

Newsletter of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club

THE ALPINER



January ▲ February ▲ March ▲ 1998

Cougar ▲ Squak ▲ Tiger ▲ Grand Ridge

Bullitt And REI Say: "Grow Wild In Our Garden"

Harvey Manning

The Bullitt Foundation and Recreational Equipment, Inc. once more have come to our aid—the aid, that is, of the Red Town Ball Park Meadow Restoration Project in Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park. Both have been generous to the Trails Club in the past. Now they've done it again, and how sweet it is. Penny Manning conceived the idea in 1995 of clearing invasive alien plants as well as native weedery from the baseball field (where the Newcastle town team once contested teams of other mining towns for the championship of the Coal Country) and introducing native plants. With the advice and counsel of a board of advisors composed of distinguished biologists/botanists/ecologists from the Washington Native Plants Society, the University of Washington, and King County and state government, and the volunteer labor of enthusiastic work parties from the Trails Club, schools, and the general public (by no means to forget the staff of King County Parks under the Cougar Park manager, Steve Williams) the project got off to a running start developing the only such community of native flowers, shrubs, and grasses within 40 miles of Seattle—and the only such replication of a Western Washington prairie in a King County park.

The project has been funded by King County's Urban Reforestation and Habitat Restoration Fund, \$7,000 (this see **Bullitt and REI**, page 3

Annual Meeting— January 26th

The Annual Meeting of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club will be held on January 26, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Issaquah Trails Center (110 Bush Street, across the street from the Community Center and indoor pool in downtown Issaquah). The meeting will include a review of 1997 goals and accomplishments, proposal and adoption of 1998 club goals, review of IATC finances, trail maintenance work, and guided hike program, and the election of new Board members and Officers for IATC.

Current candidates for IATC positions include: Board: Steve Drew, Fred Zeitler, Linda Raines, Dino Go, Barbara Johnson, Charles McCrone, Malena McCrone, and Danny McCrea. Officer candidates include: VP Operations: Marilyn Moon; VP Advocacy: Ken Konigsmark; and Treasurer and President still to be determined. Each candidate for an IATC position will be asked to give a short summary of their background and interest in the position, so that attendees will have a chance to learn more about the candidates prior to voting for the offices. Plan to attend this important annual meeting on January 26th. ▲

New Board Elections In January

Ken Konigsmark

This Alpiner edition will herald the beginning of 1998, and with it will come many changes for the Issaquah Alps Trails Club. Our annual meeting will be held January 26 at the Issaquah Trails Center (see separate article for location) and at this meeting, we'll be electing a host of new faces to our Board and Officer positions. As we do so, we must recognize the contributions of those who are stepping down after years of service to IATC and its causes: Ted Thomsen, Melinda Livingstone, George Comstock, Todd Hausman, and Chauncey Wenner. Each has made significant contributions to the goals of the club in many ways, and I know I speak on behalf of all members in thanking them for their dedicated service. The good news is that

we have just as many or more new, energetic faces to step in to IATC leadership roles to replace those who are stepping down. A separate article lists the candidates for the open positions, and it is clear that we'll be able to continue with a top notch Board representing IATC well in the year ahead. Please come to the Annual meeting to see what's happening and to participate in this important meeting.

Another date to note is our annual IATC potluck dinner event, which will be held on March 20th at the Preston Community Club. As always, there will be good food, good company, and good presentations that will be entertaining and informative about issues in the Issaquah Alps. Plan to attend this one too. ▲

