



## POTENTIAL CLEARCUT ON SQUAK MOUNTAIN

A Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Forest Practices Permit Application has been filed that would allow a logging company to potentially clearcut much of 216 acres of prime forest and wildlife habitat on western Squak Mountain.

The proposed area adjoins the Cougar-Squak Mountain corridor that connects approximately 5,000 acres of public parks, open spaces, trails and wildlife habitat. The property includes the North Fork of May Creek. May Creek has been plagued for decades with increasing flooding caused by greater flows during storm events compounded by increased silt filling in the creek channel.

The logger's permit application is for logging 195 of the 216 acres with up to 95% of the tree volume being cut. Our club, the Washington Trails Association and numerous residents and interested citizens have contacted King County to request their help in acquiring this key property connecting Cougar and Squak mountains. Both Reagan Dunn, the King County Councilman for the area, and King County Executive Dow Constantine have issued statements supporting

acquisition of this property and steps are being taken to seek funding.

IATC has a decades-long history of supporting logging in appropriate places by appropriate techniques. During our time both the Tiger Mountain State Forest and the more recent Raging River State Forest have been created. The success with Tiger led the county to establish forest product and revenue generating forests as well, with the Taylor Mountain County Forest being a prime example. The club's long standing support of appropriate forest practices has been a surprise to some. Trees grow well in much of the lower elevations of eastern King County and with improved techniques and forest practices regulations forestry is sustainable and a far better use of land than sprawling development.

We believe the highest and best use of this land on Squak Mountain is not residential development or intense forestry. Public acquisition of the property is the best way to have it used and cared for. Since part of the property includes some buildings and a parking area along SR900, a great trailhead for Squak could be created. At some point Squak Mountain will be discovered by the

region, and the access points from residential streets in Issaquah, the state park trailhead on May Valley Road and the two car "trailhead" on the west side of Squak will not meet demand.

We are following this issue on our website, but the most complete information is on the SaveSquak.com site or on Facebook Save Squak. Links to radio, television and newspaper coverage are listed as well as recent information on the status of the forest practices permit application and efforts by the county to acquire the property. Contact information about who to contact within the county and state are also listed and your support is much needed.

David Kappler is leading the club's involvement on this matter and can be reached at DavidKappler@hotmail.com or 425-392-3571.

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### WEBSITE UPGRADE, HIKING SCHEDULE

The primary way new people learn about the Issaquah Alps Trails Club is from our website, whether it is through a search for "hiking Issaquah" or from someone's

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

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

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

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

**An Editorial:****THE EVOLUTION OF IATC**

Times change and evolution progresses, even within the Issaquah Alps Trails Club. Founded by Harvey Manning to provide numbers for advocacy issues, the club over the years has been a progressive advocate for green space issues, but also maintained an active hiking program and a dedicated trail maintenance program. But times are changing. The Mountains to Sound Greenway and Washington Trails Association are bigger in numbers and finances, overshadowing IATC's work in advocacy and trail maintenance.

The club's storied "Weedwhackers" have aged and retired, and tighter reins by state, county and city agencies have further limited IATC's trailworking efforts. Ed Vervoort, Dave Kappler and a small band of dedicated souls still contribute to such efforts, primarily on Tiger Mountain.

Similarly, Kappler and a few associates assert their influence wherever possible in green space advocacy, such as the current threat to clear cut a swath of Squak Mountain. The club has influence and is listened to, but lacks the clout or dollars to rescue projects by itself.

Thus, IATC has been experiencing evolution of its original purposes over the years. But the hiking program remains strong, and the best program extant for less experienced hikers. You can always count on the Issaquah Alps Trails Club to have multiple hikes scheduled every weekend year round.

But even the hiking program is evolving. As older hike leaders withdraw from the scene, new ones are continually popping up. From Lake Washington to North Bend has traditionally been the club's terrain, unlike programs from the more venturesome Mountaineers and Snoqualmie Valley groups, though they too are evolving. An extension to Snoqualmie Pass was a minor extension in scope. (See story p. 8 for recent changes.)

The club over the years has experimented with new types of hikes. Women-only hikes were popular for a spell, but seem to have retreated. Efforts have been

made to hold family hikes or youth group hikes, both tough programs to get off the ground. In the past few years, dog hikes have become popular with pet owners who like exercising with their dogs. In 2012, the first butterfly-seeking hike was held, and more are in the works. And these hikes range into Central Washington, where the butterflies are more wont to flutter.

And now Hazel Weissman is proposing to introduce snowshoe hikes to the club's offerings. And who knows where those outings will take place. At a special meeting February 28, the IATC board voted to accept snowshoe hikes under limited conditions.

The club still has nearly 700 members, many of whom are not active hikers. As long as the Issaquah Alps Trails Club exists, it will be kept alive by a cadre of strong dedicated hikers, people who unselfishly make things happen and embrace changes that help to evolve the club in new directions as well as maintaining the traditional ones.

