

# Newsletter of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club

## THE ALPINE



July ▲ August ▲ September ▲ 1998      Cougar ▲ Squak ▲ Tiger ▲ Grand Ridge

## SCAT Report

**Margaret Macleod, Interagency Coordinator for the Issaquah Alps**

It has been a while since I last wrote an article for *The Alpinist*. In fact, it has been so long I cannot remember where I left off, so I'll just take the plunge and talk about the most recent events.

The agencies that comprise Squak, Cougar, and Tiger mountains (SCAT) Interagency Committee have talked at length about expanding the interagency coordination beyond the Issaquah Alps. Because the area, located in the upper Snoqualmie River Valley, also has a similar "checkerboard" land ownership of the same agencies, but adding forest service lands, it makes sense to expand the role of the committee. With this expansion, the committee also foresaw the need for a second interagency coordinator. The primary role of the second coordinator will be to implement the goals and objectives set forth by the Snoqualmie River Valley - Phase II River Corridor Public Use Concept Plan. Other issues include the Snoqualmie River Valley Road Project, Snoqualmie Valley Regional Trail Connections, and helping with the implementation of the Rattlesnake Mountain Scenic Area Management Plan. The committee hopes to

get this second position filled by the middle of summer, which of course is dependent upon the funding being in place. As with the current interagency position, the City of Issaquah will provide the working quarters at the Issaquah Trail Center for the second position.

The SCAT Committee is also active in submitting grant applications to the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC). The applications include: Around the Lake Trail - Phase 2 (completion of the trail to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards including interpretive signs and shelters on Tradition Plateau); acquisition of the gravel mine located in the midst of Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park; acquisition of creekside properties along Issaquah Creek; acquisition of the "Luce property" for Preston Park; acquisition of the "Kelly Ranch" - expansion of Tibbetts Valley Park; and the Pickering Place Trail connection between the regional trail located at SE 56th Street to the Rainier Boulevard Multiple Use Trail in Issaquah.

Other work that involves the Issaquah area includes the Mountains to

Sound Greenway/City of Issaquah Heritage Interpretive Sign Project: Time Places. The city appointed a citizen advisory group, including a member of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC), to help with the development of the signs. Jones and Jones has compiled the natural and cultural information for the signs and will be designing the final outcome. No target date has been set for final development or installation of the signs.

On May 19, the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) held a public meeting regarding the Cableline or Direct Route up to West Tiger #3. This route was never a specifically built trail, but after the electrical cable was installed, via a bulldozer, the route became popular with hikers. Over the last 10 years, the route has become degraded due to the steepness of the terrain and lack of any cohesive maintenance. The meeting was to obtain public input to determine the best method to improve and restore route conditions. Another onsite meeting is being scheduled in order to further discuss and identify solutions to problems associated with this route. ▲

# Checkerboard Country Outings Day – July 25

**Mark Boyar**

The Washington Trails Association (WTA) and the Sierra Club Cascade Checkerboard project invite you to attend the second annual Checkerboard Country Outings Day on Saturday, July 25. Enjoy a Checkerboard country adventure and learn about efforts to protect forests, rivers, and trails in the Central Cascades. We'll be based at The Mountaineers Meany Lodge at Snoqualmie Pass.

A variety of outings are scheduled, including hikes to the Tinkham Peak area on the Pacific Crest Trail, Silver Creek, Mount Clifty, and a re-

peat of last year's popular photo hike with Ira Spring. Join us in the evening for a barbecue at the lodge. This is where you can hang out and talk to forest activists, forest service staff, and private land owners—such as Plum Creek—about the proposed I-90 Land Exchange and other issues.

For a brochure and signup information, call WTA at 206-625-1367, or visit the WTA web site at <http://www.wta.org/wta>. ▲

## Calling All Alpiners!

**Charles McCrone**

As a new board member, I am reading old issues of *The Alpiners* in the club's archives. I have discovered that we are missing a number of issues. Thanks to the library, we can get all issues from 1992 to present; however, we need all issues from 1988 to 1992 plus the following issues: several from 1980 and 1981; 3/82; 6/82; 6/83; 9/83; 6/84; 3/85; 6/85; 9/85; 4/86; 9/86; 12/86; 9/87; and 12/87. If you have any of these issues and would like to donate originals or photocopies, let me know at 425-392-3466, or via e-mail at [pollopng@juno.com](mailto:pollopng@juno.com). Thanks for helping ensure that the archives are complete! ▲