The Apparatus

President: Ken Konigsmark • 222-4839
 VP, Operations: Marilyn Moon • 392-1732
 Treasurer: Christina Jackson • 837-0417
 Secretary: Pam Wallenstein • 392-7813
 Board of Directors:
 Harvey Manning, Chairman • 746-1017
 Todd Hausmann • 557-1023
 Ted Thomsen • 454-8643
 Brenda Running • 432-2038
 Chauncey Wenner • 313-0577
 George Comstock • 392-7249
 Ken Konigsmark • 222-4839
 Christina Jackson • 837-0417
 Bill Longwell • 222-6775
 Melinda Livingstone • 392-7455
 Hikes Coordinators: Fred and Ann Weinmann • 392-9230
 Membership Records: Connie Hinton • 391-6830
 Book Sales/Distribution: Marty Hanson • 392-2458
 Volunteer Coordinator: Open
 Alpiner: Barbara Johnson • e-mail: grtblue@worldnet.att.net
 Issaquah Advocate: George Comstock • 392-8929
 Cougar Advocates: Harvey Manning • 746-1017
 and Ralph Owen • 746-1070
 Squak Advocate: Ken Konigsmark • 222-4839
 Tiger Advocates: Larry Hanson • 392-2458

and Ken Konigsmark • 222-4839

Grand Ridge Advocate:

Melinda Livingstone • 392-7455

Raging River and Preston Advocate:

Maryanne Tagney Jones • 222-7615

Rattlesnake Mtn. and Taylor Mtn. Advocates:

Ted Thomsen • 454-8643/Ralph Owen • 746-1070

Chief Ranger/Trail Maintenance: Bill Longwell • 222-6775/

Charles McCrone • 392-3466

MTS Greenway: Ted Thomsen • 454-8643

Legal Advice: Tom Lucas

NOTE: All phone numbers are area code 425 unless otherwise noted.

Hotline: 206-328-0480

Web site: <http://www.issaquah.org/comorg/ialps/mlalps.htm>

The Alpiner is published in January, April, July and October by The Issaquah Alps Trails Club P.O. Box 351, Issaquah, WA 98027. Subscriptions: \$15/year.

Distribution: Rodi Ludlum

Articles are welcome. Preferably on diskette or e-mail.

grtblue@worldnet.att.net. Send diskette or hard copy to P. O. Box number above. Deadlines: Nov 15 for January issue, Feb 15 for April, May 15 for July, Aug 15 for October issue.

Bullit and REI, from page 1

amount matched by contributed materials and labor of the volunteer work parties); King County's Surface Water Management Waterways 2000 Community Stewardship, \$2,400 (for interpretive signs and native plants); and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Urban Demonstration Project, \$2,400 (signage and plants).

As is customary with such grants, the funds are committed entirely and solely to purchase of materials, administrative costs excluded. However, these costs are considerable and King County Parks has no moneys for that purpose; and the Trails Club, of course, never has hardly any money at all. In this case though, a bequest from our late member, Sid Sato, allowed the club to grant Penny \$1,000 for the most urgent and immediate expenses.

—But now, not a shower of gold, but by the club's and project's and Penny's standard, wealth!

This past summer the Trails Club submitted a 3-year (1997-1998-1999) grant request to The Bullitt Foundation, which has a long-standing devotion to the Issaquah Alps—a devotion longer than the existence of the Trails Club; in the 1960s the Bullitt Family gave us the Squak Mountain State Park Natural Area which now serves as the connection between the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park and the Tiger Mountain State Forest—the key link in a corridor of continuous wildlife habitat extending from Lake Washington through the Issaquah Alps to the Cedar

River and thus the Cascade Crest.

On October 29 the president of the foundation, Denis Hayes, notified the Trails Club it had been granted an outright \$3,000 plus a 1:1 challenge grant of another \$3,000. How to meet the challenge? Our first thought was Recreational Equipment Inc., which has refloated our sinking treasury several times in past years. Timidly, we asked a little help, intimating that perhaps we could raise the balance by various only mildly criminal means, such as panhandling. Well, I have to tell you that I can only say of the response I was shocked, simply shocked. I mailed my letter of application Thursday afternoon, November 13, expecting an answer early in the new year. First thing Monday morning, November 16, my phone rang, Kathleen Beamer on the line, to inform me REI was so delighted by the meadow plan that they were granting not a part but the total \$3,000. Challenge met! The 1996-1999 expenses of the Meadow Project have \$9,000 that such a short time ago, were, to our eyes, impossibly distant over the horizon. I hardly need say that this benevolence is orders of magnitude beyond any the Trails Club has known. Penny and her corps of volunteers—and the Trails Club and King County Parks—and the Washington Native Plants Society—and all of us—rejoice, give thanks, and with renewed fervor take shovels in hand to dig dig dig. ▲

