



COUGAR TRAIL READY FOR USE

By Doug Simpson

Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park has a new trail thanks to the recent acquisition of the Brunette property on the northeast section of the mountain. This acquisition from park expansion levy money enabled the park to fulfill the need for an official trail from Newport Way to the park and a first link onto the CMRWP for bus riders.

The new trail will be an extension of the Big Tree Ridge Trail. Two crews worked at opposite ends to complete the trail, according to Niki McBride, park manager. The Washington Trails Association started from the top at the Big Tree Ridge Trail and worked down, while King County's Back Country Trails Crew worked up from Newport Way.

One remaining parcel of private property presented a major obstacle, necessitating a significant reroute of the trail, and the steepness of existing primitive trails also required development of a more suitable trail. Elements of the old Precipice Trail are incorporated into the trail, which is about a mile in length before it connects to the existing Surprise Creek Trail.

"The crews did a fantastic job," stated McBride. As this story was written McBride expected the project to be completed by early spring. The property acquisition enabled the park to complete a long-sought official trail from Newport Way to the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, providing another access link to the park.

McBride pointed out that a parking lot on Newport Way is also in the works to access the new trail. Cougar crews have also replaced a bridge on the Bear Ridge Trail and sections of the boardwalk on the Shy Bear Trail.

The park manager also noted that the formerly private property at Debbie's view atop Squak Mountain has been purchased (no more "private property" signs leading to the southward viewpoint). And county officials apparently have their eyes on acreage across from the very limited Wilderness Creek parking area on SR-900, the old hiking club property.

IATC'S COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY

By Doug Simpson

Months of tabulating, organizing and graph-constructing, primarily by webmaster Dick Amidei, has provided the Issaquah Alps Trails Club with a mountain of information to process, evaluate and perhaps act upon.

Participation was less than desired but not untypical for a survey, as but 103 respondents contributed out of the club's membership of about 700. Those who did respond reflect the club's advancing age, as

fully two-thirds are over 60 years of age, with just three under 40 and nine under 50.

Respondents are an active bunch, as 42% are also members of the Washington Trails Association, 26% the Mountaineers, 19% the Sierra Club, 17% the Snoqualmie Trails Club and 12% the Mountains to Sound Greenway. Non-respondents may not be so broad-based in their participation, it may be safe to say.

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The Apparatus

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VOLUNTEER TRAIL MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR

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MOUNTAINS TO SOUND GREENWAY

Ken Konigsmark • 222-4839 • kenkonigsmark@yahoo.com

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

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

Issaquah Alps Trails Club
PO Box 351, Issaquah, WA 98027
Website: www.issaquahalps.org

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

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

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

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By David Kappler

We have a number of important efforts going on within the club and with a number of issues involving how land within the Alps is protected and at the same time made available for appropriate recreation and other uses. They are all “in progress,” and I will briefly give a current update and urge you to check our website as matters unfold as your help can make a real difference.

Our annual meeting will be coming up on Thursday January 24th. At the annual meeting three of the nine board positions will be up for election and general topics of interest to any member can be discussed by the whole membership. Following the annual meeting, the board will meet to elect officers and carry on the business of the club. One of those business items is the proposed major update of the club's website.

Within the City of Issaquah we are involved with three issues. The city is working on a major rezone of 900 acres on the valley floor which will result in much more urban development in the city. A key component of this plan is the “Green Neckless” an integrated system of sidewalks, trails, greenbelts and parks that provide non-motorized transportation and protects creeks, wetlands and their respective buffers. Another issue is the future redevelopment of the Lakeside gravel pit on the western edge of Grand Ridge. This site may be excavated for another 30 years and asphalt and concrete production on the lower part will continue indefinitely using imported aggregate. Post restoration development could occur on about 90 acres, and future trails, the North Fork and wetlands are all issues important to us. Restoration of the Park Pointe property continues as does the planning for recreation as allowed by the terms of the deed's conservation easement. There is no resolution at this time as to the extent of the allowed trail system and to what uses will be allowed on each trail. Our position is that this property was acquired as mitigation for intense urban development in the Issaquah Highlands on land that was once heavily forested rural zoned land. Restoration is the first priority and even hiking needs to be limited. The deed and the land itself do not allow some kind of intensive mountain bike use.

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources continues to work on their Snoqualmie Corridor Recreation Plan. I represent the club on the citizen advisory committee and our initial

recommendations are being considered by the department. The plan covers over 50,000 acres of DNR land and will identify future trailhead locations, primary uses for each area, and prioritize construction and funding. Along with this planning is the major cougar study being done by Dr. Brian Kertson of the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife over this winter.

Please check the website for updates on all of these issues and feel free to call me about any of them.
David Kappler 425-652-2753

TIGER BRIDGES GETTING DONE



Three bridges on Tiger Mountain are getting installed, according to Sam Jarrett, State DNR's Snoqualmie Corridor Recreation Manager.

