



ISSAQUAH ALPS TRAILS CLUB

## INTRODUCTION

to the

### ISSAQUAH ALPS TRAILS CLUB

Organized May 1979, incorporated December 1979  
P.O. Box 351  
Issaquah, WA 98027

Dear Alpinist,

Our quarterly bulletin, the Issaquah Alpinist, lists forthcoming hikes and other activities and reports on progress toward our goal of a protected trail system. Due to the economics of postage stamps, publications are costly. A mass of basic information thus has been assembled in this Introduction -- information that will not have to be repeated in each Alpinist. This, then, is an important reference. File it away in a safe place. Like maybe a hiking boot.

Henceforth this Introduction, revised periodically, will be given each new member. If you wish additional copies for friends or to replace the one that mildewed in your boot, send 75¢ per copy to P.O. Box 351.

Perhaps not all your questions are answered herein. If so, just ask.

Yours for green thoughts,

Harvey Manning  
President  
January 16, 1980

## PURPOSES OF THE CLUB

The purposes for which the corporation is organized are as follows:

1. Seek the establishment of a public trail system on and around Cougar, Squak, Tiger and Taylor Mountains and Grand Ridge (the Issaquah Alps), and along and around the streams flowing from them to Lakes Sammamish and Washington and the Snoqualmie River, including Coal Creek, May Creek, Tibbetts Creek, all forks and tributaries of Issaquah Creek, and the Raging River.
2. Publicize the Issaquah Alps as an in-city and close-to-city greenbelt/open space/recreation area of significance to the entire metropolitan region.

3. Promote trail establishment and use that protect the rights of present and future property owners.
4. Seek the establishment, signing and maintenance of trails appropriate for walkers, joggers, hikers, bicyclists and equestrians — trails that meet the needs of all ages of users and of those with physical handicaps.
5. Seek the development and/or establishment of parks, natural areas, roadside picnic sites and viewpoints, walk-in campgrounds, and other facilities that complement the trail system.
6. Seek the preservation of unique or significant plant communities, wildlife habitats, geological and scenic features.
7. Work to continue the use of motorized vehicles for recreational purposes in the area on designated roads.
8. Work to obtain adequate law enforcement on roads and trails and in parks.
9. Sponsor a program of hiking and other non-motorized trail use that emphasizes all parts of the Issaquah Alps and that meets the needs of both beginners and those wishing more strenuous challenges.
10. Encourage local park departments to establish regular programs that make use of the Issaquah Alps.
11. Encourage the use of public transit and other energy efficient transportation in, and to the Issaquah Alps.
12. To engage in any other activity which may be of general club interest and which the club may legitimately engage in.
13. To purchase, lease, receive by gift, legacy, bequest or otherwise real or personal property wheresoever situate, and to sell, lease, mortgage or otherwise dispose of the same in any lawful manner that may be useful or calculated to further the purposes and efforts for which this corporation is organized and established.
14. To govern itself by such by-laws, rules and regulations as the directors may deem proper and best for the welfare and good order of the corporation and its members, provided that the same may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the legal members present at a regular meeting duly called for that purpose in accordance with the provisions of the by-laws.
15. To borrow money and to make and issue notes, bonds, debentures, obligations and evidences of indebtedness of all kinds, whether secured by a mortgage, pledge, or otherwise; without limit as to amount, except as may be prohibited by statute, and to secure the same by mortgage, pledge, or otherwise, and generally to make and perform agreements and contracts of every kind and description.
16. To do all and everything necessary, suitable and proper for the

accomplishment of any of the purposes or the attainment of any of the objects or the furtherance of any of the powers hereinabove set forth, either alone or in association with other corporations, firms or individuals, and to do every act or acts, thing or things incidental or appurtenant to or growing out of or connected with the aforesaid objects and purposes, or any part or parts thereof; provided, the same be not inconsistent with the laws under which this corporation is organized.

17. To do any other Act authorized by law.

#### HOW TO JOIN THE CLUB

Send name, address, and phone number to P.O. Box 351, Issaquah, WA 98027.

#### Annual dues:

Individual-\$3.00

Family (all members)-\$5.00

Contributing \$10.00 or more-no limit

#### HOW THE CLUB OPERATES

At this writing, with club bylaws not yet adopted, the structure can only be sketched. The governing body, elected by the members, is the Board of Directors, which elects the President and other officers, appoints the committees, and sets club policies.

Club origins go back to 1977, when there came together an ad hoc group concerned about the future of trail recreation in the Issaquah Alps. A few hikes were improvised and were well attended. In the spring of 1979 the group went into partnership with Issaquah Parks and Recreation Department, which sponsored a number of hikes that were enthusiastically attended. Many participants expressed the desire for a club. So, on May 5, the Day of Dunder und Blitzen, the decision was made atop View Peak, in intervals between three violent thunderstorms.

