar, Squak and Tiger.

This is more than a "greenway." It is an unsurpassed triumph of the movement to preserve large chunks of "wilderness within"—close to homes—to complement the "wilderness without" of the National Wilderness Preservation System, such as the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, famed as "Seattle's backyard wilderness." (The Issaquah Alps are in the living room.)

No. 3. A public automobile motorway runs through Forest Park, and there are old roads closed to motors but busy with bicycles. Cougar Mountain Wildland Park is legally wheelfree by ordinancy of the King County Council. Squak

Mountain State Park is wheelfree by terms of the Bullitt family's deed of gift, specifying a "natural area," and if the family is not satisfied by State Parks' management it has the legal right to revoke the gift. Tiger Mountain NRCA is wheelfree by terms of the legislature's enactment. Issaquah ordinances reserve the city's forest parks for non-mechanized travel.

So, three cheers for us. What we have accomplished here in alliance with the likes of Randy Revelle andd Brian Boyle and the Issaquah City Council have made the Trails Club an object of awe in the environmentalist community.

But remember Yogi Berra's warning: "Nothing is ever over until it's over." The foes we vanquished on the field of battle are not dead and buried; they are smoldering in their think tanks, plotting revanche. With the exception of Issaquah, the civic parks department of Puget Sound City are afraid to be seen in our company, lest they be caught up along with us in the net of the Patriot Act, or whatever.

Therefore let us make our voice heard at least as loud as that of Friends of Forest Park. Does *National Geographic* know about us? The Wilderness Society?

Shout it out: "Our Alps are Number One."

East Lake Sammamish Interim Trail Opens

By Jan Bird, Friends of the East Lake Sammamish Trail (www.trailnow.org)

Trail supporters gathered on March 4, 2004 in Issaquah and in Redmond to celebrate the opening of four miles of the interim East Lake Sammamish Trail. It's taken a long time to get to this point, and due to the ongoing controversy with some lakeside homeowners, will continue to be a slow-moving trail project. But it was an exciting day to actually be able to legally step foot on the trail!

King County first envisioned a regional trail along the east side of Lake Sammamish in 1971. In 1996, the Burlington-Northern Santa Fe Railroad ceased operations along the ELST trail corridor. The Cascade Land Conservancy bought the rail corridor for the purpose of "railbanking" in 1997. In 1998, with the help of the Cascade Land Conservancy, and the Friends of the East Lake Sammamish Trail, King County purchased the 11-mile rail corridor with federal authorization to build a trail.

In December, 2000, the King County Council voted unanimously to open the rail corridor for public use as a gravel trail while the County undertakes the lengthy process of planning and building a permanent paved trail. Since the trail passes through three cities, all three have to issue permits. Issaquah and Redmond quickly issued all permits necessary to open the interim trail in their cities.

However, the heart of the trail, seven of the 11 miles, lies in the City of Sammamish. In April, 2000, King County applied for the first of three permits it needs to improve the walking surface of the trail in Sammamish.

This permit, known as the Public Agency Utility Exception, or "PAUE," would allow the county to spread crushed rock over the old railroad ballast that has covered the railbed since 1887. Sammamish took 12 months to issue the permit.

Then, unlike Issaquah and Redmond, Sammamish conditioned the permit on the expenditure of roughly \$1 million for what many felt was unnecessary and excessive "wetland enhancement," wetlands that are no more than boggy areas resulting from clogged culverts. King County appealed the permit, feeling these conditions were excessive, while a group of lakeside homeowners appealed stating the conditions were not stringent enough and that there was a "practical" alternative with less environmental

impact. This alternative is known as the Haro-Rundle Plan which would place the trail next to the busy East Lake Sammamish Parkway.

This case was heard in Snohomish County in December 2003 and on March 16, 2004, the judge issued his ruling. Although he didn't reinstate the City's permit on behalf of the County, the judge ruled that the hearing examiner should have used a broader definition of the word, "practical." He felt the word as it appears in the City's code doesn't just mean "feasible" it should also have been interpreted to mean "sensible" and "useful."

