



April ♦ May ♦ June 2018

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

IATC HAS MAJOR TURNOVER

By Doug Simpson

For the second year in a row, a standing room only crowd of nearly 100 people crowded into Issaquah's old railway depot for the annual meeting of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club on January 25.

The meeting, emceed by veteran IATC leader Ken Konigsmark, featured a speech by the newly elected Issaquah mayor, Mary Lou Pauly, and a panel discussion of "Community, Conservancy and Capacity: Loving Our Public Lands to Death," with panelists Laurie Benson, of Washington Department of Natural Resources; Ingrid Lundin of King County Conservation Futures; and Jeff Watling, Issaquah Parks Director.

Also on the agenda were Konigsmark's brief presentation of IATC's history, a question and answer session after the panel presentation, and election of the club's officers. In the later session of the IATC board, three new board members were elected.

As a result, IATC will have a totally different—and more youthful—look. The new president is John Sherwin (see his President's Report on page 3). David Dunphy, like Sherwin with a few years of board experience, was elected as president-elect. Steve Payne, a new board member, volunteered to take on the job of club secretary. Mary Jo Barlow had just become the new treasurer at the fall meeting. The only returnee on the executive board is David Kappler, vice-president for advocacy.

The Board of Directors has a new look as well, with Payne, Denice Carnahan and Joy Kacoroski taking the seats vacated by Gail Folkins, Doug Simpson and Steve Williams. Also stepping down were President Kirt Lenard, Secretary Kathleen Petty and Legal Advisor Jim Hilton.

Being activated this year is a new advisory committee, chaired by Lenard and including Petty, Simpson, Williams, Doug McClelland (retired from DNR), Cornelia Remy (former board member) and Ben Monte Calvo (also active in the Mountains to Sound Greenway).

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Mayor Pauly, an Issaquah resident since 1993, said much of her focus is on the importance of long-range city planning. "We have to get it done," she said, "and get it right." She commented on expanded bus service reaching out to Talus and Squak Mountain residents and her hope that with partnerships the Bergsma property could be acquired (part of the Save Cougar Mountain project).

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THREE NEW IATC BOARD MEMBERS

Elected to IATC's Board of Directors January 25 were Denice Carnahan, Joy Kacoroski and Steve Payne, who is also now the club's secretary.



Steve Payne
IATC Secretary

Payne is an active Mountaineers hike leader and the incoming chair of the Seattle Hiking Committee. He is also a board member of the Washington Trails Association.

An Air Force veteran, he has spent the past 20 years as a probate and real estate

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The Apparatus

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

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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: d.simpson6191@gmail.com
Send diskette or hard copy to post office box number above.

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By John Sherwin

Spring is a time of transition...the snows are melting and the spring flowers are popping up. This is a great time to reflect on the transition in leadership for the Issaquah Alps Trails Club.

We are fortunate to have three people serving in president positions for the club focusing on the goals of the club and providing leadership for important initiatives.

As president, I will be in charge of the usual roles and responsibilities of the president, keeping an eye on our goals and strategies, while keeping an ear open for new opportunities and input from the board. I will also oversee the installation of a new website, and look for new ways to streamline communication and management of our membership. I am also passionate about advocacy and will work with David Kappler to continue to strengthen the club's influence and effectiveness in that space.

As incoming president, David Dunphy will work closely with me and share president duties and responsibilities, and will also work with new board member Joy Kacoroski to build a new Youth Outreach Program for the club. As past president, Kirt Lenard will chair a new advisory group. He will reach out to individuals from different backgrounds to gather perspectives on our goal to reach out across generations and a diverse cross section of groups. We will also go to this group for legal, technical and political insight into how best to fulfill our mission of protection of green spaces within the Issaquah Alps.