The core of the club program has been the hiking, which continues to be co-sponsored by Issaquah Parks and publicized throughout the Issaquah School District. (Other park departments are expected to join in support during 1980.) In addition to club members, hundreds of non-members have been introduced to Alps trails — members of other clubs, youth groups, church groups, local folks who call Issaquah Parks to find out what's happening, and so on.

Using the trails and thus publicizing and popularizing them is one central activity. The other is working to preserve a trail system, and this requires working with public officials and the press. Sometimes the Board of Directors and the committees can deal with the situation. Other times, though, the entire club membership must arise and speak individually to officials and legislators, in person, by phone, or by letter.

All activities of the club rely on members volunteering -- to lead trips, to serve on committees, to handle this task or that. So, volunteer. Call a club officer, a committee chairperson, or just drop a postcard to the club, saying what you'd like to do. Watch the Alpiner for announcements of meetings of the club, the Directors, or committees, and attend. Following are the committees currently at work or being organized:

Hikes. Plans the schedule, recruits leaders, keeps track.

Bicycle Rides. The same -- but with emphasis on "pioneering" good riding routes and developing a plan for a public bikeway system.

Horse Routes. Studies the trails to determine which are suitable for horses, which are not. Locates access points usable by riders from near and afar.

IATC Marathon. In the planning stage, perhaps for 1980 but surely for 1981, is a marathon (that's 26 miles) on a route to be selected, around Squak and Cougar and gosh knows where.

Trail Guides. Maps with trail descriptions are being prepared for each of our mountains.

Nature Study. In preparation is a layman's geologic map explaining the coal mines, the fossils, the glaciers. Inventories of birds and animals, of flowers and shrubs and trees, are in the works. Anecdotes of animal encounters, the places and dates, are being gathered. Special hikes led by experts are planned - flower walks, bird walks.

History. In-cooperation with Newcastle Historical Society, the history and lore and traditions of the area are being gathered from residents and publications. The thought is to prepare short outlines for each of our hikes, telling the history of what we see along the way.

Publicity. Spread the word to the press, to other clubs, to public officials. News releases and personal contacts.

Lobbying. This committee, badly needed, is mostly just an idea now. Each elected official, municipal, county, state, in a position to influence policy relating to the Alps should be kept informed by constituents.

Issaquah Alpiner. Without this committee we wouldn't really exist. Typing to be done, printing, folding, stapling, stamping, mailing.

Telephone Tree. We need a permanent "tree" committee, each member with a list of names, so that in case of crisis the entire club membership can be called to action instantly.

Membership. Providing information to prospective members. Handling dues, renewal notices, club roster.

Other committees likely will be formed as occasions arise.

VOLUNTEER.

#### CLUB GOALS

The goals of IATC are not very long-range. Indeed, if they're not attained in the next few years, they never will be. Predictions are that many tens of thousands more people will be living on and around the Alps by the year 2000. As these new neighborhoods of Puget Sound City are built, we seek to set aside certain parcels and certain corridors to provide trail recreation and green space for these new residents -- and for all the rest of Puget Sound City.

Cougar Mountain is the center of the Newcastle Communities Plan that will be adopted by the King County Council in 1980. IATC proposes a large Green and Quiet Space reserved from home-building and public vehicles, traversed by the loop of the Cougar Ring Trail, some 12 miles in length. Also proposed is the Cougar Perimeter Trail, a bikeway-footpath circling the mountain on the outside, via May Creek and Coal Creek etc. Also, the Cougar Precipice Trail, some 8-10 miles in length, on the unbuildably steep north and east slopes. Also, a number of Ray Trails connecting the Perimeter and the Ring, following creeks and canyons that would be preserved green and quiet. Also, an upstream enlargement of Coal Creek County Park that would connect Lake Washington to the Cougar Ring Trail in the Green and Quiet Space.

Squak Mountain State Park, an undeveloped square mile given to the people by the Bullitt family, preserves the wild heartland of that excellent mountain. However, State Parks has been frustrated in attempts to establish a guaranteed public trailhead in Issaquah. Helping is the aim of IATC. Also, seeking protection for trail corridors elsewhere on the mountain, connecting from Issaquah and May Creeks (and Cougar and Tiger Mountains) to the park.

On Tiger Mountain the future of trail recreation requires two things: multiple-use of the tree farms to give hikers and horsemen recognized status; and strict limitations on use of machines, keeping them to designated roads in designated areas, preventing their free running wherever they please. Excluding the populated and platted lower slopes, something like 40 percent of Tiger is managed by the state Department of Natural Resources (actually, the land is owned by King County), and another 40 percent is owned by Weyerhaeuser. The City of Issaquah has a splendid large holding around Tradition Lake. Several other private owners have substantial chunks. Saving Tiger will be complex. A number of strategies are under consideration.

