



THE ISSAQUAH ALPINEER
October 30, 1979

PRESIDENT'S (FIRST) REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

After the amiably anarchic months of semi-organization that commenced atop View Peak on May 5, the Day of Three Lightning Storms, we now are progressing into the era of bureaucracy. At the general membership meeting of September 27 the following were elected to the temporary Board of Directors: Dave Kappler, Barbara Johnson, Bill Longwell, Tom Mechler, Harvey Manning, Tim O'Brian, Steve Smith. By a process of elimination, all other candidates having issued General Sherman declarations, I was elected President at the first Board meeting, October 18.

At the next Board meeting, in November, we will complete the Articles of Incorporation and move toward becoming a legal non-profit entity in the eyes of the State of Washington. As soon thereafter as we can devise some Bylaws, there will be an election of the first regular Board of Directors.

Once the routine matters are handled, Board meetings normally will be announced in advance, held in public facilities, and open to all members who wish to come and share in our deliberations. For example, the agenda of the December 13 meeting includes a discussion of the Newcastle Community Plan and the position the IATC should take. (Something can be done aside from what we're doing now -- walking around the countryside saying goodbye to all the beautiful places.)

Committees are being organized, recruits sought. The Alpiner Committee was first off the mark, and that's how we got where we are today. The Hikes Committee has three members at this writing -- and wants more -- and wants more leaders -- and wants your opinion of what's going on. A public meeting of the committee will be held Thursday, January 10, to discuss the current schedule and plan the one for February-March-April. Y'all come.

Other committees looking for help are Membership (Tim O'Brian), Publicity, Bicycle Rides, Horse Routes, History.

On October 18 the Board took its first official action on public affairs. A letter was sent the state Department of Natural Resources requesting postponement of the planned timber sale in the south half of Section 36, on Cougar Mountain, pending preparation of a detailed environmental impact statement. (The same week the Washington Environmental Council, Seattle Audubon Society, and other groups and individuals filed suit against the DNR on similar grounds but covering all operations of the department.) It is known that a developer intends to try to get that state land once the trees are cut. Lying in the heart of the Cougar Mountain Wilderness, the parcel is of more than minor concern to us.

Other issues that will arise in the future include: DNR management plan for Tiger Mountain; King County plans for Newcastle Communities and the Tahoma-Ravens Height Communities (east side of Squak, all of Tiger); Washington State Parks; King County Parks; why the State Highway Department has not fulfilled its legal responsibility to complete the Issaquah-Preston trail-bikeway; other bikeway problems; parks, trails, bikeways in Cities of Bellevue, Issaquah, Renton (the portions in Issaquah Alps). These will be discussed at Board meetings -- and that's why members should attend.

We now have around 150 members -- most are families, so we constitute 400 or so, and more by the day.

Co-sponsorship of hikes with Issaquah Parks and Recreation Department has proven a happy arrangement and will continue. (We are discontinuing specific mention in the Alpiner of which hikes are co-sponsored, because Issaquah Parks is helping with all of them.) Other parks departments are being approached concerning similar relationships. METRO, whose #210 line and Park & Ride Lots are at the center of our existence, is planning major public support of IATC -- more of that later.

Since the Day of Dunder und Bittzen last May, IATC has sponsored 19 hikes (plus 4 others done earlier for Issaquah Parks). In this super-fat and double-expensive issue you'll see we're stepping up the schedule, offering hikes of various kinds on various days. Are we flooding the market? Well, how will we ever know what you want unless we try something -- and see how you vote -- with your feet? We feel a trip doesn't need to have 70 participants to be a success. We hope eventually to have enough trips -- and that means enough leaders -- to scale down average party size. In our view, a dozen people, or three or four, can have fun in the woods, too.

As a final note, IATC manned a booth the weekend of Issaquah Salmon Days, making many new friends. Board Member Tim O'Brian carried the club colors (red face, white feet) in the Great Run, doing a mile in 10 minutes and finishing respectably (merely to finish was respectable) in the upper middle of the field of several hundred. It is expected that any week now his breathing will return to normal.

Harvey Manning

MEETINGS -- ALL MEMBERS URGED TO ATTEND
Your Opinions Wanted!!!

Board of Directors

Thursday, December 13, 7:30 p.m. at Issaquah Sportsmen Club, Evans St., (behind Clark Elementary School). Agenda includes Newcastle Communities Plan and what it means for trails.

Hikes Committee

Thursday, January 10, 7:30 p.m. At Newport Way Library, 14250 S. E. Newport Way, Bellevue. Evaluation of November-December-January hikes; discussion of the schedule for February-March-April.