A 45-foot fiberglass bridge on the 15-mile Railroad Grade was made possible by FEMA funds. Another 45-footer is a replacement bridge on the Iverson Railroad Grade. By summer of 2013, a new cable suspension bridge will be placed on the upper High Point trail crossing of the Tiger Mountain Trail, relocated after a section of the trail was washed away. FEMA funds are also utilized here.

Another project on Tiger Mountain for DNR is an events compatibility study to determine a feasible number of events such as runs, group hikes and mountain bike events.

An Editorial:

LOSS OF KONIGSMARK IS HUGE

Ken Konigsmark is stepping down from his lengthy tenure with the Issaquah Alps Trails Club. Not everyone today knows what Ken has contributed to the club, but his efforts over the years have been gargantuan and unselfishly devoted.

Konigsmark has been on the board for 20 consecutive years, a tenure only exceeded by one year by founder Harvey Manning in the club's 33-year history. (Bill Longwell, the club's other icon, was a board member for 26 years.) The club was without a president after Gus Nelson resigned mid-year over a squabble with the board. Konigsmark was new on the scene himself, but his energy and insights from the get-go caused the club to turn to him to become the club's fourth president in 1993. His six years as president are exceeded only by Manning's initial ten years as club leader.

Konigsmark's specialty was always advocacy. After Manning himself, without question, Ken has been the voice of IATC more than anyone else in the past twenty years. With one exception, when he did a redux as president in 2002, he has been a vice-president for advocacy—and the club's primary voice in matters political for the past 15 years. Whenever presidents Barbara Johnson, Steven Drew, myself, Steve Williams and David Kappler (in that order) needed advice or information from the city, the county or the state, it was Konigsmark we turned to or relied upon for help. His knowledge, his insights, and his contacts were always invaluable.

In recent years, Konigsmark has been burdened by an onerous travel requirement in his job as a supply chain security manager for Boeing. His attendance at board meetings has been sporadic and much of his club work has been done by phone or email. Nevertheless, his input and his voice have remained critically important. Ken is retiring at the end of January from his work as a custom security manager. He will be living much of the year at a retirement home in Bali he purchased a few years ago as well as at his home in Issaquah. As he told me, "I'm not abandoning IATC and will attend board meetings and support advocacy as I can, but I'm going to see first where the future leads me and not be tied down by further obligations. I've never been truly 'free' in my entire life and I'm anxious to see what it's like."

Ken Konigsmark has been one the the handful of

members most critical to the success of IATC: Manning, Longwell, Jack Hornung and and Kongismark are in the club's pantheon of heroes. He will be sorely missed.

- Doug Simpson

TIGER DUE FOR GRANT?

The state Recreation Conservation Office recommended Tiger Mountain trail development among its priority projects for grants, it was announced recently. Funding for the Tiger Mountain trails and others projects hinges on dollars for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, established to conserve land and waterways.

If the \$320,000 grant for Tiger Mountain is funded, the state Department of Natural Resources can develop two trails or about five miles overall in east Tiger Mountain State Forest. the project requires a \$137,200 match from DNR. The decision to fund the Tiger grant and others is left to state legislators in their 2013 session.

Leaders at the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition, a nonprofit group set up to support the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, praised the project list. "This year, the projects that me the cut are, once again, ones that will have a positive effect on Washington for years to come," Executive Director Joanna Grist stated. "We must continue to invest in preserving our land and water in order to protect and grow the jobs and businesses that depend on our recreation economy."

Cynthia Welti, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust executive director, said some projects could improve the 100-mile greenbelt from Seattle to Central Washington.

"The Greenway Trust strongly supports the efforts of Washington Wildlife & Recreation Coalition," she said in a statement. "These grants will provide critical wildlife habitat improvements, increase access to trails and scenic views in the Greenway."

HIKER'S CORNER

(Our Own Traverse)

By Joe Toynbee

Most mountain ranges or large peaks have a trail by the same name traversing from one end to the other. Back east, we have the Appalachian Trail; locally, we have the Pacific Crest Trail and the Wonderland Trail. The Issaquah Alps features the Tiger Mountain Trail, or TMT. How this trail came to be is a fascinating story.

Planning for the trail began in the head of one man: Bill Longwell. The year was 1972. My own involvement dates to February of 1974 when I joined a hike led by Bill up the north side of Tiger along High Point Creek. At lunch, sitting in the snow, Bill told us of this plan to build a trail across Tiger 14 miles in length using only donated labor and material. Frankly, we thought he was crazy. Fast forward



to October 13, 1979 when the trail was officially opened. In a couple more years three miles was added to the southern end of the trail for a total of 17 miles. (Rerouting has since limited its length to 16 miles.)