There are other mountains in the Alps -- Grand Ridge, Taylor Mountain. And there are the valleys -- Issaquah and May and Tibbetts and Coal Creeks, Raging River. Lakes Sammamish and Washington. So, there will be other goals. The club Directors -- and members -- will have a lot of pondering and debating to do in months and years ahead.

#### BICYCLE RIDES

IATC is devoted to all no-engine, no-hydrocarbon, no-racket uses of trails -- and trails to serve all no-engine uses. The club this is engaged in defining a bikeway system and seeking its official establishment by King County and by Issaquah, Renton, Bellevue. Among the aims are bikeways circling Cougar, Squak and Tiger and connecting to bikeways around Lake Sammamish, along Lake Washington, and from Issaquah to Preston to Snoqualmie Falls, there connecting to a Snoqualmie River Trail, and from that to the Tolt Pipeline Trail, and Burke-Gilman Trail and Sammamish River Trail.

To study the opportunities, rides will be scheduled, ranging from easy and peaceful paths suitable for any one-speeder, to lengthy tours for ten-speeders.

## HORSE ROUTES

In process of formation at this writing, the committee will determine the best procedures for informing the riding community of opportunities on trails of the Alps. Some trails and certain terrains make horses and riders very unhappy and need to be warned against. Some trails are so narrow or fragile they should be classified "hiker only". Others are wide and sturdy enough for pedestrians and equestrians to share comfortably and amicably.

## GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF HIKING WITH IATC

Our schedule runs the whole year. In summer, when the living is easy and forests reek of the perfume of Solomon's seal. In spring, when blossoms are bright and trees are leafing fresh-green. In fall, when colors are turning and cone-cutting squirrels are bombing the trails. In winter, when typhoons are blowing in from the Gulf of Alaska.

Remember: no matter what the weather, the trip goes if anybody at all shows up. (Well, almost always. Sometimes it is stark staring madness to venture in the woods -- as when the snow is as high as a leaping coyote's eye or gales are blowing down trees. When in doubt, call the trip leader.) Perhaps the trip won't go to the promised destination, should common sense overwhelm the party, but there'll be a walk. So don't look out the window and despair and snuggle back in bed. Dress warm, carry an umbrella, and enjoy the tempest. This club was founded on a Day of Three Lightning Storms. We're indomitable. Or close to it.

Snowflakes falling, little critters making funny little tracks, the chance for a quick trip up into True White Winter -- this is a special attraction of the Issaquah Alps. By the technique of "post-holing" a party with enough long legs to dig enough post holes can trench long distances in deep snow with scarcely more effort per capita than walking bare ground.

### 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, wear a wool shirt and bring a wool sweater or jacket or parka, plus a wool hat (the head is the single most important heat-loss area), and perhaps wool mittens. 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 trustworthiness 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 sign-up 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.

Trail maintenance. Since our trails are maintained solely by users, do a little work while you walk. Kick rocks out of the tread, remove fallen branches, scuff out a drain so water will run off and not gully the path. Exception: On any trail with evidence of motorcycle use, resort to "defensive maintenance." Do not remove logs and rocks and other wheelstoppers. In fact, consider adding a few.

#### 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.

Carry a first-aid kit.

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. Substitute safer hike if required.

Have all hikers sign the "Hold Harmless" form/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 routefinder (nobody permitted to walk ahead of him/her) and a rearguard (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 rearguard cleans it all up on the way out.

Sometimes there will be an optional sidetrip for the ambitious. In such case appoint a dependable leader for the detached group and agree on rendezvous arrangements.

Upon return, give or mail the "Hold Harmless"/Attendance Sheet to the Hikes Committee -- along with your comments on how the trip went, how the folks liked it, any changes in procedure you suggest.

#### HIKE CLASSIFICATION

So members can decide if any particular trip is what they want, the following classification system has been adopted. (Note: a plus or minus after a number suggests a trip is a "hard 3" or "easy 3," or whatever.)

Class 1. Good to excellent path. Short and easy -- about 3 very leisurely hours. Little or no elevation gain. Called "Toddler Specials", because especially designed for mothers with children who are toddling slow -- and/or need a lot of carrying, which tends to make a mother toddle. However, everybody is welcome -- some of us, even of mature years, rather like to toddle now and then, with plenty of time to savor the sights.

Class 2. Either the path is very good or the length is very short. Minor to moderate elevation gain. Slow pace. Lots of stops to reflect on how beautiful the world is. An easy afternoon or summer evening.