Board of Directors

Thursday, January 17, 7:30 p.m. At Newport Way Library, 14250 S. E. Neport Way, Bellevue.

MAPS AND GUIDES

The Issaquah Alps area is covered by five sheets of the U.S. Geological Survey: Mercer Island, Issaquah, Fall City, Maple Valley, and Hobart. These may be purchased by mail, at \$1.25 a sheet (check or money order), from U. S. Geological Survey, Box 25286, Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225. Locally the maps are sold at Captain's, 1324 2nd Avenue, and Metsker Maps, 1008 2nd Avenue, both in Seattle, for \$1.60.

Now in preparation, for publication this winter-spring, are three map-trail guides that will be sold to club members, all proceeds going in club coffers. Bill Longwell is at work on a map-guide of Tiger Mountain, to be followed by one of Squak Mountain. Harvey Manning will do a similar map-guide of Cougar Mountain and environs. When ready they'll be on sale on club hikes and at Board meetings and other club functions.

All reputable, well-run bookstores carry Footsore 1: Walks and Hikes Around Puget Sound, which describes trails in the Issaquah Alps -- all those the author had found as of a couple years ago, and could talk about in public. But since then Bill Longwell has built more...

GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF HIKING WITH IATC

What Followers Do (and Don't have To)

No hiking experience required -- beginners welcome.

No special equipment needed. Boots are great, but sneakers work fine; on some of these creek-wading, muck-slushing winter walks, knee-high rubber boots are swell. In cold weather, bring a sweater or jacket or parka, plus a hat (the head is the single most important heat-loss area). Possibly some sort of raincoat during the typhoon season -- but many folks prefer an umbrella (no kidding). Bring lunch and drink if you like. (On many walks there is no trustworthy water.) On winter trips, when night comes early, perhaps a flashlight, though normally we're back by dark.

No age limit. However, we do ask that folks under 13 be accompanied by an older person -- parent, big sibling, neighbor or friend, or youth-group leader.

Membership in the club is not required. However, only members receive the Issaquah Alpinist, carrying the complete hike schedule, and informing about public issues on which we all should speak our piece.

No previous signup required. Just show up at the appointed time and place.

For much of the party most of the time, no car required -- for most trips the Metro 210 bus delivers you to the meeting place, where the car pools are formed, and picks you up when you get back.

Certain matters of trail behavior are important. In confusing terrain, in bad weather, and with darkness impending, the party stays strictly close together. Often, though, the group spreads out, letting persons find their most enjoyable paces. However, it is essential that when traveling in "scatter" formation no hiker be alone. The lone hiker, when lost, is the one who panics, gets in bad trouble. We much prefer to lose hikers in bunches, so they can cry on each others' shoulders. Always hike with a "buddy group." If you don't have a companion, attach yourself to a group. If you see a lonesome soul, please invite him or her to be your buddy. If you find the trip too strenuous for your tastes, please inform the rearguard so he can arrange your safe retreat.

What Leaders Do

The number of trips we can offer is determined by the number of us willing to act as leaders. So, volunteer. It's not a complicated or disagreeable task, as the following "leader's manual" shows.

Know the route. If you haven't hiked it recently, or ever, go on a preliminary scouting trip, unless you can arrange for a native guide.

Show up at the assembly point at appointed time and place. If nobody else is there, you are permitted to cancel the trip. However, it is important the club establish a reputation for dependability: when we say we're going, we go.

Have all hikers sign the Attendance Sheet provided by the Hikes Committee.

Having waited until the 210 bus arrives (if this is a bus-coordinated hike, as most are), have the party pool up in as few cars as possible. Explain to the drivers the route to the trailhead, in case somebody gets separated. Then lead the caravan to the trailhead. Park safely, legally.

Appoint a route finder (nobody permitted to walk ahead of him/her) and a rear-guard (nobody permitted to fall behind him/her) -- or serve one of these functions yourself. Stress the necessity of "buddy groups." Spot loners and attach them to groups.

Within the first hour, hold a party separation -- males this way, females that way.

If traveling in a tight group, hold rest stops periodically.

In doubtful situations (route, weather) keep the party together. When in "scatter" formation, be sure no person is walking alone and watch for people with problems, such as yellow jacket stings or bad knees. At such times be especially sure to have a responsible rearguard -- perhaps you.

At any point where hikers in "scatter" formation might go wrong -- on the way in or the way out -- liberally drape "trail marker" (t.p.). But make certain the rear-