Annual Poltluck - March 20

IATC's annual potluck will be held ^{Friday} Saturday, March 20, 1998 at the Preston Community Center. This is an informal social affair for all members and friends of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club. The social hour begins at 6:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m. The program will be from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Bring a dish to share and your own tableware. Beverages will be provided.

Driving directions: From I-90, take the Preston exit. (If traveling eastbound, cross over the freeway and turn right.) Go about 1/2 mile. The Community Center is a stone and wood structure on the left (west) side of the Preston-Fall City Road.



IATC Awarded \$5000 Trail Maintenance Grant!

Ken Konigsmark

IATC members Bill Longwell and Mary Lynch teamed up this summer to prepare and submit an in-depth grant application for National Recreation Trail Funding Act (NRTFA) funds that are awarded competitively to support statewide trail maintenance needs. Their efforts resulted in the award of a \$5,000 grant to IATC and Snoqualmie Valley Trails Club to purchase much needed equipment (brushcutters, pruners, chainsaws, etc.) that will greatly increase the capability of volunteer crews to more efficiently and effectively perform maintenance on local trails. In tough competition with many other grant applicants, the past performance by volunteer IATC maintenance crews (see article summarizing 1997 totals) gave IATC's proposal a clear advantage. Few, if any, other organizations can claim the level of commitment to and involvement in trail maintenance that IATC, led by Bill Longwell, contributes every year.

As a component of the grant, IATC committed to a "match" of 1,000 hours of volunteer labor and 10,000 miles of volunteer vehicle mileage. In order to document and support this commitment, it is very important that if any IATC member completes trail maintenance efforts on their own or in a group, that you contact Bill Longwell at (425) 222-6775 in order to credit your volunteer efforts towards the IATC commitment. It's fully expected that IATC volunteers will greatly exceed the commitment made, but since the \$5,000 funding is directly tied to completion of the volunteer labor and mileage, we are seeking to achieve these totals at the earliest date. Congratulations to Bill and Mary for their initiative in securing these funds. As a result, club members can look forward to even higher and better levels of maintenance on local trails in the months ahead. ▲

Grand Slam Year for IATC Trail Maintenance

Ken Konigsmark

As of late November, chief IATC Trail Ranger Bill Longwell reports a record breaking year for total volunteer trail maintenance on both Issaquah Alps and Forest Service trails. To date, 1997 trail maintenance efforts total up to 154 different projects completed, involving 321 "man-days" of labor, for a total of 1,837 volunteer hours devoted to maintaining trails. This incredible amount of work equates to a "donation" of roughly \$25,000 in labor and support to local trails that otherwise would get far less maintenance. IATC trail maintenance crews are led by both Bill Longwell and Charles McCrone. If you are interested in getting involved in such efforts, please contact Charles at (425) 392-3466 for further information. And, next time you're enjoying a pleasant hike in the Alps, remember all the work that IATC volunteers have contributed to keeping that trail in such great shape. ▲

In Memorium- Bob Aries

On August 18, 1997, Bob Aries, an avid hiker in the Issaquah Alps and most of Western Washington, passed away. Bob retired from Safeway and took up hiking with enthusiasm. He was a member of a pioneer Bellevue family. (The Aries Farm is now part of the Lake Hills Greenbelt.) His widow, Pat Aries, said, "We hiked all over Cougar Mt. and had wonderful times together. It won't be the same now, but I'll still go up there." Bob will be missed by many of us. ▲

What's New in Trail Maintenance

Charles McCrone

Volunteer Trailwork Coalition: We recently joined the Volunteer Trailwork Coalition (VTC), a coalition of many groups such as Volunteers for Outdoor WA, Washington Trails Association, the Mountaineers, and the Department of Natural Resources whose aims are to provide better dialogue and coordinate trails care and maintenance. Some examples of cooperative programs that are the fruit of the VTC are our very successful co-sponsored work party last October with Volunteers for Outdoor WA; the Trail College happening on Cougar Mountain the second Saturday of each month (call 206-517-7032 for more information on this one); and the establishment of a standardized training program by which Crew Leaders and Project Coordinators for trailwork efforts can be trained and certified.