Class 3. A "standard" hike on decent enough trails, covering such distance, gaining such elevation, that a person in fair to poor condition will be glad to take all day, from 9 or 10 in the morning to 4 or so, going at a moderate pace. A person in good condition will enjoy the relaxed opportunity to talk and take pictures and study the flowers.

Class 4. More miles, or more elevation gain, or maybe some brush, or maybe an exploration -- such as, scouting a possible new trail route. For a person in good condition, a reasonable but steady pace kept up all day.

Class 5. "Longwell Special" (ratrace) covering perhaps 20 miles, up and down. Strictly for fanatics.

Others: Work parties, such as on the Tiger Mountain Trail, or building a trail the length of May Creek County Park. Exploring new routes for possible new trails. Overnight backpacks. Nature walks for study of flowers, birds, tree-farming. History walks. Picnics, Great Big Annual Get-Together and Weenie Roast. IATC Marathon.

#### 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.

In preparation for publication by the club in 1980 are map-trail guides that will be sold to club members, all proceeds going in club coffers. One will cover Tiger Mountain and vicinity. Another, Squak and Cougar and adjacent valleys.

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...

To gain an inside look, check bookstores and libraries for the works of Irving Petite, the Thoreau of the Issaquah Alps and an honorary member of IATC. From Middle Tiger we gaze down on his green pastures beside Fifteenmile Creek.

#### MEETING PLACES FOR HIKES

The typical procedure is to meet at an assembly point and there pool up in as few cars as possible for a caravan to the trailhead, typically 5-15 minutes drive away. Hikers who arrive without cars (such as, by bus) thus can hitch rides.

Most hikes are coordinated with METRO #210, with service from downtown Seattle through Mercer Island, Bellevue, Issaquah, to Preston. Departure times for such hikes are set to accord with arrival of the 210. So, to avail yourself, get a 210 schedule.

The most-used meeting place is the Issaquah Park & Ride Lot at Goode's Corner, the intersection of Highway 900 and Newport Way, south of I-90 from Exit 15.

Also the Eastgate Park & Ride Lot, located north of I-90, west of 150th (the street crossing over the freeway). Note: This is not the informal park-and-ride by Albertson's, south of I-90.

#### HIKES IN THE ISSAQUAH ALPS

Following are the hikes scheduled most often to date by IATC. Others are devised as we explore new nooks. If you have suggestions, contact the Hikes Committee. For many basic trips there are a number of variations, any of which may be chosen by the leader, depending on the day and the weather and the party. If a trip isn't described here, see the current Alpiner for details.

#### COUGAR MOUNTAIN -- COAL CREEK -- MAY CREEK

##### Coal Creek County Park

##### Basic Trip (Class 2)

A magnificent park, the better for being undeveloped. Coal Creek -- the noble forest -- outcrops of sandstone and coal -- and tracks of coyote and deer and little critters. Explore upstream from the crossing of the creek gorge by Coal Creek Parkway. Be prepared to do a bit of easy wading -- wear rubber boots if you have them or else just figure on having wet feet. It couldn't kill you. Round trip 2-3 miles. High point 500 feet. Elevation gain 100 ft.

More ambitious (Class 3 or 4, depending)

This trip begins in the lush-and-easy (except for wading the creek) section of the park upstream from the crossing of the gorge by the Parkway. However, it goes a bit beyond to survey what the park should become. The going as far as the Mary Tunnel (one of the first Newcastle mines) is simple enough. Those wishing a Class 3 trip then climb to The Farm section of the park and tour old fields with views of the valley. The Class 4 group (if any) continues another very slow mile into the wildest, loveliest, tangled stretch of the valley.

Round trip 4 or 5 miles, depending. High point 600 feet. Elevation gain 200 feet, or 400, depending.

Sweet and easy (Class 1)

The Farm that has become part of the park offers acres and acres of pastures to frolic in, views down to the site of the Mary Tunnel, and an old cow path switchbacking down by a cattail marsh into the forested gorge of the wild creek, whose waters tumble through blocks of sandstone.

Round trip 1-2 miles. High point 500 feet. Elevation gain. 150 feet.

Hilltop Trail (Class 1)

Amid the New City a-building all around, a privately-owned woodland path preserved by a more humane and nature-sensitive group of Cougar Mountaineers circles a summit of the mountain, in views north, then west, then south, from Cascades to Olympics to Rainier, and lakes and all. Our use is by permission of Hilltoppers.

Round trip 1½ miles. High point 900 feet. Elevation gain 100 feet.

Lakemont Gorge (Class 2)

A wild stream tumbles down a gorge in a virtual rain forest -- amid the suburbia being mass-produced on the north slope of Cougar. The gorge was planned as the route of Lakemont Boulevard -- which is far from dead, expected soon to revive. The route may continue to orchards of an abandoned homestead, full of ghosts. A Class 3 extension continues to Anti-Aircraft Peak.