Bill recruited work parties from his Lindberg High School students, and the Mountaineers supplied work parties, but most of the planning and a great deal of the labor was done solely by Bill. It was a magnificent achievement. In the early days of the trail there were numerous hikes doing the entire trail in one day, but activity on the trail has dwindled in recent years. Partly this may be due to the difficulty of doing trail work on the middle part of the trail. Recently, logging at the southern end of Tiger may have become a deterrent.

The IATC Hike Committee would like to encourage more use of the Tiger Mountain Trail, either hiking or doing trail work. We owe no less to Bill Longwell, who sadly died some five years ago.

BOARD HANDLES MANY ISSUES

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club held its quarterly meeting October 25 at the Trail Center. Topics discussed include final survey results, the need to improve the website, the Salmon Days booth, club-related signage, and plans for a future social event.

Just over 100 people responded to the club survey, most electronically. Illustrating the club's aging membership, two-thirds of respondents were over 60. Two-thirds had hiked in the past year, but only 37 percent with IATC. Scenic hikes were preferred to theme-oriented ones, and the idea of post-hike socializing was unpopular.

Between June and October the club held 101 hikes for 762 people, an average of 7.5 per hike. Richard Mann once again was not only the most frequent hike leader, but also the leader in total hikes.

After three years, identifying signs at the ends of the 16 mile TMT as the "Bill Longwell Tiger Mountain Trail"

have still not been erected. The issue was to be looked into. A donation by former president and Manning protégé Barbara Johnson has been made for a Harvey Manning sign in the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, which, more than anyone else, Manning not only rescued from developers but developed significant trail systems.

February plans for a club social event include lining up an excellent speaker on large mammals in the club's hiking areas. With good weather, the Salmon Days booth was busy, selling \$500 worth of books and maps.

The January 24 board meeting is the annual meeting, including election of officers. All executive positions except president are up for grabs. President David Kappler has another year of his two-year term to serve. In addition, the three-year board seats of Sally Davies and Larry Hanson are to be filled as well as the vacated seat of Scott Semans.

MY THREE FAVORITE HIKES

By Scott Prueter

Ira Spring Trail to Mason Lake and Mt. Defiance

This is one of the prettiest trails along the Interstate 90 corridor if you like majestic mountain views, clear alpine lakes and bountiful wildflowers. However, your burning thighs make you pay in advance for the majestic splendor.

Statistics:

Ira Spring Trailhead to Mason Lake – Take Exit 45 to Forest Road 9030 – 3.9 miles to the trailhead – Elevation at trailhead – 2,280 feet. Distance and elevation gain to Mason Lake – 2.8 miles and 2,100 foot elevation gain to the ridge crest and then a 180 foot descent to the lake itself – 4,200 feet elevation. Mason Lake to Summit of Mount Defiance – Distance and elevation gain – 1.8 miles and 1,384 feet elevation gain. Total distance and elevation gain round trip for both destinations – 9.2 miles and 3,484 feet

Features:

The trail begins on an abandoned fire road. It ascends to the Mason Creek crossing where one can stop to enjoy the cascading waterfall on the left. From there you ascend to the ridge crest through some of the most wonderful alpine flower gardens you will find in the Cascade Mountains. Enjoy the fireweed, asters, goldenrod, Indian paintbrush, lupine, tiger lilies and bear grass, to name a few. Continuing upwards, the trail crests Bandera Mountain ridge. By now you have an enjoyable view of Mt. Rainier, Bandera Mountain and Mount Defiance along with views of McClellan Butte and west through the Snoqualmie River Valley. From there you descend into the lush forest surrounding Mason Lake. This is a very nice place to take a break and enjoy the peaceful setting along the clear alpine lake surrounded by the alpine peaks in the distance.

Now the hard work begins in earnest for those who want to challenge themselves physically. The trail to Mount Defiance goes through deep forest winding in and out of moss-covered trunks and then ascends the steep southeast ridge of Mount Defiance to an open wildflower covered level portion of the trail. Finally, there is a steep and rocky path up the summit at 5,584 feet. Take some time to enjoy the wonderful panorama with the high summits of Kaleetan Peak, Mount Roosevelt, and Preacher Mountain as well as the other mountains I have mentioned earlier. Also, enjoy looking down on the Alpine Lakes Wilderness with Mason, Kulla Kulla, and Island lakes below you.

I like this trail because it has such a tremendous variety of mountain scenery, mountain spring and summer wildflowers, and the beauty surrounding the crystal clear Mason Lake. Last, for those who want to “make the summit” there is the feeling of accomplishment that comes with knowing the hard thigh-burning work that goes into making it to the top has such a tremendous visual reward.

Annette Lake Trail

As its reward, this destination has a pristine alpine lake nestled in a glacial cirque surrounded by splendid mountain peaks. It is a nice setting for a well-deserved break after a moderate hike through a magnificent old growth forest.