---Doug Simpson

**JEWELL: PERFECT CHOICE**

By Ken Konigsmark

President Obama recently announced his selection of REI CEO Sally Jewell as his nominee to head the Interior Department that oversees all national parks, millions of acres of other public lands, and oil and coal leases of federal lands. Typically, this leadership role has been held by a former political leader, generally a former senator or governor of a western state with experience in public land use issues.

I proudly offer that the selection of Sally Jewell was an extraordinarily bold, shrewd, and masterful choice, one that I am anxious to see play out through the kinds of creative and sound actions I fully expect her to take, once she is approved for the position. Why do I say this and why should anyone in IATC care? Let me tell you.

I have known Sally for 20 years of close association working together on the Mountains to Sound

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## SNOWSHOE HIKES NEXT FOR CLUB

The once traditional a-hike-is-a-hike Issaquah Alps Trails Club first added dog hikes to its activity schedule, then hikes to seek out butterflies. Now, snowshoeing outings are on the activity agenda.

Hazel Weissman, IATC's gung-ho hike leader, is introducing snowshoe hikes, which she proposed to the club's board in January. Weissman has pointed out that both Mountaineers and Snoqualmie Valley have snowshoeing activities, and she'd like to introduce them to IATC.

Having such outings raises all sorts of questions. Since there is more inherent danger in snowshoeing, safety and insurance are vital concerns. Jim Hilton, IATC's legal advisor, says insurance costs would not be much greater. Safety is critical, of course, when covering uncertain terrain and possibly bad weather.

"People are excited about something different during the winter," Weissman stated. "I'm not proposing backcountry snowshoeing or going to dangerous places. The hikes I'm proposing are easy and safe."

Busy with other issues after the January board meeting, President Dave Kappler left a "policy guidance" decision to the Hikes Committee of Joe Toynbee, Jackie Hughes and Jean Lanz to make a recommendation to him. They voted thumbs down to the proposal, but at a special board meeting February 28, the board approved Weissman's plan on a trial basis with certain conditions.

"Joe, Jean and I," Hughes wrote, "are very uncomfortable with offering snowshoe events. We are primarily a hiking club." Hughes said the committee is concerned that getting into snowshoeing beyond the Issaquah Alps would change the entire focus of the club's hiking and land conservation programs.

Kappler added, "It seems to me that we are an advocacy group that uses our hiking program to further our mission." He suggested Weissman add her snowshoe hikes to Snoqualmie Valley's events schedule.

IATC's Ken Konigsmark recommended a board meeting devoted solely to the snowshoeing issue and the club's policy of not extending beyond the traditional Alps borders. Declining uniting with the SVTC, Weissman said, "The issue needs discussion, not avoidance."

Weissman promises to monitor the weather closely and select sites that are not in harm's way of landslides or cave-ins. She follows the guidelines of Mountaineers and Snoqualmie Valley, which certainly go beyond the "ten essentials" for hiking. Proper clothing is imperative, and carrying a shovel is routine, as well as chains for drivers.

Having read and studied Dan Nelson's book "Snowshoe Routes, Washington" as well as other club's programs, she was hopeful that her proposal would meet the expectations of IATC's Board of Directors.

On a recent private outing, ten of Weissman's Wednesday regulars opted for a non-club snowshoe outing, reducing the Wednesday hiking group to just five. This reinforces her views that winter hikers want some different options.

Weissman points out that "easy" snowshoe outings are limited to 500 feet of elevation gain with a maximum of six miles. "Easy-plus" outings would add some to distance and elevation gain but still not be aggressive or strenuous.

She acknowledges that communication between the hike leader and snowshoers is mandatory and promises to use the same email message system she uses on the Wednesday hikes. And Weissman says the leaders must screen snowshoe candidates very carefully.

Mountaineers and Snoqualmie Valley limit participants to a dozen, and the IATC board imposed that as a limit for the outings. And each snowshoer would need to sign a waiver form to take responsibility for their own safety.

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# HIKERS CORNER

By Joe Toynbee



## *The Multiple Alps*

People sometimes ask me whether I get bored hiking the same old trails in the Alps year after year. My answer is that we have at least four times as many hiking trails in the Alps as the maps indicate. The reason is the change of seasons.

Let us begin our hiking season with winter. Except on rare occasions the snow depth in the Alps is not great, ranging from an inch or two on Cougar to perhaps a foot on upper Tiger. A great hush comes over the landscape after a recent snowfall. With the leaves fallen from the deciduous trees, the views improve greatly. This is also a good time to look for animal tracks in the snow.

Usually in late February early leafing and blossoming shrubs such as Indian plum begin to appear. Hikers also may see trillium and yellow violets. Hiking temperatures tend to be pleasant, although April showers are a fact of life.

It is now high summer, and hikers may wish to get an early start to beat the heat. The landscape is lush with many species of trees, shrubs and annuals. With the views hidden, hikers would be well advised to carry maps and compasses.