Round trip 2 miles. High point 800 feet. Elevation gain 400 feet.

Stagecoach Road (Class 2)

The historic Post Road (Bush Road, Stage Road, Emigrant Trail, etc.) climbed the scarp of Cougar from Goode's Corner, dropped to the mines at Newcastle. Though private ownership forbids retracing the exact route, "open lands" policy on a powerline swath permits an approximation -- with grand views to the Issaquah Plain and Pickering Farm and Mount Si and Lake Sammamish.

Round trip about 2 miles. High point about 700 feet. Elevation gain about 600 feet.

### Stagecoach Road to Anti-Aircraft Peak (Class 3-)

Continue from the powerline on woods paths to the county park atop Anti-Aircraft Peak, where guns once protected Issaquah from enemy bombers, and, later, at what is now another county park, the radar waited to loose the Nikes, based farther down Coal Creek.

Round trip 5 miles. High point 1450 feet. Elevation gain 1400 feet.

### Claypit Peak (Class 3-)

Associated with coal, the geologists tell us, is fire clay. When mined, the landscape is reminiscent of the Painted Desert. Gaudy. And with the trees gone the views are broad, from Mt. Baker to S1 to the Issaquah Plain. The route is up the east side of Cougar in climax alder forests on ancient paths, by an old coal mine, to where the deer and the coyote play -- and cougar and bear. The route is on "open lands" with pass-through policy.

Round trip about 6 miles. High point 1525 feet. Elevation gain 1400 feet.

### The Boulders (Class 2)

After the Puget Glacier oversteepened the "plucked" southerly slope of Cougar Mountain, andesite boulders tumbled off the scarp of Wilderness Peak. And now lie there in the cool, dark canyon of Wilderness Creek placidly growing ferns and moss. Magic.

Round trip about 2 miles. High point 700 feet or so. Elevation gain 400 feet.

### Cougar Mountain Wilderness (Class 3)

Explore a trail system developed by a shy bear, HM, and the mysterious Red Plastic Man (or Person, or Creature, or Thing). Climb forests of Wilderness Creek, ascend via Bigview Cliff and Wildview Cliff and the Fall Line Trail to the summit of Wilderness Peak. Possible sidetrip to Claypit Peak. Loop back via Bear Pass, View Peak, and the fantastic climax, The Boulders, holy and enchanted.

Round trip about 5 miles. High point 1595 feet. Elevation gain 1100 feet.

### Cougar Mountain Ring Trail (Class 4)

The classic tour of Cougar heights, following old woods roads, bear trails, and Red Ribbons, looping through history (old coal workings, Red Town, the Ball Park where President Hayes passed out one Fourth of July), views (May Valley, Tacoma Smelter, Issaquah and Cascades, Olympics and towers of downtown Seattle, Lake Sammamish and the San Juan Islands), coyote and bear trails, the Cougar Wilderness, and three-four summits (View, Wilderness, Claypit, Anti-Aircraft).

Loop trip about 12 miles. High point 1595 feet. Elevation gain about 1400 feet.

### Licorice Fern Wall (Class 2)

A lovely spot, a wild treasure, on the May Valley slope of Cougar Mountain. Route from May Valley School to the wall, covered with licorice fern and moss and all with a charming view over the valley, then onward to other wonders as time allows, including another wall. A Class 3 extension continues to the Far Country, Marshall's Hill, and Red Town.

Round trip 1-3 miles, depending. High point 575 feet. Elevation gain 300 feet.

### De Leo Wall on Marshall's Hill (Class 2 or 3)

With shocking steepness the Wall leaps up out of May Valley, forming an incredible scarp on the south side of Marshall's Hill (Goat Peak), the part of Cougar most prominent as seen from Renton.

Round trip about 4 miles. High point 1125 feet. Elevation gain 700 feet.

### May Creek County Park

Another superb park, a deep green gorge, totally undeveloped except for paths beaten out by local walkers and horse-riders. Great creek, great forest. Lonesome and quiet. Heavily populated by wild beasts.

#### Simple sampler (Class 2)

There actually are several samplers at various parts of the park length -- starting at Lake Washington, or starting at May Valley, or starting in the middle.

Round trip about 3 miles. High point 100 feet. Minor elevation gain.

#### Adventure exploration (Class 3 or 4)

To connect the three existing trail systems and do the whole park length requires a bit of brush-beating -- until our work parties build trail connectors. Lots of fun.

Round trip about 7 miles. High point 200 feet. Minor elevation gain.