Statistics:

Take Exit 47 and turn right. Turn left onto FS Road 55 and drive 0.5 miles to the trailhead – Elevation at trailhead – 1,900 feet. Distance and elevation gain – 3.75 miles and 1,740 foot elevation gain to the lake – 3,640 feet elevation at the lake. Total distance and elevation gain round trip – 7.5 miles

Features:

The trail begins on an ancient logging road mostly reclaimed by fertile forest of alder. The trail goes steadily through a mixture of switchbacks and level sections. At approximately 3,500 feet elevation, a clearing looking south across the Humpback Creek Valley rewards you with a view of the massif east face of Humpback Mountain. Now less than a half mile away, the destination lake sits in a bowl surrounded by trees on all sides and bounded by Silver Peak (5,605 feet) to the east, the long ridge of Humpback Peak (5,174 feet) and the basalt walls of Abiel Peak (5,365 feet). There are a number of campsites along lake on its north end where you can sit and enjoy the glimmering water with the before mentioned peaks in the distance.

I like this trail because it has some of the best examples of old growth forest in the Snoqualmie Pass area. The Annette Lake Trail itself has a good selection of old growth forest, but for a real treat, take the time to explore the .75 mile Asahel Curtis nature interpretive trail, and you will see some of the best representative Pacific Northwest forest typical of the western Washington and Oregon Cascades. Of course, standing at the lake itself is a treat with its crystal clear waters surrounded by impressive Cascade Peaks.

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MECHLER BUSY WITH CITY STEWARDSHIP

Matt Mechler, Issaquah's Open Space Steward, remains busy with several projects. He and other city officials are painstakingly working on the Park Pointe trail plan, developing a plan for hiking, biking and shared use trails, while also decommissioning former logging roads in the area.

At Squak Valley Park North, Mechler is completing a half-mile trail with wetland crossings and interpretive signage.

By late winter or early spring, Mechler expects to complete repairs and kiosk signage for the parking area on East Sunset Way that accesses both Tiger Mountain and Grand Ridge trails.



January 2013

January 1 Tuesday 10:00AM

Surrounding area Dog Hike - DOGS WELCOME.

Bring leash, water, scoop supplies. Leader's Choice

Moderate, 5-8 Miles, 800-1600 ft Gain

Thomas Pohle 425-481-2341

January 2 Wednesday

Surrounding area Hike - Leader's Choice. To receive

Hazel's hike details weekly, send your email address

to: allseasonhiking@hotmail.com

Mod/Stren, 7-11 Miles, 1700-3500 ft Gain

Hazel Weissman

January 5 Saturday 9:00AM

Middle Fork Hike - See the wonders of the Middle

Fork Basin. Hike up the Taylor River

to Lippy Lake and Otter Falls

Moderate, 9 Miles, 500 ft Gain

George Potter 425-516-5200

January 6 Sunday 9:30AM

Tiger Mountain Hike - Hike to Tradition Lake

via Park Pointe roads & trails

Easy, 5 Miles, 600 ft Gain

Steve Williams 425-453-8997

January 9 Wednesday

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Hazel's hike details weekly, send your email address

to: allseasonhiking@hotmail.com

Mod/Stren, 7-11 Miles, 1700-3500 ft Gain

Hazel Weissman

January 10 Thursday 9:00AM

Explore and Maintain Trails Trail Work - See updates on the website for where and what we will be doing.

Call Dave for more information

Dave Kappler 425-652-2753

January 11 Friday 10:00AM

Issaquah Alps Dog Hike - DOGS WELCOME. Bring

leash, water, scoop supplies. Leader's Choice

Easy, 4-6 Miles, 800-1200 ft Gain

Dori Ost 206-909-1080

January 12 Saturday 9:00AM

Squak Mountain Hike - Loop hike over Central Peak and West Peak with Rainier view for lunch.

Moderate, 7 Miles, 1550 ft Gain

Scott Prueter 425-269-3079

January 13 Sunday 9:00AM

Cougar Mountain Hike - Loop from Sky Country Trail trailhead to AA Peak via mine shaft

Easy, 5 Miles, 650 ft Gain

David Warner 206-232-7730

January 16 Wednesday

Surrounding area Hike - Leader's Choice. To receive Hazel's hike details weekly, send your email address

to: allseasonhiking@hotmail.com

Mod/Stren, 7-11 Miles, 1700-3500 ft Gain

Hazel Weissman

January 19 Saturday 10:00AM

Cedar River Hike - Hike from Landsburg to Lake Wilderness

Moderate, 6-7 Miles, 100 ft Gain

George Potter 425-516-5200

January 20 Sunday 9:00AM

Tiger Mtn & Grand Ridge Hike - Tradition Plateau, South Grand Ridge Loop. A walk in the woods along trails in Issaquah's Tradition Plateau NRCA and King County's Grand Ridge park