## The Apparatus

President: Barbara Johnson • 746-5573

VP, Advocacy: Ken Konigsmark • 222-4839

VP, Operations: Marilyn Moon • 392-1732

Treasurer: Dino Go • 391-7015

Secretary: Pam Wallenstein • 392-7813

Board of Directors:

Harvey Manning, Chairman • 746-1017

Steve Drew • 392-4432

Christina Jackson • 837-0417

Bill Longwell • 222-6775

Dan McCrea • 837-0917

Charles McCrone • 392-3466

Malena McCrone • 392-3466

Linda Rains • 313-5923

Fred Zeitler • 882-3435

Hikes Coordinators: Fred and Ann

Weinmann • 392-9230

Membership Records: Cindy Williams • 313-5884

e-mail: [twilliams@earthlink.net](mailto:twilliams@earthlink.net)

Book Sales/Distribution: Marty Hanson • 392-2458

Volunteer Coordinator: Open

Alpiners: Linda St. John • e-mail: [jlstjohn@concentric.net](mailto:jlstjohn@concentric.net)

Issaquah Advocate: Christina Jackson • 837-0417

Cougar Advocate: Charles McCrone • 392-3466

Squak Advocates: Steve Drew • 392-4432 and

Ken Konigsmark • 222-4839

Tiger Advocate: Larry Hanson • 392-2458

Grand Ridge Advocate: Melinda Livingstone • 392-7455

Raging River and Preston Advocate:

Maryanne Tagney Jones • 222-7615

Rattlesnake Mountain and Taylor Mountain Advocates:

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

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

and Charles McCrone • 392-3466

MTS Greenway: Ted Thomsen • 454-8643

Legal Advice: Tom Lucas

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

Hotline: 206-328-0480

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

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*Articles are welcome, preferably on diskette or via e-mail to: [jlstjohn@concentric.net](mailto:jlstjohn@concentric.net). Send diskette or hard copy to the post office box number above. Deadlines: Nov 15 for January issue; Feb 15 for April; May 15 for July; Aug 15 for October issue.*

# IATC Accomplishes Much in 1997!

**Kenneth Konigsmark.**

In any given year, the Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) is involved in countless advocacy, volunteer, or other issues to such a degree that it often isn't noticeable just how much this club and its members, all unpaid volunteers, actually achieve. Last year was a banner one for IATC, and the accomplishments of the club were summarized and recognized at our Annual Potluck dinner. For those not attending, it was desired that a written summary of these accomplishments be included in *The Alpiner*. Key club leaders for each activity are named in parentheses.

#### Grants/Funding:

- Cougar Mountain Meadow Restoration: \$1000 from IATC (Sidney Sato donation); \$6000 from the Bullitt Foundation; \$3000 from REI; and \$2000 from Osberg Family Trust (Penney and Harvey Manning).
- IATC Trail Maintenance Program: \$5000 from National Recreation and Trail Funding Act funds (Bill Longwell and Mary Lynch).

#### Hike Program:

- 26 leaders; 134 hikes; 580 participants through October (Fred and Ann Weinmann and all hike leaders).
- WomanWalk continues to be a huge and popular success (Marilyn Moon/Margaret Macleod).

#### Trail Maintenance:

- Record 1837 total hours; 154 trips; 321 people days; and almost 30 volunteers (Bill Longwell and crew).
- New volunteer program and second maintenance group (Charles McCrone).

#### Land Acquisitions (supported by IATC efforts):

- 1700-acre Manke property acquisition (Taylor Mountain Forest) by King County Parks (Harry Morgan).
- 1100 acres acquired on Rattlesnake from Weyco and Plum Creek through biosolids forestry and Forest Legacy Programs (MTS Greenway/Trust for Public Land).
- Sunset Quarry, 70 or 120 acres; remaining 50 acres after restoration by King County Parks and City of Issaquah (King County Parks and Open Space).
- 50-acre Schroeder property in Tiger Mountain NRCA; straddles Section Line Trail (DNR).
- 1400 acres on Grand Ridge transferred to King County Parks.
- Preston Mill, 21 acres straddling the Raging River (Doug McClelland).
- \$900,000 for Issaquah Creek Greenway (City of Issaquah/Steve Drew).
- 7700 acres transferred to DNR from Champion International in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley (DNR).
- 32,000 acres transferred to USFS from Weyerhaeuser in the Huckleberry Land Exchange (USFS).