As the homeowners' alternative plan involves deep cuts into steep slopes, it was the court's opinion that the impact of these steep slopes must be included in the evaluation of the project's impact on sensitive areas—and it was not. Thus, the judge remanded the permit back to the hearing examiner in Sammamish for further consideration.

As of this writing, the City of Sammamish, under new leadership, is considering rewriting the City code to make it easier for trails to be located in wetland buffers. If the City changes the code, the County may not have to apply for this permit which would make the court case moot. The City planning commission is studying the issue and will send a recommendation to council by summer or fall. Once this permit is obtained or the code is changed, the County will need to obtain King County Clearing and Grading Permit and a Shoreline Substantial Development Permit, both of which can be appealed. Until that day, enjoy the beautiful trail that has been developed in Issaquah and Redmond! (Note: David Kappler, one our hike leaders, incorporates part of the Issaquah end of the East Lake Sammamish Trail in his hikes that explore some of the lesser known parts of Lake Sammamish State Park.)

Squak Changes

by Heather Hansen, State Park Ranger

Squak Mountain State Park is always changing. Seasons come and go, taking leaves, leaving snow, and bringing new leaves again. Animals alter the landscape - from woodpeckers taking up residence in snags to piles of Douglas squirrel-nibbled cone scales.

Even the ranger sometimes changes! My name is Heather Hansen and, since March of 2003, I've been happy to be the park ranger at Squak Mountain State Park. I thought it would be a good idea to fill you all in on some of the other changes currently going on at Squak Mountain State Park: trail changes.

I'm sure many of you have noticed the trail work going on throughout the park. The most obvious location may be the spot where the Phil's Creek Trail drops down to meet the Eastside Trail. This reroute has been in the works since long before my arrival at Squak. The existing trail was not up to Washington State Parks standards regarding steepness and trail drainage. (In fact, if I describe it as a mudslide in winter, I'm sure I wouldn't be the first!) The new trail has been carefully planned, approved, adjusted, and re-approved over the course of several years. It will be longer, but it will have a much gentler grade. The top fourth of the reroute has already been roughed out, and more work parties are currently being scheduled.

For those who hike on the south side of Squak, have you wondered if there was a better way to get from the parking lot to the trails than the steep gravel road? If you have, I'm happy to let you know that a better solution is on the way! Right now, crews are constructing a 0.4 mile bypass that begins right next to the entrance of the Pretzel Tree Trail and ends by connecting into Mad Mountain Beaver Way a couple hundred feet from the road. It's a lovely climb through the lush forest, and will be a vast improvement over the hot, dusty gravel road in the heat of summer. Parking fee collection has allowed us to get this project underway and we appreciate everyone who has supported Washington State Parks and allowed this to happen!

I've mentioned two of the current major projects, but there are other projects that have already been completed this spring and some that are on the way. We have applied for grants that would allow us to improve the Equestrian Loop Trail with another bridge and other structures. The southern section of the Bullitt Gorge Trail was recently completed by a Washington Trails Association-led group of Lakeside School students. An Eagle Scout has helped us begin to move the end of the Old Griz Trail towards a junction with the Central Peak Trail. All of the volunteer trail crews always do amazing work and I thank each and every one of you for all you've done to build and maintain the Squak Mountain State Park trail system. Thanks for reading and I hope to see you out on the trails!

Anniversary Barbecue

This past May the Issaquah Alps Trails Club achieved an historical milestone when it reached its 25th birthday. To celebrate that momentous occasion, the club will hold a barbecue-picnic Saturday,October 9 at Gibson Hall in Issaquah from 2-5 p.m. The free barbecue will be preceded by several morning hikes in the nearby Alps, though times and sites had not been determined as this went to press. All club members past and present, as well as that day's hikers, are invited to come.

The barbecue will include free hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, fruit and soft drinks or water. Weather permitting it will be held outdoors, though inclement weather—no deterrent to the club's hardy hikers, of course—could result in moving inside to accommodate less hardy spouses and children, who are also encouraged to come.