Moderate, 10 Miles, 1300 ft Gain

Ralph Owen 425-746-1070

January 21 Monday 10:00AM

Twin Falls Hike - Great winter hike to popular waterfalls

Very Easy, 3-4 Miles, 600-800 ft Gain

Bob Gross 425-427-8449

January 23 Wednesday

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IATC Annual Membership Meeting

Dave Kappler 425-652-2753

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Easy, 3-5 Miles, 300-900 ft Gain

Jean Lanz 206-322-0990



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Bob Gross 425-427-8449

January 23 Wednesday

Surrounding area Hike - Leader's Choice. To receive
Hazel's hike details weekly, send your email address
to: allseasonhiking@hotmail.com
Mod/Stren, 7-11 Miles, 1700-3500 ft Gain
Hazel Weissman

January 24 Thursday 9:00AM

Explore and Maintain Trails Trail Work - See updates
on the website for where and what we will be doing.
Call Dave for more information
Dave Kappler 425-652-2753

January 24 Thursday 7:00PM to 9:00PM

Meet at Trails Center, 1st and Bush
IATC Annual Membership Meeting
Dave Kappler 425-652-2753

January 25 Friday 10:00AM

Issaquah Alps Dog Hike - DOGS WELCOME. Bring
leash, water, scoop supplies. Leader's choice
Easy, 3-5 Miles, 300-900 ft Gain
Jean Lanz 206-322-0990



January 2013

January 1 Tuesday 10:00AM

Surrounding area Dog Hike - DOGS WELCOME.

Bring leash, water, scoop supplies. Leader's Choice

Moderate, 5-8 Miles, 800-1600 ft Gain

Thomas Pohle 425-481-2341

January 2 Wednesday

Surrounding area Hike - Leader's Choice. To receive

Hazel's hike details weekly, send your email address

to: allseasonhiking@hotmail.com

Mod/Stren, 7-11 Miles, 1700-3500 ft Gain

Hazel Weissman

January 5 Saturday 9:00AM

Middle Fork Hike - See the wonders of the Middle

Fork Basin. Hike up the Taylor River

to Lippy Lake and Otter Falls

Moderate, 9 Miles, 500 ft Gain

George Potter 425-516-5200

January 6 Sunday 9:30AM

Tiger Mountain Hike - Hike to Tradition Lake

via Park Pointe roads & trails

Easy, 5 Miles, 600 ft Gain

Steve Williams 425-453-8997

January 9 Wednesday

Surrounding area Hike - Leader's Choice. To receive

Hazel's hike details weekly, send your email address

to: allseasonhiking@hotmail.com

Mod/Stren, 7-11 Miles, 1700-3500 ft Gain

Hazel Weissman

January 10 Thursday 9:00AM

Explore and Maintain Trails Trail Work - See updates on the website for where and what we will be doing.

Call Dave for more information

Dave Kappler 425-652-2753

January 11 Friday 10:00AM

Issaquah Alps Dog Hike - DOGS WELCOME. Bring

leash, water, scoop supplies. Leader's Choice

Easy, 4-6 Miles, 800-1200 ft Gain

Dori Ost 206-909-1080

January 12 Saturday 9:00AM

Squak Mountain Hike - Loop hike over Central Peak and West Peak with Rainier view for lunch.

Moderate, 7 Miles, 1550 ft Gain

Scott Prueter 425-269-3079

January 13 Sunday 9:00AM

Cougar Mountain Hike - Loop from Sky Country Trail trailhead to AA Peak via mine shaft

Easy, 5 Miles, 650 ft Gain

David Warner 206-232-7730

January 16 Wednesday

Surrounding area Hike - Leader's Choice. To receive Hazel's hike details weekly, send your email address

to: allseasonhiking@hotmail.com

Mod/Stren, 7-11 Miles, 1700-3500 ft Gain

Hazel Weissman

January 19 Saturday 10:00AM

Cedar River Hike - Hike from Landsburg to Lake Wilderness

Moderate, 6-7 Miles, 100 ft Gain

George Potter 425-516-5200

January 20 Sunday 9:00AM

Tiger Mtn & Grand Ridge Hike - Tradition Plateau, South Grand Ridge Loop. A walk in the woods along

trails in Issaquah's Tradition Plateau NRCA

and King County's Grand Ridge park

Moderate, 10 Miles, 1300 ft Gain

Ralph Owen 425-746-1070

January 21 Monday 10:00AM

Twin Falls Hike - Great winter hike to popular waterfalls

Very Easy, 3-4 Miles, 600-800 ft Gain

Bob Gross 425-427-8449

January 23 Wednesday

Surrounding area Hike - Leader's Choice. To receive Hazel's hike details weekly, send your email address

to: allseasonhiking@hotmail.com

Mod/Stren, 7-11 Miles, 1700-3500 ft Gain

Hazel Weissman

January 24 Thursday 9:00AM

Explore and Maintain Trails Trail Work - See updates on the website for where and what we will be doing.