### Great Big May Creek-Lake Washington-Coal Creek Loop (Class 3+)

Once our work parties have linked up the May Creek trails, we can do a terrific loop, walking the "East-Side Burke-Gilman Trail" along Lake Washington, then Coal Creek County Park, then the "East-Side Seattle Water Pipeline Trail," passing Lake Boren and an undeveloped county park, and finally May Creek County Park. A classic urban-suburban tramp.

Loop trip 10-12 miles. High point 200 feet. Elevation gain 500 feet.

### LAKE SAMMAMISH AND ENVIRONS

#### Weonma County Park (Class 2)

A little-known, undeveloped county park on the scarp above the west side of Lake Sammamish. Contains something amazing -- virgin forest of Douglas firs up to 6 feet in diameter, plus equally fine

cedars and hemlocks. And glorious ravines down which tumble creeks -- including the outlet of Phantom Lake. Explore the informal trail system, gasping at the giants.

Round trip 1-4 miles. High point 275 feet. Elevation gain 100-300 feet.

#### Sammamish River Trail (Class 1-2)

Beside the river and its ducks and bush-flitters, through the pastures, on King County's splendid new trail.

Round trip 2 miles or so, depending. High point 50 feet. No elevation gain.

#### Marymoor Park (Class 1)

Walk along the river, through the old farm, by an archaeological site, all the ducks, into the marshes on a walkway, to view platform where the river flows from the lake. Broad views of the Issaquah Alps.

Round trip about 1 mile, or as much more of the fields as are roamed. No elevation gain.

#### Lake Sammamish State Park (Class 1)

The great lawns and groves of willows are always thronged by enormous flocks of mallards and coots seeking handouts. Joining them in fall are gaggles of Canadian geese. Watch, too, for eagles, red-tailed hawks, and other raptors. Saunter along the shores, in broad views over the lake -- and up to the Issaquah Alps. Walk along Issaquah Creek to where it empties into the lake.

Round trip 1-2 miles. High point 50 feet. No elevation gain.

#### Laughing Jacob's Creek (Class 1)

Hobnob with ducks on the shore of Lake Sammamish, at the boat-launch area. Then walk into the valley of the creek, through the Hans Jensen Youth Group Area to a lovely cedar grove and babbling waters.

Round trip  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles. High point 100 feet. Minor elevation gain.

### SQUAK MOUNTAIN

#### West Face -- Chybinski Trail (Class 2)

Climb the west scarp in relict big trees, then switch off on an old logging grade, now a footpath, in deep greenery. The climax is a creek gorge over which stringers remain of the old bridge -- "nurse stringers" growing lines of trees high in the air. Great creek, too.

Round trip 3 miles. High point perhaps 1350 feet, higher if a loop is done. Elevation gain maybe 750 feet.

#### Northeast Face Loop (Class 3)

Climb the west scarp into Squak Mountain State Park, a one-mile-square wildland given the people by the Bullitt family on condition it remain "forever wild, never developed." Ascend to the summit of the peak, with slot views south to Rainier and Tacoma, west to Sea-Tac Airport and Puget Sound and Olympics, north to Lake Sammamish and

Mount Baker. Then loop back via the precipitous northeast face, cropping to Thrush Gap. Contour on a 1920s truck-logging grade through splendid forests to sawdust of an ancient sawmill (and views of Seattle towers). Drop to another grade and contour back, with Issaquah views, to close the loop.

Loop trip 7 miles. High point 2000 feet. Elevation gain 1700 feet.

#### Really Truly East Face (Class 3+ or even 4)

This is a variable trip, depending on the mood of Bill Longwell, who in the past dozen years has walked 4000 miles on Squak. Sometimes it's a Squak Traverse, from south to northwest, with car-switching. Other times, it's a loop off the Northeast Face Loop, with a non-trail side-trip from the old logging camp at Thrush Gap over the Southeast Peak and onto spooky cliffs with valley views, and virgin forests of the Real East Face.

Round trip maybe 8 miles. High point maybe 1700 feet. Elevation gain, who knows.

#### TAYLOR MOUNTAIN -- CEDAR RIVER

##### Brew Hill (Class 3-)

A powerline swath permits an easy walk up the east end of Taylor Mountain, to the edge of Seattle's Cedar River Watershed and the definitive view of the upper Raging River valley and the full length of Rattlesnake Mountain, plus a panorama from McClellan's Butte to S1 to Index to Baker, and in the other direction to Enumclaw and Rainier.

Round trip 4 miles. High point 2440 feet. Elevation gain 1400 feet.

##### Cedar River Trail (Class 2-)

A trail along a great U-turn bend of the Cedar River, in a pocket wildland hardly anybody knows, with big trees and views of the awesome canyon and Rainier.

Round trip  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles. High point 600 feet. Elevation gain 200 feet.

