

Issaquah Alps Trails Club

"The Apparatus"

President: Gus Nelson • 392-7428

Vice-President: Tom Wood • 391-8027

Treasurer: Jim Cadigan • 641-4046

Secretary: Lisa Burlingame • 868-3513

Chairman of the Board:

Harvey Manning • 746-1017

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Fred Weinmann • 392-9230

Ted Thomsen • 454-8643

Bill Longwell • 255-1295

Ralph Owen • 746-1070

Joe Toynbee • 723-6716

Roy Thompson • 831-6339

Maryanne Tagney Jones • 222-7615

Bill McFerren • 391-3359

Issaquah Alps

24-hour Hotline: 328-0480

Operations Director:

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Finance Director: Joe Toynbee • 723-6716

Policy, Government Issues:

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MTS Greenway Director:

Ted Thomsen • 454-8643

Land and Trails Director:

Tom Wood • 391-8027

Hikes coordinators:

Roy & Helen Thompson • 831-6339

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Volunteers Coordinator:

Mary Cadigan • 641-4046

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Squak Watcher: Tom Wood • 391-8027

Tiger Watcher: Larry Hanson • 392-2458

Raging River and Preston Watcher:

Maryanne Tagney Jones • 222-7615

Issaquah Watershed Watcher:

Ruth Kees • 392-3410

Rattlesnake Mountain Watcher:

Ted Thomsen • 454-8643

Chief Ranger: Bill Longwell • 255-1295

Save Lake Sammamish Board:

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Maryanne Tagney Jones • 222-7615

Washington Trails Assn. Rep: Tom Lucas

Volunteers for Outdoor Washington Rep:

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Snoqualmie Valley Trails Club Liaison:

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Legal Advice: Tom Lucas

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ALPINER

October ↻ November ↻ December 1991

Good News From the Greenway

by Ted Thomsen

Greenway Chief

The news from the Mountains to Sound Greenway continues good this quarter. In the last *Alpiner*, we gave you the background and bragged about our beginnings. (Those not familiar with the MTS Greenway, please see the *Alpiner* for July–August–September, 1991.) Well, our beginnings are bearing fruit.

Greenway Trust Organized

By the time you read this, the Greenway Trust will have been organized as a nonprofit corporation under the laws of the State of Washington. Our official name is *The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust*. The stated purpose of the new organization is "to promote the establishment and permanent protection of greenbelt areas along the transportation corridor from Snoqualmie Pass to Puget Sound for the purposes of protecting scenic views, recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat, natural resources, farmlands, working forests, historic features, and open space buffers, and enhancing the quality of life."

Outstanding Board Chosen

Under the leadership of our co-chairmen, Jim Ellis and Brian Boyle, the interim committee has chosen a group of 34 outstanding individuals to serve as the initial Board of Directors of the Greenway Trust. Space does not permit listing their names here, but we plan to let you know who they are by including a Greenway Trust brochure in a future *Alpiner* mailing. We have made every effort to assemble a board reflecting a balanced representation of the civic, conservation, business, government, and academia sectors. There were a number of outstanding additional candidates who would like to have served, and whom we would like to have asked. We concluded, however, that we simply had to make some arbitrary choices and draw the line at about 34 individuals in order to have a balanced board of workable size. We hope you will understand. We especially hope that those of you who want to help will volunteer to serve on the various advisory and working committees that we believe the board will be forming before long. Yes, we will need lots of help, and we know that many of you are willing!

Major Contributions Pledged

As this is being written (August 30) I am able to report, with joy and gratitude, that three of the organizations represented on our board have already pledged major contributions to help fund the initial activities of the Trust. Weyerhæuser and Boeing have each pledged \$25,000 and REI \$10,000, for a total of \$60,000. This is an encouraging start toward raising the estimated \$200,000 needed to fund the planned activities of the trust for the first year. These include hiring an Executive Director and preparing a preliminary plan for the Greenway. In addition, The Bullitt

(continued on page 2)

Greenway (cont.)

Foundation, which will also be represented on our board, has indicated that it will fund a publication on the history and significance of the Greenway. These initial pledges and indications of support are extremely significant and will be immensely helpful in getting our fund raising efforts off to a solid start. Three cheers and more for these benefactors!!

Staff Work Progressing

Meanwhile, Peg Ferm, our interim Coordinator, has made excellent progress on developing base maps for the Greenway. Among other things, she has mapped all public lands and the ownership of many key private parcels. She is also mapping existing trails and other notable features within the Greenway. Additionally, Peg has developed a logo for the Trust and has blocked out our first brochure, which may be in print by the time you read this.

It seems likely that the Board will want to employ an Executive Director for the Trust as soon as a qualified individual can be found, and funds become available. Although the job description and salary have not been developed yet, if you know of a potential candidate, please have him or her call Donna McBain, Trust For Public Land, (206) 587-2447.

Rattlesnake Rangers Formed—Hikes Planned

Rumor has it that a group of pioneering souls from IATC and the Snoqualmie Valley Trails Club have joined forces to do some exploratory bushwhacking on Rattlesnake Ridge. Calling themselves the Rattlesnake Rangers, they hope to develop several new trails to and through the 1800 acres of forest land that TPL has under

option from Weyerhæuser, as reported in the last *Alpiner*.