We have now arrived at fall, which is a favorite season for many of us. Brightly colored leaves begin to appear, and hiking temperatures are generally pleasant.

There you have it—at least four Issaquah Alps. Hiking for a lifetime!

## *Hiking Pace*

Probably the most difficult task an IATC hike leader has is to establish a suitable hiking pace for the group. Even though we label our hikes Easy, Moderate and

Strenuous, people sometimes have different concepts of what these terms mean. A hike can be strenuous in terms of elevation gain, but easy in terms of pace.

What a hike leader has to do, therefore, is to assess both the desires and capabilities of the group and set a pace which will keep the group together. Very fast hikers may have to slow down a bit; very slow hikers can possibly be persuaded to move a bit faster. Talk to the leader if you think there is a problem with pace. Good leaders welcome input. Always remember that our leaders are unpaid volunteers and deserve all the support we can give them.

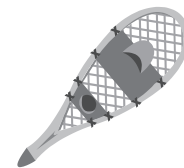
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## WEISSMAN UNRETIRE

Hazel Weissman retired last spring and took on a new “job” with the Issaquah Alps Trails Club—leading a hike every Wednesday. It’s a simple formula: get on Hazel’s list (there are currently 74 active hikers), know there is a Wednesday hike in the offing, and give her feedback and where you’d like to go. She, in turn, emails everyone, giving them the plan for the week.

The hikes are all labeled as moderate to strenuous, 7-11 miles in length, with somewhere in the range of 1700 to 3500 feet of elevation gain. Weissman’s loyal cadre of hikers average about ten per hike, more than the club average. She led 25 such hikes from June to December last year and is on a pace for 52 more in 2013.

If the hikes are right for you, and you’re free on Wednesdays, send your email address to Hazel at [allseasonhiking@hotmail.com](mailto:allseasonhiking@hotmail.com) and you could become number 75. . . or. . . 85. . . or. . . 95.



## **Snowshoe Hikes** *continued from page 4*

“I believe the addition of winter sports to the IATC schedule will provide a greater diversity in the trip schedule and increase interest in our activities,” Weissman concluded.

## LOGGING AND THE TMT

By Ed Vervoort

Fortunately, most of the hiking trails in the Tiger Mountain State Forest are on land that is managed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and protected from logging because they are located in a Natural Resource Conservation Area (NRCA), which prohibits logging. Unfortunately, the first 9.2 miles of the 16-mile Tiger Mountain Trail (TMT) are not protected from logging.

The TMT starts in the south off the Tiger Mountain Road, near the Issaquah-Hobart Road, and wanders its way north to the Tradition Plateau above Issaquah. The first 9.2 miles are not protected because they are on Washington State Trust Lands, whose main purpose is to generate capital funds for the agencies that own the trust lands, which are mostly K-12 public schools and the state's colleges and universities. Normally the annual timber sales are only about 100 acres per year in the Tiger Mountain State Forest.

Up until 2011, the TMT had mostly been spared. There had only been two sales, and they were located in the first 3.7 miles, between Hobart Gap and the East Side Road (miles 1.5-3.7). The logging only came close to the TMT; it did not tear up the tread. Then in the spring of 2011, there was a timber auction for 190 acres, referred to as the Karisrun Timber Sale. DNR timber sales are a very complex process. Potential bidders get an Auction Packet with all the particulars for how the harvest will be carried out; for the Karisrun sale it was 159 pages.

This sale was almost 3 times the 60-80 acres that is normal for a timber sale in the Tiger Mountain State Forest; the winning bid was for \$1,659,844.69. The reason for such a large sale was because of how timber sales operate. The logging companies are responsible for any construction projects that are associated with the harvest. DNR determines where logging roads will be built and to what standard and what happens to them after the logging operation is complete.

In this case, it was necessary to replace a very large culvert under the West Side Road through which

Holder Creek flows with an 85' bridge. This was a Department of Fish and Wildlife requirement in order to protect any salmon in the creek. In order to get any bids for the sale, the timber companies would have to be able to harvest enough timber to pay for road and bridge construction as well as harvesting the timber—and still make a profit.

In order for this to happen, the harvest was to yield 11,277 million board feet of timber and that required the 190 acres be logged. Because of the amount of work that was required, the harvest was allowed to go on for three years rather than the usual two. Last summer's forest fire closures also added additional time to the harvest.

This sale is affecting the TMT in the area between the West Side Road and the Middle Tiger Trail crossing (miles 3.8-5.4). A new permanent logging road now bisects the TMT below Wright's Reach, which is now completely bald with a decommissioned logging road to its summit. They finished logging in the area that affected the TMT last November and restoration was begun, but a number of trees have since blown down in the logged area, creating large root-ball craters.

The trail is officially open and passable. There will still be logging going on near the site of the old logging camp on the Artifact Trail this spring. They can't resume logging until May 1 to limit damage to the vegetation and soil, but the area is still closed until after the logging is finished.