David, Kirt and I meet regularly with our Executive Director Suzanne Kagen and have laid a solid foundation for a busy year of outreach and advocacy. The board is intent on strengthening our outreach to a variety of demographics. Leaders are planning family hikes for young children, and partnerships are forming to introduce folk with limited mobility to easy hikes in the Issaquah area. We're also looking for ways to support King County Metro's new "Trailhead Direct" bus lines in order to open up new transportation options for hikers and ease congestion at trailhead parking lots. Advocacy continues to be the heart and soul of what the organization does. Under the leadership of board mem-

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ADVOCATE REPORT: SPRING 2018

By David Kappler, Vice-President for Advocacy

We are entering the time when our land managers and adjoining neighbors dread dealing with overcrowding at popular trailheads. Even in February some trailheads were over capacity. Nearly all managers of public lands have opened or significantly expanded trailheads and they cannot keep up with demand. Part of the problem is people want to hike where there are steep forested hillsides, wetlands and streams and these kind of places make locating big parking lots difficult, expensive and undersized.

King County will be expanding its shuttle bus service, Trailhead Direct, which circles Squak, and is working on the Middle Fork and areas east of our Alps. King County staff has been very welcoming of suggestions for improvement. We are working with the county to see if we can coordinate some of our summer hikes with their schedule and will be seeking volunteers to ride the bus to provide hiking advice to bus riders.

The annual meeting was a huge success with participation from our new Issaquah mayor and key staff from three of our governmental partners.

The City of Issaquah is moving along well on a Strategic Plan for parks, recreation, open space and trails. They have strongly encouraged participation by the public, and several club leaders are quite involved with the planning effort.

I want to remind you again of the map Issaquah has published. It is a great up-to-date free trails map that includes much of Cougar, Squak and Tiger mountains as well as city trails. The map is available at the Community Center and at this link and, even better, along with directions to put the map on your cell phone: issaquahwa.gov/trails.

Perhaps our longest running effort is to deal with the Bergsma property on Newport Way that adjoins King County's Big Tree Ridge Trailhead and Issaquah's Harvey Manning Park at Talus. (Not to be confused with the Harvey Manning Trailhead on Anti-Aircraft Peak well above HM Park and Big Tree Ridge Trailhead.) We are strongly supporting a combined city and county joint acquisition of the site for park and open space uses. A very well organized group of neighbors in

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IATC HAS MAJOR TURNOVER

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Benson commented on the area's incredible growth (1.7 new residents arriving per hour (!), cited a new acquisition between Grand Ridge and Mitchell Hill, and a master plan with expanded facilities for the Tradition Plateau. DNR also plans on new trail links, improvements to the steep Teneriffe Trail and converting an old rock pit on East Tiger to a picnic area with shelters.

Lundin also cited the area's fast growth (50 new residents each day) and the risk it poses to possible loss of green space, a warning also raised by Konigsmark. She stressed the importance of the coming initiative to limit growth to 3%, a measure which would keep household cost to \$10 per year.

Watling enthused about the imminent Parks Heritage Plan which citizen input has helped shape. He spoke of using existing parks as trailheads for expanding via the "Green Necklace" city trails, and he too spoke positively about the Save Cougar Mountain movement.

The panelists were asked about youth education progress, wildlife corridors, boardwalks and possible new trails, which Watling said are part of the loops and links the city is working on.

In his closing remarks, President Lenard, pointing out that IATC has just 370 paid members, cited the need for fund-raising to beef up the club's treasury, and the importance of increased diversity within the club's leadership.

In other business, besides the typical reports, support was encouraged for the King County Land Conservation initiative Lundin referred to, and for the Save Cougar Mountain efforts. The club's scholarship program has been modified to a Youth Engagement Grant Program (budgeted at \$1,000 for the year) for student outreach activities. And Doug Simpson was selected as IATC's official club historian.

IATC's board, which could max at 15 members, now stands at 11, as the position of operations vice-president is vacant, and Sherwin, Dunphy and Payne are on both the executive board while also holding three of the nine regular board positions.

THREE NEW IATC BOARD MEMBERS

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planning paralegal with private law firms. A former smoker, Steve is now convinced that "it's better to be a husky hiker, backpacker, runner, cyclist and stair-climber than a skinny smoker." He lives with his wife Rhea and children in Federal Way.



Denice Carnahan
IATC Board of Directors

Carnahan is also active in Mountaineers, a member since 1992 and a hike leader since 1998. She has also been on their conservation committee and a participant in snowshoe activities.

Denice was busy at Boeing as a programmer and computer support manager, but now has her own business as an investment advisor specializing in socially responsible investments. This busy lady is also a private pilot and is a member of the Sustainable Renton Community Farm.