#### Advocacy/Issues:

- Challenged the Newcastle golf course development resulting in favorable plan alterations (Christina Jackson).
- Fought City of Issaquah plans to locate a one-million-gallon water tank in King County Parks' land on Squak Mountain; new plan now in process of review (Steve Drew).
- Intensively involved in planning for the proposed East Cougar Village,

leading to a plan that will keep 450 acres of the 600-acre site as undisturbed public open space.

- Involved in planning and trail issues regarding new Sunset interchange and SE bypass.

#### New Facilities/Plans:

- New state park trailhead for Squak Mountain off May Valley Road.
- New trailheads for Tiger Mountain at High Point, Tiger Summit, and 15-Mile Creek.
- New management plans for Mount Si and Rattlesnake Mountain.

#### Other Critical Club Functions:

- Successful Return to Newcastle, Salmon Days, Potluck, and mailings (Marilyn and all volunteers).
- Management of overall IATC budget (Christina Jackson and now Dino Go).
- Overall club administration, records, management, and operations (Connie Hinton, Cindy Williams, Marilyn Moon).
- Publications processing, ordering, management (Marty Hanson). ▲

## Salmon Days 1998—October 3, 4

The salmon are returning to Issaquah and we'll be there to greet them! Plan on coming to town to participate in the mass migration. The Trails Club will be staffing a booth. We need volunteers to help out for 1 to 2 hours on both Saturday and Sunday. Please call Marilyn Moon at 425-392-1732.



# Construction on Tiger Mountain

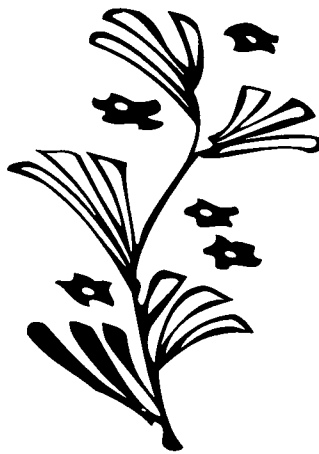
Larry Fry

Work has begun on the new communication site in the Tiger Mountain State Forest. This project includes the construction of a new road to the top of West Tiger #1, the erection of two large communication towers and associated buildings, and the installation of electric cable under the Main Tiger and West Tiger Road System. The project will generate over \$300,000 for Washington State University in its first year and, eventually, earn over a half-million dollars annually.

During the construction phase, there will be impacts to traffic and public use on Tiger Mountain. Most of the Tiger Summit parking lot has been converted into a staging area for Puget Sound Energy's equipment and supplies. The Main Tiger Road will have heavy equipment and higher traffic all summer. However, the most dramatic of all will be the sections of closed road during the workweek while the power line is being plowed under the road. The power line will follow both Main Tiger (4000) and West Tiger (1000) roads. These closures should begin in mid-May and extend to about July 4. For daily updates of where road closures may occur, call 425-462-3188.

After all the congestion this summer, we expect to have a much improved state forest. Roads will be upgraded, with new surfacing, culverts, and ditching. The Tiger Summit parking lot has been rocked and graded and a new trail shelter will be built near the summit of West Tiger #1.

Some people object to having more towers blight the skyline, but when you consider that the revenue created from this one acre is equivalent to a 40-acre timber sale every year, most people appreciate its merits. The Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) has supported this project, recognizing that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) must be able to generate revenue in order to maintain the Tiger Mountain State Forest. ▲



## New Hikes Chair Needed

**Barb Johnson**

After many years of shepherding hike leaders and arranging the Hikes Schedule, Ann Weinmann is stepping down. She would like to have a new chair in place sometime this summer in order to provide a smooth transition. If you are interested in providing a valuable service to the IATC, give Ann a call at 425-392-9230, or Marilyn Moon at 425-392-1732, or Barb Johnson at 425-746-5573.

## New Ranger Has Plans for Squak Mountain State Park

Ken Konigsmark

In January, Jennifer Thomas was appointed new ranger for Squak Mountain State Park, having shifted from prior duties at Lake Sammamish State Park. Jennifer is from New York. She attended Bucknell University in Pennsylvania.