We welcome this effort! With every expectation that this challenging new area, a vital and remarkably scenic link in the Greenway, will soon become more readily accessible to the average hiker, yours truly and others have scheduled some hikes into this area during the current quarter. Why don't you join us and come see for yourself?!

From the President...

First, I would like to say it is going to be tough to fill David's shoes as President of the Trails Club (his shoes are a lot bigger than mine). David has done an outstanding job through some very critical years—and through his leadership the club has attained great respect and influence in many areas. Fortunately David will still be active in the club and available for advice and consultation. All of us from the Trails Club wish to thank David and Ann for their many years of devotion and hard work, serving as Mr. and Mrs. President—THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE!

Although the club has had much success in the past, there is still much to be accomplished in the years ahead—which will take a lot of cooperation from all club members. Some of our objectives for the future are:

- ◆ To utilize and capitalize on the many talents and broad experience which is available within the club. This should be done in our own operation and also to assist some of the regional jurisdictions who have responsibility for operation and enforcement in the Issaquah Alps.
- ◆ Support and completion of the "Mountains to Sound Greenway" concept.

- ◆ Support the final phase of definition and completion of Cougar Mountain Regional Wild-land Park. King County Parks needs help and the club should take the lead in this effort.

- ◆ To see that Section 9 on Squak Mountain is added to the State Park.

- ◆ An up-grading to the Squak Mountain trail system (trails, signs, trailheads).

- ◆ The designation of the Tradition Lake Plateau area as a "City of Issaquah Natural Conservation Area."

- ◆ Creation of "Trailhead Park" in downtown Issaquah, including clubhouse information center.

- ◆ Implementation of the City of Issaquah's "Wildlife and Recreational Trails Plan," as proposed, including: (i) establishment of an effective integrated trail system (trailheads, trails, signs, enforcement), (ii) protection of public open space, wildlife habitat, and public access.

- ◆ Protection of the environment, open space areas and a trail system as development comes to Grand Ridge.

These are "some" of the items the club will be working on—I am sure there will be many more as time goes on. If anyone has any questions or would like to get more involved in club activities please call Gus (392-7428) or Bill McFerrer, operations (391-3359) or Mary Cadigan, volunteer coordinator (641-4046).

Issaquah Hall of Fame: Ruth Kees

In the middle 1970s a reader of the Issaquah Press kept running across several names. There was this young teacher down in May Valley constantly badgering King County to force a gravel-miner to obey the county laws on gravel-mining. There was the Issaquah City Councilor who was repeatedly reported as being voted down 6-1 (sometimes, 6-2, a triumph for *his* side!). And then there was this lady who nagged, nagged, nagged the city and the press and anybody who would listen about the impending threat to Issaquah waters. She was forever worrying about the salmon. About the city wells. About the Tradition Lake Plateau. She really was a nuisance.

So, now, in 1991, the streams of Issaquah don't have the salmon they did in the mid-1970s, but thanks to Ruth they have signs instructing the citizens how they can help restore the salmon runs. Thanks to the small band of Tradition Defenders whose most frequent voice (nag, nag, nag) was Ruth's, the Tradition Lake Plateau is recognized as a regional treasure.

—And now, what about the famous "Issaquah aquifer" which Ruth kept insisting was in danger? It has been found to be carrying a plume of oil, far underground, toward the wells which serve citizens of the area.

—A traveler just returned from California noted that in the city of Santa Cruz every gas station is being torn up, the tanks removed, and tons upon tons of polluted earth being hauled away. Only after very dramatic and expensive are gas stations being reopened.

Ave, Ruth! The honor comes late, but not *too* late?

Cedar River Watershed Hike On July 13 a Great Success

by Jack Hornung

Thanks to the open attitude, hard work in overcoming last minute problems, and the dedicated willingness of Watershed staff to work volunteer weekend time, the fifty-five persons who did this hike had a unique and wonderful experience.

Headed by Watershed Manager and professional forester Suzanne Flagor, and assisted by six key scientific personnel, the hike wended its instructive way through the valley of the Cedar River. The hike was experimental and necessarily a "first" because strict sanitation and security arrangements had to be made. There was also a large amount of hidden advance planning, problem solving, and post hike work.

We were interested to see the Seattle Water Intake facility at Landsburg and to have our questions answered about the important job of maintaining water quality for Seattle and Environs. We were also heartened to learn of new and exciting programs to preserve old growth forests, the setting aside of substantial forest and wildlife reserves, and the policy of enlightened and environmentally sensitive logging in those areas where cutting is permitted.

Perhaps most important, we were extremely impressed with the professionalism, educational orientation, and cooperative attitude of Suzie and her fine staff. In turn, we hope that the Watershed staff finds our members and leaders the kind of people who are appreciative of such efforts, responsible, and willing to work for Watershed objectives now that "the ice has been broken."

Fred Rounds Memorial Fund

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club lost a good friend and a link to the past when Fred Rounds passed away in May of this year (Please see July, August, September, 1991 *Alpiner*). A memorial fund is being set up for Fred. The proceeds from the fund will be used for a suitable memorial within the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park of which he was the defacto park ranger and chief of police for many years before the park was established, through his benign influence permitting the installation of the trail system by our volunteers.