The next timber sale in the Tiger Mountain State Forest occurred on February 26 and will be very different than the Karisrun sale. Most of the timber sales in the Tiger Mountain State Forest are referred to as Variable Retention Harvests (VRH), previously known as clear cuts. For a VRH, the loggers are only required to leave between 8 and 15 trees per acre. This sale is named the Tiger Thinning, and is referred to as Variable Density Thinning (VDT).

The sale will cover all of the areas in the Tiger Mountain State Forest that are eligible for a VDT. With a VDT they are required to leave more than half the trees, and the harvesters don't get to cherry

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# MY THREE FAVORITE HIKES

By Bob Gross

It's hard to pick three favorite hikes with such variety to choose from. Two of my favorites will be familiar and I go back to them again and again, but the other will be new to most.

**RATTLESNAKE LEDGES**, high above Mount Si, is one of my favorites because the view is really good. Sitting on the first ledge looking out over the Snoqualmie Valley, you get the feeling it's a platform built just for the view. To get out on this first ledge, you need to jump over a large crack. It seems like that crack gets bigger every time I go up there, but it's just me not being able to jump so far.

Then you can go up to the second ledge, which is less accessible, but the third ledge is big enough for a dozen or so people to sit and have lunch. You get a view of the Rattlesnake Lake and Morris Dam in the distance that you really don't get from the first ledge. The trail is good any time of the year, but in winter snow gets packed down and you really need yak tracks to keep from taking one step forward and slipping back two. I remember in the 60's when it was pretty much a scramble over rocks to get to the ledges. There was no real trail. It was open with lots of sunshine.

A rare wild flower grew between the rocks, and a naturalist group once complained we were trampling the flowers over the rocks. It got more and more popular over the years and has been reworked several times. Now the trail is wide enough for two-way traffic. It's about a mile up to the first ledge with 1000 feet of elevation gain.

**TWIN FALLS:** Another of my favorite hikes is Twin Falls because you get such a good view of the bottom of the falls. The trail starts along the bank of the South Fork of the Snoqualmie River, where you can see old growth trees. You can walk along the bank of the river where there are picnic spots and little beaches.

The first view of the falls appears at a bench site about a half mile from the start. As you hike a bit further, you come to a bridge and another view from of the falls. You cross the falls on another bridge that

provides great views down into the falls. Across the bridge is a little plateau that makes a nice lunch spot.

The falls are at their fullest in winter and spring. The whole hike is about three miles.

**BOB'S TRAIL:** This trail on Cougar Mountain's northeast corner is special because I created it myself. The path is a couple hundred yards from my condo off Newport Way into the green belt. The trail is about a fourth of a mile, and I work and hike on it almost every day.

When I first moved here in 1998, it was like a wilderness experience. The property was an old farm, mostly pasture with some apple trees. The pasture was taken over by Himalayan blackberries. I decided to try and cut back the blackberries and finally got the trail through the property. It took a couple of months before it all grew back, so I had to start all over again.

That is when I decided I better plant trees to shade out the blackberries. I've planted over a hundred trees trying to replace the Himalayas. I planted hazelnuts because the squirrels like them. I planted cedars, Douglas fir and Grant trees because they have deeper foliage, and I thought that would help hide the trail. The trees were about eight inches tall when planted, and many of them are now thirty feet tall.

I wanted to look down on a little creek that was off the trail, so I did some rerouting. It got a little steep so I rerouted it again. Now I can look down on the creek, and it is just the way I want it. I've tried to have the trail look as though nature made it.



**JEWELL** *continued from page 3*

Greenway. Sally served as President of the Greenway for several years, fully filling the enormous shoes of Jim Ellis as her predecessor. Sally knows the history, efforts, and accomplishments that created the Issaquah Alps and the Greenway, understanding that the details of each parcel acquired or trail completed has a unique, often miraculous story about how it was accomplished.

She has personally experienced the challenging and often contentious efforts needed to achieve real on-the-ground accomplishments in the face of competing factions. She knows how to achieve pragmatic solutions for the good of the whole rather than engaging in strident posturing and political gamesmanship. Sally is all about getting good things done; things that make a positive difference for our public lands, our environment, for our wildlife and for all citizens.

And Sally knows and loves the outdoors, hiking mountain-climbing, and all of the activities she enjoys just as much or more than we do. She KNOWS what's at stake and why it's worth protecting our public lands, and she also understands that responsible resource usage can and should be supported where appropriate.

That's why I'm so excited to have Sally Jewell as our new Secretary of the Interior. I have no doubt that she will shake things up in a very positive way by using the same strategy and tactics so successfully employed by the Mountains to Sound Greenway: collaboration, consensus-building, a willingness to discuss different opinions openly, finding pragmatic solutions, and always keeping goals focused on protecting and preserving our public lands for the common good of all at the forefront of any decision made.

I am looking forward to what Sally will accomplish over at the least the next four years, knowing that we are blessed to have a very smart, talented, energetic and passionate person now leading the Interior Department.