Club founder Harvey Manning, accompanied by fellow hikers and concerned environmentalists Dave Kappler, Tim O'Brien and Buz Moore, decided on May 5 while exploring the Long View Peak area of Cougar Mountain that it was time to get organized. The day was an inclement one, prompting Manning to call it "the Day of Three Thunderstorms." The club held its first meeting two weeks later—and the rest is history.

"Veteran members of the club are encouraged to contact retired or displaced members of the IATC," president Doug Simpson said. "It would be especially meaningful to have many of the active members from those early days in attendance. They contributed so much, and it would be wonderful for them to get together and relive some wonderful memories from the past. And we'd like them to see what the club has become," Simpson added.

Trailwork Report

by Scott Semans

We will not be running regular monthly trail work parties this summer, but there will be special events with a week or more notice. To get on our email notification list, please contact me. To take advantage of summer's long, cooler evenings we will have several after 5 p.m. events to chop encroaching brush from several trails. Let me know if this is something you would like to help with.

Trails Club members owe a big thank-you to several other organizations that have been working on Alps trails over the past year. In addition to many hours spent repairing blowdown damage from the December 4 storm, Washington Trails Association. has recently rerouted the steep upper portion of the Old Griz Trail on Squak. From the summit, you now start down the trail toward the Bullitt Fireplace rather than accessing this trail from behind the radio tower fencing. Also to mitigate steepness, WTA has marked a reroute for the northern portion of Phil's Creek, which may be actual trail by the time this issue is printed. Both trails had been built, rerouted, and kept up for many years by IATC crews, and the retention of most of their routes by the WTA "pros" shows the wisdom of their original routing.

Mike Stanger, who flagged the Phil's Creek reroute, has also led Mountains to Sound Greenway volunteer crews in the upgrading of several south Squak horse-hiker trails which were suffering from drainage problems. The horse folks on Tiger Mountain deserve a thanks for their continued maintenance of the southern trails.

IATC's sister organization, Newcastle Trails, has been working hard with city government to keep trails and trail corridors in that city's plans, and has held regular work parties on the May Creek and West Crosstown Trails. Other neglected trails, including a horse-hiker link between May Valley barns and the new Highlands at Newcastle development trails, and the Park's Marshall Hill and DeLeo Wall trails are being discussed.

TRAILWORK SCHEDULE REGULAR EVENTS

= Open To All =
July-TBA, Aug-TBA, Sept 4
9AM - 2 PM Meet @ Trails Center
SPECIAL EVENTS

= May be Open - Inquire =
Office groups, students, scouts,
social club, etc. Groups of 4-25
Most weekdays & weekends available
July 26, others TBA
Times & locations vary. Inquire.

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 regular events.

Newcastle area members can learn more by contacting Garry Kampen (kampen@drizzle.com).

Call first to confirm if serious rain.

Even the horrible Cable Line "trail," the nasty, brutish, and short way up West Tiger 3, has its devotees, and hiking group One Step At a Time has been installing — one step at a time — steps cut from old-growth cedar slash in the lower portion below the TMT crossing. If there were a lifetime achievement award for independent trailwork crews in the Alps, the "Gang of 3," (John Johnson, Bob Gross, and Jackie Hughes) would be hot contenders. Together and separately they have kept up and added to trails in Cougar's northeast Precipice region, one of the few possible expansion areas for the Regional Wildland Park. For many years the Licorice Fern trail was kept passable due to their efforts. Their recent focus has been the Cedar Butte Trail near Rattlesnake Mountain, where an impending land swap between State DNR and the Seattle Watershed could have implications for access and trail use.

July
Saturday, July 3, 9:00 AM
Cougar Mountain
Double loop hike to Wilderness Peak and
Longview Peak
2C, 6.5 miles, 1900 ft. gain
Richard Mann, 425-391-0410

Sunday, July 4, 9:00 AM Squak Mountain Big loop across Central Peak, Bullitt Fireplace, West Peak and views. 2C, 6-7 miles, 1800 ft. gain Fred Zeitler, 425-882-3435

Wednesday, July 7, 10:00 AM
Family Hike, Cougar Mountain
Loop hike around AA peak suitable for young and old.
1A, 3-4 miles, 400 ft. gain