To contribute to the fund, please send a check made out to the Issaquah Alps Trails Club to: IATC, P.O. Box 351, Issaquah, WA 98027. Mark on the check: Fred Rounds Memorial Fund.

**October 1991
Hikes and Events**

Wednesday October 2

Trail Maintenance, 9 a.m.
Will Thompson 488-8592

Saturday & Sunday October 5-6

Salmon Days—Come see us at the
Issaquah Alps Trails Club booth on
Front Street!

Tuesday October 8

“Tuesday Trek” 9 a.m.
Jim Cadigan 641-4046 (Call to
confirm)

Wednesday October 9

Trail Maintenance, 9 a.m.
Will Thompson 488-8592
South Tiger Loop 3B, 9 a.m.
Mary Cadigan 641-4046

Saturday October 12

Tiger Mtn. Trail Work Party 8:30
a.m.—4:30 p.m. Sign-up required.
See details page 8

Rattlesnake Ridge Exploratory
Bushwhack 4D 8:30 a.m.
Ted Thomsen 454-8643

Middle Tiger via 14-Mile Creek
3C 9 a.m.
Leonard Eisenberg 392-4034

Tiger Mtn. Caves
2B 12:30 p.m.
Bob Gross 392-0539

Sunday October 13

Cougar and Squak Sampler—The
Best of Both 3B 9:30 a.m.
Ann Leber 746-3291

Cougar Mtn.—Red Town to
Wilderness Peak 3C 9:30 a.m.
Tom Walsh 453-8319

OCTOBER

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Wednesday October 16

Trail Maintenance 9 a.m.
Will Thompson 488-8592

Toddler/Family Hike to Mercer
Slough 1A 10 a.m.
Peggy Barchi 432-5446

Friday October 18

South Tiger Loop—Forest Walk
with Rainier View Bonus 2B 9:30
a.m.
Betty Culbert 432-7387

Saturday October 19

Squak Mtn.—East Side Trail to
Central Peak 3C 9 a.m.
Tom Palm 783-6005

Rattlesnake Ridge
2B 9:30 a.m.
Kate Finegan Gross 329-2412

Sunday October 20

Preston to West Tiger 1
3C 9 a.m.
Karen Van Pelt 747-9381

Cougar Mtn.—Wilderness Creek to
Coal Creek Falls
3C 9 a.m.
Peggy Owen 746-1070

Tuesday October 22

Tiger Mtn.—Leader’s Choice
3C 9 a.m.
Will Thompson 488-8592

Wednesday October 23

Trail Maintenance 9 a.m.
Will Thompson 488-8592

Friday October 25

DNR Forester Hike. Learn about
Tiger Mtn. State Forest with a
DNR forester. 3B 9 a.m.

Saturday October 26

Squak Mtn.—New Route from
City Hall to Top 3C+ 8:30 a.m.
Gus Nelson 392-7428

Tradition Lake Plateau—Advent-
ure Trail / Wetlands 1B 9:30 a.m.
Kate Finegan Gross 329-2412

Sunday October 27

Rattlesnake Ridge—Exploratory
Bushwhack 4D 8:30 a.m.
Ted Thomsen 454-8643

Monday October 28

*Board Meeting 7:30 p.m. Issa-
quah Community Hall (next to the
Fire Station)*

Tuesday October 29

Tiger Mtn.—West Tiger Loop
3C 8:30 a.m. Joann Howe

Wednesday October 30

Trail Maintenance 9 a.m.
Will Thompson 488-8592

November 1991 Hikes and Events

Saturday November 2

"Beyond the Alps" Little Si
2C 9 a.m.
Leonard Eisenberg 392-4034

Lake Tradition—Big Trees, Round
Lake and the Underside of I-90
2B Noon
Ann Leber 746-3291

Sunday November 3

Peak Hopping on Tiger Mtn.
4D 8:30 a.m.
Ralph Owen 746-1070

Tradition Lake—Tour of the Best
Trails 2A 1 p.m.
Ted Thomsen 454-8643

Tuesday November 5

"Tuesday Trek" 9 a.m.
Jim Cadigan 641-4046
(Call to confirm)

Wednesday November 6

Trail Maintenance 9 a.m.
Will Thompson 488-8592

Friday November 8

Cougar Mtn.—A Wild Forest, a
Pit, and a Big Rock
2B 9:30 a.m.
Betty Culbert 432-7387

Saturday November 9

Squak Mtn. South Loop—Phil's
Creek to Central Peak, to West
Peak, to Bullitt Creek Gorge
4C 8:30 a.m.
Gus Nelson 392-7428

Rattlesnake Mtn. Work Party
9 a.m. Call for details and sign-up.
Ted Thomsen 454-8643

Sunday November 10

Cougar Mtn. DeLeo Wall
2B 12:30 p.m.
Peggy Owen 746-1070

NOVEMBER

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Tuesday November 12

Cougar Mtn. Leader's Choice
3C 9 a.m.
Joann Howe 432-0741

Wednesday November 13

Trail Maintenance 9 a.m.
Will Thompson 488-8592

Saturday November 16

Issaquah Creek Stream Bank Re-
Vegetation Project 9 a.m.-12:30
Call King County 296-6519