Call Dave for more information

Dave Kappler 425-652-2753

January 24 Thursday 7:00PM to 9:00PM

Meet at Trails Center, 1st and Bush
IATC Annual Membership Meeting

Dave Kappler 425-652-2753

January 25 Friday 10:00AM

Issaquah Alps Dog Hike - DOGS WELCOME. Bring leash, water, scoop supplies. Leader's choice

Easy, 3-5 Miles, 300-900 ft Gain

Jean Lanz 206-322-0990

MAILBOX PEAK GETS NEW TRAIL

(Note: This article is largely reprinted from the fall issue of "Connections," the publication of Mountains to Sound Greenway.)

Projects are underway in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley, including new trail and trailhead at Mailbox Peak, improvements to the Granite Creek Basin and paving of the Middle Fork Road. The once tarnished area plagued by illegal dumping and unsafe conditions is now becoming a significant conservation success story. The public use concept plan provides for improved wildlife habitat and ecological preservation in this 100,000-acre valley.

This past summer, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources broke ground on a new trailhead at the base of the valley. In conjunction with the new trailhead, Greenway Trust crews and volunteers and State DNR are building a new 5-mile trail to Mailbox Peak with help from Washington Conservation Corps crews and Washington Trails Association and EarthCorps volunteers.

The new trail will support increased usage by hikers and lead to the infamous mailbox at the summit for which the mountain is named. The new trailhead will boast increased parking accommodation up to 50 cars.

"The new trailhead will dramatically improve this entry portal into the base of the Middle Fork," said Doug McClelland, Assistant Region Manager for State DNR. "People will be able to park more easily to access the new trail. We especially want to thank the Spring Family Trust for Trails and the State Recreation and Conservation Office for funding this new trail."

State DNR, the US Forest Service, and the Greenway Trust are also

working together to decommission 11 miles of forest roads in the Middle Fork's Granite Creek Basin. Approximately five miles of the roads are being converted to trails that will access Granite and Thompson lakes.

Beyond the State DNR lands in the valley are over 70,000 acres of US Forest Service lands. The Forest Service and Greenway Trust are moving quickly to develop twenty trail, river access and other recreational projects.

"It is critical that we prepare public-use facilities to accommodate these recreational users," said Doug Schindler, Deputy Director of the Greenway Trust. "If we don't, we will likely find people creating their own use patterns."

"We all love trails that lure us upward with the promise of fabulous views, like Mailbox Peak," said Washington's Commissioner of Public Lands Peter Goldmark. "It's taken quite an effort to design and launch construction of the Mailbox Peak Trail, but we will have a safe and sustainable alternative to the current trail. I appreciate the public-private collaborations and funding that are essential to making it happen."

"The US Forest Service is excited to be partnering with the Greenway Trust to help improve access to this beautiful valley," said Jennifer Eberlien, forest Supervisor for the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. "The Middle Fork is poised to become a major recreational destination for the Seattle metropolitan area. With the support and dedication of our partners, we are working to ensure a safe and accessible Middle Fork for everyone."

Three Favorite Trails

continued from page 6

Squak Mountain Loop Over Central Peak and West Peak

This destination has as its reward a south facing lunch or rest spot looking out over the May Valley with Mount Rainier looming off in the distance. Moreover, you can see splendid views off to the west catching glimpses of Puget Sound and the surrounding lowlands.

Statistics:

In Issaquah, take Mountain Park Boulevard SW to Mountain Side Drive SW and park at the Bullet Access Trailhead just prior to a 180 degree turn that goes left up the mountain – Elevation at trailhead – 740 feet. Distance and elevation gain – 6 miles roundtrip and 1,550 foot elevation gain from beginning to end.

Features:

The hike begins on the Bullet Access Trail heading in a southerly direction. Throughout the hike, there is a combination of coniferous and deciduous forest along with intermittent "seas" of ferns. We have the opportunity to take some "dotted line" trails up the summit of Central Peak (2,024 feet) and then along the backbone ridge to where we stop and look at the concrete footprint and stone fireplace remains of the Bullitt family's former cabin in the woods. The "roller coaster" trail over the West Peak is a unique feature of this hike where we ascend and descend some steep slopes in a "peak and valley" fashion topping out at the next highest point on the mountain, the West Peak (1,985 feet). Moving on, the best part of this hike, in my opinion, is the lunch spot Debbie's View. Here if we are lucky we will have sun in our faces looking out over the vast May Valley and Mount Rainier looming large in the distance.

I like this trail because it has such a variety of interesting side trails that are off "beaten track". We get the satisfaction of standing on the two highest points on the mountain. Last but not least, we get to enjoy one of the most picturesque and scenic views in the Issaquah Alps at Debbie's View. It is a spectacular place to enjoy lunch or a well deserved rest.