## IATC BOARD SETS HIKE PARAMETERS

Concerns over possible expansion of sites for hikes of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club led to a discussion and decision at a special board meeting on February 28. The narrowly defined Issaquah Alps territory of Cougar, Squak, Tiger, Taylor and Rattlesnake mountains and Grand Ridge had already been expanded some years ago to include hikes up to Snoqualmie Pass.

With those boundaries being pushed by various hike leaders, the board needed to set definite limits. The new parameters set by the board range from Seattle in the west to Easton in the east, a good ten miles beyond Snoqualmie Pass, with the north-south zone extending twenty miles in either direction from the I-90 corridor.

Hikes outside these borders cannot be advertised as club outings in the *Alpiner* or club website.

### **WEBSITE** *continued from page 1*

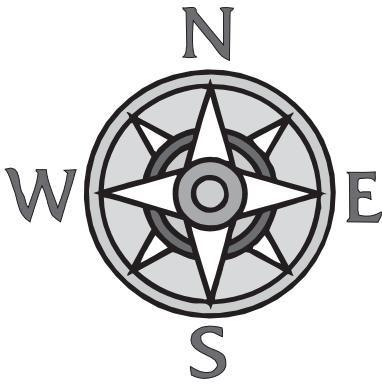
suggestion to try "issaquahalps.org." Our website was state of the art when it was created several years ago, but it is in need of upgrading.

Our new site will make it easier to get information about hikes and events. This will help members to share pictures and other information. It will be more interesting visually and navigation will be easier and more productive. George Potter and David Kappler have been working with Rimini Software to develop the site and welcome your thoughts, concerns and involvement in managing and improving the site. Send your thoughts to [webmaster@issaquahalps.org](mailto:webmaster@issaquahalps.org).

In addition, interested hikers who wish to receive the paper copy of the quarterly *Alpiner* need to do nothing. However, if you wish to receive the full *Alpiner* online only, please notify us at [webmaster@issaquahalps.org](mailto:webmaster@issaquahalps.org). Once we are ready, we'll send you an email with instructions on how to create an account. Your preference for the hiking schedule?

*Alpiner* only    Website Only    Both please





## IATC SETS NEW COURSE

At the annual meeting of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club January 24, President David Kappler was re-elected to a second two-year term. With Ken Kongismark stepping down as vice-president and Cornelia Remy as treasurer, Doug Simpson was tapped for the vice-presidency and Dick Amidei assumed the role as treasurer. Kathleen Petty continues as secretary.

In addition, three positions of the nine-member board were filled, with Konigsmark keeping a hand in that capacity and with new members Scott Prueter and Allegra Atkinson. Business items included approving the budget for 2013, the possibility of adding snowshoe hikes, the impending logging threat on Squak Mountain and future disposition of the “Coals to Newcastle” book.

The 216 acres on Squak Mountain, once property of the Issaquah Camping Club, have gone bankrupt under new ownership and have been sold to logging interests. President Kappler reported that efforts are actively underway to find monies to purchase the acreage to avoid clear-cutting the property and maintaining the critical green space on Squak’s southeast corner. Serious erosion of May Creek after clear-cutting is a great concern due to existing problems with creek runoff. (See the President’s Report on p. 1 for a more detailed analysis of the situation.)

Hazel Weissman, who “unseated” Richard Mann as the most prodigious hike leader in 2012 (25 hikes led), has proposed scheduling snowshoe hikes. Legal advisor Jim Hilton expressed concern about safety and an increase in the club’s insurance costs. Leaders would need to have avalanche training

and carry a shovel, as well a possibly a probe and a transceiver. Weissman is willing to accept the likely hiking restrictions and presented a possible program for inclusion to the club’s hiking schedule.

The Newcastle Historical Society wants to create a new book on the history of Newcastle and requests permission of IATC to assume the rights to the club’s “Coals to Newcastle” book. Hilton advises that legally the Newcastle group could do this. The board approved efforts of the society and noted that IATC will continue to sell the club’s remaining inventory of the existing book.

Entering its fourth year of the Bill Longwell Memorial Scholarship program, the budget has ranged from \$1300 to \$2000 last year, boosted by a grant from the Kappler family. Jackie Hughes suggested that the club approve a range from \$1500 to \$2500 depending on the range and quality of essays submitted by scholarship applicants. Last year, the club awarded a \$1000 first prize, a \$500 second prize and two \$250 thirds. Hughes’ motion passed.

Efforts are being rekindled to carry the previously approved signage to rename the Tiger Mountain Trail to the “Bill Longwell Tiger Mountain Trail” (Longwell was responsible for the creation of the trail.). Ed Vervort, the club’s Tiger Mountain overseer, will pursue the issue with the local Department of Natural Resources.

Hughes reported for Joe Toynbee that the club’s hiking program increased slightly, with 153 hikes held in 2012, as opposed to just 128 in 2011. Total hikers increased from 983 to 1178, but the average per hike remained at 7.7. Toynbee acknowledged Weissman as last year’s “superhiker.”