Squak Mtn. Traverse

3C 9 a.m.
Joe Toynebee 723-6716

Tiger Mtn.—Talus Caves

2B 9:30 a.m.
Kate Finegan Gross 329-2412

Sunday November 17

Joint Hike with Snoqualmie Valley
Trails Club—Exploring North
Slope of Rattlesnake Mtn.
3C 8:30 a.m.
Ted Thomsen 454-8643

Wild Salmon of the Sammamish

Basin—Short Hikes on Crude
Trails 2B 12:30 p.m.
Dave Kappler 392-3571

Tuesday November 19

"Tuesday Trek" 9 a.m.
Jim Cadigan 641-4046
(Call to confirm)

Wednesday November 20

Trail Maintenance 9 a.m.
Will Thompson 488-8592

Toddler / Family Hike to
Timberlake Park 1A 10 a.m.
Peggy Barchi 432-5446

Friday November 22

Cougar Mtn. Wilderness
2C 9 a.m.
Mary Cadigan 641-4046

Saturday November 23

Tiger Mtn.—Big Trees and Caves
2C 9 a.m.
Leonard Eisenberg 392-4034

Sunday November 24

Grand Ridge Variations
3B 9 a.m.
Gus Nelson 392-7428

Tradition Lake Plateau

2B 1 p.m.
Bob Gross 392-0539

Monday November 25

*Board Meeting 7:30 p.m. Issaquah
Community Hall (next to the Fire
Station)*

Tuesday November 26

North Cougar Mtn.—Big Tree
Ridge. Boots recommended.
3B 9 a.m.
Gail Palm 783-6005

Wednesday November 27

Trail Maintenance 9 a.m.
Will Thompson 488-8592

Friday November 29

West Tiger 1 via the Hidden
Estates Trail 2C 9:30 a.m.
Warren Jones 888-0262

Saturday November 30

West Rattlesnake
3C 9 a.m.
Ralph Owen 746-1070

**December 1991
Hikes and Events**

Sunday December 1

Joint Hike with Snoqualmie Valley Trails Club—Fuller Mtn.
2C 9:30 a.m.
Tom Wood 391-8027

Tuesday December 3

“Tuesday Trek” 9 a.m.
Jim Cadigan 641-4046
(Call to confirm)

Wednesday December 4

Trail Maintenance 9 a.m.
Will Thompson 488-8592

Thursday December 5

Squak Mountain State Park
2C 9 a.m.
Mary Cadigan 641-4046

Saturday December 7

Issaquah/High Point Loop—both sides of I-90 2B 10 a.m.
Joe Toynbee 723-6716

Sunday December 8

Cougar Mountain—Bear Ridge Trail 2A 9:30 a.m.
Kate Finegan Gross 392-2412

Hidden Coal Mine on Rattlesnake, 2B Noon
Ralph Owen 746-1070

Tuesday December 10

Tiger Mountain Leader’s Choice, Annual Christmas Cookie and Candy Exchange. Bring one dozen of your favorite cookies or candy with its recipe, 3C 9 a.m.
Joann Howe 432-0741

Wednesday December 11

Trail Maintenance 9 a.m.
Will Thompson 488-8592

DECEMBER						
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
23	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Toddler/Family Hike to Lake Hills Greenbelt 1A 10 a.m.
Peggy Barchi 432-5446

Saturday December 14

West Tiger 1
3C 9 a.m.
Tom Palm 783-6005

Joint Hike with Snoqualmie Valley Trails Club—Twin Falls to Derry Lake 3C 9:15 a.m.
Ted Thomsen 454-8643

Sunday December 15

Tradition Lake Plateau Variations from City Hall 2B 9 a.m.
Gus Nelson 392-7428

Cougar Mtn.—DeLeo Wall Loop 3B 9 a.m.
Gail Palm 783-6005

West Tibbetts Gorge—Beautiful deep gorge on East Cougar 2B 12:30 p.m.
Dave Kappler 392-3571

Tuesday December 17

Squak Mtn. Summit Loop 3C 9 a.m.
Tom Mechler 295-0922

Wednesday December 18

Trail Maintenance 9 a.m.,
Will Thompson 488-8592

Friday December 20

Cougar Mtn.—Falls and a Wall 2B 9:30 a.m.
Betty Culbert 432-7387

Saturday December 21

Tiger Mtn.—Leader’s Choice 3C 9 a.m.
Will Thompson 488-8592

Sunday December 22

Peak and a Half—Cougar to Squak and return 3C 9 a.m.
Ralph Owen 746-1070

Monday December 23

Board Meeting 7:30 p.m Issaquah Community Hall (next to the Fire Station)

Saturday December 28

“Beyond the Alps” Twin Falls, 2B 12:30 p.m.
Bob Gross 392-0539



Trail Maintenance Is Important!

Do you know *Aplodontia rufa*? Hundreds of cute, fuzzy, fourteen inch beasts live in the Issaquah Alps and you never even heard about them?

Come weed whacking with us and find out about the secretive mountain beaver, not to mention real beavers, bears, and cedar pirates.

Hikers, and even eco-politicians dependent on a hiking constituency, wouldn’t get far without trails, yet the trails won’t be there long without maintenance. Good exercise, good fun, fun people, and you can make a real contribution for a change! See “Trail Maintenance” on page 11.