"I am interested in preserving the great outdoors for generations to come and want to help more people connect with nature," she added.

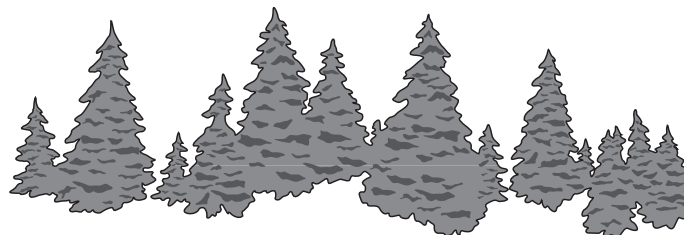
Kacoroski is the interpretive specialist for Lake Sammamish State Park, "enjoying youth outdoors through environmental education programming." She hopes



Joy Kacorski
IATC Board of Directors

to work on youth engagement strategies with IATC and "create opportunities for families to become more involved with the club."

An avid outdoors activist, "I have a strong interest in protecting our trails and green spaces for future generations," Joy said.



A FAMILY OF DOERS

By Doug Simpson

If you've explored Squak Mountain, you've probably been to Debbie's View. If you've been on the TMT and seen Anschell's Allee' (sign currently missing), you may wonder who these are named for. The answer: Debbie Anschell.

Anschell happens to be the mother-in-law of Bree Loewen, the author of "Found" A Life in Mountain Rescue" reviewed in this and the last issue of this newsletter. She was interviewed for these connections, as was Loewen.

Debbie Anschell is no mystery woman. In past years she was very active in IATC as a hiking and trailworking companion of Bill Longwell, Joe Toynbee, Jim Cadigan and Ken Hopping, to name a few. She was especially close to Longwell, who was a great role model to her for his legendary hiking exploits. For example, she has hiked the entirety of the Pacific Crest Trail in Washington in one-week segments at a time over the course of three years. She has also climbed many of the major peaks in the state.

Now 65 with a twice-replaced right knee, she prefers "shorter" outings of 6-8 miles. Recreationally she compensates by frequent, lengthy bike rides. She often rides the new East Lake Sammamish Trail.

One of Anschell's activities in recent years has been caring for Russell and Bree's daughter Vivian, now 9, who is often mentioned in Loewen's book. Vivian understands her mother's participation in Seattle Mountain Rescue's missions and, in fact, has even been on some, notably a Mt. Pilchuck rescue.

"Bree is very dedicated to SMR, it's her life," Anschell stated. "If there is need for a rescue, she wants to do it--she thrives on it."

And, according to Debbie, Bree and husband Russell are very popular rescuers, greatly respected for their efforts. Both Bree and Russell are highly trained and experienced. Now married for 11 years, they went through rigorous training together, starting with ESAR (Explorer Search and Rescue) and have reached the pinnacle of mission rescue work. They are both elite climbers with extensive technical training. For SAR, they train every month.

"They are always in training," Anschell explained.

"My whole family has had ESAR training. My husband Greg, my sons Joel, Rus-

sell and Scott, as well as Bree. But I didn't have the patience to do it," Debbie stated. Longwell's daughter Ann, a good friend, has a daughter, Elizabeth (Gaby) who is now training for it in Pierce County.

"Bree is very tough. She can put up with a lot, such as staying overnight in a snow cave that she described in her book. And Bree is studying nursing and knows backcountry medicine."

Loewen was also interviewed and stated her appreciation for her mother-in-law's help. "Despite my trouble and bad weather, she's incorrigible. She and my parents have gone above and beyond for me."

The farthest she has gone on a rescue was to Mount Adams to search for the body of a climber from a fall. Recovering the deceased might seem like a less satisfying experience. "But they need to be found and their family needs a sense of closure," she explained. "They also need the body for a legal declaration of death."

Loewen's longest outing was four days in the Olympia National Park, searching for a missing hiker, who was never found.

Asked about her most difficult mission, Bree stated: "They're all hard in different ways. There is always something new. I learn from each experience. The next one is the hardest, providing a new puzzle to figure out," Bree said.