Other items discussed at the meeting were trail maintenance on Tiger Mountain, the Snoqualmie Corridor study and reorganization of the website. Larry Hansen and Sally Davies stepped down after years of service.



## DOG HIKES TAKE OFF

By Doug Simpson



It started with Fred Zeitler in the mid-90's, was picked up by Karen Tom in 2007, and then became a growing part of IATC'S hiking program in 2008 under the leadership of Jean Lanz, then Tom Pohle and eventually Dori Ost.

Zeitler held just three dog hikes at a time when they were not widely accepted, but on his first hike he met Karen Tom and on his last Jean Lanz. Zeitler and Tom, former board members, fought for the inclusion of dog hikes, and Tom's persistence overcame a great deal of opposition. She led six or eight hikes over a two-year span.

With Lanz, Pohle and Ost dedicated to the program, it is going strong now, with each typically leading a hike each month. To avoid crowds on the trails, Lanz and Ost usually hike on Fridays, and Pohle, who avoids popular and more crowded trails, often hikes on weekends. Lanz, who's been leading for nearly four years, holds shorter outings, averaging about three miles. Consequently, her hikers tend to be older. She averages less than eight hikers per outing, near the club's average.

Pohle seeks out seldom-visited trails and generally has longer, more strenuous outings of up to eight miles. He has been leading hikes for about two years. About 75% of his hikers have dogs. His hikes average about ten people.

Ost is more of a mid-range hiker, generally hiking 4-6 miles at a more vigorous pace. "I push a little," she says, "but not as much as Tom." Ost averages about eight hikers, with most having dogs.

All three leaders have a strong bond and support each other, often participating in each other's hikes, though they almost never go on non-dog outings. "Jean is my hero," exclaimed Dori. She was encouraged by both Lanz and Pohle to lead hikes.

Lanz and Ost take one dog on their hikes, but Pohle has two small dogs. Most hikers have a single dog,

but one frequent hiker brings three dogs. Most of the hikers are regulars. "We pitch in and help each other," said Pohle. "We're like a family."

The hikes are certainly good for the dogs, who not only get exercise, but also learn discipline. Lanz points out the social benefit for the dogs. "They are social animals." They are taught to stay by their owners and not go off trail.

"There's a lot of joy in getting to know the dogs, in just watching them," said Ost. "It's amazing that the dogs get along so well." Karen Tom used to write all the dogs' names in a journal to remember and get to know them.

None of the five have ever had an unpleasant incident with the dogs—no attacks, no threats, no fights. And the leaders take pride in being responsible hikers. "We not only pick up after our own dogs, but also messes left by other dogs," Lanz stated. "We try to leave the trails better than we found them," Pohle asserted.

Lanz was influenced by Karen Tom and Fred Zeitler. She tends to visit familiar lowland trails on the Tiger plateau as well as common sites on Cougar Mountain when there are few other hikers.

"I like places that aren't common," explained Pohle. "I look for something more dramatic and challenging, places where there aren't a lot of other people." Typical sites for Pohle are Taylor Mountain, the backside of Tiger, and the Hobart Railroad Grade. He will adjust his pace, however, for older and less fit hikers and dogs.

Ost too visits less common places and likes to seek out new trails. She recently explored part of Taylor Mountain. She tells with pride of a note left by a previously encountered horse rider, who praised her group with dogs and said she'd be happy to share the trails with her dog group anytime.

*continued on page 11*

**LOGGING AND THE TMT** *continued from page 6*

pick the best timber. The purpose of a VDT is to improve the health of the forest. The sale will cover 495 acres, but because it is VDT the minimum bid was only \$462,000. The other difference between VRH and VDT is that with a VRH there has to be a 250' buffer on both sides of a stream, whereas with a DT the buffer is 25' on each side of a stream since it is not a clear cut.

Although the sale will result in less harvestable timber, it is more complicated to harvest than a VRH. The auction packet for this sale is 237 pages. The purpose of VDT is to create a more natural forest. During the Tiger thinning, the TMT will be affected in three areas between the 15-Mile Railroad Grade crossing and the FEMA bridge (miles 7.5-8.5). In the first area the logging comes close to but remains above the TMT. In the second and third areas, logging will cross the TMT and continue down toward but not reach the 15-Mile RR Grade.

Often after a VDT is completed and the thinned forest reaches its normal maturity, it will again be harvested this time as a VRH. However, in this case the areas that affect the TMT will never be harvested again. This is because of the large number of streams that exist in the affected areas and the 250' stream buffer requirement that affects VRH sales. There would not be enough harvestable timber that could be cut in order to make it profitable enough for anyone to want to make a bid.

There are two other trails in the Tiger Mountain State Forest that will be affected by the Tiger thinning sale: The Paw Print Connector and Upper Bootleg Trail. On the Paw Print Connector it will affect the end closest to the Paw Print rest area; it may be turned back into a temporary logging road.