**Snoqualmie Valley
Trails Club
Fall Hike Schedule**

WED 2 OCT Rainbow Lake.

11 MI 2600 ft. 4D
Fine trail leads to several pretty lakes amid scenic mountain peaks. NOTE—SLOW PACE.
Wilderness Area, call leader for meeting time and place.
Alexandra Pye 935-8510

SAT 5 OCT North Fork Snoqualmie River Clean-Up Day

8:00 North Bend Ranger Station
Bring boots, gloves, lunch
For further information and sign-up call Mike Means 888-1421

SUN 6 OCT McClellan Butte.

9 MI 3700 ft. 4D 8:30 NB
A rare bit of ancient forest highlights this woodsy walk to sweeping alpine views.
Joe Toynbee 723-6716

SUN 13 OCT Little Si.

5 MI 1200 ft. 2B 10:00 NB
Steep trail leads to impressive rock walls and a lovely summit with manzanita & wonderful valley views.
Diane Guthrie 788-6755

SAT 19 OCT Bandera Mountain.

7 MI 2800 ft. 3D 8:30 NB
Very steep footpath wastes no time in providing superb views of peaks, lakes and valley. *Hiking boots, provisions, and adequate clothing required!*
Jim & Ginny Evans 226-5825

SUN 20 OCT Mirror Lake.

7 MI 600 ft. 2B 9:00 NB
A beautiful jewel on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.
Mike Leake 333-4243

SAT 26 OCT Mt. Catherine.

6 MI 2200 ft. 3C 9:00 NB
Twin lakes trail leads to little known summit with wonderful views of Snoqualmie Pass peaks and lakes.
Trail steep and rough in places, hiking boots required!
June Stevens 222-5452

SUN 27 OCT Annette Lake.

7.5 MI 1400 ft. 3C 9:00 NB
Lovely mountain lake and superb virgin forest.
Peggy Owen 746-1070

.....
SAT 2 NOV Granite Mountain.

8 MI 3800 ft. 4D 8:00 NB
Splendid climb through open meadows to one of our last standing fire lookouts. Possible snow, *hiking boots required!*
Pat Love 243-0355

SUN 3 NOV Granite Creek.

6 MI 1000 ft. 3B 10:00 NB
Recent gate provides solitude to this pleasant valley.
Clifton Cooper 932-3124

SAT 9 NOV Lock Katrine.

7 MI 1400 ft. 3C 9:00 NB
Sweeping views of the North Fork valley highlight the trip to this lovely lake and old growth forest. May require creek crossing.
Pat Brewington 888-2426

SUN 10 NOV Mt. Si via Old Trail.

8 MI 3450 ft. 4D 9:00 NB
Enjoy the quiet and solitude of this much less crowded route to old Si. *Hiking boots required.*
Tom Palm 783-6005

SAT 16 NOV Cascade Lookout

4 MI 1000 ft. 2C 9:30 NB
Big views to both North Fork and Tolt Valleys. Standing lookout tower. Some off-trail travel, *hiking boots required.*
Warren Jones 888-0262

SUN 17 NOV Rattlesnake Mtn. Exploratory I-90 Greenway Route

Up to 8 MI 2500 ft. 4D 8:45 NB
Joint Hike with IATC. Wonderful views of the valley.
Roy Thompson 831-6339

SAT 23 NOV Preston to Snoqualmie Falls

6 MI 400 ft. 2A 9:30 FC
An old railroad grade converted to a lovely trail and a descent to the very foot of the falls.
Rosie Bodien 828-0170

SAT 30 NOV Twin Falls State Park

2 MI 500 ft. 1A 10:00 NB
View these spectacular falls from beautiful new overlook and bridge.
Daucy Brewington 888-2426

.....
SUN 1 DEC Fuller Mountain

3 MI 850 ft. 2B 10:00 NB
Joint hike with IATC. Footstool peak towers over North Fork lakes and forest. Mossy outcrops afford fine views. *Hiking boots required.*
Tom Wood 391-8027

SAT 7 DEC Dirty Harry's Balconey

5 MI 1300 ft. 2C 10:00 NB
Outstanding views of valley and mountains from this lofty ledge.
Jeff Hogan 888-2961

SAT 14 DEC Derry Lake and Twin Falls

5 MI 1000 ft. 2B 9:30 NB
Joint hike with IATC. Should this quiet and little-known lake become part of Twin Falls State Park? Judge for yourself.
Roy Thompson 831-6339

SUN 15 DEC McDonald Peak

4 MI 700 ft. 2B 10:00 FC
Hillside roaming above the Snoqualmie River. Covered picnic areas insure a dry lunch.
Clifton Cooper 932-3124

(SVTC Hikes continued of page 8)

SVTC Fall Hike Schedule (cont.)

SAT 21 DEC Commonwealth Basin

5 MI 800 ft. 2B

Lovely creek and valley at Snoqualmie Pass. *Snow conditions may require snowshoes.* Call leader for details.
Mike Leake 333-4243

SUN 22 DEC Christmas Lake & Cedar Butte

5 MI 1000 ft. 2B 10:00 NB

Attractive pond with active beavers crowned by a solitary peaklet with fine views.