Jennifer sought out the Squak Mountain position because of the "wonderful volunteer groups" she can work with, and the "beginning opportunity" that Squak Mountain represents to refine into a more established state park.

Jennifer has worked with Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) members Bill Longwell, Joe Toynbee, Fred Zeitler, Mary Cadigan, and Steve Drew to reconnoiter opportunities for improving trails or making needed connections and proving her "mettle" on some tough cross-country routes. She has already flagged a few routes for further analysis. If approved, they should lead to some new trail construction. This is related to Jennifer's efforts to develop an overall trails plan for Squak, building off the existing network and improving it.

Jennifer's goals for Squak include: cleaning up, revegetating, and eliminating dump sites; reviewing feasibility for trail bridges within the park; beginning planning for interpretive signage and a trails map for Squak; and trying to control "social" trails that are improperly located. If you see a blonde woman ranger on Squak trails, say hello to Jennifer and welcome her. ▲

## E-mail Alert Network for Public Advocacy

Blandino C. "Dino" Go

During the Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) board meeting in April, Ken Konigsmark, Vice President of Advocacy, emphasized the importance of having a system to quickly communicate certain issues to IATC members so that immediate response can be acted upon in a timely manner. Sometimes there are issues that require immediate action and the only way we can get information out efficiently to IATC members is by means of an e-mail distribution list. With this list, members are continually notified of any impending action that needs to be supported in order to allow, for example, the passage of certain legislation affecting the interests of IATC. The e-mail announcement will give all interested members the opportunity to communicate their ideas or opinions on the issues. This method is also effective whenever a request is made by city, county, or state government to have a representation from club members on issues relevant and important to IATC. This is an outstanding opportunity for members to have an active voice and visibility in government, especially on issues important to all of us. It is also an effective way to deliver a strong message that we are a force to be reckoned with and that our strength lies in our collective voice as an organization.

Ken also mentioned cases in which mountain bike clubs have been effec-

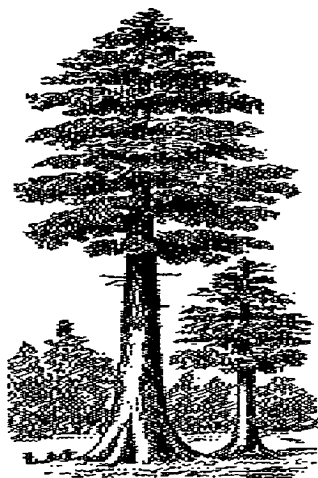
tive in mobilizing member letters in their efforts to gain access to trails or affect policies. Mountain bike clubs have devised an e-mail network so that each member of the organization can be notified and requested to support important issues when needed.

Every IATC member is requested to participate and send in their names and e-mail addresses to Dino Go at [gob@asme.org](mailto:gob@asme.org). A distribution list will be put together so that timely notification can be provided on issues important to IATC, which may need your support.

Let's all practice our democratic rights by joining the E-mail Alert Network for Public Advocacy and be a booster for the interests of IATC. ▲

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*Editor's Note: The distribution list mentioned in the above article, as with our membership list, will not be sold or provided to any group outside the IATC.*



## Hikers' Corner

Fred Zeitler

With the great hiking weather this year, we have had above normal turnouts for our winter and spring hikes. Thanks to the milder weather, our Alps have seen little in the way of storm damage. The Issaquah Alps maintenance crew (Bill Longwell and company) had to do less trail maintenance than normal; thus, they had time to reopen some classic trails on Tiger Mountain, such as the Hobart-Middle Tiger Railroad grade, the 15-mile Railroad grade, the Old Tiger Mountain Trail, and others. I hope you have hiked some of them. If not, come and join us soon.

While the club is trying to improve conditions for pleasant hiking, I'd like to remind the hikers that we too have a responsibility—to each other as hikers and to the hike leaders. We need to always know how long the hike will take, its relative difficulty, and the intended destination. Before leaving the trailhead, we should have plenty of water, appropriate footwear (hiking boots may be required on some hikes), food, raingear, and warm clothing as appropriate. If you have questions, ask the hike leader before the hike.