Normally road construction is done in the first year, and the harvesting is done during the second year. As a result, the TMT and the Upper Bootleg Trail will probably not be affected this year.

**CLUB OFFERS SCHOLARSHIP**

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club has announced the topics for its annual Bill Longwell Memorial Scholarship, this being the third such offering.

Longwell was a long-time club member who taught English at Hazen High School for many years. He was an avid hiker and trail builder who, often with the help of his students, was responsible for building and maintaining many of the trails on Tiger and Squak mountains.

Since his death in 2007, the club has offered a \$1000 scholarship available to graduating seniors at Issaquah, Liberty, Skyline and Hazen high schools. Below are this year's essay topics for applicants, who must answer one in up to a 1000 words.

1. Interest in the environment and long-term sustainability of our planet has never been greater. What should the Issaquah Alps Trails Club do to help our youth be better informed about issues and become more active locally? In other words, support the often repeated phrase: "Think globally and act locally."
2. What do you like about the Issaquah Alps and their trail systems? How did these trail systems come about? What do you foresee for their future?

**DOG HIKES** *continued from page 10*

Lanz, the oldest and veteran of the dog hike leaders, concluded her remarks with praise for the club. "We're well aware of the club's focus and appreciate allowing us to have dog hikes. And we think our hikes have brought a lot of new people into the club."

"It's a good program," Zeitler said. "It's nice to see that it's working out so well."

"It's a positive, inclusive program that gives another avenue for a different group of people to go on hikes," stated Tom. "We need to attract young people and different groups of people. It was an honor for me to help reinstate dog hikes for the club."

## NEW MEMBERS HAVE IDEAS FOR CLUB

By Doug Simpson

The two new members of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club board, Allegra Atkinson and Scott Prueter, are a study in contrasts. One is male, the other female. One leads hikes, the other doesn't. One was a professional, the other in business. One has been in the area for years, the other is a relative newcomer.

They share, of course, a desire to give of their time and ideas to help the IATC remain a strong club and help it decide what it is and what it should be.

Allegra Atkinson, a former attorney, moved to Issaquah in September from Lake Tahoe, Nevada. She chose Issaquah because she loves the land, the mountains and the beauty of nature. She used the internet to discover a hiking club she could join.

“I have total understanding and respect for this board and the good citizens that are on it. I'm absolutely supportive of Dave Kappler and his leadership. I'm a good strategy planner; I can see the big things and help the club with issues and planning.”

Even though she took a leadership role in seeing to completion the 165-mile Tahoe Run Trail (which circles the lake itself)—and was the first woman to solo the entire trail (in ten days), she is a distance hiker but not a hike leader. “I have a lot of experience on boards and give service to non-profits.

Scott Prueter has been a hike leader for IATC since 2000, usually leading a hike each month. He is also an experienced mountain climber. Retired from a career in business management, Prueter now has more time to give to his recreational interests.

“This will be a good experience for me,” he said. “The club has a lot of talented, dedicated people. The work they do comes from the heart.”

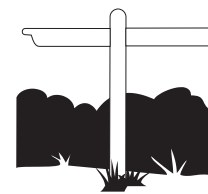


Aware of the club's current issues, Prueter thinks IATC needs to consider: “Who are we? What do we do and how do we do it? I believe it's a huge issue.”

Atkinson is a native Washingtonian, having grown up in the Yarrow Point area, so she is returning to her roots. She remembers Issaquah as a small town to pass through on the way to Snoqualmie Pass. “I feel an enormous tie to this area,” she stated.

According to Prueter, “I am comfortable with everybody on the board. They're a lot of talented, dedicated people.”

Atkinson says it is huge that the club is so involved in protection. She is impressed that the club's leaders are unpaid and have no staff. She thinks a retreat would be a good idea for the members to explore what they are and what they should do with the club in the future. So Scott Prueter and Allegra Atkinson are very different, but they have some similar feelings about the IATC and its future.



## VILLAGE THEATER OFFERS 'TRAILS'

Issaquah's Village Theater is opening a new musical, “Trails,” about hiking in the Appalachians. The show opened in March and runs through April 15. Discounts are available on request to IATC members.

The story involves two childhood friends, now in their 30s, who are about to drop everything to fulfill a promise and embark upon the journey of a lifetime—a 2,175 mile trek from Georgia to Maine along the Appalachian Trail.

More than just their stamina is to be tested. As the challenges of the trail become increasingly difficult, ghosts from the past haunt their steps, and the woman they both cherish brings back long-kept secrets.

# Hiking Information

## Hike Leaders

Hike leaders are volunteers who donate their time to lead people who want to hike and explore the trails in the Issaquah Alps and other nearby foothills (Cascades) in King County. Hikes are scheduled and led year-round unless severe conditions pose a safety hazard. Minimum attendance is three, including the leader.