John Johnson 633-3805

SUN 29 DEC Old CCC Truck Road

9 MI 700 ft. 3B

The Civilian Conservation Corps built this scenic road during the era of the "New Deal". Now gated and quiet. Snow conditions permitting, this will be a one-way hike with car key exchange. Call leaders for details.

Pat Brewington 888-2426

June Stevens 222-5452

NB = meet at the North Bend Park and Ride at 4th and Main by the library.

FC = meet at the Fall City Community Park parking lot, junction of SR202 and SR203.

Tiger Mountain Trail Work Party

Saturday, Oct. 12, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Sponsored by:

Issaquah Alps Trails Club

Volunteers for Outdoor Washington

High Mountain Rendezvous

Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Meet trail-builders from other groups and compare trail building methods and standards as we repair parts of the Tiger Mountain Trail.

Pre-signup is required, either at High Mountain Rendezvous (in Gilman Village, Issaquah), or by calling Joe Toynbee at 723-6716. Each signup list is limited to eight people plus standbys. (Additional arrangements will be made if there is sufficient interest.)

We will meet at 8:30 (arrive early!) at the Issaquah Municipal Park & Ride lot (off Front Street — from I-90, exit 17, south one mile to the light, left behind grocery store).

Be prepared for rain (mud!), some hiking, and a full day of work. Boots, work gloves, and rain gear are required; lunch and extra water are recommended. Tools will be provided.

Why Wait for the Weekend?

Take a Weekly "Tuesday Trek"

Weekly "Tuesday Treks" (formerly "Wednesday Walks") are held in the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park area, both on official and exploratory trails. The meeting time is 9:00 a.m. at the Red Town trailhead parking area. Call Jim Cadigan at 641-4046 for directions and confirmation that the hike will take place on a given Tuesday.

The hike ratings will range from 2B to 3C depending on the hikers, weather, and trail conditions. Elevation gain may accumulate 1,200 feet, but will generally be in short segments (200–300 feet) with level and downhill periods prevailing. The hikes generally conclude by 1:00 p.m.

For regular hikers who ordinarily are drawn to more distant environments, these hikes will give you a mid-week workout when you don't have time to go for the higher peaks!

Issaquah·Alps·Trails·Club



Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park ❖ Summer 1991 Report

By Harvey Manning

Attention all you happy (and unhappy) hikers out there!

Barbara Wright, Manager of King County parks, has expressed the strong desire to have more and more public participation. It is important for all of us to express our views, *personally*. She wants them. We want her to have them.

Barbara Wright
Manager, King County Parks
Luther Burbank Park
2040 84th Avenue, SE
Mercer Island, WA 98040

And send a copy to:

Greg Nickels
Chair, King County Council
Parks Committee
King County Courthouse
Seattle, WA 98104

The Trails Club will continue to speak up but it would be counterproductive for public servants to get used to shrugging, "Oh, that's just Harvey and his bunch again, never satisfied." Speak to them, please!

Following are some issues for you to think about, comment upon, **WRITE LETTERS!**:

Trail Work by Big Machines

A heavy-equipment "trail crew" is "improving" the Cave Hole Trail in order, they say, to repair "100 Year Storm" damage. In the process they have bulldozed a 15-foot wide *road*, suitable for two-way truck traffic, literally. The edges have been graded. Draining ditches dug. Native plants slaughtered far back from the edge. Alien grasses planted. the intent is to keep the lawn moved!! The wildland lawn! How do you like *them*

apples? The bulldozers are using funds supposedly allocated for "trails". The Trails Club was not consulted on this action, or we'd have laid our bodies in front of the machines. The heavy-equipment jockeys have been spitting tobacco juice in their eagerness to get turned loose in the "wildland". Is there going to be any stopping them? Well, maybe you *like* the new Cave Hole *Highway*? If you don't, speak up or you'll see more of the same everywhere in the Cougar Mountain Bulldozer Romper Room.

Trail Work by Hand Tools

A genuine trail crew is hand-working a re-routing of the Coyote Creek Trail; compare their handiwork and the heavy-equipment impact and decide which is more suitable for a *wildland* park.

So far in 1991, Steve Williams and his hand-tools crew have re-routed Marshall's Hill Trail, Ballpark Bypass, Steam Hoist Trail, Red Town Dam Loop, and parts of Deceiver Ridge and China Creek Trails. Puncheon has been installed at Red Town Creek and Wilderness Creek.

Planned for rework the second half of 1991 are re-routes of Blackwater Pond Trail and extensive drainage work on Indian, Shy Bear, and Beautiful Bottom Trails.

Horses

The question is arising whether horses may not have to be banned from the park. Surely they *will* be banned if gross violations of regulations continue. We'll demand it. The Marshall's Hill, Cave Hole, and China Creek maintenance was specifically done for the benefit of

horses. But horses are not sticking to trails "hardened" for them. At least one rider, a scout for the stables, has been on a great many no-horse trails—and destroyed whole stretches. The Wildslide Trail, too soft for horses, now has rails at each end specifically to block animals which fail to abide by the "no-horse" signes. Will it be necessary to block every no-horse trail? Should the public have to pay the heavy expense for a handful of users? Abusers?