I would like to devote this "hikers' corner" to quarterly updates about trails, hiking conditions, and other pertinent information. If you have any input, let me know and we'll try to get it included. See you on the trails. ▲



## July

**Wednesday July 1, 10:00 AM**  
Cedar Butte and Two RR grades 2B  
June Stevens 425-222-5452

**Sunday July 5, 9:00 AM**  
Squak Mt. Sampler 2C  
Central Peak via Old Griz trail,  
Bullitt fireplace, West Peak Rainier views.  
Return via Chybinski trail. Boots required!  
Fred Zeitler 425-882-3435

**Friday July 10, 8:30 AM**  
Tiger Mt. 3C 9-10 mi., 2400 ft. gain  
Hike beautiful forest on Dwight and  
Will's Way to 15-Mile Gap.  
Mary Cadigan 425-641-4046

**Saturday July 11, 8:00 AM**  
Tiger Mountain 3D  
Preston to Rt. 18 via E. Tiger Mt.  
One way on old forest trails and  
RR grade. Several view sites!  
Wayne Balcom 206-361-2961

**Saturday July 11, 10:00 AM**  
Tiger Tradition Plateau loop 2A  
Easy stroll through beautiful woods.  
Trudy Ecob 206-232-2933

**Sunday July 12, 9:30 AM**  
Tiger Mountain 2B/C  
Old TMT (N.), Dwight's Way, Ruth's Cove,  
and High Point Creek bridges.  
Jamie McKenzie 425-746-6683

**Sunday July 12, 1:00 PM**  
Lakemead Plateau  
2A 5 mi., 400 ft. gain  
Bob Gross 253-529-2139

**Saturday July 18, 9:00 AM**  
Cougar Northeast loop 3D  
Lovely creek trail to Claypit, return via little-used  
trail through wilderness area to Fantastic Erratic.  
Limited to 8, call leader to reserve your spot.  
Scott Semans 206-322-4180

**Saturday July 18, 3:00 PM**  
Cougar Mt. Trail Maintenance Party  
Call Charles McCrone for more info.  
425-392-3466

**Sunday July 19, 9:30 AM**  
Poo Poo Point 2C  
From launching site and back via Issaquah  
High school on new trails with great view  
for lunch.  
Kay Tarapolsi 425-227-7916

**Saturday July 25, 8:30 AM**  
Shaun Falls & Taylor Mt. Summit 3C  
Search for the elusive Shaun Falls through  
some clearcut and Weyco roads to Taylor's  
true summit.  
Ralph Owen 425-746-1070

**Saturday July 25, 9:30 AM**  
WomanWalk 2B  
Marilyn Moon 425-392-1732

**Sunday July 26, 1:00 PM**  
Cougar Wilderness Park  
1+A-  
Ambling lecture on history of Newcastle mines  
and town 1860-1960 and inspection of the  
Meadow Project at the old Redtown ballfield.  
Harvey Manning 425-746-1017

**Monday July 27, 7:00 PM**  
Board Meeting  
Trail Center 1st & Bush

## August

**Saturday August 1, 8:00 AM**  
West Tiger 3 3C  
Up to the summit the back way!  
Janis Stiewing 425-868-7188

**Sunday August 2, 9:00 AM**  
Little Si 2B  
Take a gentle stroll with a wonderful  
spot for lunch.  
Kay Tarapolsi 425-227-7916

**Monday August 3, 3:00 PM**  
Cougar Trail Maintenance Party  
Call Charles McCrone for more info.  
425-392-3466

**Friday August 7, 8:30 AM**  
Squak Mountain 3C 8-9 mi., 2000 ft. gain  
Hike from the new trailhead on May Valley Road.  
Mary Cadigan 425-641-4046

**Saturday August 8, 9:00 AM**  
Tiger's Nook Loop  
5 mi., 700 ft. at social pace.  
Trudy Ecob 206-232-2933

**Saturday August 15, 10:00 AM**  
Cougar Mountain 2B  
DeLeo Wall via Wildside Trail  
Beautiful shady hike for a  
summer day.  
Barbara Johnson 425-746-5573

**Sunday August 16, 9:00 AM**  
West Rattlesnake Ridge  
3C 7 mi., 1200 ft. gain  
A loop with two nice view spots  
and a moderate pace.  
Joe Toynbee 206-723-6716

**Saturday August 22, 10:00 AM**  
Cougar Wilderness Park  
1+A-  
Ambling lecture on history of Newcastle mines  
and town 1860-1960 and inspection of the  
Meadow Project at the old Redtown ballfield.  
Harvey Manning 425-746-1017