One fascinating mission she was involved with was on Christmas Day in 2016 when an ice climber fell from Franklin Falls. The rescuers had to get past a crowded roadway, walk on ice, then wade in icy water to reach



Anschell and Loewen

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PART TWO**SEARCH VETERAN NARRATES EXPERIENCES**

By Doug Simpson

Bree Loewen's "Found" details her search and rescue experiences from Tiger Mountain to the Snoqualmie Summit, with one foray five miles south of Skykomish (off Highway 2) in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness.

She covers experiences with accidents, landslides, being lost and even suicides. As she wrote, "I love the cold. I love the struggle, the realness, the ridiculousness and the tenderness of it. Rescue missions are not actually work, not a career; money, power and prestige mean nothing out here. It's not a vocation, it's an avocation. . . This is just what I do for love, just taking the time to be with someone who needs someone to be with them."

It's a different kind of need, though, for those who want to end it all. The area has two popular jump sites, the Rattlesnake ledges and the Snoqualmie Falls overview, from which Loewen suggests no one has ever survived. Still, the bodies need to be retrieved.

The retrieval process itself is fraught with danger, as "The canyon walls are disintegrating. The moment I go over the edge my feet start knocking off shale chunks the size of microwaves." As Bree notes, "This isn't rescuing anyone. I'm here volunteering to help this woman with the decision she's made. Not to fix anything, just to be here."

Some rescue efforts involve much more than a few members of Search and Rescue getting to a needy person and getting him or her—dead or alive—back to civilization. When three hikers were lost in the area, as happened in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, the usual rescuers came from Seattle, Tacoma and Everett, as well as Explorer Search and Rescue from three counties, Northwest Horseback Search and Rescue, and a King County helicopter. Another rescue involved 50 people and six different groups in wet freezing weather. Fortunately, the lost hikers were found and rescued.

One trail runner slid from the top of LaBohn Gap, stopping 200 feet below his trekking poles on a small ledge close to another 500-foot drop. He lay unconscious for 24 hours through a hailstorm, the night and into the next afternoon—and somehow survived after his rescue.

When five skiers were caught in an avalanche on Mount Snoqualmie, it was a major effort to reach them in 20-degree weather with a heavy snowstorm quickly covering

tracks. Loewen prefers traveling on skis, but sometimes only snowshoes will work, given the terrain. After locating and retrieving the various injured skiers, they had to race 2800 feet down to Alpental to help them survive.

This area, called the Phantom, is only a few hours from a major freeway (I-90), but incredibly wild. "There is something that keeps me here, beholden to this place. . . Maybe this is why I like skiing at night, when it still feels like what it is: an ancient range of mountains, obscured from view in a powerful thick fog." Most of the rescues take place at night and often involve spending the night themselves before they can find and retrieve the victims.

One of Bree's stories illustrates the vast wildness of the area. On Mount Si, the busiest trail in the state, two teenage boys found a skeleton just a few feet off the main trail. It had been there so long (perhaps 20 years) that a tree had grown through its ribs. One of her sadder stories is on the Twin Falls Trail, where a dog slipped down a steep side and its owner, trying to rescue it, fell to his death.

Two things that make locating lost adventurers easier are tracking GPS-enabled cell phones and asking friends or relatives where the missing person has most likely gone. Their accurate guesses and cell phone tracking simplify the rescue process in most cases.

One of Loewen's most harrowing experiences was locating and retrieving a lost young, fit man stuck on a small ledge on Guye Peak near Mount Snoqualmie. Rapelling down the steep, rocky side was dangerous in itself, but required three ropes to reach him and 1600 feet of rope in total to pull him up, a process which took four and a half arduous hours, a herculean effort.

Besides the suicides, there is an element of fatality in many outdoors adventures. Just as an animal will go off somewhere to die, Bree believes it is sometimes true with people. "I think sometimes people are drawn into the woods when they feel it's their time. Maybe it's just that the woods are a sacred space, unmarred, mysterious and quiet. All people through all the ages of the world have returned to nature, so it doesn't seem too strange to me that people would do it now."

("Found" was published by Mountaineers Books in 2017, a softback edition priced at \$17.95.)