HOWATSON GETS AWARD

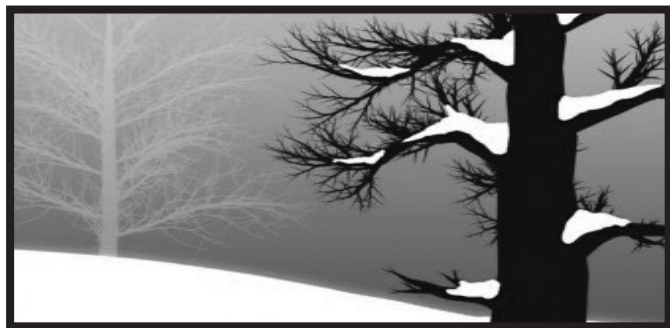
Ron Howatson, a lifetime Issaquah resident, and veteran IATC leader, recently was honored as Veteran of the Year by the Albert Larson VFW Post for his service as a Navy Seabee during the Korean War and his many years of service to local veterans.

Howatson, 80, joined IATC in 1993 after retiring from a career as an electrician for construction crews. His contributions to IATC are significant for his twenty times leading the 16-mile Tiger Mountain Trail hike and his long-time service with the Weedwhackers, a group of dedicated trail maintenance workers. He is known for his skill with the chainsaw, invaluable in dealing with clearing after storm damage.

His association with club icon Bill Longwell went beyond his work with the Weedwhackers, as he joined Longwell on many hiking outings including the first 50 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail north from Cascade Locks on the Columbia. He has hiked most of the PCT over the years.

Besides leading hikes for IATC, Howatson frequently led hikes for the Mountaineers and the Snoqualmie Valley Trails Club.

With the Seabees, he worked a bulldozer in building an airstrip in Korea.



BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

Come January, the IATC will have several openings on its board, including treasurer. Call President David Kappler (425-392-3571) if you have questions.

IATC'S COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY

continued from page 1

The average distance respondents drive to the Issaquah Trail Center for hikes is 19 miles. The average miles they are willing to travel to the trailhead is 50 (round trip). As for possible elevation gain, the average willingness/ability to climb is 2675 feet, the minimum 756 feet.

On a scale of 0-10, respondents would most prefer scenic hikes – 7, and least prefer youth hikes – 0.7. Others cited were longer hikes – 5+, more gain – 5-, evening hikes – 4, less gain – 4, shorter hikes – 4, senior outings – 4, slower-paced hikes 4, birder hikes – 4-, photo hikes – 4-, moonlight outings – 3+, and faster-paced hikes – 3+.

The club's website (issaquahalps.org) ranged from daily visits – 1, to annual visits – 10. Most common were monthly – 16, semiannually – 8, and weekly or twice per year – 6. The most popular reason for visiting the website was to check the hike schedule.

Recommended improvements, in order, were hike location and/or destination details, to read the Alpiner, to find website links, for easier navigation and to post pictures or comments.

The Alpiner comments were primarily positive. A few suggestions were for more information on wildlife, more information on the hikes, trail reports, website updates, more pictures, and more information for new hikers.

A key question was what would improve the club. Some of the more cogent responses were to get more involvement from young people and families (which is a great concern to the club anyway), more dog hikes, more weekday hikes, some adults-only hikes, some early morning hikes, to have lunch or other social activities after hikes, trips to areas outside the usual range (including national parks), more hikes for newcomers, explore new hike sites, and to be able to meet the group at the trailhead.

Asked for possible willingness for club involvement, respondents most often cited become hike leaders, hike training, helping with hike coordination, and doing trail work. (Note: none wanted to help the beleaguered editor with the Alpiner. Alas!)

Now it's up to club leaders to sift through this input and see what they can do to revitalize the club.

See IATC Survey Charts on Pages 8 and 9

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, dogs only on designated dog hikes.

Degree of Difficulty

Very Easy: up to 4 miles and 600 feet of elevation gain – for beginners.

Easy: up to 6 miles and 1200 feet gain – not difficult for occasional hikers.

Moderate: up to 10 miles with 1200 to 2500 feet gain – usually not difficult for regular hikers.

Strenuous: up to 12 miles and 3500 feet gain – for experienced hikers in good condition.

Very Strenuous: over 12 miles and/or over 3500 feet gain – only for experienced hikers in very good physical and aerobic condition.

Hike Description Modifiers

Leader's choice: The leader had not decided where to hike before publication of the hikes schedule.