Trails in the Issaquah Alps may be good or bad, easy or hard, muddy or dusty, brushy or clear, steep or flat—or all the above. Some are not much more than animal trails. As volunteers, neither hike leaders, the Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC), or Club directors are in any way responsible or liable for a hiker's comfort, transportation, property, safety, or general well-being while traveling to and from the trailhead or hiking or working on any trail.

The Club's sole purpose is to show hikers where the trails are and to lead the way. The public, other clubs, youth groups, church groups, and others are welcome and wholeheartedly invited to join hike leaders and others who want to hike these trails. Children under 18 should be accompanied by an adult. Please, dogs only on designated dog hikes.



## Degree of Difficulty

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

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

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

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

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

## Hike Description Modifiers

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

**Trail party:** Trail maintenance work party.

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

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

*continued on page 14*

### WEBSITE HELP NEEDED

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

## HIKING INFORMATION

*continued from page 13*

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

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

### Meeting Place

Trails Club hikes meet in the parking lot at the corner of First and Bush streets next to the IATC clubhouse (the little yellow stationmaster's house). To get there, take exit 17 (Issaquah Front Street) from Interstate 90 and turn south into downtown Issaquah. Go about one mile through town on Front Street, then go two blocks past the light at Sunset Way, and then turn left on Bush Street. Go two blocks to Rainier and turn into the lot on the left.

### Clothing

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

### Trail Maintenance

Volunteers periodically organize and schedule trail maintenance parties as listed in the hikes schedule. Work parties meet at the same place as hikes (see above). The club is well supplied with heavy trail maintenance tools, but workers may also bring their own loppers, weed whackers, and other tools.

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

## ✓ Checklist:

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

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

*Don't leave the trailhead without them!*

an integral part of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) management plan for Tiger Mountain.

Work parties must limit their activity to trails listed by the DNR as scheduled for maintenance. Construction of new trails is not allowed. Work parties are a great way to meet people! Individuals and groups are encouraged to adopt a trail—or section of trail—and take the responsibility of maintaining it.



# Issaquah Alps Trails Club Publications Order Form

Return this completed form along with your check to:

Issaquah Alps Trails Club Publications, P.O. Box 351, Issaquah, WA 98027

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

ITEM	PRICE*	QTY.	TOTAL
Book: The Flowering of the Issaquah Alps--Revised!	\$ 9.00		
Book: The Authoritative Guide to the Trails of Cougar Mountain Wildland Park and Surrounds with Map	15.00**		
Book: Guide to Trails of Tiger Mountain	15.00		
Book: The Coals of Newcastle: A Hundred Years of Hidden History	15.00		
Book: Eastside Family Hikes, 2010 revision	3.00		
Book: Squak Mountain: An Island in the Sky	15.00		
Book: 55 Hikes Around Snoqualmie Pass	10.00		
Map: Issaquah Alps Cougar Mountain, 2001 revision	2.00		
Map: Issaquah Alps Squak Mountain (2005)	6.00		
Green Trails Map: Tiger & Taylor Mountains, Map 204S	(List 12.00) 11.00		
Green Trails Map: Cougar & Squak Mountains, Map 203S	(List 12.00) 11.00		
Green Trails Map: Rattlesnake Mountain & Upper Snoqualmie Valley Map 205S	(List 12.00) 11.00		
Green Trails Map: Mount Si NRCA & Snoqualmie Corridor, Map 206S	(List 12.00) 11.00		
<b>*All prices include shipping and handling.</b>			

**\*\*One (1) IATC Cougar Mountain Map included.**

**Total:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Issaquah Alps Trails Club Foundation and Membership Request Form



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

All donations are tax deductible. Your donations fund The Alpiner publication costs and the club's minimal operating costs first, with 100% of remaining funds being directed where they can best address the trail design, construction, maintenance and advocacy needs throughout the Issaquah Alps. **Note:** Membership does not require a donation; however, donations help us preserve and enhance your Issaquah Alps.

Suggested donation levels:

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

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

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

**Address Service Requested**

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

## Issaquah Alps Trails Club Publications

*See page 15 for the publications order form.*

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

o *Flowering of the Issaquah Alps*—Revised! By Fred and Ann Weinmann and Harvey Manning. 1996 updated edition. This new edition lists trees, shrubs, ferns, and flowers found in the Issaquah Alps. Flowers are listed by color, season when flowering, and where many of the plants can be found.

o *Guide to the Trails of Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park and Surrounds*—By Charles McCrone. 2000 edition. Completely updated version gives historical background and descriptions for every park trail, plus 30 other trails in the surrounding area including Bellevue, Newcastle, Renton, and the Precipice (includes map).

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

o *The Coals of Newcastle: A Hundred Years of Hidden History* By Richard K. McDonald and Lucille McDonald. A complete history of the once-thriving coal mining area of Cougar Mountain now hidden from all but hikers. 100+ photographs, 4 maps, and Tim O'Brian's account of the incredible Seattle and Walla Walla Railroad.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

o *IATC Cougar Mountain map*. 2001 revised.

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