1A, 3-4 miles, 400 ft. gain Doug Simpson, 425-392-6660

Saturday, July 10, 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, July 11, 9:00 AM Tiger Mountain Northside traverse, Preston to Issaquah. 2B, 8-9 miles, 1500 ft. gain Tom Palm, 206-783-6005

Sunday, July 11, 10:30 AM
Cougar Mountain
Loop hike to "Fantastic Erratic" via Bear Ridge and
Tibbits Creek Trails.
2B, 3 miles, 800 ft. gain
Bert Drui, 425-746-0709

Saturday, July 17, 9:00 AM Cougar Countain

Double p hike past "Fantastic Erratic" to AA Peak for lunch and views.
2C, 7 miles, 1600 ft. gain
Fred Zeitler, 425-882-3435

Sunday, July 18, 7:30 AM
Tiger Top Loop
A real masochists's delight. From Hwy 18, we'll
visit eight of Tiger's peaks over 2000', with six
over 2500'. We'll walk on well known and seldom
used trails, boot paths and stretches of gated roads.
Plan to spend all day on this hike.
4D, 17 miles, 5700 ft. gain
Ralph Owen, 425-746-1070

Sunday, July 18, 3:00 PM Tiger Mountain Hike Grand Canyon of 15 Mile Creek on seldom visited trails. 1A, 2.5 miles, 400 ft. gain Scott Semans, 425-369-1725

Saturday, July 24, 9:00 AM
West Tiger 2
Hike to great views utilizing High Point Trail,
TMT, K3, and others.
3C, 8-10 miles, 2400 ft. gain
Scott Prueter, 425-369-6016

Sunday, July 25, 8:30 AM Squak Mountain Loop hike from Sunrise to Central Peak, Bullitt Fireplace and more. 3D, 8-10 miles, 3000 ft. gain Doug Simpson, 425-392-6660

Monday, July 26, 7:00 PM IATC Board Meeting Issaquah Trails Center, 1st and Bush, Issaquah

Saturday, July 31, 9:30 AM
Squak Mountain
Hike wandering horse paths to access south Squak
without incurring park fees.
2C, 6 miles, 1500 ft. gain
Warren Jones, 425-391-7409

August Sunday, August 1, 9:00 AM

Cedar Butte
Easy hike to nice views. Will also discuss some history and geology.
2B, 4-5 miles, 1000 ft. gain
Jackie Hughes, 425-641-3815

Saturday, August 7, 9:00 AM
Cougar Mountain Loop
Bear Ridge to Precipice trails, return through Talus
trails. Some rough trails.
2B, 5.5 miles, 900 ft. gain
Scott Semans, 425-369-1725

Sunday, August 8, 1:00 PM
Tradition Lake Plateau
Loop hike from trail center to plateau then around two lakes.
2B, 5 miles, 600 ft. gain
Dave Kappler, 425-392-3571

Wednesday, August 11, 10:00 AM
Talus Loop (Mt. Si)
Slow paced hike to beautiful rockslide vista.

2C, 4 miles, 1500 ft. gain Warren Jones, 425-391-7409

Saturday, August 14, 10:00 AM Tiger Mountain Visit caves, lakes and Big Tree.

2B, 4 miles, 600 ft. gain ³;
Bert Drui, 425-746-0709

Sunday, August 15, 9:00 AM Middle Tiger

Multiple trails from Preston.
3C, 11 miles, 2000 ft. gain.
Tom Palm, 206-783-6005

Saturday, August 21, 9:00 AM Squak Mountain

Loop hike over Centra ak, Bullitt Fireplace and West Peak to great views of Mt. Rainier.

3C, 7-8 miles, 1800 ft. gain Scott Prueter, 425-369-6016

Sunday, August 22, 9:00 AM
West Rattlesnake Ridge volume Hike logging roads and newly built trails to two scenic views.
2C, 7 miles, 1300 ft. gain
Fred Zeitler, 425-882-3435

Wednesday, August 25, 7:00 PM Hike Leaders' Meeting King Issaquah Trails Center, 1st and Bush, Issaquah.