Tiger Mountain: We've been asked by the Department of Natural Resources to help with two projects on Tiger. The first is some trailwork in the Tradition Plateau area (*look for a work party on the Hike Schedule*). The second is help in adding to their written and photographic inventory of all the signs of Tiger (quite a project). If you do a lot of hiking on the mountain and would like to take a log and a roll of DNR-supplied film along, let me know.

We have several work parties scheduled this quarter, and we'd love to see you there. Beginners are always welcome! Please call Charles at (425) 392-3466 to sign up or get more information. ▲

Trailhead Center Volunteers Needed

Malena McCrone

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club has begun to utilize the newly-built Station Master's house, located next to the Community Center in downtown Issaquah, as its headquarters. Monthly board meetings are held here, and it is also the starting point for many of the club's guided hikes. The Station Master's house has a reader board outside where hikers, bikers and nature lovers can find information about the trails of the Alps and upcoming events.

Starting in spring of 1998, the Trails Club plans to staff the Trailhead Center with volunteers during the days on weekends to answer questions, sell maps, and direct hikers to trails and trailheads appropriate to their interests and skill levels.

We need a pool of volunteers to help run this interpretative program! If the idea of helping hikers and families choose appropriate hikes sounds scary, put your fears to rest. The volunteer coordinator will have that information ready for you, so all you have to do is match a hiker's interest to a trail. The volunteers will be paired, so they will not be staffing the Center alone. Before interacting with the public, volunteers would need to attend a training seminar to have any questions answered and be shown the ropes. The volunteer commitment would be one weekend day per month for either a two- or four-hour shift. This is a *great* opportunity to educate people on forest etiquette and safety and to get people exploring a wider variety of trails.

If you are interested in volunteering to staff the house, please call Malena McCrone at (425) 392-3466. ▲



Issaquah Alps Trails Club Hikes and Events

Hike Schedule-Winter 1998

January

Saturday, January 3, 1:00 p.m.
Coal Creek Falls
The Falls are at their best in January.
2B 3 mi. 500 ft.
Bob Gross (253) 529-2139

Sunday, January 4, 9:00 a.m.
West Tiger 3 via the quiet route (TMT)
2C/3C 8 mi. 2500 ft.
Fred Zeitler (425) 882-3435

Saturday, January 10, 9:00 a.m.
Lake Tradition Loop
2A 4 mi.
Trudy Ecob (206) 232-2933

Sunday, January 11, 10:00 a.m.
Newcastle, Old and New
2A 6 mi. 500 ft.
Bert Drui (425) 746-0709

Monday, January 12, 9:30 a.m.
North side Squak to Bullitt Fire-place
Squak Mountain by Chybinski & Peter trails.
Boots required.
2C
Mary Cadigan, (425) 641-4046

Saturday, January 17, 9:00 a.m.
Rattlesnake Mountain
Easy road ramble from winery
3C, 6-8 mi. 1500 ft.
Ted Thomsen (425) 454-8643

Sunday, January 18, 9:00 a.m.
Little Si
(To be canceled if snow or ice on road.)
2B, 5 mi., 1200 ft.
Alexandra Pye (206) 935-8510

Sunday, January 18, 9:00 a.m.
Northwest Rattlesnake Loop
Exploring lower Rattlesnake from the winery.
Views, coal mines & old roads.
3C, 7 mi. 1000 ft.
Ralph Owen (425) 746-1070