CHAPTER 19: 1998

A PLETHORA OF LAND USE ISSUES

By Doug Simpson

JANUARY – MARCH: IATC ACQUIRES FUNDS

Cougar Mountain's Red Town Ball Park Meadow Restoration Project, first envisioned by Penny Manning, reached its goal of \$19,000 after generous donations from the Bullitt Foundation and Recreation Equipment, Inc. (REI). Also assisting in the much praised project were the Washington Native Plant Society, the University of Washington, King County and the Washington State governments, and the staff of King County Parks, and the Cougar park's manager, Steve Williams.

Initially, King County's Urban Reforestation Water Management Waterways Zero Community Stewardship (\$2,400 for signs and plants) and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Urban Demonstration Project (also \$2,400 for signage and plants) also contributed. It was an extensive project that now twenty years later can still be appreciated.

Another funding coup was a \$5,000 grant from the National Recreation Trail Funding Act to IATC and Snoqualmie Valley Trails Club to purchase equipment for area trailbuilding and maintenance. IATC members Bill Longwell and Mary Lynch prepared and submitted the grant application.

Under Longwell's leadership, in 1997 the club was involved in 154 different projects, involving 321 man-days of labor with 1,837 volunteer hours devoted to the projects.

Malena McCrone announced a project to staff the Trailhead Center during Saturday hiking days from 9-1 to answer questions, sell maps, and direct hikers to trails and trailheads appropriate to their interests and skill levels.

APRIL – JUNE: MAJOR BOARD CHANGES

Election results from the January annual meeting resulted in Barbara Johnson succeeding Ken Konigsmark as president (Konigsmark became vice-president for advocacy), Dina Go as treasurer and new board members Steve Drew, Daniel McCray, Charles and Malena McCrone, Linda Raines and Fred Zeitler.

Betty Culbert blasted King County Parks for their

shoddy treatment of Echo Mountain's Lake Desire – Spring Lake Open Space that disregarded guidelines. She especially cited the badly supervised trailwork. IATC's Fred Weinmann, a botanist and wetland ecologist, criticized the treatment of native plant species.

The new homes by Chaffey Construction was a project not expected to be friendly to trails near the Coal Creek Parkway and May Valley Road corridors. The writer was correct.

IATC's board presented elaborate goals with designated advocates for Cougar Mountain (Harvey Manning and Ralph Owen), Squak Mountain (Drew), Tiger Mountain (Konigsmark and Larry Hanson), Grand Ridge (Melinda Livingstone), Issaquah (Christina Jackson), Raging River/Preston (MaryAnn Tagney-Jones), and Rattlesnake/Taylor mountains (Owen and Ted Thomsen).

**JULY – SEPTEMBER:
TIGER TOWERS CONSTRUCTION**

Interagency Coordinator Margaret Macleod explained projects of the SCAT committee (Squak, Cougar and Tiger mountains), including expansion of its area of concern to the Snoqualmie River Valley and Rattlesnake Mountain Scenic Area. It was hoped to add a second coordinator to handle the extra work the expansion entails. She also listed trail projects, possible acquisitions, assistance for the Mountains to Sound Greenway, and the problems with Tiger's steep Cable Line Trail.

Konigsmark reviewed the numerous accomplishments of the club in 1997 (too numerous to fully mention here), including successful hiking and trail maintenance programs, several acquisitions promoted by IATC and advocacy projects to revise Newcastle Golf Course plans, to alter the City of Issaquah's plans to locate a huge watertank on Squak Mountain and to challenge the proposed East Tiger village pipe dream.

Larry Frey cited the ongoing construction atop West Tiger #1 to erect two large communication towers, associated buildings and installation of electric cable under

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the Main Tiger and West Tiger road systems. Many road and trail closures were planned during the work. Treasurer Dino Go advocated a collection of members' email addresses to enhance communication ability within the club.

Fred Zeitler wrote the first of his many "Hikers' Corner" columns for the *Alpiner*. He sought to devote his quarterly updates to trail news, hiking conditions and other pertinent information.

Konigsmark wrote an article discussing the club's concerns and influence in discussions and planning for Issaquah's Sunset Interchange proposal.