Saturday, August 28, 9:00 AM
West Tiger 2
Hike to great views using multiple trails from High
Point.
3C, 8-10 miles, 2400 ft. gain
Richard Mann, 425-391-0410

Sunday, August 29, 1:00 PM
Poo Poo Point
Hike up to great views of Mt. Rainier and Mt. Baker.
With luck we'll see hang, gliders soar.
2C, 4.5 miles, 1700 ft. gain
Mary Nolen, 425-837-1535

September

Saturday, September 4, 9:00 AM
West Tiger Ramble
We'll climb up to Poo Poo Point then on to West
Tiger 3 via RR Grade. Return via Talus Rocks and
High School Trails.
3C, 8-10 miles, 2200 ft. gain
Doug Simpson, 425-392-6660

Sunday, September 5, 9:00 AM Squak Mountain Exploratory hike SE on fragmentary trail from Thrush Gap. Off-trail. 2C, 5 miles, 1500 ft. gain Scott Semans, 425-369-1725

Saturday, September 11, 9:30 AM Rock Slide Vista Follow the Mt. Si and Talus Loop Trails to a viewpoint on the lower slopes of Mt. Si. Return down the Mt. Si Trail from Snag Flats.

2C, 4 miles, 1600 ft. gain Ralph Owen, 425-746-1070

Saturday, September 11, 10:00 AM Cougar Mountain Primrose loop down from Redtown.

2A, 4 miles, 400 ft. gain Bert Drui, 425-746-0709

Sunday, September 12, 9:00 AM Twin Falls Hike to always popular destination. 2B, 3-4 miles, 600 ft. gain Jackie Hughes, 425-641-3815

Sunday, September 12, 1:00 PM Lake Sammamish Ramble Explore wild side of Lake Sammamish, Pickering Trail and state park trails. 2A, 4-5 miles, 0 ft. gain Dave Kappler, 425-392-3571

Saturday, September 18, 9:00 AM Tiger Mountain Loop hike from trail center to plateau and to Talus Caves via Section Line Trail. 2C, 6 miles, 1300 ft. gain Scott Prueter, 425-369-6016

Sunday, September 19, 8:30 AM
Rattlesnake Mountain
Hike past the ledges up to East Peak and great views of Snoqualmie Valley.
3D, 9 miles, 2500 ft. gain
Richard Mann, 425-391-0410

Checklist:

- Food
- WaterDaypack
- Raingear
- Warm clothes
 Hiking Shoes
- 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, September 19, 3:00 PM Cougar Mountain Fantastic Erratic and Flatrock Crossing of West Tibbett's Creek 2B, 3 miles, 700 ft. gain Scott Semans, 425-369-1725

Saturday, September 25, 9:00 AM
Middle Tiger
TMT from the south to Middle Tiger. South Tiger
traverse on return.
3C, 11 miles, 2500 ft. gain
Richard Mann, 425-391-0410

Sunday, September 26, 9:00 AM Klaus, Boyle, and Bridges Lakes

We'll hike rough trail and logging roads past 3 pretty lakes in the shadow of Fuller Mountain. Lunch stop at "Fred's Biergarten".

2B, 7 miles, 700 ft. gain
Fred Zeitler, 425-882-3435

Hiker's Corner

by Fred Zeitler, Hikes Coordinator

Greetings fellow hikers. As you all know and have read, the December storm caused major damage to the trails in the Issaquah Alps and elsewhere. Through the combined efforts of our IATC trail maintenance crews, King County Parks, Washington Trails Association and individual efforts, almost all the trails in the Issaquah Alps have been cleared and we're back to our normal hikes program. If you encounter trail damage on future hikes, please let me know so we can make note of it on our work schedules.

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So far this year we continue to have good turnouts. In the first quarter we had 355 hikers on 38 hikes (We had only three rainouts/cancellations!). For the second quarter (April, May, June) we also had two new hike leaders: Mary Nolan and Richard Mann. I hope you had a chance to go out with them on one of the their hikes.

This summer we have another full schedule of hikes. As always, we could use more volunteers as hike leaders, is if you're interested, please let me know. See you on the trails.