Saturday, January 24, 8:00 a.m.
Griffen Highlands-Spring Glen
Weyco forest roads & beavers, some rough tread.
3B
Bill Longwell (425) 222-6775

Sunday, January 25, 8:30 a.m.
Cougar Mountain: Wilderness Peak, Clay Pit Peak, AA Peak, Long View Peak
3C, 10 mi. 2500 ft.
Fred Zeitler (425) 882-3435

Sunday, January 25, 9:00 a.m.
Tradition Lake Trailwork Party
Come help with some important conservation projects near the lake.
Call to pre-register.
Charles McCrone (425) 392-3466

Monday, January 26, 7:00 p.m.
IATC BOARD MEETING
Stationmaster's House
Ken Konigsmark (425) 222-4839

Saturday, January 31, 1:00
Red Town Ballpark Meadow Restoration Project
(Loop via Wildside Trail to view the Microsoftie Golf Course in progress.)
2A
Harvey Manning (425) 746-1017

February

Saturday, February 7, 9:00 a.m.
Taylor Mountain from Holden Creek
Approach through King County's newest open space lands.
Great views of South County.
Possible damp boot stream crossing.
3C, 8 mi. 1900 ft.
Ralph Owen (425) 746-1070

Sunday, February 8, 9:00 a.m.
South TMT, Hobart Gap, Holder Creek, South Tiger, Otter Lake
2B, 8.5 mi. 1200 ft.
Jamie McKenzie (425) 746-6683

Wednesday, February 11, 9:30 a.m.
Tiger Mountain. Boots required.
North End TMT to RR grade loop.
3C
Mary Cadigan, (425) 641-4046

Friday, February 13, 9:30 a.m.
Manke Property—New Adventure!
2B
Betty Culbert (425) 432-7387

Saturday, February 14, 10:00 a.m.
Downstream Coal Creek Farm & Mine
2A 5 mi. 500 ft.
Bert Drui (425) 746-0709

Sunday, February 15, 9:00 a.m.
Squak Mountain Sampler
Central Peak, West Peak, Bullitt Fireplace, etc.
2C/3C 8 mi. 1700 ft.
Fred Zeitler (425) 882-3435

Monday, February 16, 9:00 a.m.
Cougar Mountain Trailwork Party
Call for more details and to pre-register.
Charles McCrone (425) 392-3466

Saturday, February 21, 8:00 a.m.
Tokul Highland & Lowlands
Loop past famous stream and beaver dams. Roads/trails.
3B
Bill Longwell (425) 222-6775

Sunday, February 22, 10:00 a.m.
Red Town Ballpark Meadow Restoration Project
(Loop via Wildside Trail to view the Microsoftie Golf Course in progress.)
2A
Harvey Manning (425) 746-1017

Monday, February 23, 7:00 p.m.
IATC BOARD MEETING
Stationmaster's House
Ken Konigsmark (425) 222-4839

Saturday, February 28, 8:30 a.m.
Cougar-Squak traverse.
11 mi. one way visiting high points of Cougar and Squak.
3D
Joe Toynbee (206) 723-6716

March

Sunday, March 8, 9:00 a.m.
Cougar Mountain ramble, AA Peak, Clay Pit View Point, more.
2B, 6-8 mi., modest gain
Jamie McKenzie (425) 746-6683

Saturday, March 14, 9:00 a.m.
Nook Loop
2B, 5 mi.
Trudy Ecob (206) 232-2933

Sunday, March 15, 10:00 a.m.
Anti-aircraft Peak down to The Erratic.
2A, 6 mi., 700 ft.
Bert Drui (425) 746-0709

Monday, March 16, 9:00 a.m.
Squak Mountain trailwork party
Call for more details and to pre-register.
Charles McCrone (425) 392-3466

Tuesday, March 17, 9:30 a.m.
Cougar Mountain
DeLeo Wall-Far Country loop
2B
Mary Cadigan (425) 641-4046