OCTOBER - DECEMBER:
MANNING ON THE GREENWAY

President Barbara Johnson, the club's only female president in almost 40 years, recounted some of the positives from 1998. She cited the successful Return to Newcastle event, progress in club book revisions not only on Tiger Mountain (Longwell), but also Cougar with Charles McCrone updating the earlier Manning/Ralph Owen effort. Also mentioned was the fifth year of Woman Walk outings and of an ongoing program for hike leaders.

Chairman Manning's article "Of Alps and Greenways" made note of burgeoning efforts to publicize development of the Greenway. Back in 1975 Stan Unger walked from West Point in Seattle to Snoqualmie Pass. In the first "Mountains to Sound March," in 1971, mountaineer Jim Whittaker led a large hike from Snoqualmie Pass to Seattle followed by a gathering of thousands of environmentalists at Gasworks Park. Then on July 4-8, 1990, a Mountains to Sound march of 88 miles from Snoqualmie Pass to Elliott Bay was held. In 1977, before IATC was formed, Buz Moore led over 100 walkers from the Issaquah bus stop to West Tiger 3, and in 1979 Tim O'Brian had another 100-plus hikers on the "Public Officials Awareness Hike" up Tiger. Finally, Manning cited the 1990 Five-Day March from the summit to Elliott Bay. All these lengthy outings helped to solidify the Issaquah Alps and IATC as a place to go for hiking enthusiasts.

New hike leaders for 1998 were *Alden Bliss, Wayne Balcom, Marty Hanson, Kristina Jackson, Kay Talapalsi and Fred Zeitler*.

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bers David Kappler and Ken Konigsmark, the board continues to look for ways to protect the Issaquah Alps, and are working closely with other organizations like "Save Cougar Mountain" to find a realistic and workable solution for the proposed Bergsma development.

Advocacy Report cont. from page 3

Talus and along Newport have formed a group Save-CougarMountain.org to work for public acquisition of this key property. The Save Cougar group has hired a lawyer to challenge some of the environmental work that has been done by the applicant and to certain extent by the city. To their credit the city required two peer review geo-tech reports which really questioned the initial geo-tech work done by the applicant. With the city's experience with the slide on a much less steep slope in Talus the city is literally looking deeper!

Please consider going to the SaveCougarMountain.org website and donating to help pay for the significant legal costs they are facing to protect our Cougar Mountain.

Please feel free to contact me, VP Advocacy, David Kappler 425-652-2753.

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the stranded climber. To keep him dry, they had to hand him off several times to get him back to the trail. Much of this was done at night in the dark. "It was really a fun experience," she said seriously.

SMR had 160 rescue missions in 2017. "I went on about thirty of them. There are about 700 volunteers in King county in a number of different groups—SMR, King County Explorer Search and Rescue, a 4x4 group for transportation, the Ski Patrol, an accident support team, a search dog unit, and Pacific Northwest Trackers. And all are 100 percent volunteers," she explained.

"It's an amazing team effort. I'm just one of 700 incredibly dedicated, hardworking volunteers," Loewen stated. And Bree, one of them, comes from good blood stock.



DISCOVERING THE PRECIPICE

By Charles McCrone

(Editor's Note: In view of the increased recent attention the Cougar's Precipice area, this article is reprinted from the fall 1998 Alpinist.)

A look at any topographical map of Cougar Mountain shows a narrow band of steep terrain ringing the east and north sides of the mountain. In the summer, this precipice is an impressive wall of green between Newport Way condominiums and homes, and a few houses that seem perilously perched at its top.

Even from the freeway, though its contours are softened by the outlines of trees and the massive gorge of AA Creek, the Precipice hints of its marvels to the eye. I first discovered the Precipice three winters ago. It has become my favorite place in the Alps; repeated visitation has not numbed my amazement at the wildness of its terrain that broods so close to a city.

There are several accesses to the trail system that have long existed informally along and around the Precipice, but I have forgotten which one I discovered first. I do remember bravely marching up through the backyard blackberries behind Summerhill neighborhood, brandishing my old Cougar map as proof that this was indeed a trail.