**Sunday August 23, 9:00 AM**  
Squak Mountain 2C  
Visit old Bullitt fireplace from the  
new trailhead.  
Kay Tarapolsi 425-227-7916

**Monday August 24, 7:00 PM**  
Board Meeting  
Trail Center 1st & Bush

**Saturday August 29, 9:30 AM**  
WomanWalk 2B  
Marilyn Moon 425-392-1732

**Sunday August 30, 8:30 AM**  
Tiger's Poo Poo Point 3C  
From High Point, W. Tiger 3 trail, RR grade  
across to Poo Poo. Return via Adventure trail.  
Boots required!  
Fred Zeitler 425-882-3435



## September

**Saturday September 5, 8:00 AM**  
Rattlesnake W. Peak Loop Exploratory  
4D 10 mi., 3000 ft. gain  
Climb from Snoqualmie Winery via  
seldom-walked route over roads, through gullies,  
and up steep ridge to W. Peak views. Return  
via Mountains to Sound trails.  
Ralph Owen 425-746-1070

**Sunday September 6, 1:00 PM**  
Cougar Wilderness Park  
1+A-  
Ambling lecture on history of Newcastle mines  
and town 1860-1960 and inspection of the  
Meadow Project at the old Redtown ballfield.  
Harvey Manning 425-746-1017

**Saturday September 12, 9:30 AM**  
Cougar Mountain 2B 6 mi., 400 ft. gain  
Coal Creek Park  
Mary Cadigan 425-641-4046

**Sunday September 13, 9:00 AM**  
Cougar Mt. "Map Release Party"  
Hike a variety of trails on Cougar Mt. with  
the new IATC map in hand. 3C  
Charles McCrone 425-392-3466

**Thursday September 17, 9:30 AM**  
West Tiger #1 via Hidden Valley Trail  
Seldom-trod trails on Tiger's wild west side.  
2C 5 mi., 1800 ft. gain  
Warren Jones 435-888-0262

**Saturday September 19, 1:00 PM**  
Tiger's Poo Poo Point  
3C 7 mi., 1700 ft. gain  
Bob Gross 253-529-2139

**Sunday September 20, 8:30 AM**  
W. Tiger 3 via the quiet route 3C  
Lunch at Manning's Reach.  
Fred Zeitler 425-882-3435

**Saturday September 26, 9:30 AM**  
WomanWalk 2B  
Marilyn Moon 425-392-1732

**Sunday September 27, 9:30 AM**  
Tiger Mountain 2B/C, 7 mi., 1500 ft.  
South TMT, Holder Creek, Otter Lake,  
and a surprise view.  
Jamie McKenzie 425-746-6683

**Monday September 28, 7:00 PM**  
Board Meeting  
Trail Center 1st & Bush



## Hike Information

### HIKE LEADERS

The 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 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 a 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 to 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. Ex-

pect 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 Trails Club hike.

### MEETING PLACE

Trails Club hikes meet in the parking lot at the corner of First 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, raingear, 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 (see "Meeting Place" above) at the same place as the

Continued next page

## E-mail Alert Network for Public Advocacy

Blandino C. "Dino" Go

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Ken also mentioned cases in which mountain bike clubs have been effective

in mobilizing member letters in their efforts to gain access to trails or affect policies. Mountain bike clubs have devised an e-mail network so that each member of the organization can be notified and requested to support important issues when needed.

Every IATC member is requested to participate and send in their names and e-mail addresses to Dino Go at [gob@asme.org](mailto:gob@asme.org). A distribution list will be put together so that timely notification can be provided on issues important to IATC, which may need your support.

Let's all practice our democratic rights by joining the E-mail Alert Network for Public Advocacy and be a booster for the interests of IATC. ▲

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*Editor's Note: The distribution list mentioned in the above article, as with our membership list, will not be sold or provided to any group outside the IATC.*



## Hikers' Corner

Fred Zeitler

With the great hiking weather this year, we have had above normal turnouts for our winter and spring hikes. Thanks to the milder weather, our Alps have seen little in the way of storm damage. The Issaquah Alps maintenance crew (Bill Longwell and company) had to do less trail maintenance than normal; thus, they had time to reopen some classic trails on Tiger Mountain, such as the Hobart-Middle Tiger Railroad grade, the 15-mile Railroad grade, the Old Tiger Mountain Trail, and others. I hope you have hiked some of them. If not, come and join us soon.