Wednesday, March 18, 9:30 a.m.
South Squak Loop
3C, 6 mi., 2000 ft.
Warren Jones (425) 888-0262

Saturday, March 21, 1:00 p.m.
Cougar Mountain, Wilderness Peak
2B, 3 mi. round trip, 1100 ft.
Bob Gross (253) 529-2139

Sunday, March 22, 8:30 a.m.
Rattlesnake West Peak Loop from the winery.
Great views of the Snoqualmie Valleys
3D 10 mi. 2600 ft.
Ralph Owen (425) 746-1070

Monday, March 23, 9:00 a.m.
Little Si & Moss Vista
3C, 7 mi., 2000 ft.
Peggy Owen (425) 746-1070

Monday, March 23, 7:00 p.m.
IATC BOARD MEETING
Stationmaster's House
Ken Konigsmark (425) 222-4839

Saturday, March 28, 10:00 a.m.
Red Town Ballpark Meadow Restoration Project
(Loop via Wildside Trail to view the Microsoftie Golf Course in progress.)
2A
Harvey Manning (425) 746-1017

Sunday, March 29, 9:00 a.m.
Summerhill access to Cougar Mountain
Recently restored trailhead to a network of rarely traveled trails.
Some rough terrain.
2C
Charles McCrone (425) 392-3466

Interest has been expressed for renewed Toddler Hikes of the "Peggy Barchi" type (easy and weekday)
Need hike leaders! Call Ann Weinmann for input; 392-9230 ▲

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. *Minimum attendance is 3, 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, 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 well-being 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. *Please, no pets on these hikes.*

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

Leader's Choice: The leader had not decided where to hike before publication of the hike 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 and have a good time hiking where

others seldom tread.

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

NOTE:

Group hikes do not lend themselves to pets. Please leave your pets at home when coming on a Trail's Club hike.

MEETING PLACE

Trails Club hikes meet in the parking lot at the corner of 1st and Bush 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, 2 blocks past the light at Sunset, turn left on Bush Street. Go 2 blocks to Rainier and turn into the lot on the left. Park beside the Clubhouse or on the east side of the concrete bumpers opposite the Issaquah Food Bank. Do NOT park on the side of the bumpers closest to the Food Bank.

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.

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

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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

Leader's Choice: The leader had not decided where to hike before publication of the hike 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 and have a good time hiking where

others seldom tread.

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

NOTE:

Group hikes do not lend themselves to pets. Please leave your pets at home when coming on a Trail's Club hike.

MEETING PLACE

Trails Club hikes meet in the parking lot at the corner of 1st and Bush 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, 2 blocks past the light at Sunset, turn left on Bush Street. Go 2 blocks to Rainier and turn into the lot on the left. Park beside the Clubhouse or on the east side of the concrete bumpers opposite the Issaquah Food Bank. Do NOT park on the side of the bumpers closest to the Food Bank.

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 periodically as listed in the hike schedule. 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 vital to the Club's work and an integral part of the DNR management plan for Tiger Mountain.* Work parties must limit their activity to those trails listed by

DNR as scheduled for maintenance—no construction of new trails is allowed. Work parties are 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 Trails Club Membership Application

P.O. Box 351, Issaquah, WA 98027

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ New Renewal

- Annual Regular Dues \$15
- Annual Contributing Dues \$25
- Lifetime Membership \$200
- Limited Income \$6

- ▲ All memberships cover the entire family.
- ▲ A regular annual family membership is \$15. This covers the cost of printing and mailing the Alpiner and a part of the club's overhead expenses.
- ▲ Contributing memberships at \$25 or more cover the rest of the club's overhead expenses and allow us some financial leeway in planning special events, publishing trail guides and keeping our trail maintenance tool supply fit and ample.
- ▲ Lifetime memberships at \$200 give us room to be creative and visionary, to venture forth on projects otherwise beyond our means and dreams.

I would like to get involved with the club's activities. Please send me a volunteer questionnaire.