Behind the homes, the trail widened along AA Creek, and I felt dwarfed beneath the incredibly huge ridge opposite me. Passing one of the biggest downed logs I have seen on Cougar Mountain, I lost the trail amidst Oregon grape. I must have followed the old flags because I know I made it to the Harvey's Mudslide sign, where surprisingly one finds a doable ascent up that incredibly huge ridge.

The aptly named mudslide epitomizes the Precipice Trail: the rude muddy double switchback would violate any park system's trail specifications, but you can't beat it for raw character and no-nonsense sensibility. Immediately I found myself atop the Big Tree ridge, with views to the lake beyond.

I don't know if I made it that day to the place where the Precipice Trail joins the old Military Road to Newcastle and heads toward the park proper. I suspect I actually found Military Road another time on the day I began at Radar Park in the snow and cruised down Surprise Creek until it deadended and followed a stream over toward the powerline.

That stream is a badly eroded trail, which forks and goes either down to the Westside Reservoir Road off State Route 900 or left to where Military Road, the Telephone Trail, Stagecoach Ridge Trail, and the powerline (aka Goodes Corner Trail) all make a grand nexus. At a later date, I put two and two together and followed Military Road the other way to Big Tree Ridge and found myself glaring down Harvey's Mudslide from the top.

The Precipice is home to multiple old signs, looking much older than their 1980s pedigree, which guided me in my early explorations and taught me the names of its haunts. Some have come home to roost at my house, having fallen or cracked, awaiting repair, and then return to the forest. The case of the signs illustrates how the Precipice has worked its magic on me, adopting me, it seems, as a custodian. Now I have moved beyond exploration to leading volunteers to repair damage on its trails—and sing its praises!

OIL CHANGES ON SQUAK

By Bill Longwell

(Editor's Note: This article is reprinted from the fall 1998 Alpinist.)

A latter-day coal miner named Fred Rounds used to tell Harvey Manning about early-day truck logging on Squak. In Squak's antique days, logging roads were more than primitive; they were narrow and steep. Fred told Harvey he'd keep one foot on the brakes and one on the running board. He was prepared to jump if the brakes failed.

In the late 1960s on one of my exploratory trips to Squak's Thrush Gap (the east gap forms the headwaters of Phil's Creek and the west gap holds the road), I poked around the twin gaps and stepped on a pile of tin cans. I dug around and uncovered a score of old Texaco oil cans, obviously of an early vintage.

Here, on a dead end spur off the main logging road was a stop for oil changes for vintage trucks—trucks with airless rubber tires and small loads. These trucks crawled up and down this route. They went around tight corners and slid carefully over stringer bridges. Here at Thrush Gap, these trucks paused at an impoverished Texaco station, which is now buried and hidden amid the decaying compost.

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.

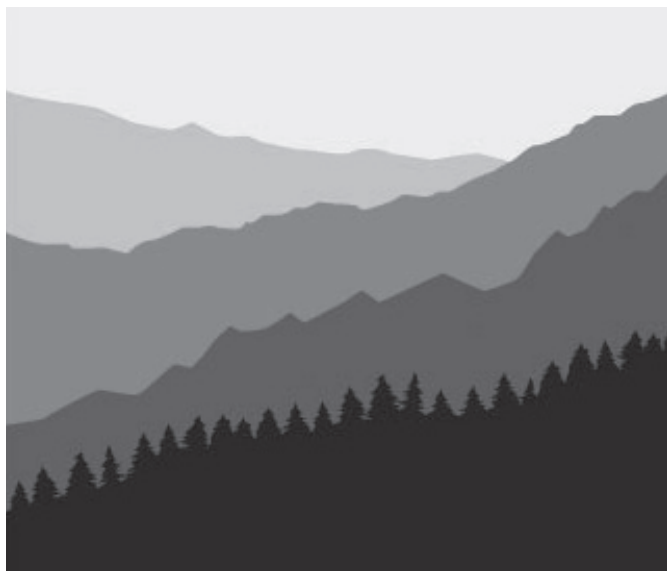
Exploratory: The leader goes cross country off the main trail system to explore animal trails, canyons, old logging roads, or old railroad grades.

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

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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

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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!



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

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**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.

Don't forget to renew your membership!

☐ \$20 Membership Renewal (PDF Newsletter)

☐ \$25 Membership Renewal (Print Newsletter)

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