While the club is trying to improve conditions for pleasant hiking, I'd like to remind the hikers that we too have a responsibility—to each other as hikers and to the hike leaders. We need to always know how long the hike will take, its relative difficulty, and the intended destination. Before leaving the trailhead, we should have plenty of water, appropriate footwear (hiking boots may be required on some hikes), food, raingear, and warm clothing as appropriate. If you have questions, ask the hike leader before the hike.

I would like to devote this "hikers' corner" to quarterly updates about trails, hiking conditions, and other pertinent information. If you have any input, let me know and we'll try to get it included. See you on the trails. ▲



## Hike Information

24-HOUR HIKES HOTLINE: 206-328-0480

### HIKE LEADERS

The 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 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 a 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 to 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. Ex-

pect 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 Trails Club hike.

### MEETING PLACE

Trails Club hikes meet in the parking lot at the corner of First 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, raingear, 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 (see "Meeting Place" above) at the same place as the

Continued next page



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regular hikes. 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 encouraged to adopt a trail, or section of trail, and be responsible for maintaining it. ▲



## Newcastle City Watcher Needed

### Barb Johnson

With the incorporation of the new City of Newcastle, the IATC needs someone willing to attend Newcastle's city council meetings in order to notify the board of any actions the council might take affecting the Trails Club's concerns. If you are interested, call Barbara Johnson at 425-746-5573, or Marilyn Moon at 425-392-1732.

## Issaquah Alps Trails Club Membership Application

Post Office Box 351, Issaquah, Washington 98027

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

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

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  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 and 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.

## The Story of a Pair of Gloves

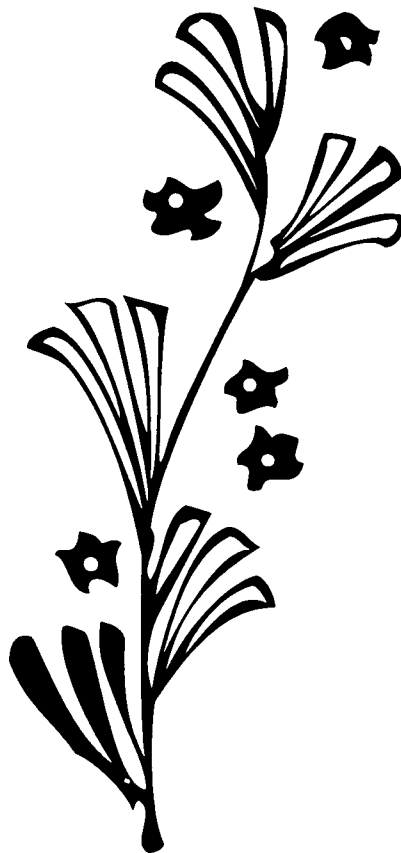
**Charles McCrone**

To me, another way Cougar Mountain demonstrates its “wildland” character is the way it refuses to hold onto any of the man-made artifacts I try to lose in it. Take the example of my bowsaw bladeguard. It shattered on the Precipice Trail, and I have been picking up pieces of it (which seem to hang out right in the center of the trail) ever since. Or, the work gloves that dropped out of my pack. While leading a hike in March, I found them camped out at the Military Road/ Stagecoach Ridge junction as if waiting for me. I guess you could say Cougar Mountain operates an efficient lost and found.

The strangest story of returned items, however, began during a snowy hike along Tibbetts Marsh in January 1996. Pausing midway along the trail to contemplate six inches of snow and an old rotting tower of tree I call the Obelisk, I pulled off the nice pair of ski gloves I was wearing. I was thinking they were safely tucked under one arm; in actuality, they were already making a cozy home down in the snow. A few days later, I went back to search for them, remembering my stopping point. I could not find them anywhere in the newest layer of snow, despite a very efficient search. I figured some animal had carried them away and I wrote them off for good. The second part of their story occurred last spring on top of Big Tree Ridge. There was the same pair of gloves, a bit faded and stiff, still linked together, sitting at the foot of an old sign. The elapsed time between

lost and found—about sixteen months; the elapsed distance—one mile of woods and 700 feet of elevation drop. It certainly seems remarkable that they should turn up a year and a half later, and on a trail where I happened to be walking no less. I can’t imagine how they made their mysterious journey down the hill.