Discovering the “Wild” in Wildland

Charles McCrone

A strange thing has been happening to me recently while hiking in the Alps—I have been feeling less at home. At first, this took me by surprise; shouldn't I have felt more this way when I first began hiking Cougar Mountain, and not now, entering my third year of exploration? Why should the Alps seem more forbidding, more wild than they did before? Strangely enough, I have concluded that this change is a good—and not lamentable—affair. On my first discovery of Cougar Mountain Wildland Park, I think I hiked it the same way I had walked other open spaces and greenbelts on the Eastside. Cougar Mountain was nothing but a bigger park (emphasis on the word “park”) with more trails to choose from. Over time, however, my encounters with wildlife have altered that attitude—two coyotes, the flash of a pileated woodpecker across the trail, many startled grouse, a porcupine scared up a tree, and the crashing black form perceived from afar as a bear. I have discovered the Wildland in the park's official name, and I have begun to see the trails as a narrow ribbon of humanity running through a vast and surrounding wilderness unfamiliar and still largely unknown to me. I am feeling more like an alien here, a privileged and perhaps unwelcome guest. I think this is a good thing. We can be very thankful that in the size and scope of these protected areas, we still have very close-by places that can initiate us into this feeling, this perception of what a forest is—not just a manicured or

manufactured open space. It is true that hiking the Tibbetts Marsh Trail with fog closing in on all sides and the winter wind rustling the tree tops far overhead does not exactly make one feel comfortable or safe. But we need these experiences of the wildland; they place our humanity against a larger backdrop of nature and rescue us from the insularity of our urbanized lives. ▲

East Village Coming to Cougar

Charles McCrone

In recent months, the Trails Club has continued its long dialogue with Intracorp, developers of the coming East Village development on the lower slopes of Cougar Mountain, and we been involved in the review of their draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Intracorp is advancing a development plan that would, while densely developing the core of the site, leave the majority as open space, including all of their land on Squak and most of the Bear Ridge and West Tibbetts trail corridors. We continue to be impressed with Intracorp's willingness to dialogue with us and work on lessening the environmental impacts of their development. The EIS should be out and available for public comment in early February, so keep your eyes open! ▲

New Summerhill Trail Access

Charles McCrone

Looking for a new place to start your exploration of Cougar Mountain? The trail which connects to Newport Way just east of the Summerhill neighborhood has a new starting point farther up the hill off the cul-de-sac at the end of Oakcrest Drive. You can skip the brambles and backyards of the old route and make a quicker ascent to the Precipice Trail, eventually connecting to a network of other trails such as Stagecoach Ridge, Precipice Bottom, and, via the power line, Cougar Mountain Park. Some of Cougar's most adventurous trekking is here to be found, so join us on our hike from this new access point (*see the Hike Schedule*).

Our thanks to Matt, Scott and Lori, who contributed their hard work to its refurbishment, and to the residents of Summerhill. Please remember that this trailhead exists *solely* by the good graces of the Summerhill neighbors, so please be respectful! ▲



Hike Summary 1997

Ann Weinmann, Hike Coordinator

Again a special thanks to all the hike leaders this last year. It may have been wetter than usual but none-the-less, 26 faithful leaders led 134 hikes with a grand total of 580 participants (not including the months of November and December when we usually get another 60). In addition, can be added another 100 women who, with their leaders from both our club and the Issaquah Parks and Recreation Department, participated in the WomanWalks.

Of not was the special 25th Anniversary Hike of the Tiger Mountain Trail appropriately organized by Bill Longwell with lots of help. It drew an enthusiastic 40 or so hikers and was a great success. Also the WomanWalks organized by Marilyn Moon in cooperation with the Issaquah Parks and Recreation Department have been very well attended and will hopefully continue next spring.

Look for new hike destinations in the Winter Schedule. Squak Mt. has a beautiful new trailhead just off of the May Valley Road. The newly acquired Manke property should give us access to new trails. Also Bill Longwell reported at the October board meeting that there is a new trailhead inside the gate on the West Tiger Road. In addition look for new trail work parties being scheduled by Charles McCrone as well as his special hikes highlighting some of the trails that he has been working on this past year.