Horse folk from May Valley built an unauthorized trail up to Dave's Creek to the De Leo Wall Trail. The chainsawed live, big trees, gouged through a streambed and fragile soils. The park rangers have blocked the trail and signed it as illegal. But...

The trail seems to have been built by operators of a new stable which thinks the park border is an ideal base for a big business. Go take a look at Bridle Trails State Park. Do you want *that* on Cougar Mountain? Commercial exploitation of the *wildland* park cannot be tolerated.

Some Good Things Done

Steve's crew has constructed the Red Town Interpretive Station and installed information boards on mammals, geology, history of the Nikes. The animal and plant displays at Return to Newcastle were enthusiastically received and point again to the public's desire for park staff who understand wilderness and can teach about the park.

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Some Bad Things Done or Being Considered (and Some Not so Bad)

The Office of Surface Mining is considering obliterating the Ford Slope, our best historic feature, with a pile of dirt. Have they no soul? Some tidying up, like new concrete and a metal grill like the one at Old Newcastle, might be considered, and a higher berm to exclude Coal Creek and a solar-powered fan to create a draw in the vent pipe. But just heaping up a mound of dirt?

The Army Engineers are surveying Nike sites for removal of old oil tanks, decrepit buildings, and asbestos. Probably won't happen until 1993 but then could clear the way for a real headquarters/interpretive center at Nike Park. Meanwhile, how about a temporary trailer there?

What about dredging the "Ol' Swimmin' Hole"/millpond/flume pond? Has to be done in dry season. Will require fisheries approval. However, do we want the Heavy Equipment in there? Think *not*. Turn some Eagle Scouts loose with wheelbarrows.

Now for Some Things Really Rotten

After all these years of Tim Hill in charge, there still is zero law enforcement. The staff has no authority to issue citations, is sneered at by the same violators over and over again. To make laws and not enforce them engenders disrespect for law, *all* laws. The need is for King County Police on foot or horse (not wheels!) to come to places at times the rangers can tell them about, impound bicycles, and write real tickets.

The complaints we have about King County Parks are not the fault of Park Manager Steve Williams

and his crew. Steve has to run 21 parks and two districts at once. Ballfields, restrooms, and lawns get top priority. Cougar Mountain is a second-class, remote-control park. Many of the higher-ups never have been in the park! Don't know as we really want that sort of higher-ups in our wildland, but we do want the wildland to have its own crew. Steve Williams and Company must be freed up to do the first-class job they can do and want to do.

A Convulsion of Planning

King County Parks is about to do a Master Plan for Cougar Mountain. Our position is that the priorities must be:

- (1) As soon as the long-awaited boundary survey is completed (this fall?) define the *ultimate* park boundaries—the acquisitions needed in the near term and the long term. Put them on the public record as "wants".
- (2) Engage wildlife biologists to determine what areas should be off-limits to people, maintained as animal sanctuaries.
- (3) *Only then*, think of people trails. (Foot trails; a few horse trails if the horses can be made law-abiding.) We don't need any fancy-dancy "consultants" to plan a trail system. The system already exists and is being improved as required by park staff. Some trails have been shut down. More may have to be.
- (4) The *solitary* role for landscape-architect expertise is trailhead, and only one needs attention immediately—Nike Park. Wilderness Creek, Anti-Aircraft Peak, and Coal Creek Townsite are dandy as is. Others can wait a while.

A consultant firm is at work on a plan for Coal Creek Townsite; when we see their ideas we will

comment to them—and to *you*.

A two-year planning effort for the entirety of King County Parks is about to commence. We'll have more to say about *that*, you bet. We are presently at work drafting a *King County Wilderness Act*. We have the largest urban wildland park in the nation—and *no wildland management rules*. Except for Steve Williams and crew, few King County Parks personnel know what a wilderness is. A Heavy Equipment "trail crew"! Give me a break.

❖ WRITE ❖ WRITE ❖ WRITE ❖

Stewardship

"While we may feel overwhelmed by the barrage of environmental issues facing us today, there is much to be said for taking action. For it is in the process of taking action that we create change and acknowledge our personal and collective power."

Hike Information

HIKE LEADERS

The hike leaders are volunteers who have donated 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 regardless of weather or attendance.

Trails in the Issaquah Alps may be good or bad, easy or hard, muddy or dusty, brushy or clear, steep or flat, easy or hard—or all of the above. Some are not much more than animal trails. As *volunteers*, neither the hike leaders, the Trails Club or club directors are in any way responsible or liable for hiker's comfort, transportation, property, safety, or general wellbeing while traveling to and from the trailhead or while hiking or working 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 with the hike leader and others who want to hike these trails. Children under 13 should be accompanied by an adult.

HIKE CLASSIFICATIONS

Each hike has a number and letter designation after it (e.g., 2C). Numbers indicate the hiking time and letters indicate the degree of difficulty.

Hiking Time

Class 1: 2 hours

Class 2: 4 hours

Class 3: 6 hours

Class 4: 8 hours

These are *approximate* hiking times, not including travel time to and from the trailhead (20 to 70 minutes, depending on the hike) and meal times (lunch will add another 20-70 minutes, depending on the mood of the group). The times are based on an assumption of a two mile per hour pace, with a half hour added for each 1000 feet in elevation gain. Trail conditions, weather, and unexpected hazards can extend the hiking time.