##### Nolte State Park (Deep Lake) (Class 1)

This is a bit out of the Alps proper, but a grand place for kids, circling the quiet lake in big old trees on an easy path, talking to the ducks.

Round trip  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles. High point 770 feet. No elevation gain.

#### TIGER MOUNTAIN

##### Tiger Mountain Trail (Class 3+)

The classic tour of the Issaquah Alps,  $10\frac{1}{2}$  miles from High Point to South Tiger, in deep woods, over creeks, in alpine-feeling terrain with broad views -- Commencement Bay, Seattle skyline, Olympics, and four of Washington's major volcanoes. The car-shuttle system we use permits the whole trail to be done in a reasonable day.

One-way complete trip  $10\frac{1}{2}$  miles. High point 2600 feet. Elevation gain 1500 feet.

### High Point Creek (Class 2+)

Where once the "Western Pacific Railway" (as the loggers called it) climbed straight up the valley from the mill at High Point to the 1900-Foot Rail Grade, now the Tiger Mountain Trail climbs the lovely woods. On this trip we go to the site of the landing where the steam donkey raised and lowered the tramway cars that carried logs down to the mill (and carried the rails and locomotive up from there).

Round trip about 4 miles. High point 1900 feet. Elevation gain 1400 feet.

### Lake Tradition (Class 2)

Walk from downtown Issaquah up the scarp of Tiger Mountain - with charming views down to the town - to the glacial-drift plateau of the Issaquah City Watershed, a regional treasure. Inspect the reservoirs and pipings of the old waterworks. Proceed to a "cirque lake" at the base of West Tiger. See the beaver lodge. Originally this was called "Snake Lake", so watch out. Enter the woods under West Tiger 3 and look for apples in the orchard of the long-abandoned homestead.

Round trip about 3 miles. High point 500 feet. Elevation gain 400 feet.

### West Tiger 1 (Class 3+)

This is the highest peak of West Tiger, the one topped by a thicket of overcommunications towers. The route, though, is entirely in wildwoods and solitude -- except for the summit, with its wide views over Puget Sound and Cascades. We start on the Tiger Mountain Trail, then at about 1900 feet cut off onto the Green River College connector to the Preston Trail, using it to reach the summit. An optional looping descent down the lovely Preston Trail.

Round trip about 7 miles -- or 10, depending. High point 2948 feet. Elevation gain 2500 feet.

### West Tiger 3 (Issaquah Mountain) (Class 3+)

The most isolated and alpine-feeling of all summits in the Issaquah Alps, with great views straight down on Issaquah and out to Seattle and the Olympics, and north and south from Baker to Rainier and St. Helens. We do the climb in various ways, by several trails. The favorite is to start on the Tiger Mountain Trail, leave it at Manning's Reach just below the top of West Tiger 2 (Issaquah Mountain), descend on a side trail to West Tiger 3, then loop back to High Point via the West Tiger Caves and either the 1900-Foot Railroad Grade or the Lake Tradition trail. For the energetic, a possible sidetrip along the 1900 Grade to Poo Poo Point.

Round trip about 8 miles. High point (on West Tiger 2) 2700 feet. Elevation gain 2200 feet.

### Poo Poo Point (Class 3)

One of Tiger's best vistas, from the clearcut promontory jutting out above the Issaquah Creek valley. Intimate views of the green valley floor and to downtown Issaquah and Lake Sammamish. Tacoma too. Usually hang-gliders leaping into space. Route from the High School via trails in Many Creek Valley. Possible looping return via the 1900-Foot Railroad Grade.

Round trip about 7 miles. High point 1825 feet. Elevation gain 1100 feet.

### Many Creek Valley -- 1900-Foot Railroad Grade (Class 3)

The 1900-Foot Grade, route of a 1920s logging railroad, runs on the flat all the way from near Poo Poo Point around West Tiger 3 and 2 and 1 to High Point Creek. Many other trails are intersected -- and the Grade is used for a variety of loops. But it's a fine walk all by itself, through a variety of forests, including some virgin fir, over many creeks, by ironware and ruined bridges of the old railroad. The usual loop is from Issaquah High School.

Round trip 7 miles. High point 1900 feet. Elevation gain 1900 feet.

### Middle Tiger Mountain (Class 3) ---

One of the best and most popular viewpoints in all the Issaquah Alps, and very alpine-feeling, what with the krummholz and (in season) the lupine and spring gold. Or goldenrod and pearly everlasting and bluebells. Gaze from Rainier to Tacoma to Blake Island to Olympics, over Squak and Cougar to towers of downtown Seattle, and to Bellevue and Baker and the San Juan Islands. No road to the top -- a genuine trail. We have two routes. The most popular begins by following the south end of the Tiger Mountain Trail.