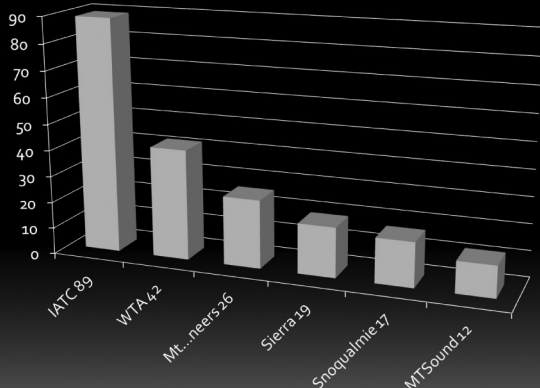
Trail party: Trail maintenance work party.

Exploratory: The leader goes cross country off the main trail system to explore animal trails, canyons, old logging roads, or old railroad grades.

Expect to go through brush, over logs, tiptoe through wildflowers, and/or mud while having a good time hiking where others seldom tread.

continued on page 10

Organizations You Are a Member Of:



WEBSITE HELP NEEDED

IATC wants to update its website and could use help. If you are knowledgeable and can help, please contact George Potter at 425-557-6554.

HIKING INFORMATION

continued from page 1

Family hike: For parents and children. Easy pace. Call leader for hike particulars.

NOTE: Group hikes do not lend themselves to dogs unless on designated dog hikes.

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.

Trail work parties last at least four hours. Trail maintenance is vital to the Club's work and is

✓ Checklist:

- Food
- Water
- Daypack
- Raingear
- Warm clothes
- Hiking Shoes

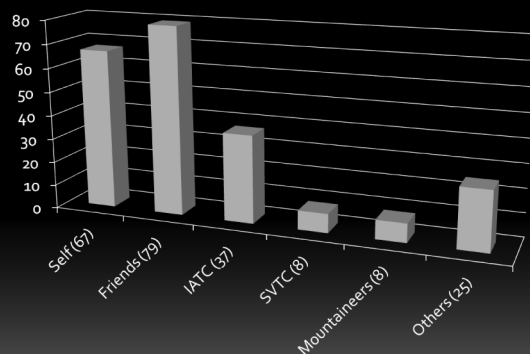
Each item is required in order to participate in an Issaquah Alps Trails Club hike!

Don't leave the trailhead without them!

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.

In Past 12 Months Respondents Hiked With



Issaquah Alps Trails Club Publications Order Form

Return this completed form along with your check to:

Issaquah Alps Trails Club Publications, P.O. Box 351, 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 with Map | 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, 2010 revision | 3.00 | | |
| Book: Squak Mountain: An Island in the Sky | 15.00 | | |
| Book: 55 Hikes Around Snoqualmie Pass | 10.00 | | |
| Map: Issaquah Alps Cougar Mountain, 2001 revision | 2.00 | | |
| Map: Issaquah Alps Squak Mountain (2005) | 6.00 | | |
| Green Trails Map: Tiger & Taylor Mountains, Map 204S | (List 12.00) 11.00 | | |
| Green Trails Map: Cougar & Squak Mountains, Map 203S | (List 12.00) 11.00 | | |
| Green Trails Map: Rattlesnake Mountain & Upper Snoqualmie Valley Map 205S | (List 12.00) 11.00 | | |
| Green Trails Map: Mount Si NRCA & Snoqualmie Corridor, Map 206S | (List 12.00) 11.00 | | |
| *All prices include shipping and handling. | | | |

**One (1) IATC Cougar 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.

Suggested donation levels:

- ☐ The basic hiker.....\$15 ☐ The project supporter.....\$25
☐ The IATC sponsor.....\$50 ☐ The visionary.....\$100 and above

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

Issaquah Alps Trail Club
P.O. Box 351
Issaquah, WA 98027

Address Service Requested

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

Issaquah Alps Trails Club Publications

See page 11 for the publications order form.

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

o ***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.

o ***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 (includes map).

o ***Guide to Trails of Tiger Mountain***—By Bill Longwell. 2003 revised edition. Updated trail information, two new trails and numerous photographs (includes map).

o ***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.

o ***Eastside Family Hikes***—By Peggy Barchi. 2001 revised and updated edition. Descriptions of family hikes (annotated for stroller use and picnicking) on the Eastside.

o ***Squak Mountain: An Island in the Sky*** By Doug Simpson with trail descriptions by David Langrock. Provides a history of Squak Mountain and its gestation as a park. Includes 4 loop hikes covering most of the mountain trails. Includes many earlier writings by Bill Longwell and vignettes by others.

o ***Green Trails Tiger & Taylor Mountain***. Map 204S.

o ***Green Trails Cougar & Squak Mountains***. Map 203S.

o ***Green Trails Rattlesnake Mountain & Upper Snoqualmie Valley***. Map 205S.

o ***Green Trails Mount Si NRCA & Snoqualmie Corridor***. Map 206S.

o ***Green Trails Quality Squak Mountain Map***. By IATC member Harry Morgan.

o ***IATC Cougar Mountain map***. 2001 revised.

o ***55 Hikes Around Snoqualmie Pass*** By Harvey Manning.