Looking for hiking guides and maps to the Issaquah Alps?

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NOVA Brings Victory for Hikers by Ken Konigsmark

After a five-year campaign by IATC and other members of the "Fair Trails Coalition," the State Legislature finally approved new legislation that favorably alters the allocation of recreational and trail grant funding for the state's NOVA program.

The NOVA program is funded by 1% of the state gas tax funds to compensate for the gas used by drivers on Forest Service, National Park, DNR and State Park roads. This amounts to about \$5 million per year. For almost thirty years since its creation, the NOVA program wrongfully required that 80% of these funds be provided to support motorized recreation projects (dirt bikes, ATVs and fourwheel drive vehicles) even though these groups represent a far smaller number of recreationists in the state compared to non-motorized users who enjoy hiking, biking, horse-riding, sightseeing, hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities.

Not only did this wrongfully subsidize motorized recreation, it also created a funding incentive for public land managers to promote increased motorized use in order to secure additional grant funding. As a result, several pristine roadless areas that had been candidates for wilderness status are now criss-crossed with many miles of dirt bike trails.

The new legislation accomplishes several things. Rather than 80% of the grant funding going to motorized projects, NOVA will now allocate 25% to education and enforcement programs for public lands for both non-motor and motorized programs (previously restricted to motorized only). This will hopefully enable increased ranger and enforcement presence in the Issaquah Alps and other trails/public lands in this region.

Of the remaining 75% of NOVA funds, 30% will support non-motorized trail projects, 30% will support motorized trail projects, and 50% will

Trailwork Report by Scott Semans

We will not be running regular monthly trail work parties this summer, but there will be special events with a week or more notice. To get on our email notification list, please contact me. To take advantage of summer's long, cooler evenings we will have several after 5 p.m. events to chop encroaching brush from several trails. Let me know if this is something you would like to help with.

Trails Club members owe a big thank-you to several other organizations that have been working on Alps trails over the past year. In addition to many hours spent repairing blowdown damage from the December 4 storm, Washington Trails Association. has recently rerouted the steep upper portion of the Old Griz Trail on Squak. From the summit, you now start down the trail toward the Bullitt Fireplace rather than accessing this trail from behind the radio tower fencing. Also to mitigate steepness, WTA has marked a reroute for the northern portion of Phil's Creek, which may be actual trail by the time this issue is printed. Both trails had been built, rerouted, and kept up for many years by IATC crews, and the retention of most of their routes by the WTA "pros" shows the wisdom of their original routing.

Mike Stanger, who flagged the Phil's Creek reroute, has also led Mountains to Sound Greenway volunteer crews in the upgrading of several south Squak horse-hiker trails which were suffering from drainage problems. The horse folks on Tiger Mountain deserve a thanks for their continued maintenance of the southern trails.

IATC's sister organization, Newcastle Trails, hasbeen working hard with city government to keep trails and trail corridors in that city's plans, and has held regular work parties on the May Creek and West Crosstown Trails. Other neglected trails, including a horse-hiker link between May Valley barns and the new Highlands at Newcastle development trails, and the Park's Marshall Hill and DeLeo Wall trails are being discussed.

TRAILWORK SCHEDULE REGULAR EVENTS

= Open To All =
July-TBA, Aug-TBA, Sept 4

9AM - 2 PM Meet @ Trails Center
SPECIAL EVENTS

= May be Open - Inquire =
Office groups, students, scouts,
social club, etc. Groups of 4-25
Most weekdays & weekends available
July 26, others TBA
Times & locations vary. Inquire.
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 regular events.

Newcastle area members can learn more by contacting Garry Kampen (kampen@drizzle.com).

Call first to confirm if serious rain.

Even the horrible Cable Line "trail," the nasty, brutish, and short way up West Tiger 3, has its devotees, and hiking group One Step At a Time has been installing — one step at a time — steps cut from old-growth cedar slash in the lower portion below the TMT crossing. If there were a lifetime achievement award for independent trailwork crews in the Alps, the "Gang of 3," (John Johnson, Bob Gross, and Jackie Hughes) would be hot contenders. Together and separately they have kept up and added to trails in Cougar's northeast Precipice region, one of the few possible expansion areas for the Regional Wildland Park. For many years the Licorice Fern trail was kept passable due to their efforts. Their recent focus has been the Cedar Butte Trail near Rattlesnake Mountain, where an impending land swap between State DNR and the Seattle Watershed could have implications for access and trail use.