Please join me in thanking the following 1997 leaders: Al Blalock, Mary Cadigan, Steve Cavit, Betty Culbert, Bert Druil, Trudy Ecob, Bob Gross, Barbara Halverson, Warren Jones, Pat Kaald, Dave Kappler, Ann Leber, Melinda Livingstone, Bill Longwell, Harvey Manning, Charles McCrone, Bill McFerren, Jamie McKenzie, Marilyn Moon, Ralph and Peggy Owen, Alexandra Pye, Janis Stiewing, Ted Thomsen, Joe Toynbee, and Fred Zeitler. ▲



Memoirs Chapter 2: Exit 11

Harvey Manning

The connection of this US- 10 (for so it was, I learned) to Seattle, the Lake Washington Floating Bridge, was no secret, predating Pearl Harbor some two years or so, the opening date of no interest to me since a Boy Scout's proper way to the mountains was by ferry to the Olympics. My first memorable encounter with the bridge was a Saturday of June 1947, several weeks after Betty and I had obtained the document which satisfied University District landladies that the State of Washington and God authorized our cohabitation...After we moved to the 200-meter hut in January 1952, it became..familiar—commuting from wildwoods to city in morning, city to wildwoods in evening... wildwoods they surely were, and the bridge let us live in them a half-hour from city jobs, and we marveled that so few had embraced the miracle. Driving home in evening, we'd lose half the traffic on Mercer Island, the other half at the Bellevue turnoff, and would continue up the long hill to the divide between Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish on country-empty highway.

Atop the divide was a joke, a sagging sign identifying the empty acres of the bulldozer-skinned plateau as "Eastgate." That was just about but not quite the all of Eastgate. ...To the handful (half a dozen dozens?) of households in twenty-odd square miles of Cougar Mountain wildland, "Eastgate" was an unfailing source of innocent merriment. Located as we were safely (so we supposed) distant, another cheap laugh was "Bellevue." privately we laughed at fools not wise enough to put a proper cordon sanitaire between their homes and Ground Zero of Freemanville.

...Laughter stopped. The joke was on us. Eastgate, a speculator's fantasy-fraud, hardened into subdividers' reality. "Cougar Hills" jostled the north boundary of our three acres, "Horizon Heights" the west, "Whispering Heights" the south...

*The moving finger writes, and
Having writ, moves on.*

The crud creeps, and having crept, keeps on creeping. Eastgate threw off the mask and revealed itself as none other than Bellevue, and the creeping continued onward and upward to "Horizon View" and (have they, in the end, no shame?) "Eagle's Mere."

Exit 11.... (to be continued....) ▲

Issaquah Alps Trails Club Mail Order Service

P.O. Box 351, Issaquah, WA 98027

▲ *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. \$9.00 (includes shipping and handling)

▲ *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!* \$10.00 (includes map listed below, tax and shipping)

▲ *Guide to Trails of Tiger Mountain*

By Bill Longwell. 1995 revised edition. Updated trail information plus the new East Tiger Trail and new DNR trails. Plus encounters with animals. \$10.00 (includes map listed below, 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 Cou-

gar 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. \$12.00 (includes tax and shipping)

▲ *Eastside Family Hikes*

By Peggy Barchi. 1995 revised and updated edition. Descriptions of family hikes (annotated for stroller use and picnicking) on the Eastside. \$3.00 (includes tax and shipping)

▲ *Tiger Mt. map*, 1995 revision, \$2.00 (includes tax and shipping)

▲ *Cougar Mt. map* \$2.00 (includes tax and shipping)

▲ *Tradition Lake map* Free with self-addressed stamped envelope.

▲ *T-Shirt: "Issaquah Alps Trails Club"* Specify size (S,M,L,XL,XXL) color (blue or white) and sleeve length. Short sleeve: \$13.00, long sleeve: \$17.00.

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

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

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