The only exception to Cougar Mountain’s reticence in holding onto my stuff (or should I say its politeness in returning it?) is the case of my wife’s sunglasses, ruefully lost by me near Shy Bear Pass. I fancy the reason we haven’t gotten them back is that the Shy Bear is still wearing them. ▲



## Sunset Interchange Moving Ahead

**Ken Konigsmark**

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) has commented on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement released on the planned Sunset interchange at Exit 18 off I-90. We can all expect to see major changes, including multiple flyover ramps and vastly expanded traffic capacity at this location. Current planning calls for this mega-interchange to be built and opened to traffic by December 2000.

IATC’s main concern has been to ensure that trail access routes between Tiger Mountain and Issaquah are not severed, and to ensure that a linkage across I-90 to the north side High Point Trail and Grand Ridge County Park is maintained. Thus far, there are good plans in place for accommodating trail links, which include a new trailhead at what will become the cul-de-sac end of Sunset Way. From here, links will be maintained and improved for all the existing connector routes.

Other concerns include: seeking to ensure that aesthetics are maintained, providing vegetation, retaining walls, overpasses and that other structures are planned to “fit in” with the forested, mountain character to the highest degree possible; minimizing lighting and glare; placing vegetative planters on the overpass as well as a trail separated from traffic; and protecting the East Fork Issaquah Creek and its salmon habitat. IATC’s input has already had a beneficial effect on the trails planning and we will continue to monitor this project as it moves ahead. ▲

## New Cougar Maps on the Way

**Charles McCrone**

It may be letting the cat out of the bag, but King County Parks is hard at work on their new Cougar Mountain Wildland Park brochure and map, due out soon, perhaps by the time you read this. This will be the first completely accurate map of the official trails within the park boundary, thanks to a recently completed on-the-ground survey using satellite reconnaissance (aka Global Positioning).

The Trails Club will be following up the boon late this summer or early fall with a much-needed revision of our own Cougar Mountain map. This map will show not only the official trail system, but peripheral trails and connections to neighborhoods, other parks and open spaces, and names and landmarks from our guidebook and current map. I am greatly excited about both these updates! (If you want to be among the first to see and use our new map, come to the "Release Party" hike, listed in the hike schedule). ▲



## Birds of the Issaquah Alps

**My Little Chickadee**

**Barb Johnson**

One of my favorite backyard and trail companion birds is the Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*). It comes by its common name due to its call "chicka-dee-dee-dee." It is a tiny (5 1/4 inches long) black, white, and buffy-gray bird that feeds on insects, gleaning them from tree branches. Field marks for the Black-capped Chickadee include a black cap (yes!) and bib with white cheeks. Their wings and tail feathers are black, edged with white, and their bodies are white to buffy-gray. Chickadees are friendly backyard birds that easily take to human-made nest boxes. They also are fairly "tame" visitors to sunflower seed bird feeders. Some have been known to perch on humans who hold seeds for them.

Chickadees are often found hanging around with a close cousin, the itty bitsy Bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*, 4 1/2 inches). Both birds frequently feed together during non-breeding seasons. Bushtits are mostly gray with brown crowns. They travel in a group of about two to three dozen, sending out one or two "scouts" to check out the next bush or tree. Their call is a series of high-pitched squeaks, sort of "pshhh, pshhh, pshhh." Once the all clear is given, the rest of the troops swoop into the bush and begin feeding. The chickadees come along with them. I don't know if these two species are helping each other or just happen to be such close relatives that they enjoy each others' company. Either way, both are a joy to watch and listen to! ▲



## Issaquah Alps Trails Club Mail Order Service

Post Office Box 351

Issaquah, Washington 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 (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 (includes map listed in next column, 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 (includes map listed in next column, 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 of Cougar Mountain, now hidden from all but hikers. More than one hundred photos, four maps, and Tim O'Brian's account of the incredible Seattle and Walla Walla Railroad. \$12 (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 (includes tax and shipping).

▲ *Tiger Mountain map*. 1995 revision. \$2 (includes tax and shipping).

▲ *Cougar Mountain map*. \$2 (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; long sleeve \$17.

▲ T-Shirt: "*Mountains to Sound March*." Specify size (S, M, L, XL). \$11. All shirts are blue and short-sleeved.

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