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Of the remaining 75% of NOVA funds, 30% will support non-motorized trail projects, 30% will support motorized trail projects, and 50% will

support non-motorized or joint recreational facilities such as campgrounds, picnic areas, day use sites, bathrooms, etc.

The Issaquah Alps area has a long history of benefiting from NOVA grants to fund trail maintenance and construction, trailhead construction, and planning projects by local land managers, even when only 20% was allocated to all non-motorized projects. With increased funding now available, we anticipate that many needy projects may now be able to secure the funding needed to move forward.

Reform of the NOVA program illustrates the importance of organized group efforts to advocate for political decisions that significantly affect trails and hikers. IATC has been, and remains, actively engaged in many advocacy issues and continues to build a record of successful accomplishments.

Board Change

Kitty Gross, an IATC board member since 2000, has had to resign her position as she and her husband Al have moved to their retirement home in Port Angeles. Kitty served as secretary in 2000 and 2001, and then headed up the Women's Walk program through the end of 2003. She led many hikes herself. "We'll miss her," says President Doug Simpson. "She gave a lot to the club."

Selected to replace Gross at the April board meeting is Mary Nolan, an active hiker in the club since her return to the Northwest from several years in the Cleveland area. Nolan was chosen, according to Simpson, to retain a third woman on the board and also because of her insight, intelligence and people skills. She has begun to lead hikes as well.

Who Built That Bridge, Anyway?

by Bill Longwell, Chief Ranger

If you've walked most of the trails of Tiger Mountain, you no doubt have crossed the many bridges, some short, some long, that span Tiger's numerous streams. At least 25 bridges cross creeks on Tiger and some have unique histories.

Of these 25 bridges, most were originally built by early IATC trail crews, who learned how to build by observing how the US Forest Service built its bridges in the higher mountains. Most of the time materials came from downed cedar trees that crews cut into sections and split. One particular cedar log three miles up High Point Creek provided decking for seven bridges between Lake Tradition and Preston. If the wood was free, the spikes that held bridges together were not!

I developed a habit over the years, from the 1970's until now, even, of finding spikes (eight inches, ten inches, even twelve inches long) along countless Forest Service Trails. Whenever high mountain bridge builders replaced bridges, I would scour the trailside and retrieve spikes from the castaway bridges, often thrown far down the hillside. I sometimes carried a heavy crow bar in my pack so I could pull the spikes out from discarded bridges. One time I found a treasure trove up the Pratt Lake Trail when the Forest Service replaced a 100 foot bridge. That day I carried 45 pounds of spikes in my day pack, down to my car!

Over the years I have collected several shelves of spikes and have used hundreds of them on Tiger bridge-building. My grandson admires these spikes, but reminds me that I don't have as many as a railroad.

Over the past 14 years, as the Department of Natural Resources has provided crews and money, DNR has replaced at least 18 of the old, rustic but serviceable bridges with professionally-built bridges. DNR has spent much money doing this. (Our versions were free).

Some of these 18 bridges feature long spans, built with concrete foundations and laminated beams and dropped by helicopter onto site. You can view at least seven of these monster bridges on the High Point Creek sections of the TMT (4), on the Poo Poo Point Trail on the TMT at Fifteen-Mile Creek (DNR's second version of that bridge) and on the Iverson and Northwest Timber Trail bike trails.

IATC trail crews, however, still maintain at least five bridges, mostly on the TMT, Tiger Mountain's signature trail. Two are newly rebuilt this spring. One short bridge, crossing a small creek at Mile Post 7.9 on the TMT, originally came from the Bullitt House on Squak Mountain.