Degree of Difficulty

A: little or no elevation gain, up to 500 feet, no difficulties for average walker

B: some climbing: up to 1200 feet, or some other difficulty

C: more climbing: up to 2500 feet, or some other difficulty

D: much climbing: over 2500 feet elevation gain

This is an *estimated* degree of difficulty. Most trails in the Issaquah Alps are not up to the high standards of state and national parks. Issaquah Trails can be very steep in parts or muddy and brushy. Hikers may gain 1000 feet in just one mile of a five-mile, 1500-foot elevation gain hike. Sometimes there are trees to climb over or nettles and berry bushes to beat through. *Short* doesn't automatically mean easy and *long* doesn't automatically mean tough.

HIKE DESCRIPTION MODIFIERS

Exploration

The leader shows trails and points of interest along the way. The trails to be hiked or points visited depend on the weather and the group's interests.

Leader's Choice

The leader had not decided where to hike before publication of the hike schedule.

Trail Party

Trail maintenance work party.

Variation

The leader may detour, take short cuts and loops, explore or otherwise deviate from the main trail to make the hike more interesting.

Exploratory Bushwhack

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 and have a good time hiking where others seldom tread.

Youth Hike

For children ages six to 12.

Parents must come along.

Toddler's Walk

For parents with very small children or infants.

MEETING PLACE

Trails Club hikes meet in the parking lot just south of Issaquah City Hall. To get there, take Exit 17 (Issaquah-Front Street) off Interstate 90 and turn south into downtown Issaquah. Go one mile or so down Front Street, past the light at Sunset to S.E. Andrews. Turn left into the KC Foods complex. Go one block to parking area between First Avenue and Rainier Blvd. Park south of Andrews Street.

CLOTHING

Dress for the Pacific Northwest outdoors—expect rain, snow, sunshine, fog and everything in between. Bring extra clothing, rain gear, food, drink, matches, flashlight and first aid supplies. Wear comfortable hiking boots or hiking shoes.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Volunteers organize and schedule trail maintenance parties on Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. These work parties meet at the same place as the regular hikes (see "Meeting Place" 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 a vital part of the Club's work—and a great way to meet people!* Individuals and groups are also encourage to adopt a trail, or section of trail, and be responsible for maintaining it.

**ISSAQUAH ALPS
HOTLINE: 328-0480**

24 hours a day, recorded hike descriptions and club messages

**Membership Application
Issaquah Alps Trails Club**

P.O. Box 351, Issaquah, WA 98027

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

- Annual Regular Dues \$10
- Annual Contributing Dues \$20
- Lifetime Membership \$100
- Limited Income \$5

- All memberships cover the entire family.

- A regular annual family membership is \$10. This covers the cost of printing and mailing the Alpiner and a part of the club's overhead expenses.

- Contributing memberships at \$20 or more cover the rest of the club's overhead expenses and allow us some financial leeway in planning special events, publishing new trail guides and keeping our trail maintenance tool supply fit and ample.

- Lifetime memberships at \$100 give us room to be creative and visionary, to venture forth on

Issaquah Alps Mail Order Service

P.O. Box 351, Issaquah, WA 98027

Guide to Trails of Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, Coal Creek Park, May Creek Park By Harvey Manning and Ralph Owen.

1990 updated edition. This new edition brings you all the old favorites plus new favorites—new trails on the west side connecting to Renton and May Creek plus *all new maps!* \$8.50 (includes map, tax and shipping)

Guide to Trails of Tiger Mountain

By Bill Longwell. 1989 updated edition. New trails: Tradition Plateau Trail (adding Swamp and Wetlands Trails), the *new* Bootleg Trail, the *new* Preston Trail. Plus encounters with animals. \$8.50 (includes map, tax and shipping)

Bedrock and Bootssoles—An Introduction to the Geology of the Issaquah Alps By Marvin Pistrang.

A thorough but simple chronology of the geology of the Alps from the early Eocene period to modern times. \$3.50 (includes tax and shipping)

The Coals of Newcastle: A Hundred Years of Hidden History By Richard K. McDonald and Lucille McDonald.

A complete history of the once-thriving coal mining area on Cougar Mountain, now hidden from all but hikers. More than 100 photos, four maps and Tim O'Brian's account of the incredible Seattle and Walla Walla Railroad. \$11.50 (includes tax and shipping)

Tiger Mt. map \$1.75 (includes tax and shipping)

Cougar Mt. map \$1.75 (includes tax and shipping)

Tradition Lake map and Grand Ridge map \$1.00 (includes tax and shipping)

T-Shirt: "Issaquah Alps Trails Club" Specify size (S,M,L,XL) color (blue or white) and sleeve length. Short sleeve: \$11, long sleeve: \$15.00.

T-Shirt: "Mountains to Sound March" Specify size (S, M, L, XL). \$11.00. All shirts are blue and short-sleeved.

Poster: Mountains to Sound March. Full-color poster depicts the dramatic sweep of Interstate 90 as it winds down out of the Cascades into Seattle. \$12.50.

Issaquah Alps Trails Club

P.O. Box 351

Issaquah, WA 98027

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