Round trip 6 miles. High point 2607 feet. Elevation gain 1100 feet.

### Grand Canyon of Fifteenmile Creek (Class 2)

This is the creek that breaks Main Tiger and West Tiger into two masses. In its Grand Canyon, where the stream slices deep in gaudy sandstones, are three coal mines, waterfalls, amber, fossils, and a fine frenzy of a forest.

Round trip 2 miles. High point 1200 feet. Elevation gain 300 feet.

### Main Tiger Mountain (Class 3)

The ultimate summit of the Issaquah Alps, our local Everest. True, the parade of vehicles to the blabbermouth towers on top are a drag, but on a mucky or snowy winter day, or on a midweek, the scene is solitude. And the views are great -- a different perspective from other Tiger Peaks. The ascent via the East Side Road gives fine looks over the Raging Valley and the Snoqualmie to RattleSnake, Bl, Rainier and more.

Round trip 12 miles. High point 3004 feet. Elevation gain 1700 feet.



GRAND RIDGE - RAGING RIVER - SNOQUALMIE RIVER - RATTLESNAKE MOUNTAIN

Preston to Issaquah Trail (Class 2)

An ingenious one-way walk. We ride the METRO 210 bus from Issaquah (or points west) to Preston County Park, then stroll back to Issaquah along an abandoned railroad grade that soon will be a King County bicycle, horse, and hiking trail. The way is over a green plain with views to Rattlesnake and West Tiger, along East Fork Issaquah Creek in lush woods, by old coal mines, and to a spectacular panorama of Issaquah, Squak and Cougar rising beyond.

Trip 5 miles. High point 500 feet. No elevation gain.

East Fork Issaquah Creek (Class 1)

This trip follows the soon-to-be King County trail of the previous trip, but starts and ends at High Point.

Round trip 3 miles. High point 400 feet. No elevation gain.

Grand Ridge -- the Hour Trail (Class 2 or 3)

It's called the Hour Trail because that's how long a horse takes to go clear around the loop. Walkers take a full afternoon, sampling the fine creeks, the huge old cedar stumps, the lovely forests of big firs, silvery alders, ferny maples. An undeveloped King County park is traversed, and miles of other public land. Views to the Snoqualmie. To the basic trip may be added long sideloops on a broad-view powerline swath and in cloistered quiet of ancient woods roads.

Round trip 4-8 miles. High point 1100 feet. Elevation gain 400-800 feet.

Preston to Snoqualmie Falls Vista (Class 3-)

The same abandoned rail grade as above, also soon to be a King County bike-horse-foot trail. The way is through fine forest above the Raging River, which at length is crossed. The route then contours above Fall City and the Snoqualmie valley, past an old farm, above the Snoqualmie Falls Forest Theater, to a superb viewpoint of the falls, Mount Si, and the Cascades. When the trail is finished the trip will continue a mile or so farther to the top of Snoqualmie Falls.

Round trip 10 miles. High point 500 feet. Elevation gain 400 feet.

Snoqualmie Valley and Falls Vistas (Class 1)

A shorter version of the above, starting at the Lake Alice Road intersection with the rail grade.

Round trip 3 miles. High point 500 feet. Minor elevation gain.

Forest Theater to Snoqualmie Falls (Class 2)

A lesser-known view of the falls -- from below -- from the other side of the river. By courtesy of the Snoqualmie Falls Forest Theater. Begin in lush "spray forest" nourished by rolling clouds of mist, proceed to boiling waters of the plunge basin. Slither around masses of

driftwood and enormous chunks of fallen basalt. Look up to the tourists atop the precipice.

Round trip 2 miles. High point 120 feet. Minor elevation gain.

Raging River to Kerriston (Class 3)

Walk logging roads (gated, so quiet) up the valley of the Raging, between Rattlesnake on one side and Tiger and Taylor on the other, to the site of the old sawmill and coal-prospecting town of Kerriston. The valley is full of ghosts -- and coyotes and such. Hope for snow, for the sake of animal tracks.

Round trip 10 miles. High point 1396 feet. Elevation gain 700 feet.

Rattlesnake Mountain (Class 3)

Rattlesnake, too, belongs to the "Old Mountains," and as the easternmost peak of the Alps connects them to the true front of the Cascades. Walk gated (quiet) logging roads, then climb a powerline swath, with views over the Raging valley to Tiger and downtown Seattle and the University of Washington. Cross the ridge crest to flabbergasting views over houses, cows, lumber mills, and freeways of the North Bend plain to the awesome fault scarp of Mt. Si.

Round trip 3, 5, or 8 miles. High point 1840 feet. Elevation gain 900, 1300, or 1900 feet.