When the roof of the Bullitt House came tumbling down (felled by vandals in December, 1973), I hid numerous timbers in the forest near the Bullitt fire-place. This material, 3x5 inch tongue-and-grooved cedar, was valuable to my eyes. Over the years I cut up this cedar into shorter lengths and back-packed it to various places throughout the Issaquah Alps. In November, 1980, I drove some of this material up the Tiger Mountain Road and carried it downhill to the bridge site.

That "Bullitt" bridge lasted for 24 years. A small IATC crew replaced the span this past May. We figure the new bridge will last at least 50 years and we may not be around to replace it.

Three bridges on Tiger came from the open sea. At Mile Post 10 on the TMT stands a bridge crossing over what we call Issaquah Gap Creek. From this creek the TMT climbs a half mile to Manning's Reach on a peak that in the 60's and 70's was called Mt. Issaquah. Somehow, and I've never figured out-how-or-why, Mt.—Issaquah's name changed to West Tiger 2. Now, only the creek carries the original name.

In May, 1984, I determined to build a bridge here. I mentioned this plan to Ray Remlinger, a teaching friend at Hazen High School. He owned prop-

erty and a cabin on Admiralty Inlet, the mouth of Puget Sound, and was always dragging flotsam and jetsam up to his cabin from the beach. One day he brought to school numerous boards he had fished from his beach. I backpacked the decking up from High Point. That bridge lasted 18 years until replaced by IATC trail crew in May, 2002.

In June, 1985, my daughter Gretchen and I hiked the whole of Dungeness Spit, near Sequim. As we returned toward a private trail up the bluff (a trail built by Phil Hall, who lived close by), we spied a 20-foot long 2x12, just recently drifted onto the beach from the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Despite her protests, Gretchen and I lugged that heavy plank (salt-encrusted and wet) up the bank to Phil's house and left it in his driveway. Later, he cut it into three-foot sections and drove it and other boards to my home. Phil was always on the lookout for beach materials for the TMT.

In April, 1987, three IATC crews built two bridges over the inlet to Lake Tradition, one on the east end of the Around-the-Lake Trail and the other over the deep streambed on the Bus Road. The decking materials came from that Dungeness Spit plank. Those bridges remained until 1993, when DNR replaced them. Machines lifted out the old bridges and set them alongside the trails. I kept my eye on both those old bridges.

In March, 1995, after several complaints about a muddy section on the TMT near MP 13, I decided to build one more bridge. Back I went to those old bridges lying beside the Lake Tradition inlet, salvaged most of the boards and spikes, and backpacked them up High Point Creek to the TMT, MP 13.1. Here I constructed a bridge, recycled from the old Lake Tradition bridges. This bridge lasted until May, 2004.

I figure that the long life of these boards is due to the salt they acquired while floating the Pacific Ocean. They may yet live again. Tune in...

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-mileper-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.

Total:

Issaquah Alps Trails Club Publications Order Form

Return this completed form along with your check to:	
Issaquah Alps Trails Club Publications, P.O. Box <u>466</u> , Issaquah, WA	98027

Name: Address:			
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ITEM	PRICE*	QTY.	TOTAL
Book: The Flowering of the Issaquah AlpsRevised!	\$ 9.00		
Book: The Authoritative Guide to the Trails of Cougar	15.00**		
Mountain Wildland Park and Surrounds			
Book: Guide to Trails of Tiger Mountain	15.00***		
Book: The Coals of Newcastle: A Hundred Years of Hidden History	15.00		<u> </u>
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	·	<u> </u>
Green Trails Map: Mount Si NRCA & Snoqualmie Corridor, Map 206S	7.00		

Issaquah	Alps Irails	Club Foundat	ion and	Members	hip Request Fo	orm
Name:						
Address:					A48	8
						}
Telephone:		E-mail:			777	

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.

Am	iluai uoliation leveis.		
	The basic hiker	\$15	The project suppor

☐ The IATC sponsor......\$50 ☐ The visionary......\$100 and above

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



^{*}All prices include shipping and handling.

^{**}One (1) IATC Cougar Mountain Map included.

^{***}One (1) IATC Tiger Mountain Map included.

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).

- □ Squak Mountain: History & Trails. \$15.
- ☐ 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 P.O. Box 351 Issaquah, WA 98027

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